

Thursday

9am	Registration and Breakfast
10am	1. Introduction
11.45am	2. One World - Two Realms
1pm	Lunch
2pm	3. Full and Complete in Christ
3.45pm	4. Repentance and Forgiveness
5pm	Dinner Break
7pm	5. Spiritual Authority and Humility
	Original Design Prayer Appointments

Friday

9am	Breakfast
10am	6. Hearing God's Voice
1pm	Lunch
2pm	7. Strongholds
5pm	Dinner Break
7pm	8. Releasing Worship
	Original Design Prayer Appointments

Saturday

9am	Breakfast
10am	Seminars 1. Insignificance 2. Fear and Control Stronghold Prayer Appointments
1pm	Final Session
2pm	Lunch to go

Introduction

REALITY CHECK

...the fullness of salvation

- Rediscovering the truth of Scripture

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5.1

- Freedom from and to be

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Fullness is not health & wealth but is prospering John 10.10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19.10

- **THAT WHICH WAS** not who was lost

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples

John 8.31

- The truth we KNOW i.e. live in/by

- Restoring the operating system

1. RECOVER OUR TRUE DESIGN - the Father's original design for each of us

PERCEIVED perfect

CONCEIVED sinful

DECEIVED by world & devil

- We are loved - in the Father's love

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Romans 8.14

- We are sons & daughters of the Father

- Loved and chosen

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5.5

- Significant and valued

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2.6

- Filled with hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13

- Protected

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalms 91.1-2

- Joy and peace filled

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14.17

- Availing ourselves of our glorious inheritance in Christ

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1.3

- Spiritual DNA BUT no determinism - we all have choices
- This is character design not job description - call may be in line with OD but OD revelation is character not activity
- We are not just more like Jesus in this process of sanctification - OD is knowing what it looks like walking the sanctified life - BUT we are more fully who we are designed to be - UNIQUE
- We are equipped to fulfil our calling as children of the Father - living the supernatural life
His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
2 Peter 1.3-4
- To be overcomers, destroying the works of the evil one
The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3.8
- Seeing enemy jurisdiction in the world and in Christians and enforcing the victory of Jesus
- Commissioned for mission
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Matthew 28.19
"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke 4.18-19
- Restored in our dominion
Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
Genesis 1.26-28

2. AGREEING WITH GOD - releasing Kingdom dynamics

- Revealed truth is God's opinion
- Centrality of repentance
- See the reality of where we live and who we are in Christ
- Transform the experience of who we are in Christ so we can transform where we live
- Objective truth becomes subjective experience
Known becomes experienced
Victory won at Calvary becomes victory enforced & experienced

3. DESPERATION - growth and transformation

Personal Transformation

Luke 8.40-56

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| • JAIRUS | WOMAN |
| • STATUS | UNCLEAN / INSIGNIFICANCE |
| • PRIDE | SHAME |

BOLDNESS & DETERMINATION - this is my call to you for this time

Church Transformation

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Disorder | Recovery of Gospel power |
| • Argument & Heresy | Recovery of Biblical Foundations |
| • Moral Decay | Holiness |
| • Authority Vacuum | power for mission & works of Wonder |

...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6.10

I want to see the Kingdom of God MANIFEST on earth as in heaven.

This is our prayer for our time together.

One World - Two Realms

ONE WORLD – TWO REALMS

Understanding Spiritual Warfare

The Battle for Truth

There is a fight on to determine how we see 'reality'. How you define reality will define how you live your life, what you believe 'works' and 'doesn't work'.

Scientism – materialism – arrogant and high-minded academic thinking – all have been infiltrating theology since 18thC. False spirituality beforehand, now no spiritual reality.

To live as overcomers in God's kingdom, we must understand the nature of the world we live in.

1. The Heavenly Realms

(Greek *epiourainios* means "of the heavens" – Eph 1:3, 1:20, 1:26, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12)

The Bible teaches that there are two realms that operate simultaneously in our lives.

- The Heavenly (spiritual) realm
- The Natural (physical) realm

Both realms are completely real – events in one directly impact events in the other.

God – The Creator

Angels – Spirit beings – servants of God

Satan – fallen Archangel

Demons – servants/footsoldiers of Satan

Angels

- Real – Luke 1:26
- Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13
- Having authority (given by God)
- Intelligence – Daniel 10:14
- Desire – Genesis 22:12
- Voice – 1 Cor 13:1

Purpose

- Protect – Luke 4:10
- Guide – Acts 12:8
- Prepare the way – Ex 23:20
- Fight the demonic realm
- Minister to believers – Heb 1:14
- Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13
- Having authority (God-given)

Always good, always to bless

Demons

- Real – Luke 4:41
- Powerful – Revelation 16:14
- Having authority (given by man)
- Intelligence – Mark 1:24
- Desire – Mark 5:10
- Voice – Mark 5:7

Purpose

- To steal
- To kill } John 10:10
- To destroy
- To deceive/sow lies – John 8:44

Always evil, always destructive

The Authority Structure in the Heavenly Realms

- God
- Angels God and his angels are more powerful than Satan and
- Satan his foot soldiers.
- Demons (Revelation 12, Job 1)

2. We live in Two Realms at the same time

The natural realm includes all that can be perceived by our natural senses in the physical world. The heavenly realm includes all that is spiritual, invisible and unseen in the natural realm.

The heavenly realm existed first. The natural realm was created second and our lives are lived in the interplay between the two realms.



Life is lived with the heavenly realms affecting and energising the natural realm

Heaven

- 1 Peter 3:12 – “1st” heaven; sun, moon, stars – natural skies
- “2nd” heaven – Unseen realm where angels and demons reside
- “3rd” heaven – the unending realm of God’s uninterrupted rule and reign; the Kingdom of heaven

A. Learning from Job

Job’s world collapses

Job 1:13-19

Job 2:7-10

Look behind the scenes of Job’s disasters

Job 1:6-12

Job 2:1-6

Satan is aware of the activities of individuals on earth, but his access to people’s lives is severely restricted by God. On his own, Satan has **NO** authority to act in individual lives. In fact, there are very few ways that Satan can gain access to an individual’s life:

- he must be given specific permission by God; or
- as is most often the case, access is granted as a result of sin or the effects of sin, giving him legal entry to a person’s life.

B. Learn to ask the Lord to reveal what’s going on in any given situation:

Luke 22:4,5 – Judas betrays Jesus

Luke 22:3 – The source of the betrayal was Satan

Events in the heavenlies bear a direct impact on events in the natural realm. Ask and hear the revelation:

“Is this just happening?” The world is a war-zone, a war that originates in the heavenly realm – a confrontation of powers, and we have a significant role to play in it. (Eph 6:12)

- Is my bad mood just happening?
- Is my strained marriage just happening?
- Is the breakdown between parent and teenage son just happening?
- Is the tension and division in church life just happening?
- Is the suppressed corporate worship just due to the awful weather?
- Is a persistent lack of joy just down to personality?
- Is the disintegration of society just happening?
- Are civil tensions (eg. Ireland, Middle East) just happening?
- Are ethnic cleansings just part of life?

3. The Western mindset is resistant to the Biblical / Jesus' worldview

Mark 1:32-34

Jesus has 100% success rate in his ministry because He perfectly discerns the source of the problem, whether natural or supernatural.

Acts 10:38

The early church comprehend Jesus' whole ministry as a supernatural battle in which He proactively and aggressively confronts the destructive power of the enemy.

Over-reliance on the 5 senses.

The Church and its leaders are hugely influenced by the academic and rational / man-centred worldview and mindset, which denies anything that cannot be proven empirically.

This is a central reason for the weakness of the church today in the West, which causes it to live in a worldly manner with natural realm thinking and strategy.

The Sadducees believed in God but denied the spiritual realm of angels and demons. Jesus declared to the Sadducees "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God," – Matthew 22:29

4. The Mandate of the Church

a) Christ gives his people authority over the enemy

Luke 10:19-20

Colossians 2:9,10

Ephesians 1:18-22

Ephesians 2:6

b) The purpose is for the church to do Jesus' ministry today

- i) To discern – to be alert: 1 Peter 5:8,9
God's will and truth : ("Thy will be done")
Satan's schemes and lies (Ephesians 6:12)

- ii) To gain victory over the forces of evil:

OFFENSIVELY

DEFENSIVELY

Matthew 16:18-19

Ephesians 6:13

Matthew 12:28-29

Matthew 12:28-29

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:18-19

Jesus is building a supernatural church that will overcome supernatural forces of evil

The Gates of Hades - Gates are defensive weapons - symbols of authority.

The Gates will not overcome or prevail/withstand the assault of the Church.

WE'VE BEEN GIVEN THE KEYS Keys are a symbol of authority

BINDING AND LOOSING

Bind (deo): to forbid, to prevent, to restrict, to shackle, to tie, to render powerless, to inhibit, legally or contractually binding.

Loose (luo): to loose, to release, to empower, to set free, to enable.

Binding and loosing covers a wide range of meanings but they all express the use of authority to establish God's will. E.g. Preaching the gospel, church discipline (what is allowed, what is not allowed), granting forgiveness, healing, explaining truth.

Binding and loosing also includes exerting supernatural authority over demonic forces and releasing people into the will of God.

'Whatever you bind on earth shall have been found in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.' The key to exerting supernatural authority is to be in line with God's will and God's purpose so that you prohibit what God wants prohibiting and you release what God wants releasing. The word 'whatever' in Greek is a wide ranging word and really does mean what it says!

It is used on a number of occasions in relation to the breadth and power of our prayer (Matthew 6:22-23; Mark 11:24; 1 John 3:22; John 15:16 and John 14:13)

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours

Mark 11:24

Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 15:16

We are called to aggressive spiritual warfare: NIKE - to overcome, to overpower, to win.

Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

Matthew 12:29

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armour in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

Luke 11:21-22

Notes:

1. The demon is the strongman.
2. The demon has weapons that enable him to guard and protect what he regards as his own house and possessions (this implies a legal ownership).
3. Jesus, being stronger than demonic spirits, can attack and overpower spirits. *He who is in us is greater than he that is in the world* - 1 John 4:4. Now the spoils can be divided up. This is the fruit of release from powers of darkness enabling people to walk into freedom.

WE ENFORCE THE VICTORY OF CHRIST

In spiritual warfare it is essential to understand that we do not have to win victories but rather we extend and enforce the victory Christ won on the Cross.

We do not have to produce the victory. This takes the pressure off us working up enough faith, energy, passion...etc. Rather in simplicity, faith and obedience, we declare God's victory into a situation expressed in our words and actions. The powers of darkness know that they are defeated at the cross; however they try to bluff us into believing we cannot deal with them. Ignoring all distractions lies and fears, we listen to God, pray what he reveals to us and we thereby establish the victory in the heavenly realms so that transformation can take place in the natural realm.

c) Divine Transaction

When we operate in the spiritual realm, we engage with the supernatural laws irrespective of how we feel; they are legally binding.

Adoption	Key legal terms that apply to heavenly realities;
Redemption	Eg. A person's salvation is secured upon repentance and
Justification	Faith in Christ.

When a believer repents of sin, that is when the enemy's hold is broken, his jurisdiction is ended and he has to take his hands off!

When the believer rebukes the enemy he must flee, because Christ in us is greater and more powerful than the enemy!

Standing in God's truth and walking in obedience is the key to completing victory!

One World – Two Realms Worksheet

Barriers to Two-Realms Thinking

A. Man-Centred Reason

- ☐ I like to see things in a logical way, and struggle to embrace the improvable / intuitive perception of the heavenly realms
- ☐ I find people who see the demonic operating on a daily basis “over the top”
- ☐ I look first for logical and natural reasons for the cause of a problem before asking for the Spirit’s wisdom and understanding
- ☐ I have valued and relied on my mind and intellectual capacity to see me through life
- ☐ I have ridiculed / been ridiculed when I have acted or spoken intuitively
- ☐ My family placed a high value on thinking logically and clearly and on having good solid reasons for thinking/believing something
- ☐ I rarely look for an invisible spiritual reason for a natural problem / issue
- ☐ I think I understand the heavenly realms well and know the principles clearly – but it’s been a while since God used me to bring someone into freedom
- ☐ I struggle to believe the invisible realm is real and influential on a daily basis
- ☐ I can’t get my mind around the heavenly realms and so don’t give it much attention
- ☐ I think the idea of demons and angels is all a bit primitive and superstitious
- ☐ Surely all I need is to understand the Word and get on and live it. The supernatural realm is not my responsibility
- ☐ Other ...

