

Back to the Garden
The Man, The Purpose

By Hope D. Blackwell

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to men everywhere who desire to be like Jesus Christ and are willing to position themselves to destroy the kingdom of darkness by taking authority over the flesh, the world systems, and the devil, thus building the kingdom of God for the glorious return of Christ.

Thank You

Thank You to my most precious and beloved Holy Spirit. Thank You for being my Daddy, Husband, Big Brother, Best Friend, Keeper, Comforter, Fortress, Shield and my Peace in the midst of all. Thank You, Father, for the awesome threesome, the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I worship You because of who You are. Your awesomeness is overwhelming, I could sing of Your love forever. My ears had heard of You, but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

Thank You, Father, for those who set themselves against me. You knew without them our relationship would not be such as it is today, nor would I have so much to share. They pushed me closer to You, deeper in Your Word, and deeper in Your presence. Thank You, Father, for every trial, every test, and every time You brought me through. In the midst of it all, I am becoming who You want me to be. Without the adversities, I would not be the person I am today. Satan loses again.

Thank you to my anointed, appointed, and supportive children, mother, sisters, brothers, true friends and examples. You watched me repeatedly go through the fire and you had the faith to believe that I was always in the capable hands of God.

THANK YOU READERS! OUR BEST IS YET TO COME.

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Preface

We have entered into a season of a greater release of wisdom, power, and resources, to the people of God. Although the enemy is raging war on the people and things of God, there is a move of God by which great evangelistic and teaching ministries are being established, ineffective traditions of men are being broken, and an increased number of lives are being transformed. A remnant of end time, radical for Christ, saints are winning souls to Christ like never before. There is no more room for church as usual. God is pressing on the hearts of His elect to minister to the unbeliever with love and compassion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the community of believers are working in unity and breaking racial, denominational, social, and political barriers. God is taking the wealth of the wicked and releasing it into the hand of His people who will do His will and accomplish His mission of reaching the lost throughout the Earth. I challenge you to walk in the purpose, the power, and the predestined places that God has appointed for you.

Introduction

From the Shadow of Adam to the Type of Christ

In studying the Word of God, you will find Adam to be a type of Christ in that he was the head of the human family, as Christ is the head of God's family. Just as Adam is the foundation of humanity, Christ is the foundation of Christianity, the beginning of the spirit-filled life. Through Adam, man was born into sin. Through Christ, man is made free from sin, reborn into newness of life.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Rom. 5:17-19 KJV)

As Adam is the foundation of the earthly family, our bodies are in the likeness of Adam. Likewise, Christ is the foundation of the heavenly family, and as new creations we become like Him,¹ the second Adam. To victoriously walk as Christ, we must first understand Adam's failure. To determine the true adversaries in our fight, we must examine the crime and its consequences, which are found in the beginning, in the Garden of Eden.

Throughout Scriptures, the garden is described as a place of beauty, peace, fulfillment, fruitfulness, and communion with God, a place where the fragrance of worship is released. Although it is also described as a place of abundance, pleasing to the flesh, it is also the place where the first struggle between the flesh (our longings to fulfill the desires of the carnal sin nature) and the spirit (longing for the things of God) was aroused. This struggle existed then and will continue until the return of Christ, but through Him we are victorious.²

Together through these pages, we will go back to the garden and allow God to transform and renew our soul – the mind, the will, and the emotions. We will no longer walk as a slave to the sin of Adam, but as a shadow of Christ, pursuing and perfecting the will of God for our lives.

Chapter One

Understanding the Authority in Your Words

And out the ground the Lord formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name thereof... And Adam said this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man. (Gen. 2:19, 23 KJV)

We naturally speak things into the atmosphere without realizing the power behind our words. In our relationships with family, friends, associates, and even in our relationship with God, we fail to remember that there is life and death in the power of the tongue.¹

In examining one of Adam's first responsibilities in the Garden, we discover the authority that God entrusted to Adam by allowing him to name the animals after God created them. "...and [God] brought them unto Adam *to see* what he would call them." It appears that God tested Adam's use of this entrusted authority. It further appears that God approved Adam's declarations, "...whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name thereof." This passage reveals God's delegation of authority to man to speak identity into the life of God's creations. It is the first representation of man speaking into the life of another being; giving it identity backed by the approval of God. This great authority is an awesome responsibility God has delegated to man.