B. Fear

- ☐ I am fearful that if I see the enemy’s activity, I won’t have the authority to overcome him
- ☐ I am fearful that if I enter the battle more fully, I will be taken out by my own weakness / sin / lack of awareness
- ☐ I am fearful that my kids / loved ones will be attacked if I step up in warfare
- ☐ I am fearful that if I look for the enemy’s activity on a daily basis I will get demon-focussed and be even more vulnerable to attack
- ☐ I am fearful of seeing the enemy’s influence in me
- ☐ I am fearful that if I speak about demons and warfare I will be seen as wacky / unsound / super-spiritual
- ☐ I am fearful that if I rise up to fight more fully, others will leave me isolated by not standing with me
- ☐ I am fearful of finding demons “behind every bush”
- ☐ Other ...

Full and Complete in Christ

FULL AND COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Introduction

Everything we could possibly need to live the Jesus-kind-of-life on earth has already been given to us and set within us!

The New Testament talks about our relationship with Christ in a variety of different ways, but two distinctive types of language emerge: **Christ in us**, and **my life being in Christ**.

Christ in Us / Me in Christ

God designed things that we should become like his Son, who is the prototype, the model of restored humanity and the first of the new creation.

"God knew what He was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son. The Son stands first in the line (Gk = prototokon) of humanity restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in Him. After God made that decision of what His children should be like, He followed it up by calling people by name. After He called them by name, He set them on a solid basis with Himself. And, then, after getting them established, He stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun."

Romans 8:29-30 (The Message)

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

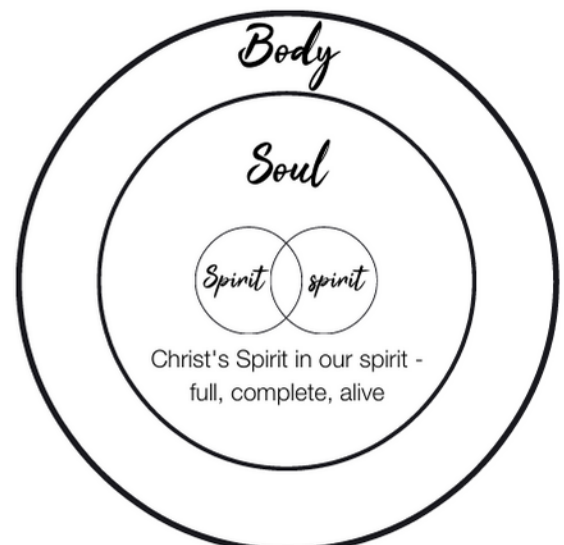
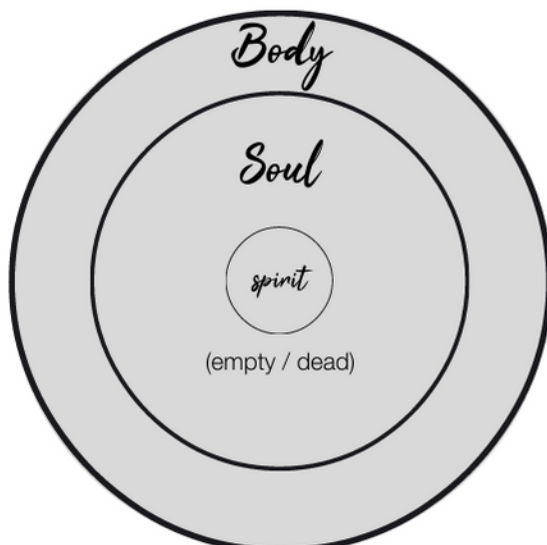
The 'new creation' (Gk. "kainos") means "of a new kind, superior to what preceded it"; is demonstrated by Jesus in John 20:22 as he breathes on his disciples, saying "receive the Holy Spirit" in a moment meant to echo the first creation (Gen 2:7). This is because **the essence of the 'new creation' is that a person is in dwelt by the Holy Spirit** - Jesus has come to dwell in them.

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness."

Romans 8:9-10

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20



To be born again into new creation life and receive the Holy Spirit means we take on a **new identity and nature**, for everything that belongs to Jesus is now part of us. God dwells within us.

But the New Testament also talks about us being '**in Christ**'. In most places this describes **our belonging and identification with Jesus**, who brings us with him into new life and authority.

When we are born again, we are spiritually united ('participate') with him in his death and resurrection (Rom 6:4-6) – our sins are buried with him and we start a brand new Christ-life! Therefore, to be 'in Christ' means to have a **whole new identity, in unity with him and with his whole family** ('the body of Christ'). It's such a key idea that Paul uses the phrase 'in Christ' 86 times!

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Gal 3:26-29

Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 compare how we used to be 'in Adam' (representing our natural selves, dead in sin – part of the old creation) but now we are 'in Christ' and have a new spiritual life. It's another way of talking about our **new creation life**!

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

1 Cor 15:22

In this time on earth, who we are 'in Christ' is veiled within our natural bodies but will be fully revealed when Christ returns.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Colossians 3:1-4

Who we are in Christ

Being 'in Christ' means having a new **spiritual identity** – and it's an amazing identity!

A. We have Christ's Authority

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." Matthew 28:18

"...the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which he brought about in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

Ephesians 1:19-23

Jesus doesn't just have authority on earth – God has given him **ultimate authority** over every part of creation and all spirit beings. Christ's authority is the source of all authority - he has the place of honour in heaven.

And being 'in Christ' puts us right up there with him!

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-6

Ephesians 2:1-3 tells us that we used to be under the dominion of Satan and his minions. We know that Jesus came and delivered us from the dominion of Satan and transferred us into his kingdom (Col 1:13). But in these verses, we learn that Jesus not only delivered us from Satan's domain, but he swept us up and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.

Jesus rules over all things, seated in the place of ultimate authority, and we reign with him. Therefore, we share in Jesus' own authority in the heavenly realms - this is a present reality, not one that will be realised only in the future.

- We possess every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:3)
- We proclaim the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms (Eph 3:10)

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." Colossians 2:9-10

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.'" Luke 10:17-19

Understanding our authority in Christ is critical, for we must use our spiritual weapons, exercise our authority, and do battle in the spiritual realm, if we want to see the kingdom advancing. We have been given the authority of Christ, and the enemy cannot stand up against us in a direct confrontation of authority.

The only weapons available to Satan are lies and deception, intimidating and causing fear. He cannot withstand a power encounter against God's children who stand in the righteousness, holiness and authority of Christ.

B. We have Christ's Power

Defining authority and power

Authority is the right to rule Power is the ability to rule
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Authority is based upon the position one has, which gives that person the right to rule within the scope of a designated authority. Power is the strength, ability and capacity to exercise the right to rule.

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms..." Ephesians 1:18-21

C. We are 'full in Christ'

Christ in us gives us every supernatural resource, blessing, and inheritance we need to live like Him!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Colossians 2:9-10

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

2 Peter 1:3-4

The inheritance we have in Christ is the same as that which the man Jesus lived in. We are co-heirs with Him!

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

Romans 8:17

D. We have Intimacy with God

- God cannot love us more than he does today, but we can walk into greater revelation and experience of His love.
- God does not just fit us for service like a well recharged power tool! We are His children, loved and adored.
- Our experience is not the barometer of his love! We know his love by faith and truth. When we experience it, we rejoice but we never look for the experience of it. We seek Jesus, to know Him, to be surrendered and yielded to him and to rest in his loving arms.
- The experience of Jesus' nearness and dearness is the by-product of seeking Him. Once it becomes the goal, then we are focusing on self again!

Why we don't live in our inheritance

We are robbed of living in our inheritance because we believe the lies wrapped around us by 'the world, the flesh and the devil' (a great phrase from the Book of Common Prayer).

a. The World

The broken society in which we live which is ruled and directed by the powers of darkness. This exerts huge pressure on us to conform to its pattern.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:2

Our 'faith' tends to be in the things that are familiar to us in the world – e.g. money, work or 'image'.

Some of the signs:

- We are scared of giving our time/our money when God asks us to.
- We believe that he asks us to give sacrificially but will not be able to protect/provide for us.
- We refuse God's promptings to speak to others due to fear of being foolish or being seen to be 'different'.
- We find ourselves saying 'no' to God.

b. The Flesh

'Flesh' in the New Testament is the Greek word *sarx*. It is commonly used to refer to our natural selves - our 'sinful nature' / 'old self'.

There are parts of our minds and bodies which have not yet been redeemed and restored by God's truth and love, because we are still believing and acting upon the lies sown by Satan in the past.

The 'flesh' has control when desires and appetites are given permission to influence and reign in our lives - seem more powerful and more real than the promises of God or the hope that he brings us.

Some of the signs:

- Our faith depends on God 'proving' himself to us by an action linked to our desire, e.g. 'If you give me a husband/wife/baby/house I will know that you are true.'
- We refuse to give up our 'right' to have sex outside of marriage because we cannot see the point.
- We refuse to give regularly or tithe because we are not ready yet.
- We consider that our opinion is the correct and balanced one.

c. Satan

Satan's influence operating in us and against us tries to keep us from understanding and living in our true identity and authority. Acceptance and agreement with his lies and oppression, or keeping parts of ourselves hidden, robs us from our inheritance.

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
John 8:44

Satan only has as much influence as we allow him. The essence of spiritual warfare is a 'truth encounter': bringing things into the light and acknowledging the reality of Jesus' victory over Satan, and our authority in him.

Some of the signs:

- We do not really believe in the supernatural realm – except for after we die.
- We believe we should and can be in control of ourselves and our lives at all times.
- We believe that there is nothing we can do in the spiritual realm – it is all too powerful and we might as well sit back and ride the whole thing out – God will sort it.
- We believe that other people can change things but not me.
- We are afraid.

Sanctification

The process by which we are 'conformed to the image of Christ' is called sanctification, and it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Sanctification is the process of wholly becoming what we already have become in the spiritual realm, of growing into our new identity. We cannot force this process. God is at work in us and we must allow the Spirit to lead, guide, convict and challenge us.

The key for accelerated growth and transformation: desperation

The awareness of our own brokenness, emptiness, sin and powerlessness outside of Jesus brings conscious and intentional determination to meet with Jesus and allow his life and power to transform us daily...

Case Study

Luke 8:40-56 tells the story of two desperate people who pursue Jesus:

- They both push through the crowd
- Their desire for God is bigger than the social conventions
- Jairus is not hindered by pride or status
- The woman refuses to allow shame and social rejection to hinder her
- They both recognise their desperate need
- They both see in Jesus the power, the resources, the love and kindness that they lack.
- They are bold, determined and rewarded for it!

Your Kingdom Identity

The main thing that stops us living in our kingdom identity is lies. And the way to break free of the lies we live in, is to know the Truth! Nothing is more liberating. As Jesus said in John 8:32, "the Truth will set you free". Notice it doesn't say 'might' or 'maybe', but WILL set you free - it's a promise! Truth brings light and light brings sight. Sight helps us to see, find our way and discover new things.

Let's look at some of the truths about you in the Bible...

You are a masterpiece

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10

You are a friend of God. He sees you without fault

"You were [God's] enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and

stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News."

Colossians 1:18-23

You are a vessel of His glory and power

"You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves."

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

You are a child of God

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

Romans 8:14

You will never be separated from His love

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:31-39

You are a saint

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus"

Ephesians 1:1

"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours"

1 Corinthians 1:2

You are warrior against Satan and his kingdom, fully outfitted to stand triumphant in Christ

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armour of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armour of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints."

Ephesians 6:10-18

You are chosen by God, holy and dearly loved, and therefore jealously protected

"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"

Colossians 3:12

You are a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own choosing - you are kingdom royalty

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

1 Peter 2:9-10

You are known intimately by God

"For the choir director: A psalm of David. O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!"

Psalms 139:1-18

God chose you when He planned creation

"Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes."

Ephesians 1:4

God knows and has every hair of your head numbered

"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows."

Matthew 10:29-31

It is God's desire to lavish love on you

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are..."

1 John 3:1

His thoughts towards you are vast

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You."

Psalms 139:17-18

He has plans for your life

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

The Bible is filled with hope, promises, and it is TRUTH! If we choose to believe and walk in the Truth we will have life, it will transform us and give us victory over the lies that hold us captive!

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and abundant life." John 10:10

Repentance and Forgiveness

REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS

The gateway to glorious freedom

1. BREAKING THE POWER OF SIN & SATAN

A Satan seeks territory - topos

Satan is seeking to take territory, gain ground and influence in our daily lives. The landing pad or open door into our lives is our own sin.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face so downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it"
Genesis 4:6-7

Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.
Ephesians 4:26-27

That is the way it is with us: When we were minors, we were just like slaves ordered around by simple instructions (the tutors and administrators of this world), with no say in the conduct of our own lives.... But now that you know the real God—or rather since God knows you—how can you possibly subject yourselves again to those paper tigers?
Galatians 4:3,9

The Greek word "topos" means area or sphere – a defined place, territory or land.

B Jesus had no footholds / strongholds

I'll not be talking with you much more like this because the chief of this godless world is about to attack. But don't worry—he has nothing on me, no claim on me.
John 14:30

We are to take sin very seriously and to resist a casual approach, so common in modern society.

C Footholds (Topos) in our lives

Aims of Satan to harden hearts towards sin & God
 to rob us of our ability to walk in our inheritance & effectiveness in Christ
 to distance us from God

To fall back into the ways of the world and be unrepentant is to place oneself in deep judgement
Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-22

2. RECOGNISING OUR SIN

A Repentance is a beautiful gift from God

Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.

Romans 2:4 (Msg)

Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God's loving-kindness leads you to repentance

Romans 2:4 (NIV)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:23,24

B Repentance is a lifestyle

Repentance is exchanging agreement with the lies and ways of the kingdom of darkness for alignment to the Truth that God has revealed

C Conviction (not condemnation) of Sin – how does God convict us?

▪ Scripture

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. 2 Timothy 3:16

- **Prophetic** 2 Samuel 12 – Nathan, David and Bathsheba
John 4 - Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well

- **Others** Peter & Paul (see Galatians 2:11ff and Acts 11)

Later, when Peter came to Antioch, I had a face-to-face confrontation with him because he was clearly out of line. Galatians 2:11

Brothers if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently Galatians 6:1

- If someone speaks to you of your sin, how do you tend to react?
- Who has permission to tell you anything?
- How do you feel about a less mature Christian correcting you?
- What if the person does it clumsily or judgementally?
- Do you have a “show me whatever I need to see” attitude?

- **Conscience** - personal sensitivity to sin

When he comes, he'll expose the error of the godless world's view of sin, righteousness, and judgment John 16:8

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water Hebrews 10:22

D Sin Reaction – just as bad!!!

- **Self Justification** When someone sins against us, our temptation is to react sinfully and then to justify ourselves (e.g. “I felt so rejected, I couldn’t pray...”)
- **Example of Peter & Jesus in Gethsemane**; Jesus stays walking in grace and peace while Peter picks up the sword to fight.
- **Coffee Cup & Octopus Ink**

but...

E Responsibility for sin reject the litigious culture

- we **MUST** accept full responsibility for our own sin – we cannot blame our past/parents/society/the devil...

F Do not water sin down

call sin by its true name:
e.g. Anger not frustration Fear not being a little worried
Unbelief not being a little unsure

G Resisting revelation of sin

- why do we resist?

- ☒ **Pride** self-righteousness – we like to believe we’re better than we actually are
- ☒ **Fear** of exposure, rejection and punishment (from God and man)
- ☒ **Unbelief** do not trust God to forgive and bring freedom
- ☒ **Control** we want to handle it ourselves (rebellion)

H Mechanical / False Repentance all about the heart not the outward form

True Repentance	Luke 7 – the prostitute	Luke 15 – the Prodigal Son
	Luke 18 – the Tax Collector	Luke 19 – Zacchaeus
False Repentance	1 Samuel 15:24-31 – Saul	Exodus 12 – Pharaoh
	Isaiah 58 – the nation	

TRUE REPENTANCE

Godly Sorrow - Matthew 5:4; 2 Cor 7:9-10

Hatred of Sin - Hebrews 1:9

Spiritual Clarity – Luke 19

Forgiveness truly received – Hebrews 10:22

Joy & Gratitude – Psalm 51; Isaiah 30:15

Determination to change

Fruit of Repentance – Mat 3:8; Acts 26:20

Embracing Personal Responsibility

Openness and Transparency – James 5:6

Active Restitution

Living to God's Glory – Phil.2:11; Psalm 23:2

Truth centred / obedience focussed –
John 8:32; Galatians 5:27

**Deepening Repentance, growing revelation of
God's Holiness**

FALSE REPENTANCE

Indifference to sin

Hatred of the problem not the sin

Vagueness in sin awareness

weak sense of forgiveness & cleansing

self-pity & grumbling

wanting to feel better as only goal

casual obedience – short lived transformation

shift responsibility to others

Secrecy – protection of reputation

Private only repentance

Repentance for my own benefit

Feeling-centred / self-focussed

spiritually 'stuck' / superficial & mechanical

3. POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured.

Romans 3:21-25

- blood of Jesus = life poured out as a sacrifice for us
- Jesus lived the life we could never live and died the death we deserve
- His blood is the price paid for our freedom from bondage to sin, the world & the devil
- No one can earn their salvation and forgiveness – it's a free gift

a. The Effect on Man

We are forgiven:

If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.

1 John 1:8-9

We are at peace with God:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
Romans 5:1

We can boldly enter his presence:

So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help. Hebrews 4:16

b. The Effect on Satan

The blood of Christ disarms (renders powerless) Satan's right to our lives:

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's Cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

Colossians 2:13-15

c. The Effect on God

God is at peace with His creation and the relationship of love is restored:

Through Him to reconcile to himself all things by making peace through His blood shed on the Cross

Colossians 1:20

Be practical:

- The foundation of our lives is that we are forgiven, accepted and secure.
- We do not become sin-focussed or legalistic.
- We allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, and deal with it quickly.
- Forgiveness is immediate and need never cause us to withdraw from God.

POWER & PRINCIPLES OF GIVING FORGIVENESS

The danger of unforgiveness

Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors

Matthew 6:12

Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

Matthew 18:32-35

1. Ask for the revelation of the Holy Spirit of anger and bitterness in your heart.
Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23,24
2. Embrace emotional honesty. Dare to see the anger and bitterness you would much prefer not to be there!
3. Do not presume the person you are angry with today is the real reason you are angry!
Ask the Lord "Why am I angry?"
4. Name the sin of the person done against you. Do not minimise it. Call it by the real name (eg. betrayal, abuse, manipulation, rejection, prejudice . . .)

5. If feelings rise up: anger / rage; pain / hurt, it is good and proper to express them

BUT:

- o Don't be derailed
- o Don't get stuck in them
- o Don't stop the process
 - Remember: forgiveness is a transaction of the will and the mind and the emotions follow later
 - Forgiveness releases heavenly blessing:
Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
Luke 6:37-39
 - Forgiveness breaks the destructive soul ties / inappropriate influence and sets us free
 - Forgiveness enables deliverance and healing to take place

6. Four key attitudes that resist granting forgiveness

- o Vengeance: "I want him to pay"
- o Self-justification: "I will forgive when they change", "I am entitled to be angry, don't you know what they did . . ."
- o Self-righteousness: "I am in the right; I want my justice"
- o Self-pity / victim mindset: "But it's too painful to forgive, you can't expect me to just let it go"

All of these are expressions of pride and rebellion in our hearts and a profound lack of gratitude for our own forgiveness by God.

Forgiveness is a matter of obedience, humility and faith in our relationship with the Lord.

7. Forgiveness does not mean:

- o Pretending the injustice did not happen
- o Forgetting it
- o Saying sorry
- o Feeling love for the offender

It does mean cancelling the debt that person owes you for their cruelty . . . the debt signifies that which the person should have done or said according to God's standard of truth and love.

We can then place the person into the Lord's hands for Him to deal with.

We choose to treat them as if they had acted properly towards us, and we give up our right to exact justice or revenge or to get them to realise how wrong they were. (This does not mean we won't address the problem with them, but we do so having released them in our hearts.)

Imagine living with one of our hands tied by a strong cord (the debt against us) to a big wheelbarrow full of sand (violation against us). We have to push that thing around with us everywhere we go. How easy is that? Yet this is a reasonable picture of the spiritual burden unforgiveness imposes on us. Forgiving means taking a sword (our willingness to forgive because of the love, grace, mercy and shed blood of Jesus Christ) and severing that cord, dropping the load of debt, and leaving it behind. What a relief! We entrust ourselves – and the offender/offending situation – to God, while we are cut loose – literally – from carrying a load of unforgiveness towards the debt and the debtor. We are free!

8. Make a decision to bless the person in prayer, with your will if necessary.

9. Give up the desire / right / intention to

- o Seek the person's approval (especially true regarding mothers / fathers)
- o Rescue them from their own problems (the Lord will guide you how to love them).

10. Entrust yourself into God's hands for:

- o Healing
- o Protection
- o Blessing

Ask forgiveness for your own

- o Anger
- o Bitterness
- o Self-justification
- o Self-righteousness
- o Self-protection
- o Self-pity

11. Rebuke the energising work of the enemy in your heart. Remember forgiveness is a process and takes us down through layers within our hearts.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE ON FORGIVENESS

1. Ask the Lord for one significant person to forgive
2. Write out / express on paper / name what was done against you and how you feel about them
3. Dear Heavenly Father,

I acknowledge to you today the sin done against me by (name the person/ sin before the Lord)

What you did to me was wrong and it was sinful.

I choose today to cancel the debt you owe me; I release you from my judgement and place you into the Lord's hands.

I forgive you. I bless you (in your own words).

I sever the destructive soul-tie with you and I choose not to make you pay, seek your approval or rescue you from your own problems. I choose to rise up and transcend your sin and move on in my life in obedience to my Lord.

I repent of my own anger and bitterness (name any other sin reactions towards the person) and receive your forgiveness.

I rebuke the spirit of anger, bitterness, resentment . . . and I crush you under my heel and send you vile spirit to the feet of Jesus Christ.

Lord, I ask you to come and heal me, restore me and revive me, to flood my soul with your life and peace and I choose to walk into your freedom and grace for the days ahead.

Amen

4. Ask the Lord for revelation from Him how to treat / handle the person in the days ahead (especially if they do not change!)

Spiritual Authority and Humility

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY & HUMILITY

Culture hates / does not understand authority

Church is afraid of or has abused authority

Kingdom of Satan is a Kingdom of rebellion

all are rebels before becoming Christians
still rebellious in some areas of our lives

A. FAITH, AUTHORITY & POWER

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

Matthew 8:5-13

- Centurion has confidence and faith in the word of power because he sees the authority in which Jesus speaks and acts
- Independence means there is nothing to back up the ministry – unwilling to pay the price

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." Luke 10:17

- Hupotasso military term – to order (bring in line) to submit / obey
- To live the victorious life in the 2 realms you have to be under authority and so exercise authority

Would you want to be part of a military unit where the Captain is too frightened to take authority and in the middle of the battle is wanting consensus and everyone to be happy or a bunch of soldiers who can't take orders or who are going to pack up and go home because it is too late and it has all gone on too long, beyond that which they feel the leader is entitled to ask of them or they are feeling a bit poorly? You only want to go into this with people who will stay with you – life and death stuff!!!!

B. JESUS IN AND UNDER AUTHORITY

the necessary humility and submission to His Father

- Perfect submission

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 5:30

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:8

- Complete Dependence

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

John 7:16

- Constant Restraint

"Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. 26"I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

John 8:26-28

For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

John 12:49-50

C. THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY – SOVEREIGNTY

Authority = right to order / command / direct

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18
He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. Acts 1:7*

God loves us and is Truth so will never command something detrimental to us

- Delegated Authority - Watchman / Gatekeeper

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17



- **UMBRELLA**
 - Covering and protection
 - find the right leaders – ungodly = holes cf OT Kings
 - Need to stand under it!

Too much 'do your own thing'

Pastor is gatekeeper – responsible for what is allowed to go on in church

Kingdom of God is not a democracy – He uses delegated authority

"He's not told me"

"I'm alright if the Lord tells me, but if you tell me... .."

Godly leaders seek to protect (pastor), equip (teacher) and release (encourager) NEVER to dominate or build an empire. Never for self but for the Lord and the Body of Christ. They walk in HUMILITY aware of their own faults but courageous enough to lead with the support of others and obedience to the Lord as paramount.