In the life of Christ, referred to as the second Adam, we see the same authority in His words, which were also backed by the Father's approval.² In every instance, we see the life giving power that Jesus spoke into the lives of people by His words. He spoke things into existence. He changed names. He exercised a powerful anointing in His speech. As well as having the power to *speak* life, He also exhibited the same power and authority to speak death as found in the Scriptural account where He cursed the fig tree.³ The Father in heaven supports even the curse spoken by Christ. As revealed in the life of Adam, man has been given the same power; however, the due to ignorance of the power and authority in our words, they are being misused in ways which result in more curses than blessings –more death than life.

It is time to ask yourself, “what am I doing with the awesome authority and power attached to my words?” “Am I using the authority God delegated to me to speak identity and life responsibly, or am I speaking death to situations, circumstances, and perhaps people in my life?” It is time to consider what you are or are not speaking into your life and your spirit; or perhaps the lives of your spouse, your family, your friends and your enemies.⁴

After Adam named the animals, there are no further instances where Adam asserts this delegated authority prior to the fall. After naming the woman, he never spoke anything else to her that was significant enough to be recorded in the Scriptures. Adam’s only other recorded words regarding the woman are those blaming her for his troubles with God after the events of the fall. After their sin, he immediately began to speak words of blame and accusation, which are a curse. These accusations are characteristic of Satan, the accuser of the brethren.⁵ Adam speaks out of his fear, shame, and embarrassment. In our study of the Scriptures, we must also learn from those things that are conspicuously absent, particularly where it results in God’s displeasure to the degree of imposing His judgment and penalty. Although Adam had the delegated power and authority to speak life and blessings to his helper, Eve, the Scriptures are void of such communications regarding her. In most instances, unlike the first Adam and Jesus Christ, the second Adam, whose words were supported by the Father and resulted in His approved actions, we speak words that are not approved or backed by the Father. We fail to realize that our words still have a life changing authority attached because of God’s original delegation of that responsibility.⁶ Because of the significance of this responsibility, it cannot be stressed enough, our words have the power to bring life or death to people and situations.⁷ Due to ignorance of this principle, death is spoken in and to the life of many people and situations, perhaps even those closely involved in our lives. We must begin to walk in wisdom concerning this principle. We must develop relationship through communication with the Father whereby we are guaranteed His approval on every account and in every situation.⁸ Many times, to speak or not to speak should be the question we ask ourselves.

As referenced previously concerning the noticeable lack of communication between Adam and Eve, it was either non-existent or it had little or no significance. This is often a problem which exist in many marriages and other relationships, and unfortunately, in too many ministries. As Christians, we must reverse this cycle, and the lack of productivity that results, in the body of Christ as well as the world. As we go deeper into understanding man’s delegated

responsibility to speak life-giving words, we must examine our interactions and relationships with others in light of those of the first Adam and the second Adam, Christ Jesus.⁹

First, let's begin with Adam. As we study the extent of Adam's communications, we see that there are different levels of communication and they are based on the type of interaction or relationship and its purpose. For instance, when Adam spoke to name a fish that was its name and when he spoke to name a bird that was its name. That was the extent of his communication concerning such. These creatures, not being equal to him, required nothing more in the way of communication. His responsibility was fulfilled. However, when God gave him the Woman, who was equal to him and, like him, was created in the image of God, another level of communication was required. The woman was a part of Adam, made suitable (or comparable) to him and fashioned as a helper for him.¹⁰ This was to be a relationship that required a level of communication that would necessitate continual and intense life giving speech for the success of God's human team. That is what God created Adam and his helper, Eve, to be – a team. Had Adam understood his responsibility for a higher level of communication with the woman and maintained such for relationship building, the serpent's enticements would have been ineffective and the loopholes into her soul would have been nonexistent. The opportunity for the serpent to communicate with her as freely may have been impossible. The woman would have been so fulfilled by the words of Adam and all that God revealed to him, that deception and disobedience would have had no place and she would not have been led astray by her own desires, emotions, and aspirations.¹¹

Adam was deficient in the fulfillment of his responsibility to maintain the level of communication required for their success. As the Scripture records, and the state of humanity reveals, Adam's deficiency in the fulfillment of this responsibility resulted in doubt, deception, diversion, disobedience, and ultimately defeat and death – the death of God's original destiny for their lives. This same deficiency is still perpetuated today and the results are the same. Modern day Adams are not fulfilling their delegated responsibility for calling forth the destiny of their helpers – wives, daughters, and all of those to whom God has given them the authority to speak life changing words. Again, the questions to you are: What are you doing with your authority to speak life? What life giving words have you withheld from those to whom you are responsible?

We have been taught that no communication is better than bad communication, which is not always true. The lack of communication can be just as detrimental as seen in the life of

Adam. This is causing a slow death to our families, relationships, and even some ministries. The lack of communication has caused many men and women to be misguided and to continually walk in error. This should not be. Because of the second Adam, the person of Christ Jesus, transformation is available and a way was made out of this dark, unproductive position. First, we must begin to rise up and take responsibility for our actions or the lack of appropriate actions.

Secondly, we must repent. This requires turning away from old things, and allow the power of the Holy Spirit to transform and renew our minds to that of the second Adam, who is Jesus, the Christ.¹² Man of God, the challenge to you is to recognize the awesome authority attached to your words and use them for the glory of God in all of your relationships

By the authority God has given to me, I use these written words to call you into the place where you will begin to speak the life giving words of encouragement, wisdom, love and correction in your home, your workplace, your church, and every encounter that you have with others. It is my prayer that you take authority over the enemies of your soul – the world, the flesh, and the devil, and that you will call forth the things of God for your life. I pray that you will understand that the blessings and promises of God for your life are already established in Heaven but you must operate in your authority and loose them on earth. I also pray that you will seek the way of Christ, the second Adam, who came as the ransom that set us free from the penalty of the sin of the first Adam.

As a man of God, you have been given dominion over the earth and ordained to rule over your wife and families. Rule is defined by Miriam Webster in verb state as to *exert control, direction, or influence on or over*. In Vine's Expository of Old and New Testament Words it is translated as the greek verb *proistemi*, which means *to stand before, to lead, to attend to, and to guide*. This is an awesome responsibility that can be fulfilled with much prayer.

Your wife needs you. Your sons and daughters need you. Your mother and father need you. The world needs you. God desires to use you to fulfill His purposes in this earth. As we journey back to the garden, we will find it to be an anointed place of revelation, truth, and fulfillment where you will learn to operate fully in the will of God. The Father has given you the ability, the power, and the authority to speak into the lives and situations of so many. He has anointed and appointed you to do great things. I challenge you to respond to His call.

Chapter One Review:

Appropriating the Authority of Your Words

These tips will assist you in reviewing chapter one “Understanding the Authority of Your Words”.

1. Develop a prayer life that will loose everything that God has already promised, decreed, and established in Heaven for this people. Remember to walk in your authority as one who controls the affairs of your life and this earth by what you pray and declare.
2. Speak identity. Call it out. Be sure you, like Christ, have the Father’s approval of what you say. This comes by two-way communication with Him, which is achieved through an intimate relationship with Him.
3. Know whom you are speaking to. Who are they in God? What is their purpose? Why are they in your life? How can you speak into their life as they fulfill their God given role?
4. Be sure levels of communication are appropriate and developed with the intensity of the relationship. (Be it spouse, children, employer, employee, etc.)
5. Make requests not demands.
6. Carefully consider your words, speak life not death.
7. Seek the approval of the Father in heaven, and then walk in your God given authority.

Chapter Two

It Is Not Good for Man to be Alone

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it...The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him." (Gen. 2:15, 18 NIV)

When God put Adam in the garden, he was alone and had many responsibilities. Scripture states, "... [God] put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Let us take a deeper look at the passage. The garden represents the Earth. In essence, it was the place where Adam was born. It was the place where he resided with God. The passage indicates that prior to God's concern for Adam's aloneness He had a purpose for Adam in his place of residence, his habitation. Adam had a job that he was assigned or "called" to do and responsibilities he was required to fulfill. He was called *to work* the garden and *take care of it*.¹ This, no doubt, consumed a significant amount of Adam's time considering all of the flourishing gardens, assorted trees, rolling rivers, precious stones and metals that existed in the garden – Adam's habitat.