D. DELEGATED AUTHORITY IN PRACTICE

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this. (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam—leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away." So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!" The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back. Numbers 12:1-15

Miriam and Aaron have false expectations

Person & Position confusion Brother or God's entrusted representative

God's attitude to rebellion & Criticism of His chosen delegated authority

Moses has compassion as any Godly leader will have

E. REBELLION

- “Rebellion is bold, arrogant, presumptuous, critical and undermining.” culturally normal!
- Rebellion is the act or state of armed, open resistance to authority

Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?" When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him. You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers and tomorrow put fire and incense in them before the LORD. The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!" Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites! Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too. It is against the LORD that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?" Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, "We will not come! Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert? And now you also want to lord it over us? Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? No, we will not come!"... .. So each man took his censer, put fire and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to the assembly, 'Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'" Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. He warned the assembly, "Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins." So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents. Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah's men and all their possessions. They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, "The earth is going to swallow us too!" And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.... .. The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the LORD's people," they said. But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the Tent of Meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared. Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and the LORD said to Moses, "Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once." And they fell facedown. Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense in it, along with fire from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started."

Numbers 16:1-14, 18, 23-28, 31-35, 41-46

- Accusation & Criticism - You've gone too far, Pride - Who do you think you are?, Fear of being taken for a ride and advantage of...
- Rebellion always wants more power, more jurisdiction, more me
- If a leader asks you to do something or to talk about something and there is a flat refusal then this is a symptom of rebellion – Godly leader will never force anyone to do anything - they will walk in humility
- Rebellion will take others down with it – always find someone to blame

- The Lord will remove those who are unrepentant in their rebellion, rebellion is walking in agreement with the Prince of Darkness NB the rebellious were Levites (the worship leaders!!!)
- When rebellion is in play wisdom goes out of the window and is replaced with anger
 - Godly Leaders will be wounded, rejected and disappointed by those they lead.
 - Yet we must demonstrate God's heart of love and compassion
 - A leader not submitted to God and the authority that the Lord has placed over them will miss God's best.

(Read 'Spiritual authority' by Watchman Nee)

F: AUTHORITY IN PRACTICE

1. Submit to those over us - as leaders who hold the umbrellas over us? Do we submit to authorities?

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves

Romans 3:1-2

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

2. Willing heart - no gritted teeth!

even to unjust / harsh authority

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1 Peter 2:18-20

3. Principle of appeal

Acts 15 Talk discuss etc but if you cannot come under then leave,

Leaders should ALWAYS be open to discussion and challenge

Stay and grumble & it is death to you and to the Pastor and his family & so to the fellowship

4. Submission expresses faith in God's ultimate authority

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:23

5. If you cannot submit out of conscience then you must refuse to obey with respect and honesty

6. Most disagreements are not Gospel Issues but matters of preference and independence – continual moaning is a rebellious spirit at work

7. Leaders do not make people submit. They walk in HUMILITY - this is key to avoid the abuse of spiritual authority. They lead and followers follow. BUT Leaders can stop things happening – You will not do so and so if they have sought the Lord.

8. Rebellion is Anti – Christ (Christ = Anointed) so an anti-anointing totally against the Lord

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship

Romans 12:1

Hearing God's voice

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Introduction

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

To walk with God 3 things are essential

1. To love Him
2. To hear His voice
3. To obey Him

Hearing God's voice is not an optional extra for the 'elite' Christians, but bread and butter for every believer. The goal of hearing His voice is:

- Intimacy
- Obedience - you cannot have one without the other

I. HEARING THE LORD'S VOICE

A. Redefining Normality

Model of Jesus

A constant stream of revelation.

I only speak what I hear the Father saying, I only do what I see the Father doing."

John 5:19

Specific Revelation

Model of Jesus

100% success in ministry.

He discerned specifically what was taking place, especially where things were natural and where things were demonic.

B. In Christ we can all hear God's voice through the enabling presence of the Spirit

The watchman opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:3-4

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:12-13

C. How we hear God's voice

1. In the imagination
 - Dreams e.g. Matthew 1:20
 - Visions / open visions
 - Pictures/ 'inner' visions e.g. Amos 8:1
2. In the mind
 - God planted thoughts

3. In the intuitive / heart
 - *Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things?'* Mark 2:8
4. In the Body
 - Physical sensations
5. With the eyes
 - *Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, 'Look at us!'* Acts 3:4
 - Open visions e.g. Acts 7:5-6
6. With the ears
 - The audible voice of God e.g. Jesus' Baptism.
7. Angelic Revelation
 - *The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the waterway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground* Genesis 19:1
8. Through Scripture
 - God takes us to a specific verse

D. Understanding the process of discernment

1. There are 3 key stages

- a) Revelation
 - What you see, hear, receive
- b) Interpretation
 - What does it mean?
 - What is God saying?
 - At this point beware assumptions or moving into the natural mind.
- c) Application
 - How to put the word into practice
 - Beware
 - Pride: 'I need to know all three levels.'
 - Rushing: stay waiting on the Lord for clarity.
 - Independence: God likes using people to discern together.

2. There are 2 Key Principles

- a) In line with Scripture

There are many things of God which are not in the scriptures but it must not be against the scriptures.

- b) The principle of Resonance

When a bell or instrument resonates at a certain frequency, other bells/ instruments with the same frequency resonate with it.

E. God wants to speak specifically

- *I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the Lord replied: 'Write down the revelation and make it*

plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.'

Habakkuk 2:1-3

- *But David learned of Saul's plan and told Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod and ask the Lord what he should do. And David prayed, "O Lord, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here. Will the men of Keilah surrender me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O Lord, God of Israel, please tell me." And the Lord said, "He will come." Again David asked, "Will these men of Keilah really betray me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord replied, "Yes, they will betray you."*
1 Samuel 23: 9-12
- *Then David asked the Lord, "Should I chase them? Will I catch them?" And the Lord told him, "Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!"*
1 Samuel 30:8
- *After this, David asked the Lord, "Should I move back to Judah?" And the Lord replied, "Yes". Then David asked, "Which town should I go to?" And the Lord replied, "Hebron."*
2 Samuel 2:1
- *So David asked the Lord, "Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The Lord replied, "Yes, go ahead. I will certainly give you the victory." And once again David asked the Lord what to do. "Do not attack them straight on," the Lord replied. "Instead, circle around behind them and attack them near the balsam trees. When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the balsam trees, attack! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistines." So David did what the Lord commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.*
2 Samuel 5:19, 23-25
- Acts 10: 3-8
- Acts 13: 2-3
- Acts 16: 9-10
- 1 Samuel 10:22
- 1 Samuel 23:1-6
- Acts 8:26
- Acts 9:10-12

God's will is established, most of the time, in collaboration with the will and agreement of his people. How can we be obedient or intimate if we do not seek for and believe for his specific revelation and direction?

F. Protect the time

1. Confess and repent of any known sin

And ask the Lord to examine your heart so that you can come into his presence cleansed and forgiven.

'Forgive us our sins'

Matthew 6:12

2. Bind Satan's minions

'I bind every demonic spirit that would oppose our time in any way and I rebuke and send you away from this place.'

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:1

We are open to deception:

Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'
Matthew 16:23

3. Bind your flesh

'We bind our flesh, all fleshly thinking and imagination.'

I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on this earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:18-20

4. Invite the Holy Spirit

'I invite you Holy Spirit to come and I thank you for speaking clearly and specifically to us in Jesus' name. Amen.'

Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Luke 11:12-13

Example Prayer

"I bind every demonic spirit that would oppose our time in any way and I rebuke and send you away from this place. We bind our flesh, all fleshly thinking and imagination. I invite you Holy Spirit to come and I thank you for speaking clearly and specifically to us in Jesus' name. Amen."

G. Ask good questions

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What do you want to accomplish Lord? | 12. What is the enemy energising? |
| 2. What is the enemy's assignment against us Lord? | 13. Is this sickness natural or supernatural? |
| 3. What territory do you want to take Lord? | 14. Are there any open doors to the enemy today? |
| 4. What is your strategy Lord? | 15. What sin is there in my heart? |
| 5. What are you asking of me Lord? | 16. Why does the enemy have access / jurisdiction in this situation? |
| 6. Do you want us to go away on that weekend? | 17. How many strongholds do you want to address now Lord? |
| 7. Should we have dinner with x? | 18. Lord will you show us where you want us to go on holiday? |
| 8. How much money should I give Lord? | 19. Should I say anything Lord? How do I say it? |
| 9. Who should we invite to dinner Lord? | 20. Why am I angry / envious / passive...? |
| 10. What would really bless x...? | |
| 11. Why is John resisting the Gospel Lord? | |

Exercise: Think of a situation in your life today. What is the strategic question you need to ask God?

H. Strongholds that resist God's voice

1. Fear

- Of failure – Inadequacy / Insignificance / Unbelief / Pride
- Of hurting others – Fear of Man / False responsibility / Unbelief
- Other

2. Insignificance

- He won't speak to me
- I won't hear
- I never get it right
- My revelation won't impact them
- Other....

3. Control

- I don't want to be wrong
- It scares me being so on the edge
- I don't like being so vulnerable and dependent

4. Unbelief

- Will anything happen?
- Does God speak so specifically?
- This is too big a problem
- I just don't feel like I have faith

5. Rebellion

- I don't want to hear because I like my plan

II. THE CENTRALITY OF OBEDIENCE

Obedience: To submit to the will of one who is superior

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.'

Matthew 18:22

...Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Matthew 6:10

Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.'

John 14:23-24

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Acts 5:32

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

Hebrews 5:8

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

Revelation 14:12

Exercise: What attitudes in our culture influence us to resist obedience to God?

A. God is looking for obedience that is

1. **Immediate:** *At once they left their nets and followed him.* Mark 1:18
2. **Complete:** *'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.'* John 4:34
3. **Willing:** *I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.* 1 Corinthians 7:35
4. **Joyful:** *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* John 15:10-11

Obedience is not in vogue today! Individual choice, rights, freedom are exalted to a ridiculous degree. The charismatic wing of the church has pursued emotional intimacy as the end goal of the Christian walk. Obedience is rarely at the centre of modern teaching.

B. Obedience is the litmus test to prove

1. **Faith:** *You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.* James 2:22
2. **Intimacy:** *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* John 15:9-11

Anything less than immediate, complete, willing and joyful obedience reveals our sin and rebellion!

Strongholds - nature, roots and access points

A: THE NATURE OF STRONGHOLDS

1. Footholds - topos - demonic jurisdiction (even in the believer's psyche)

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.
Ephesians 4.26-27

Spirit no access point here if you are regenerate a Christian cannot be possessed

Areas that can be demonised (influenced / affected by demonic) are:

Soul can affect interior life (Soul Tears)

Body physical being

There are different levels of stronghold. All of humanity – even Christians – are affected

2. The Aim of 'topos'

- ☐ to encapture the believer in a particular area of life so as to prevent freedom in Christ
- ☐ to torment, to pressurise, to harm
- ☐ to cause disobedience
- ☐ to rob the Christian of authority, power, discernment and energy

3. What is a stronghold? (e.g. Carcassonne, Beachhead on D-Day, LotR Helm's Deep)

Military Camp - Fortified defences - Base of Operations - HQ - Home
(Paul was familiar with Roman Camps)

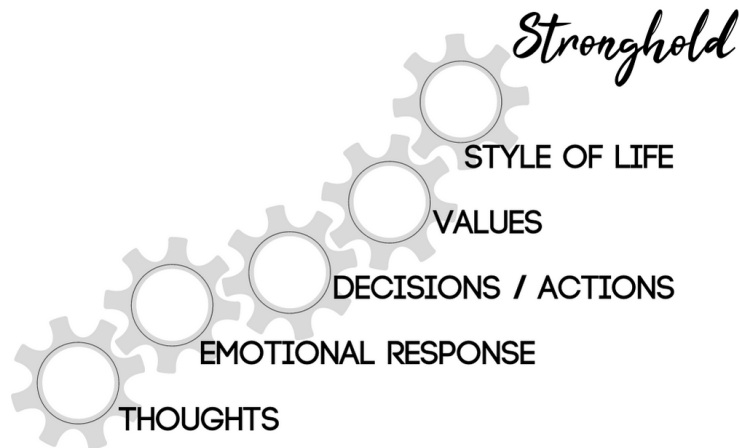
For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--|
| a. realm of war | v3 | not natural realm so natural weapons
(e.g. Counselling techniques) not so effective) |
| b. weapons of war | v4 | What are they? |
| c. nature of war | v4-5 | interplay between natural and demonic, Demonic
energises the natural so Balloon image - blowing up a
small wound |
| d. Understanding stronghold | v5 | demonic fortresses not susceptible to moral
improvement but only to spiritual warfare. These are
not over particular places, though an area can have a
corporate character which is a stronghold. |