This responsibility delegated to Adam by God, speaks to God's divine order for man, which requires recognizing and walking in his God-given purpose prior to establishing other relationships, especially those that involve exercising power and authority over things and people. In other words, God requires you to *get to work*² and *take care of His business* before He will release things into your hands to rule or have authority over.³ Contrary to God's divine order, man desires to obtain and rule over things and people by virtue of his achieved or ascribed status without ever submitting to God's will or waiting for His appointed time. This is a violation of God's divine order, which hinders God's approval, and limits God's blessings. Moreover, when order is disrupted, especially God's order, it places a significant strain on interrelationships, it derails the fulfillment of God's purpose, and it further obstructs God's release of favor and increased responsibility.

Let's analyze the verse in Genesis 2:18 to determine why God states to be alone is not good for Adam. We will also determine what benefit God provided to Adam by presenting him

a suitable helper. Let's begin by defining the word *alone*. Merriam-Webster⁴ lists the following definitions and synonyms: *isolated; separated, suggesting a sadness or sense of loss; without aid or support; desolate*. To go a step further, the word *desolate* refers to something *barren, unproductive, unfruitful*. Thus in Adam's state of aloneness he was isolated, without support, and unproductive. Each of the definitions listed are the very opposite of what God has called us to be in the Earth – our place of habitation.⁵ We are called to be connected, sharing, supportive, and productive.⁶ The aloneness that God disapproves is the unproductive loneliness that leads to becoming isolated, like an island, consumed with no more than your own thoughts and emotions.

Think back to a time when you were alone. It could be a recent time or a time in the more distant past. Can you recall your focus being primarily on yourself – your needs, your desires, and your feelings? These self-directed thoughts, desires, and emotions are referred to as works of the flesh.⁷ The “flesh” refers to the human, sinful nature within us comprised of self-will; lustful desires; and undisciplined thoughts and emotions. The flesh also refers to the carnal nature. The Enhanced Strong's Lexicon defines the word carnal as, “*having the nature of flesh, i.e. under the control of the animal appetites; governed by mere human nature not by the Spirit of God; having its seat in the animal nature or aroused by the animal nature.*”⁸ By definition, aloneness intensifies vulnerability to the dictates of the flesh. God, the Creator, knew the potential for Adam's struggle in this area and the adverse affect it would have on his ability to fulfill the will of God.⁹ The same applies to us being the descendents of Adam.

Chapter two of Genesis reveals God's preventive plan for isolation and loneliness. In the seventh verse of the chapter, God *formed* man from the dust of the ground. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *form* as *an outline; structure; shape; or a document with blank spaces that requires insertion of required or requested information.*¹⁰ In other words, a *form* is not completely useful until it is filled in or filled full (fulfilled). Man's primary function and purpose was to fulfill the plan of God. One component of God's plan is found in Genesis 1:28 which states, “*God blessed them, and God said to them, 'be fruitful and multiply, and fill the Earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the Earth'.*”(NRSV) In order for man's purpose to be achieved and God's plan be accomplished, the *form* of man needed to be filled in or filled full. To this point, Adam's *form* was incomplete and he was deficient in his ability to “be fruitful and

multiply, and fill the earth...” He was insufficient to fulfill such a task alone; therefore, God made him a suitable helper, one who could assist him in the fulfillment of the task.

We have been taught, in far too many churches, that God’s declaration, “It’s not good for man to be alone”, is the primary justification for marriage. As we further examine these passages, we realize that the aloneness that God addresses is not based on marital status – to be or not to be married is not the only question regarding this issue. We have to keep in mind the definition of alone. Remember, it is to be isolated; separated; without support; unproductive; led by your own thoughts, ideas, and opinions. We must face the fact that there are countless individuals, who are married, to whom God is still saying, “it’s not good for you to be alone.” Being alone (isolated) restricts accountability.¹¹ Being alone (without support) impedes balance.¹² Being alone (separated) hinders consideration and compassion for others.¹³

Let’s look at the life of the perfect example for our lives, the second Adam, Jesus Christ. After His crucifixion, Christ ascended to the Father. Though He no longer physically dwelt among men, He left the Holy Spirit who is our Comforter – the *paraclete*. *Paraclete* is a Greek noun meaning *comforter or advocate*. The verb is *paraklesis* “a calling to one’s aid” (*para*, “by the side”, *kaleo*, “to call”) “one who comes along side.”¹⁴ The One who comes along side as a comfort, encourager, and an advocate is our all in all.¹⁵ His presence is why we can be alone but not be overcome by destructive loneliness. By His presence, we are filled in and filled up, no longer isolated, separated, unfulfilled, and unproductive.¹⁶ Certainly, God was aware of man’s need for a helper from the foundation of the world.¹⁷ The woman was to fulfill Adam as the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment in our lives today. As the woman was purposed to fill in Adam’s form to make him useful in fulfilling the purpose of God, so is the Holy Spirit within us, making us useful and productive in the fulfillment of our destiny in God.

Single readers, you must thoroughly understand that according to the passage in Genesis 2:18-20, Adam needed a helper suitable for him. None of the other creations were comparable to him. Without a helper comparable and suited to him, he would never have been able to be fruitful and multiply, thus fulfill the mandate of God and the purpose for his formation. Additionally, the words fruitful and multiply in this mandate were not restricted to the reproduction of people in the Earth. To be “fruitful” speaks to *producing in abundance*, and to “multiply” refers to *a rapid growth or increase*. Men of God, you must understand that is

essential that the mate you choose is suitable to assist you in experiencing growth and abundance in every area of your life. Let us further describe the suitable helper.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word *suitable* as *comparable; matching; adapted to a use or purpose*.¹⁸ When considering a relationship, it is crucial for you to ensure that the person is comparable to you and suited to adapt to the purpose God has for you. Unfortunately, too many men are making unwise choices concerning relationships and selecting unsuitable, mismatched mates. Many men are driven by the same mindset that afflicted Samson. The first words spoken by Samson, recorded in Scripture are, “I saw a Philistine woman at Timnah; now get her for me as my wife... Get her for me, because she pleases me.”¹⁹ Samson had only *seen* her, so his “pleasure” in her was based only on what he saw. So it is with countless men and women today and, just as with Samson, God’s plan for their life is aborted and his purpose unfulfilled. Man of God, please understand, there are more things to be considered than the mere fact that she is a woman and she may appeal your sights and desires in the natural! You must study her. Search for all of the qualities necessary for assisting you in the fulfillment of God’s purpose. Be absolutely certain she is comparable and suitable for her role as your helper. If you think you will be fulfilled by someone who does not share your passions, desires, morals, and ethics, you are sadly mistaken. By the time you realize your mistake resentment, frustration, bitterness, and every other negative and destructive emotion will have taken root in your heart. That is a dangerous place to be in.²⁰ Do not allow yourself to go through such a disparaging experience when it can be prevented by prayerful examination and yielding to the directions from God through the Holy Spirit.

Please remember, your primary fulfillment must be your relationship with God and your commitment to that which He has called you. He will release the people and things that He desires for you to receive and/or be in authority over.

Man of God, I challenge you to allow the Holy Spirit to completely fill in and fill up your form – your total being, so that you will be arrested and overtaken by the plan of God. Realize that you never have to be alone, but are extended the privilege of being empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to walk in fulfillment of His purpose and being full of his love, power, and might. I encourage you to uncover the deepest innermost parts of your soul (*mind, will, and emotions*) and let God transform you into the image of Christ.

Chapter Two Review:

It Is Not Good That Man Should Be Alone

These tips will assist you in reviewing chapter two, "It Is Not Good That Man Should Be Alone".

- 1) Be sure you are in position to fulfill the plan of God for your life. This begins with making Jesus Christ your personal Savior and the Lord of your life.
- 2) Be sure you are fulfilling your responsibilities in your place of habitation so that you are in position for the release of authority, blessings, and the prosperity of God in your life.
- 3) Be sure that you are not isolated, separated, or secluded from healthy relationships with others.
- 4) If you are married, be sure you are not intentionally or unintentionally functioning alone.
- 5) Single men; ensure that a potential suitable or *comparable* helper has the same values, principles, beliefs, and spiritual aspirations as you. Be sure she is healed (not still injured by previous experiences and relationships) and displays the ability to form healthy relationships with others.
- 6) Understand that if God has called you to be single and you are complete and fulfilled by Him your helper is the Holy Spirit and He is more than able to fulfill your deepest need.