- ☐ speculations, reasonings, attitudes, beliefs, thoughts and values contrary to God
- ☐ resistance to the Truth (not necessarily academic)
- ☐ Satan gets individuals, couples, families, churches, communities etc to buy into false values & beliefs
- ☐ God's truth is absolute NOT relative – liberating power of the truth comes in the ordinary everyday things not the zapping at Conferences

- ☐ Disagreeing with the truth of God is agreeing with the enemy and so allowing satan jurisdiction in your life
- ☐ pride, independence and self-sufficiency - (Humility is agreeing with God)
- ☐ one stronghold is never enough - Satan tries to multiply

4. Establishing a Stronghold



Satan gets us to think / feel out of kilter with truth.
 Then we make decisions on the wrong foundations.
 So we do wrong things
 We internalise wrong values
 We live contrary to Biblical Truth

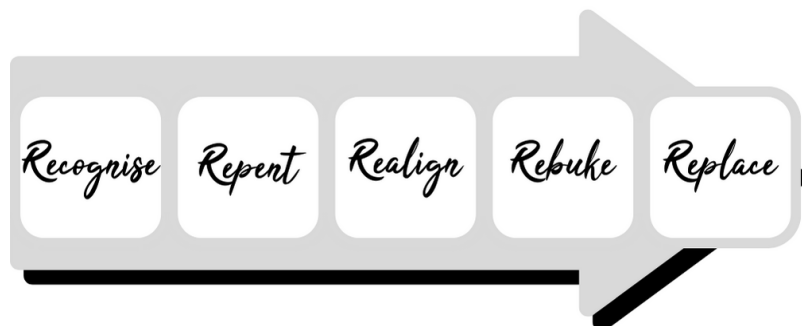
The Strongholds become the scaffolding on which we build our lives

5. Pulling down strongholds

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10.4-6

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take every thought captive – RECOGNISE THE PROBLEM • REALIGN to God's Truth • REPENT by Choosing Truth over lies
Foundation for freedom – not one off experience but ongoing • Truth encounter not power encounter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starts with the mind – replace twisted imagery with biblical imagery • Goes on with the will • Emotions are then dealt with • Air Attack (REBUKE Spiritual Warfare Prayer) & Ground Attack (REPLACE Walking in the Truth) are required to destroy Satan's stronghold |
|--|---|



Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me.

John 8.42

B: ACCESS POINTS

Our strongholds are unique as we have unique lives – aim to live in truth with freedom and to minister in authority and power – so as we mature in Christ we deal with stuff within so we can do the mission better – Hardware first then software – Heart surgery to be able to run the race

1. Sin

pre-salvation activity

disobedience, indulgence (playing with sin) and rebellion as Christians also

In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:26-27

When we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Galatians 4:3-9

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:8

2. Unmet love needs

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

We are made for love – to be in relationship with God and with each other

Created for 100% God quality love – Love gives us value, worth, and significance – a loved child is happy, hopeful and excited about love.

Siblings do not have to fight rivals for parental love but they should be able to bless each other as they know that there is enough love to go round and it will be their turn next.

Deprivation of this love is often the source of the CORE LIE/LIES i.e. the foundational lie(s) that stop(s) us living in the freedom of our original design

- **Love Tanks** emotional resources sourced by parents and others significant in development

However, parents love out of their resources, which are not perfect – so they do the best they (and in some cases they actually don't.)

Required

Words of Blessing

affirmation and unconditional love

Focussed Attention

doing what they want to do not them tagging along after you

Touch

age appropriate

- **Love Deficit** Empty Love tanks - especially from parents but also spouses

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rejection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> performance based love |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lack of affirmation – looks, body shape, abilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of blessing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abandonment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> touch – unhealthy – skin issues – sexual abuse – lust and immorality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> betrayal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> smothering |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> withholding love – they don't know how to love | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seeing your own childhood as normal – Christian parents are hardest to see |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abuse in all forms | |

Discipline becomes not controlling the child's behaviour but making sure their love tanks are full and watching them act differently

THE BIRTHRIGHT CARD

I AM ACCEPTED

Psalms 17:8	I am the apple of God's eye
Zephaniah 3:17	God sings over me with joy and pleasure
John 1:12	I am God's child
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend
Romans 5:1	I have been justified
1 Corinthians 6:17	I am united with the Lord and am one spirit with Him
1 Corinthians 6:19-20	I have been bought at a price; I belong to God
Ephesians 1:1	I am a saint (a Holy one)
Ephesians 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit
Colossians 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ
Colossians 3:12	I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved and therefore, jealously protected
Hebrews 4:16	I am welcomed into God's Holy Presence

I AM SECURE

Psalms 91:1	I am able to rest under God's mighty protection
Isaiah 49:16	I am held in the palm of God's hand
Romans 8:1-2	I am free forever from condemnation
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good
Romans 8:31f	I am free from any condemning charges against me
Romans 8:35f	I cannot be separated from the love of God
2 Corinthians 1:21-22	I have been established, anointed and sealed by God
Philippians 1:6	I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected

Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of Heaven
Colossians 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy in time of need
1 John 5:18	I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me

I AM SIGNIFICANT

Matthew 5:13-14	I am the salt and light of the earth
John 10:27	I am able to hear Christ's voice
John 15:1,5	I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life
John 15,16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ's
1 Corinthians 2:16	I am able to know the mind of Christ
1 Corinthians 3:16	I am God's temple
1 Corinthians 12:7	I am able to move in all the spiritual gifts to fulfil God's will in my life
2 Corinthians 6:1	I am God's co-worker (1 Corinthians 3.9)
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the Heavenly realm
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship (masterpiece)
Ephesians 2:10	I am called to fulfil God's destiny on earth
Ephesians 3:12	I can approach God with freedom and confidence
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
Luke 10:17-20	I am living in Christ's authority which gives me power over the enemy
2 Peter 1:3	I am full with every supernatural resource to live fully for Christ

EXERCISE

Reflect on your childhood Where are my love tanks in deficit from my background?

Ask the Lord to reveal words, experiences that have caused issues.

Exercise forgiveness towards those who have wronged you in the past to deal with some of these issues, or bring some of them to a Freedom Prayer Appointment.

3. Generational Sin

During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death." 2 Samuel 21:1
(Israel had covenant with the Gibeonites)

Effects down the line – Saul broke the covenant and the consequences were reaped

Fruit / shadow / curses of generational sin

Effects do not have a sell-by date; they continue. See here in Exodus

And God spoke all these words:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:1-6

This can be seen in the following examples:

Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed Psalm 112:1-2

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:1-2

Rabbis understand generational sin and Jesus does not dismiss it per se but only in this specific case.

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Matthew 27:24-25

Breaking the Generational Sin's hold

Maori rope connection to the generations

" 'But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers—their treachery against me and their hostility toward me, which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies—then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin, I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. For the land will be deserted by them and will enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them. They will pay for their sins because they rejected my laws and abhorred my decrees. Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.' "
Leviticus 26 (all of it but specifically vv40ff)

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

*Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. **I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you.**"* Nehemiah 1:1-6

On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads. Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers

Nehemiah 9:1-2

How to break it off ...

1. Acknowledge connection and call their sin ours – stand for our family
2. Confess their sin
3. Forgive that person
4. Repent of our participation – no passing the buck
5. Cut the Generational tie in Faith
6. Claim the Kingdom inheritance in Faith
7. Walk in obedience replacing bad patterns with Kingdom values by Grace in Faith

Cut ourselves off and future generations but siblings? In intercession but they need to do it.

4. Word Curses

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit

Proverbs 18:21

Generational people like us don't...
Contemporary especially people in authority e.g. Teachers – Clergy – Parents etc

How to break it off ...

1. Name it
2. Forgive it and cancel the debt bless the person
3. repent of receiving it
4. Break it and sever it from our lives
5. Rebuke the energising spirits
6. Replace with the truth

5. Soul Ties

Spiritual influence from one person to another – much of this is good but

"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life, sees that the boy isn't there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow. Your servant guaranteed the boy's safety to my father. I said, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!'

Genesis 44:30-32

Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man." When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Judges 16:15-21 (Samson & Delilah)

Acts 15 (Peter & the judaisers)

Family – not just vertically
Sexual Partners
Authority figures Friends
Spiritual leadersHeroes
Those you feel responsible for
parent, spouse - etc

How to break it off ...

1. Confess sin of false loyalty / idolatry / fear of man (one flesh relationships)
2. Forgive (360°)
3. Release them no rescue / no rebel / no vengeance
4. Release forgiveness
5. Sever the soul tie
6. Rebuke the energising spirits
7. Surrender yourself to the Lord and receive the infilling of the Spirit

6. Occult hidden things

Magic (controlling the spiritual realm – false prophecy, manipulating the spiritual realm – can come out of a controlling spirit operating on a genuine anointing – careful!!!!!!)

Fortune Telling

Spiritism

When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there
Deuteronomy 18:9

Do not allow a sorceress to live

Exodus 22:18

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one... .. No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons"

1 Corinthians 8:4; 10:20

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. A number who had practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas

Acts 16:16-18; 19:19

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city

Revelation 22:14

Three Levels of involvement:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Unwitting Involvement - | objects
generational
naivety | even dedicated into false religion
media sources |
| 2. Low level involvement | Horoscopes, Ouija boards, séances | |

3. High level Involvement

Dedicated to philosophy, beliefs and activities:
satanic worship – New Age dabbling

Occult List

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acupuncture | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Telling | <input type="checkbox"/> Séances | False Religions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amulets
(horseshoes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-hypnosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Bahai |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astral Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphology | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit guides | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astrology | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeopathy
- some aspects | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritualism | <input type="checkbox"/> Christadelphians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Horoscopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarot Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartomancy
(playing Cards) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lucky Charms | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea Leaves | <input type="checkbox"/> Druids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clairvoyance | <input type="checkbox"/> Some Martial Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> TM | <input type="checkbox"/> Freemasonry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Occult Group
attendance | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediums | <input type="checkbox"/> Witchcraft
whether white or black magic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikhism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crystals | <input type="checkbox"/> Hypnosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga | <input type="checkbox"/> Hare Krishna |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divination | <input type="checkbox"/> Mind Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Zodiac Charms | <input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dowsing | <input type="checkbox"/> Satanic Music | | <input type="checkbox"/> Islam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Occult Literature | | <input type="checkbox"/> J W's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ESP | <input type="checkbox"/> Omens | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moonies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feng Shui | <input type="checkbox"/> Ouija | | <input type="checkbox"/> Mormons |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Palmistry | | <input type="checkbox"/> New Age |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Reincarnation | | <input type="checkbox"/> Rastafarians |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Satanism | | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientology |

How to break it off ...

1. Keep it simple
2. 5 Rs
3. Replace actively & intentionally
4. Repent & Rebuke Aloud

You need nothing else to break free than the reality of the victory won by Jesus on the cross and then 'enforced' in your life

Insignificance

FREEDOM FROM INSIGNIFICANCE

Defining Insignificance:

“Insignificance is believing that we are lower in order (of less value, of less importance) and status than another, poorer in quality, below average. It is believing that we are common, low grade, second rate or substandard. We believe others don’t want us or don’t value us, but believe we are ineffective and weak”

- 1. Insignificance is rooted in lies and labels from the enemy, who has opposed you from birth.**
- 2. It is rooted in being overly conscious of one’s self, and coming up short when comparing self against others – insidious comparison.**
- 3. Struggles in this area are linked to struggles with self-pity, anger, coveting and unbelief**

We often feel that we do not belong and that we get short-changed (self-pity). We can nearly always see how others are greater, or more significant than we are – in everything. We cannot see our own value. We believe that the Lord does not see us or smile upon us and somewhere deep down we reject the promise that He has a purpose for us. We find no joy in the fact that He has chosen us. We live with buried anger toward people who represented groups in our past who rejected us or made us feel like we were second-class. We are often critical of these people because they make us feel inferior. Anger will rise up and show itself in many diverse ways. We must address insignificance at many levels in order to root it out of our lives.