Chapter Three

The Deep Sleep and Its Purpose

So the Lord caused the man to fall into a deep sleep and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of man, and brought her to the man. (Genesis 2:21-23 NIV)

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *deep sleep* as: *the sleep of the dead; a trance; a slumber in an unexplored place; a temporary death*. As we examine the events leading to the *deep sleep*, we will discover that God's blessing for Adam came as a result of his deep sleep, or as Webster describes, *temporary death*.

We have learned that Adam was a type of Christ – a foreshadowing of things to come.¹ Based on that premise, we will explore some facts concerning the life of Adam in comparison to the life of Christ, which will help us to better understand what actually occurred and its purpose during Adam's deep sleep.

Their purpose:

Adam's purpose was to fulfill the plan of God, His Father,² which we discussed thoroughly in Chapter Two. The purpose of Christ was to fulfill the plan of God, His Father. Our atonement required His being sent, by the Father, as the perfect sacrifice for our sin beginning with the sin of Adam.

Their residence:

Adam was created in a place that is so significant that Scripture details its beginnings and grandeur. He was established in that specific place with a specific mission.

Similarly, Christ was born in a specific place with a specific mission. The place God determined for the birth of Christ was so specifically predetermined that it was foretold by the prophets of old hundreds of years prior to His birth.³ His mission was so specific that even the method of His death was foretold years prior to His coming.⁴

Their Temporary Death:

Adam was put into a deep sleep – a temporary death, and was pierced in his side as a type of things to come. His body was broken as God took one of his ribs for the fashioning of the woman, Adam’s bride. She was presented to Adam for the fulfillment of God’s plan. His bride was a foreshadowing of the church.

Similarly, Christ experienced His body being broken and a piercing of His side leading to His “temporary death.” A word of caution concerning this matter, Jesus Christ actually died. His death was not figurative. He did not “swoon” as some would teach. He experienced a physical death for the sin of mankind. In this case, we use the term “temporary death” because the grave could not hold Him and He certainly arose to walk again among men prior to His ascension.⁵

Moreover, as a result of His death, the church (*representative of the woman*) – the bride of Christ, was given life in the earth. Just as Adam’s bride was presented to him, so it is with the bride of Christ.⁶ The Matthew Henry Commentary records, “The gospel-church is *the bride, the Lamb’s wife*; and they would never come into that relation to him if he did not by the power of his grace betroth them to himself.”⁷ Christ’s bride, the church, is afforded an intimate relationship with the God, who made Himself to be flesh (*man*) as a sacrifice, in order that His plan would be fulfilled in her.

The deep sleep or “temporary death” represents the work of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to us when we confess our sin, accept Christ, and come into relationship with Christ as Lord. As Jesus makes intercession on our behalf, the church - His bride, He ushers us into the presence of God for the fulfillment of His purpose for our lives.

This process was not a death and breaking that only Adam had to endure. Every man since Adam must also allow God to do the same work in his life. There has to be breaking and death of your self-will, uncontrolled emotions, undisciplined thoughts, and ungodly desires. This is vital. It is the endurance of this process that enables you to enter into the Holy presence of God. When you become broken and “*dead*” to self, the purpose of God can be fulfilled free from your own selfish wants and desires.⁸

We often circumvent or reject this breaking process because it is painful to our flesh and our self will. But it is the only way purpose and the fulfillment of that purpose is birthed – brought forth, given life. During the birthing process, the doctor or midwife does not focus on the mother’s pain associated with the delivery. They do not ignore it; however, their focus and goal is to bring forth a life. So it is with God. He knows that the breaking process is painful;

however, His goal is to bring forth a life; a life that is filled with purpose and able to become a channel for His blessings to flow.

The awesome consolation to the breaking and piercing done by the hand of God is that divine healing always follows. Our reference passage reads, "...he took the one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh." God *closed up* the wound. He restored Adam. When Adam awakened, he had been both broken and healed by God. Brokenness results in the mind, will, emotions, and heart being directed to discovering and fulfilling the will of God, which guards you from fulfilling the lusts of the flesh.⁹

Christ was without blemish, a useful vessel, with no will of His own except to do the will of the Father who sent Him. Due to His submission to the will of God, He sacrificed His home in Glory, a place we can hardly imagine, to come to Earth as a mere man.¹⁰ Moreover, because He was broken and died, we, His bride, can live. "*The veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.*" (Matthew 27:51 KJV) This symbolized the removal of the barrier between God and man. Because of the death of Christ, which was the recompense for the sin that separated us from God, we obtained the privilege to approach God and have intimacy with Him. The church was birthed and made alive in Christ.¹¹

It is time for men everywhere to stop fighting the deep sleep, the temporary death that God is requiring of you. You need to understand that it leads to the very throne of God and unleashes an anointing and power that can only come as a result of dying to self. This is inevitable if you seek to fulfill the call of God on your life. For too long, you have been blocked by the barriers of your emotions, opinions, ideologies, and self-will. If you would allow God to bring death to those things, He will present you with your blessing on the other side of the deep sleep. This step of the process cannot be omitted if you are to become a man God can use. If God has a plan for you, which He does, your flesh is going to die! It will be either *voluntary or involuntary manslaughter*, but your flesh will have to be slaughtered. God wants to present to you the help, the support, the paraclete, the comforter, the encourager, and the everlasting strength for your call, but you must be willing to die to self. There is an awesome power unleashed when you crucify the flesh and began to walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Just as by Jesus' death, He was presented His bride, the church, which is to be a reflection of Him; so shall you, as a result of your death, be presented wonderful blessings and the ability to become the reflection of God in whose image you are made.¹²

Single men, because of your brokenness and death to flesh, if and when God presents you with your bride, you should, in time, see a reflection of yourself in her. However, if you fail to get into the presence of God, by way of this brokenness and death, you will never see yourself reflected in her or in anyone else because you will not have determined what you should even look like. It is through the presence of God that we see ourselves.¹³ Being the fair and just God that He is, why would He present you with so valuable a gift as His precious daughter when you are unable to properly care for her and fulfill His purpose and not your own? When this deep sleep is avoided the fulfillment of the call and the blessing never comes.

If you are already married and in covenant relationship and you have failed to be broken and healed, you are probably experiencing some confusion in your home. Your wife may be frustrated and discontent. Even in her service to God, she may be struggling at an attempt to also fulfill your role, however, to no avail. Before you can fully appreciate her or receive from her, you must first be fulfilled by God. One of the many awesome characteristics of God's love is that it's never too late to be broken and healed. God's grace is sufficient. Pray for your relationship with God and a healing in your marriage and/or other relationships as God works His healing power in your spirit.

*Heavenly Father, as I yield to Your perfect will in my life, putting aside my own desires and my self will, I pray that you begin to work Your supernatural healing power within my spirit and the life of my family. I pray that they will begin to receive me with love and acceptance as you fill me with the wisdom and understanding only found in You. Let your perfect will be done that You may be glorified and Your purpose for me be manifested.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Man of God, your Father is calling you back to the garden, the place of brokenness, self denial, healing, and fulfillment, that He may birth your divine destiny in Him. There are great things ahead for you, for the best is yet to come.

Chapter Three Review:

The Deep Sleep and Its Purpose

There are several things listed below to help you in your review of the “deep sleep”.

- 1.** Understand that God causes the deep sleep/temporary death for His glory and the fulfillment of His purpose. Stop resisting it and understand that it is God’s means of getting you in His presence to receive the blessings and the promises of God.
- 2.** Trying to claim your blessings and your helper before the deep sleep only brings confusion, disorder, and frustration in the lives of others as well as your own, which can derail the plan of God for your life.
- 3.** Remember that God’s healing follows His breaking. You will walk in true healing and victory once submitted to the things of God and not of yourself.
- 4.** Realize that when you walk in God’s order, you position yourself to be used by God and to be blessed. God uses those who are surrendered to him to be a blessing in the lives of many.
- 5.** There is always a blessing on the other side of death once God resurrects you.