- 4. Insignificance is rooted in the “I can’t / I’m nothing” lie. I often feel and think**

- ☐ I am nobody from nowhere
- ☐ I am ugly, weak and despised
- ☐ I have nothing to give anyone
- ☐ I am not a “real” man / woman
- ☐ You don’t want to speak to me because you are superior to me
- ☐ I look down when I walk by people
- ☐ I don’t say ‘Hi’, because no one knows me and nobody cares
- ☐ I am shy (or labelled shy) because I have nothing to say to others
- ☐ Everyone in my family, including me, is a nobody
- ☐ I don’t see any good in who the Lord created me to be (ungratefulness)
- ☐ I dislike myself

- 5. Insignificance breeds a heightened awareness of self**

- ☐ I am often self-conscious and internally focussed
- ☐ I often compare myself to others
- ☐ I find myself wondering what others think about me, which leads to a deep sense of insecurity
- ☐ My life is all about me – my feelings, my hopes, my dreams

- ☐ When I succeed in something I feel it proves that I am good at something

6. Insignificance sees to it that we always fall short in the comparison game with others

- ☐ I constantly compare myself to others, and I often fall short
- ☐ I do not like talking to people I consider superior to me
- ☐ I covet the gifts and abilities of others (boy/girlfriends, jobs, positions, possessions)
- ☐ I am jealous of what other people look like, how they act and speak
- ☐ I only build friendships with those I consider to be my equals or who I regard as inferior

7. Insignificance causes us to fear or avoid healthy, God-given challenges intended to bring new growth in our life (passivity)

- ☐ We are relieved when the "other person" is chosen to do something
- ☐ We are fearful or anxious of being responsible for tasks, because we believe that we will probably fail
- ☐ We prefer to remain hidden or anonymous, and be passed over for assignments
- ☐ We want to be given easy tasks we can accomplish with our natural abilities
- ☐ We only choose to do things familiar to us
- ☐ We only speak with people we are familiar
- ☐ We avoid risks
- ☐ We are desperately afraid to fail, so we play it safe
- ☐ We prefer being alone because it is safer, easier and less work
- ☐ We are unable or feel unfit to share the Gospel with others ("it's someone else's job")
- ☐ If forced to engage in a risk-taking activity, we are eager for it to be over
- ☐ If forced to participate in a risk-taking activity, we become tired and weary
- ☐ We do not find joy in the Lord's challenges

8. Insignificance rests on heavy unbelief about our authority and our God-given place in the Body of Christ

- ☐ The Lord does not take my prayers seriously
- ☐ It's hard for me to believe that God has chosen me for a significant purpose
- ☐ I feel that I am insignificant to the Lord
- ☐ God will help others but not me
- ☐ God doesn't like me as much as others
- ☐ I am too bad and fail too often for God to help me
- ☐ I am only here because I am married to

- ☐ I am leading things by accident
- ☐ When someone speaks about being a “warrior for Christ” they are not speaking to me
- ☐ I feel like no one knows me or sees me
- ☐ The Lord doesn’t speak to me
- ☐ I am alone
- ☐ I often question God’s presence in my life
- ☐ I do not believe that I have any spiritual “punch” – everything I do is weak
- ☐ I can’t see my destiny (even when someone tries to tell me) or how I will be used to try to advance the Kingdom

9. Insignificance finds comfort in self-pity

- ☐ I blame others for not seeing anything good in me: “it’s not my fault”
- ☐ My parents weren’t very encouraging to me, so that is why I do not believe in myself
- ☐ “These are just character traits – God made me this way!”
- ☐ I am a victim of a hard life
- ☐ No one ever blesses me so don’t expect much of me

10. Insignificance breeds criticism of others who are different from us

- ☐ I am critical of others because I couldn’t or wouldn’t do things “that way.”
- ☐ I am critical of others when they challenge me because I can’t change
- ☐ I am critical of other because I believe that they think they are superior to me
- ☐ I often feel angry with other people
- ☐ I can see other people’s sin very easily

11. Insignificance causes us to withhold blessing from others

- ☐ I don’t bless others because I have nothing to give
- ☐ I don’t bless others because my input to others doesn’t matter to them
- ☐ It doesn’t even occur to me that others want me to bless them
- ☐ It is too risky to bless others – I may look silly or even arrogant – who am I to do this?

12. Lies & Deceptions

- ☐ False humility: I have nothing to give – you are better than me

- ☐ False peace: I would like things to be easy or comfortable
- ☐ The Lord does not extend His hand of authority over me when I move or speak
- ☐ No one cares about me or even sees me
- ☐ Being gifted in service or intercession / prayer (or anything behind the scenes) is less significant than being gifted in teaching or leadership
- ☐ False measurement of truth: comparing myself to others is a valid measurement of my worth
- ☐ I can never win this battle
- ☐ I must fight the battle in my own strength: it's up to me not the Lord
- ☐ Related / intertwined sins: fear, insecurity, criticism, self-pity, anger, hopelessness

13. Insignificance seeks man's approval

- ☐ I feel rejected if I am not encouraged or recognized
- ☐ I do what I think others would like me to do
- ☐ I say things that I think will cause others to approve of me
- ☐ I feel insecure if I others think badly of me
- ☐ I hate unresolved conflict
- ☐ I hate it if someone disapproves of me or my actions
- ☐ I struggle to forgive and never forget those who challenge me

14. Insignificance leads to ambition

- ☐ I find it hard to cope with failure
- ☐ Success is a very high priority for me
- ☐ I judge myself and others by the measure of their success
- ☐ I see success as something to be attained
- ☐ I want people to think highly of me
- ☐ I value my reputation
- ☐ I judge my ministry by numbers
- ☐ Deep down I like it when someone else fails
- ☐ I like power

PRAYER

Recognise Lord I recognise that insignificance has had a foothold / stronghold in my life. I see it and I call it sin.

<i>Repent</i>	Jesus, I ask forgiveness for every way insignificance has affected my life and the lives of those around me. I ask forgiveness for _____ (look at the boxes you have ticked). I now turn in repentance, committing myself to breaking the patterns of insignificance in my life
<i>Receive</i>	Jesus, I receive your promised forgiveness. I receive the promise that you will renew my mind and heart into your image.
<i>Renounce</i>	I declare that from now on I will seek to discover your truth about me Lord and that I will live it out by your grace that your name will be glorified in me and through me
<i>Rebuke</i>	In Jesus' name and authority, I rebuke you spirit of insignificance. I rebuke every spirit that has been given a foothold in my life due to the stronghold of insignificance, every spirit of anger, jealousy, competition, self-pity, unbelief, rebellion, insecurity, and every deceiving spirit must go to the feet of Jesus. With the authority I have in Jesus, in Jesus' name I command every spirit that would lie to me about who God is and what He says about me to go to the feet of Jesus. You are all defeated and I crush you under my heel and say that you have no place or authority in my life – be gone and do not return.
<i>Replace</i>	I replace the deceptions of the enemy with God's truth and I chose to walk in these truths the opposite spirit to insignificance

PROMISES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will not covet what others have	Exodus 20:17
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am chosen by God to do good works that he has prepared for me to do	Ephesians 2:10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am strong and I do not fear, for my God will come	Isaiah 35:4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world	Matthew 5:13-14
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a Spirit-empowered witness to Christ	Acts 1:8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am God's workmanship	Ephesians 2:10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am highly favoured by God and He is with me	Luke 1:28
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a mighty warrior and the Lord is with me	Judges 6:12

LISTEN TO THE FATHER FOR HIS WORDS TO YOU

WALKING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT

- ☒ Take our eyes off of ourselves and turn to the Lord.
- ☒ Allow Him to define us, to clothe us in righteousness
- ☒ Allow Him to seat us with him in heaven and to bestow gifts upon us

- ☑ Destroy the lie that we have to be somebody great or known. The struggle can continue because others in the world do not recognise our significance. The Lord calls us all to be servants and take the lowest seat; His definition of greatness is completely different from the world's definition.
- ☑ Allow the Lord to raise us up – desire to be a fully functioning member of the Body of Christ rather than being “known”
- ☑ Find your identity in Christ and discover His purpose for you in His body – the Church
- ☑ Be grateful for that place – whatever it is and be assured that we are needed for its health, strength and ability to function fully
- ☑ Renounce the desire to be something different to what the Lord has made us to be
- ☑ Do it and know the joy of seeing the body functioning effectively. Joy comes from the me taking my place in the body and seeing the church knit together – that is fullness & freedom

Fear and Control

FEAR AND CONTROL

Recognising Fear

The most repeated command in scripture is Do not fear. God designed us to be people of faith, hope and love:

- A people who stand in confident faith of His character, His truth and His power.
- A people of hope, who believe God is in charge of His creation and He will bring about His good purposes for it.
- A people who live in loving relationship with Him, secure in His love and protection for us.

The opposite of this is living in fear, which is the result of living in expectation of the enemy stealing, killing and destroying.

Fear is built on **unbelief**. Wherever we believe the lies of the enemy instead of trusting the character, truth and power of God we give space for fear to take ground. The reason that fear is a sin, is because it comes from the choice not to trust God, which is itself unbelief and rebellion.

What does Freedom from Fear look like?

He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:8

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

There are literally millions of different fears, from the fear of spiders to the fear of rejection, far more than we could possibly list here. The root of all fear is the same - it is believing the lies of the enemy and expecting the enemy's purpose, rather than living in secure trust of your Loving Almighty Father.

The key to defeating fear is to recognise the lie which the fear is built upon.

WHAT CAN DESTROY FEAR IN A PERSON'S LIFE?

Fear is built on lies. Lies about God, lies about what God has done for us and lies about ourselves. Fear is therefore destroyed, not by managing our feelings, but believing the truth.

Perfect love casts out fear – God's love for us is the ultimate truth, His love for us results in His grace and forgiveness, His protection and promises and His strength and power to bring about His good purposes.

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17b-19

To defeat fear we need to take hold of the truth about God and allow the love of God to soak into every part of us.

The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:1

RECOGNISING CONTROL

Control is a sin pattern that causes a person to try to determine the way things are done outside of God's leading and direction. When control is operating in a person, they do not rely on the Holy Spirit but rely on their own resources. Control is rooted in unbelief (God won't / can't sort this out so I will have to) and fear ('I am scared this will fall apart so I will make sure it doesn't').

Control can become so integrated into a personality that we may not be able to detect any element of it. One of the ways in which fear manifests itself is through control. If we are fearful of the unknown, fearful of man, fearful of the supernatural – we can respond with control.

1. The following characteristics are frequently used to describe those dominated by a controlling spirit:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| ○ Controlling | ○ Dominating |
| ○ Manipulative | ○ Opinionated |
| ○ Disobedient | ○ Confrontational |
| ○ Resistant | ○ Know-it-all |
| ○ Direct | ○ Fake/ two-faced |
| ○ Overbearing | ○ Forceful |
| ○ Influential | |

2. Statements that suggest the presence of a controlling stronghold:

- ☐ I dominate or butt-in on conversations, sometimes even when I am not a part of those conversations.
- ☐ I feel I know what is best for other people.
- ☐ I tend to make other people work around my schedule.
- ☐ I resist having others speak openly into my life.
- ☐ I prefer to be on the move. Spending time in quiet reflection is difficult for me.
- ☐ I get angry when I or my contributions are not acknowledged.
- ☐ If someone does not want to do what I want them to do, I become more persuasive until they agree.
- ☐ I tell sad stories to gain sympathy from others.
- ☐ I carefully consider how I say things in the hope of getting others to do what I want.
- ☐ I find it difficult to follow others.
- ☐ I want to do things for others, when I think I can do it better than they can.
- ☐ I have a hard time accepting the opinions of others.
- ☐ I have a hard time accepting others' insight into my life.
- ☐ I always have an answer to justify my stance or my situation.
- ☐ I get angry when things aren't done the way I had planned it.
- ☐ I am available to others only when it is convenient for me.
- ☐ I feel obligated to help others even when they don't ask.

PRAYER

- Repent:** Lord, I repent of the sin of control and manipulation. I confess right now that I have allowed it to become a part of my life. I name it before You as sin. I confess wanting control over others and my own life. I recognise my control is rooted in my lack of trust in you Lord, and my desire to feel in control. I recognise the pride in me too. I repent of these things...(go back through the lists that you ticked).
- Receive:** I receive your forgiveness Lord, through the shed blood of Christ and thank you that I am forgiven, loved, accepted and free from the power of this sin.
- Re-align:** I realign my life, my thinking, my decisions and my desires to surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit; to trust Him to work out His purposes without my attempts to make it happen according to my plans and thoughts. I declare I am a child of obedience, I embrace humility and surrender and will bless, honour and trust those God gives me to live and work with.
- Rebuke:** I rebuke the spirit of control that has been energising this sin in me. I take authority over you and command you off my life and under the feet of Jesus Christ. I break all agreement with the spirit of control and come into agreement with the Truth that God is Good and I can trust Him to work out His good, pleasing and perfect will.
- Replace:** Replace by walking in the opposite spirit.

WALKING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT

- Jesus never controlled people but offered himself to them allowing them to respond of their own freewill.
- Jesus allowed his disciples to make mistakes and to go out on mission themselves.
- The prodigal son's father allowed him to leave and face the consequences of his poor choices.
- We must understand that control destroys the work of the Lord, hinders growth, divides people, stunts creativity and gifting.
- Aim to affirm and bless others.
- Aim to serve others.
- Aim to be led not just to lead.
- Aim to be at peace in the midst of confusion or chaos and wait on God for His directions. Such an attitude finds its source in faith in God's goodness and willingness to bring about his will.

SCRIPTURES TO LIVE BY

- He entrusted himself to Him who judges justly.* 1 Peter 2:23
- The Lord is good, His love endures forever.* Psalm 136:1
- God's power is made perfect in my weakness.* 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;* Proverbs 3:5
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Ephesians 5:21

Passivity

FREEDOM FROM PASSIVITY

Defining Passivity: allowing oneself to be acted upon; submitting without objection or resistance; hesitation on areas of biblical obedience; lack of initiation; procrastination

RECOGNISING PASSIVITY

This is not from the Lord but is a form of rebellion

- ☐ it replaces obedience and active faith
- ☐ the opposite is not activism but obedience to the Lord's voice
- ☐ strongly connected to fear – failure, rejection; unbelief; insignificance; inadequacy and insecurity
- ☐ Can often lead to stubbornness, anger and an unwillingness to change or expose yourself to risk, responsibility or the possibility of failure
- ☐ You can be actively obedient in some areas of life and passive in others
- ☐ Active faith should be the norm in every area of life

A sluggard does not plough in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

Proverbs 20:4

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth

Proverbs 10:4

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle,

1 Thessalonians 5:14

1. Passivity is a lack of initiation

- ☐ I put off confrontation with others and refrain from challenging them
- ☐ I find it easier to make my own decisions than to wait on the Lord
- ☐ I regularly leave jobs around the home undone for too long
- ☐ I am wanting to be healed and I am waiting passively for God to act
- ☐ I want revelation / power and am waiting for it to come
- ☐ I do not often get angry with the Devil and his impact on my and others' life
- ☐ I wait to be asked to contribute, rather than initiate openly and honestly (and then get angry about being overlooked!)
- ☐ I start a project but fail to see it through to the end
- ☐ Obstacles often floor me and I give up very easily

- ☐ I struggle to make decisions for fear of getting it wrong or missing a better option or failing to deliver
- ☐ I rarely initiate conversations, but wait for others to come to me
- ☐ I am passive in building relationships
- ☐ I am passive in developing intimacy – sharing emotions, hopes, dreams etc
- ☐ I don't call others
- ☐ I don't call people back when they call me
- ☐ I do not affirm others – I withhold words of blessing
- ☐ I do not protect others
- ☐ I do not initiate growth in my relationship with the Lord
- ☐ I have no motivation to read, pray or worship
- ☐ I have no urgency in my relationship with God
- ☐ I feel pretty satisfied with my present spiritual state
- ☐ I want to grow but I don't know what to do
- ☐ I never get around to making a Freedom Prayer Appointment – I'm too busy, someone else needs it more than me or is more deserving
- ☐ I don't actively serve others or the body of Christ – someone else will do it
- ☐ I don't believe that I can actually change
- ☐ I am too old to change now
- ☐ I let others do for me what I could do for myself
- ☐ I assume others will be more spiritual and let them get on with it
- ☐ I fear confrontation

2. Passivity is a form of independence and leads to isolation

- ☐ I resist interdependence – I'd rather do stuff on my own
- ☐ I do not like asking for help
- ☐ I am critical of the way things are done in church
- ☐ I have doubts about the leadership

- ☐ I do my own thing
- ☐ I protect myself by being 'cool' or nonchalant
- ☐ I do not share my feelings easily
- ☐ I don't bother to restore relationship difficulties
- ☐ I observe and comment rather than participating
- ☐ I am not worthy to be in relationship with others

3. Passivity is a form of resistance or rebellion

- ☐ I resist God's forgiveness by not taking my true authority over my sin
- ☐ I resist obedience to the Lord by allowing habitual sin to remain in my life
- ☐ I do not seek Godly sorrow in repentance
- ☐ I am familiar with and so indifferent to sins in my life
- ☐ I resist receiving the lord's gifts in my life
- ☐ I don't believe that He has given me any gifts anyway – they are for other people
- ☐ I don't step up to leadership as I don't want those levels of responsibility
- ☐ It is not like me to get more involved and I do not like the pressure to do so
- ☐ I am just not assertive
- ☐ If xxxxx would be quiet then I would speak – judgemental and critical spirit

4. Passivity allows self-pity to remain

- ☐ I am familiar with feelings of fear and rejection and that is just the way things are for me
- ☐ I am comfortable with the way I am and I see little reason to change
- ☐ I am a victim
- ☐ Others should not push me to be someone I am not – It is their fault
- ☐ I allow my feelings to define me especially when I am in a bad place – I feel bad so I will not be obedient

5. Passivity is about being too comfortable

- ☐ I am comfortable with my spiritual life and do not see the need to change repent and grow
- ☐ I am comfortable (familiar) with my problems and I accept them as just the way things are
- ☐ I take little care over my physical appearance

6. Lies / Deceptions

- ☐ this is part of my personality
- ☐ I am just a shy person
- ☐ I am not meant to step out otherwise I would feel different
- ☐ I'll fail anyway
- ☐ There is nothing wrong with me
- ☐ If I am a victim at least I have some attention
- ☐ Don't tell me how to behave

- REPENT: Lord, I repent of the sin of walking passivity; for allowing it to have a foothold and stronghold in my life. I see how these patterns of behaviour have affected me and others. (Confess specific items from the checklist)
- RENOUNCE: I renounce that way of living and turn from it right now. I commit to breaking the patterns of passivity in my life
- RECEIVE: I receive your forgiveness for this sin of passivity. I receive your love and submit to your plan for my life & the freedom that I will find within that plan. I choose to actively seek forgiveness, healing, and wholeness.
- REBUKE: I stand in the heavenly realms as a repentant and forgiven sinner with full authority in Jesus; I bind and rebuke the lies and schemes of the enemy. I bind you spirit of passivity and rebuke you now in Jesus' name; I send you to the foot of the cross, under the feet of Jesus, covered in His blood and I crush you under my heel. You get out and off every area of my life where you have had influence and I proclaim that you will not come back.
- REPLACE: I choose now to replace the lies with the truth of God. I chose to walk in the opposite spirit; to walk in active faith; to walk in freedom and obedience – to allow the wind of the Holy Spirit free rein in my life and my passivity to no longer hinder the work of the Spirit in my life.

It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him Deuteronomy 13:4

Also read and use to replace:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Matthew 5:13-14 | 2 Timothy 1:7 | John 15:16 |
| Hebrews 6:11-12 | 2 Corinthians 1:22-23 | John 4:34 |
| 2 Corinthians 6:1 | Philippians 4:13 | |

Religious Control

RELIGIOUS CONTROL

INTRODUCTION

Scripture does not name a 'religious spirit' but it is clearly alluded to and revoked where people thinking they are serving God do in fact collaborate with the evil one and resist the purposes and will of Christ.

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

The Greek word 'morphosin' means 'form' or 'outline'.

The evil one is very happy for humans to operate with the form of godliness and the appearance of righteousness, deceiving people into lowering their definition or understanding of true Christianity, they become accustomed to lack of power and accept it as normal.

Whenever Christians are not operating in consistent power; seeing regular conversions (the Lord added daily to their number...), regular deliverance, regular healings, regular miracles, then we must acknowledge we have become 'religious'.

This is a permanent battle to resist – controlling, programming and defining the work of the Spirit. Every tradition can and will have its own temptation to be 'religious'. The ultimate test is encountering the presence of Christ in ministry aligned to kingdom fruit. We need to continually redefine what is normal and submit ourselves to the searching ministry of the Spirit to reveal the 'yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees' (Matthew 16:6).

SIGNS OF A CONTROLLING RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

- ☐ I find myself more at ease with teaching Theology and truth than with discerning the times and seasons of the Spirit.
- ☐ I prefer to plan and execute a programme and strategy rather than look for the creative and uncontrollable way of the Spirit.
- ☐ I fear looking foolish or stupid if I operate out of subjective revelation. I prefer what is sensible, sound and orderly.

- ☐ I need to understand what I am being asked to do by God before I am ready to obey.
- ☐ I have a strong loyalty to certain role models in the faith and am resistant to new ways of doing things.
- ☐ I tend to meet a need when I see it rather than only operate out of 'authorised compassion'.
- ☐ I care about what other leaders think of my ministry and tend to exaggerate the numbers in my ministry.
- ☐ I lack consistent joy and feel weighted down by the demands of ministry.
- ☐ I feel indispensable to the future and direction of the church.
- ☐ I like to have a handle on everything that is going on and am suspicious of those who I can't control.
- ☐ I feel frustrated that God is not acting according to my plans for the ministry.
- ☐ I feel angry with the church for not being/ doing what I believe God wants of us.
- ☐ I don't really want to know what's going on in people's lives as long as they are fulfilling their responsibilities.
- ☐ I turn a blind eye to more socially acceptable sin in people's lives as long as it does not hinder my plans / goals for the ministry.
- ☐ I feel inadequate and insecure when the church is not flourishing and numbers are down.
- ☐ I often see my primary mission as the tearing down of whatever they believe is wrong. Criticism and a negative mindset will be hallmarks of their ministry.
- ☐ I am not willing to accept a rebuke, especially from those whom I think to be less spiritual than myself. Reflect on how you responded the last few times someone tried to correct you.
- ☐ I have a philosophy that 'I will not listen to people, but only to God.' Since God frequently speaks through people, this is an obvious delusion, revealing serious pride.
- ☐ I am inclined to see more of what is wrong with other people, other churches etc., than what is right with them. Do you find yourself defining yourself by what distinguishes you from other churches, or what you have in common? John saw Babylon, but when he was carried to a high mountain, he saw the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:10). If we can only see Babylon, we need to readjust our perspective. Those who are in a place of true vision will have their attention on what God is doing, not men.
- ☐ I keep score on my spiritual life. This includes feeling better about ourselves because we go to more meetings, pray more, read our Bibles frequently etc. While all these things are good and noble, they can become forms of self righteousness, in which we justify ourselves by our activity.
- ☐ I tend to believe I have been appointed to fix everyone else. We have this attitude when we think 'If I don't do it, it won't be done properly' – just another form of control
- ☐ I care what people think of me, and value my reputation.

- ☐ I will resist the subtle promptings of the Spirit when leading people for fear they will think me 'whacky'.
- ☐ I have a strong fear of failure of being exposed as weak and vulnerable. When we resist the brokenness that we need to come daily to the Cross of Christ, failure will scare us silly – leading to great fear of man and a controlling mindset.
- ☐ I have a leadership style which is bossy, overbearing and intolerant of the weakness or failure of others. 'But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sew in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.
- ☐ I infrequently ask the Lord for specific revelation/ direction and have a tendency towards relying on trusted plans/ programmes/ structures. Will find the time given to listening prayer frustrating and see it as 'wasted time'.
- ☐ I have a sense that I am closer to God than other people, or that my life and ministry is more pleasing to Him. This is a symptom of the delusion that we draw closer to God because of who we are, rather than through Jesus.
- ☐ I compare my ministry/ church to those of other people.
- ☐ I believe that I am on the 'cutting edge' of what God is doing. This includes thinking that we are involved in the most important thing that God is doing – leading to pride and a 'form of godliness denying/resisting the power' 2 Timothy 3:5
- ☐ I have a mechanical prayer life. When we start feeling relief when our prayer time is over or we have prayed through our list of things, we should consider our condition. We will long to stay in His presence as we grow in love of Him.
- ☐ I am overly repulsed by emotionalism. True passion for God is often emotional and demonstrative. See 2 Samuel 6:14-16.
- ☐ I use emotionalism as substituted for the work of the Holy Spirit. This seems paradoxical, but anything that would try and counterfeit or simulate the divine work of God, is a soulish thing and within the enemy's strategy to keep us from knowing a true power encounter with the King.
- ☐ I am encouraged when my ministries look better than others. Of course the reverse is also true, being discouraged by the fruit of others!
- ☐ I lack compassion and mercy for those who are weak/ sinful/ failing/ slowing the church down.
- ☐ I tend to be suspicious or oppose new movements in the church. By their fruit you will know them.
- ☐ I overreact to carnality in the church. There is invariably much more carnality in the church than we would care to recognise. Yet we need to recognise that people are making progress, and help them along the way. See Peter's declarations Mark 8:27-33 seemed he didn't have it all sewn up either!
- ☐ I am overly paranoid of the religious spirit. We do not get free of something by fearing it, but by overcoming it with faith in Christ Jesus.

- ☐ I have the tendency to glory in anything but the cross of Jesus, what He has accomplished and who He is. If we are building our lives on anything but these, our shaky foundations will not stand.
- ☐ I recoil from sharing my present sin with others or desiring prophetic insight in to my sin patterns. This is pride and self-righteousness. This leads to secrecy and protecting of reputation.
- ☐ I try to connect with the decision makers and influential people. Wanting to influence and be seen to be influential. Leads to a political atmosphere rather than open honest and trusting leadership structures. (This is 'selfish ambition and vain conceit').

TRUTH TO LIVE BY

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
Matthew 6:5-6

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!
Philippians 2:6-8

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.
Philippians 3:4-10

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.
1 Peter 5:2-4

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.
Isaiah 30:15

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

I confess that I have rebelled against you and have acted out of a religious and controlling stronghold. I have used your people and the ministry you have given me for my own ends and have not represented you fully to the people you have entrusted to my leadership. I repent of this wicked sin and receive your full and free forgiveness through the gift of the blood of Christ. I renounce all outward forms of religious behaviour that grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit and limits His power in me and through me.

In the name of Jesus, I rebuke the lying and deceptive co telling religious spirit and shatter it's power in my life – I crush you under my heel and cast you off my life.

Lord, teach me to live wholly submitted to the direction of the Spirit. To accept nothing that is not full of your life and power and to seek no one else's approval other than yours. Lord, give me opportunities to walk in the opposite spirit this week. Amen.

Theology of Jesus Ministry

THEOLOGY OF JESUS MINISTRY

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

This is a work of the Holy Spirit to awaken the Church to foundational truths that will enable her to walk in her destiny. For me, my Biblical theology has hardly changed but the application of long held and long cherished truths has become more consistent and pertinent.

Key lies about this stuff

1. 'I have to agree with every detail'
This is not a movement with a theological structure
2. 'I have to fit the new in to the old'
This is not primarily about doing new things – though that may happen
but about doing Kingdom work differently
3. This will mean me breaking with past loyalties

The heart for JM/FP/LF is humility and openness to new revelation from the Lord

Theological study can provoke issues of *pride* – “I understand this and it doesn’t fit my understanding so chuck it “
and *control* – I am the final arbiter in all matters of faith and action!!!

A: REVELATION & AUTHORITY

1. Foundation of the Scriptures

All aspects of ministry and life are submitted to the authority of biblical revelation. The scriptures are the final arbiter in all matters of faith and conduct. Theology is historically orthodox and in harmony with the creedal faith of the church. It is in line with baptismal liturgy and beliefs of the Anglican church and is in line with the orthodox ethical and moral standards as taught by the bible believing, traditional church.

The theology is evangelical through and through

2. Truth is all powerful

Biblical revelation needs to be applied to daily living and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is obedience to the truth through the enabling of the Spirit that brings sanctification.

- truth combats lies – of the world, the fallen heart, liberal theology, & from father of all lies
- truth brings freedom
- discipleship is bringing lifestyle and thinking in to alignment with the truth
- the truths of the covenant promises in Scripture are the basis for any Divine transaction – I know it's true because the Bible tells me so!
- Obedience and submission to the Truth are the hallmarks of genuine Christian living
- Truth is more important than experience (Faith fuelled by facts not by feelings)

- truth reveals our true identity and inheritance as the people of the Kingdom – the covenant promises are ours as we lay hold of them by faith – i.e. walking into them in obedience and total reliance on God
- revelation should shape our worldview
- truth sets the standards for church life
- NB Bible is not Divine but reveals accurately & infallibly the nature of the divine, divine action and humanities response to this

B: NATURE OF GOD

- Triune God as revealed in Scripture and upheld by the ancient and historical creeds and formularies of the church - Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Holy
- Truth Revealer
- Friend
- Saviour
- Warrior & Victor
- Almighty
- Faithful
- Abundant
- Healer
- Deliverer
- Lord
- etc

C: CHRISTOLOGY & SOTERIOLOGY

Christ's sacrificial death is the cornerstone of the New covenant life

- NB we are not saved by the Cross but by Jesus and his action on the cross – the atonement is about the shed blood of Jesus
- we are justified, redeemed, saved, restored by the salvation event (this is incarnation – crucifixion – resurrection – ascension and parousia) – this becomes a subjective experience in our lives by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit at conversion. he indwells and transforms our spirit totally and inviolably.
- the sacrifice of Christ is once for all – but is only effective in practice for those who are born again – i.e. received Christ by faith
- the blood of Christ brings cleansing from the stain of sin and cancellation of its penalty as this has been paid by Christ – He is both the expiation and the penal substitute for us.
- the blood of Christ cancels demonic rights in us – the War is one though the battles rage on and need dealing with

D: HOLINESS & REPENTANCE

God is Holy Perfection of the Godhead and the abhorrence of sin

Be Holy as I am Holy – the centrality of Repentance

the call to obedient and holy living in accordance to the Scriptures

- forgiveness and acceptance of the sinner saved by grace through faith
- post regeneration sin occurs and has consequences – being out of alignment with the plumb line of God's word gives an open door to the demonic powers
- sin is corporate not just individualistic (societal, cultural, generational, family, church)
- repentance is about coming back into line with the truth not the need to be accepted every day – that is once and for all time
- JM/FP/LF is in the tradition of the prophetic nature of the Scriptures – it is a call back to the Truth – a call to return to the simplicity of the ancient truths and so experience the power of God as we walk in obedience to these truths

E: THE TWO REALMS PERSPECTIVE

Serious weight & consideration is given to the reality of the unseen demonic realm

recovering a biblical view of the two realms - See Gregory Boyd "God at War"

- implications of demonic activity in daily life – not 'just life'
- emphasis on the practice of asking the Lord what is going on in the Heavenly Realm
- JM/FP/LF/FP/LF guards against the 'simplistic' and deterministic mindsets by seeking revelation in each situation
- no separation of World, flesh and the Devil – all interact

F: DEAD TO SIN – ALIVE IN CHRIST

- Humanity is body (soma), soul (psyche) and spirit (pneuma) and these should not be separated JM/FP/LF is a holistic approach
- unregenerate humanity needs – New Birth, Healing, Deliverance, Discipleship & training, renewal of mind and heart, corporate discipleship, freedom, transformation and to live by faith not by sight
- In Christ is everything I am a new creation – I am a saint – all the promises are mine etc - All God's promises are yes and amen in Christ Jesus
- justification is the beginning (finished work - we add nothing to earn our salvation)
- BUT we work out you salvation – process of sanctification and maturity - we become what we already are in Christ - the de jure becomes the de facto - the objective reality becomes our subjective experience
- the believer co-operates with God to fulfil the will of the Father – this is the obedience to revelation – primarily Scripture and then under that authority the 'Prophetic revelation' – heavenly direction for the saints to cooperate with God's will

G: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Reality and the battle dynamics between the Kingdom of God & the kingdom of satan are taken seriously

- Kingdom of God, as denoted by the presence of the Holy Spirit, is context for the supernatural acts of power to destroy the works of the evil one
- 'Now and not yet' of the Kingdom of God is taken seriously – and held in balance eg Prosperity teaching overemphasises the Now and plays down the not yet; but non-charismatic theology places all the supernatural activity in the not yet, so healing only occurs in glory
- In the battle field – primarily our souls the Holy Spirit will reveal the necessary strategy to bring about God's will – thus guarding against presumption and passivity
- Footholds and so strongholds exist as *topos* for demonisation within Christians
- the JM/FP/LF method allows the believer to wage a sane & balanced pro-active campaign against the enemy

H: AUTHORITY – Divine & Delegated

- All authority is in God himself
- All believers to live in humility & submission to the Lord
- God revealed through His word and so we live in submission to the authority of the Word
- Being under authority we are also called to live in authority in the heavenly realms
- the authority structures in Church life are critical (cf David Adam)
- All authority for the believer is delegated – God – Leader(s) – People

I: ECCLESIOLOGY & MISSIOLOGY

High value placed on the place of the church in the redemptive plan of God

- Church is body of Christ Church is the Army of God
- Church is family of the Father Church is the Bride of Christ
- 'Body' Ministry is essential – cf the principles of Body Beautiful
- the saints are to be equipped for Kingdom Ministry

The church is on assignment – a mission, sent by the Father, authorized by the Son and empowered by the Spirit

- the church is to move with faith to fulfill the covenant promises of God
- through the work of God in and through the church salvation, liberation and transformation will occur

JM affirms Kingdom Theology and Covenantal Theology. It seeks to embrace and be inclusive, not exclusive. It recognises that we are a strand / stream within what the Lord is doing in our land and we do not claim to have all the answers but that we have rediscovered ancient biblical

truths, too often ignored in the history of the church and so effective tools to live the life Jesus died to bring for us. We are here to set the captives free, bring Good News to the poor and rejoice in the presence of God's Kingdom - ie. to do the ministry Jesus did in the way Jesus did it.

Proverbs 4.23 John 5.19 John 10.10 John 14.12 2 Corinthians 10.3-5

Questions to ponder (do discuss these with me or the group sometime!):

- How do we prevent ourselves from becoming 'professional' repenters? - check our hearts
- Could we become Demon -focused? Isn't that just for God - issues of the authority we have been given in Christ - all predicated on His completed work but we enforce the reality - (Roman centurion has authority because of Caesar but enforces authority in Caesar's name - we can go one further ... not just in Jesus' name but because of His presence in us!!
- By encouraging the place of our cooperation with God does that deny the Sovereignty of God? - No! God is in charge but not in micromanaging control, else we would be robots and never sin
- Does God always speak? Yes - we just don't listen
- Where is the place for mystery? Plenty of place as God is so much bigger than we experience
- Do we understand demonisation properly (i.e. Biblically!)? Possession is not a Biblical word - had a spirit or demonised is truly biblical
- If a stronghold is broken, why do we continue to sin and fall in that area? If we don't replace (Walk in truth) we will revert to old behaviour patterns quickly
- Are sin patterns etc always energized by the demonic? No but the enemy will always be on the lookout for a legal entry to tempt and wreck us - so the root is not always demonic but it is made worse by the demonic presence
- Can we rebuke Satan ourselves? (YES!!!!)
- How do we understand binding & loosing? Read the passage NB best translation not 'will be bound' but 'will have been already bound' - us catching up with GOd not telling Him what to do
- With regard to authority are our attitudes towards woman (married & single) biblical or fed into us culturally (to both extremes)? See the radical approach of Jesus
- Can we see the difference between due authority (responsibility & humility) and 'heavy shepherding'? I hope so!!!
- Do we understand the accountability structures and under whose authority we are ministering? Bishops etc not just within the fellowship
- Will this emphasis on authority hinder creative expression and spontaneity in ministry? No it should encourage it!
- Does JM/FP/LF cause us to Navel gaze? - it should equip to go out - an MOT so that the car (mission) runs so much more effectively
- Will FP give us little time for anything else? It is time intensive but as folk are released and so engaged in the ministry themselves so we all widen out

NOTA BENE

- * JM/FP/LF is not a set theological structure -we come from different denominations and disagree on many issues - infant baptism,
- * New Language / images are inevitable – don't reject it out of hand or accept it uncritically
- * Understand the unfolding nature of revelation – we have every blessing we go on learning about the reality of that in daily life
- * Reject pride & rigidity and embrace humility & teachability
- * Beware ties to certain systematic theologies or 'parties' within the church
- * be honest about what is happening
- * You cannot argue anyone into this freedom, the Spirit will bring those who are hungry and desperate
- * We will teach and preach out of our own revelation not that imposed by Stuart Lees, Christ Church Fulham or Mike Riches – they are helping us realise the impact of the principles that are already revealed in Scripture
- * JM/FP/LF worldview – ie the Application of Biblical Truth – should not be what we do but should affect everything that we do!!!!

This is not the final statement on all things JM/FP/LF but an interim outline to help us begin to think more theologically about these fundamental areas

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