Chapter Four

What to Leave and How to Cleave

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife and they were not ashamed.” (Genesis 2:24-26 KJV)

We will start by defining the two significant words of this chapter - *leave* and *cleave*. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *leave* as: *depart from, abandon, and to terminate association with.*¹ It also defines *cleave* as *to adhere to firmly; to be united, to stick to.*

It is interesting to note that in most societies throughout history, the father presents the bride to the groom in marriage. The foundation of this tradition is found in the Scriptures as we see God the Father presenting the woman to the man as He presented Eve to Adam. Ceremonially, we witness the woman leaving the authority of her father and being entrusted to another authority – her husband.

Unfortunately, in the modern marriage ceremony, there is no representation of the man’s departure from anyone or anything, especially not in our western culture. As we further explore this institution you will discover that the mandate to *leave and cleave*, applies not only to married men, but to single men as well. We will first determine who the father and mother are in the life of the man and why God mandates that you leave them.

From childhood to manhood, the parents are the delegated authority in a man’s life. The Greek noun for authority is *exousia*, which translates to *power or right to control*. The verb is *exousiaza*, which means *to exercise full privilege over.*² Once the man becomes an adult, the role of the parents should change and they are to become his former authorities. Fathers and mothers, despite being considered good or bad parents, custodial or absent, make the most impressionable deposits into the development of the man. For instance, where a parent is absent, the deposit may be negative such as the loss of self-worth or self-devaluation, which so prevalently exists within our culture today.

Your attitudes, values, traditions, and standards are significantly impacted by your parents’ influence or lack of influence in your life. Many of these impartations will need adjustments and some even abandoned, as you become an authority in your own God given right

and as the head for your mate and family. As men, you not only have these varied paradigms to consider in your own life, these same issues are considerations as they apply to your potential mate, whose attitudes, values, traditions, and standards have been developed in the same way.

As you recall, we established an understanding of God's divine order in Chapter Two. Keeping those principles in mind, it is important to understand that as the head (a delegated authority) God requires a transformation of your thinking prior to placing others under your authority. You must endure a detachment of some of the behaviors, customs, and traditions of the former authorities. In other words, after you have been put to sleep (dead to self), broken, healed, and blessed, you must depart from the natural and carnal things that had authority over you and shaped you into who you are. You must then allow God to begin the process of re-shaping you to head your own family by His understanding, wisdom, knowledge, and directives.

This requires not only physically leaving the authority of your father and mother, but spiritually as this speaks to any and everything that control, rule, or has rights over you. This can include past/present hurts, emotional pain, lusts, strongholds, addictions, sins, individuals, self-will, and anything you are surrendered and captive to. Left in tact, these authorities block the ability of the Holy Spirit to flow freely in your life and usher you into divine purpose. These are all barriers that also make it impossible to cleave – stick to, be joined with, or adhere to your wife or to the purpose for which God has called you. When you have not left your former authorities and submitted to Christ you cannot fulfill the call of God on your life.

As you recall from Chapter Two, the woman is called the suitable helper.³ We also see Jesus' reference to the Holy Spirit as our helper (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).

*The Greek word has been translated into English by various versions of the Bible as comforter, advocate, and counselor, as well as helper. This Greek word is so filled with meaning that it is difficult to translate it with one English word. The Holy Spirit is the one called to our side by Jesus to help us, to stand by us, to strengthen us and give assistance when needed.*⁴

A helper is one who *assists* another. The woman, your wife, is a type of the Holy Spirit. Like the Holy Spirit, her role is to assist by providing comfort, counsel, support, encouragement, and strengthen. Like the Holy Spirit, when her role is performed successfully, she will guide her

husband into the presence and purpose of God, assisting him in the fulfillment of the Father's will and plan for his life.

One of many wonderful things about God is that once you commit yourself to Him and declare Him Lord of your life you are made free from the bondage of the former authorities in your life. You are made free, no longer a slave to sin. After you abandon the former authorities and come into a healthy place of divine order, the process of being joined to another can correctly take place in your life.

We previously defined the word *cleave* as: *to adhere to; to be united; to stick to; or be joined with*. Despite the circumstances, you must purpose to be firmly adhered to, stuck to, joined with and united with your designated helpers, both your wife and the Holy Spirit. This is crucial for the fulfillment of the call of God in your life. If God has already given you, or at some point gives you, a wife, failure to leave and cleave will produce a frustrating, fruitless, and unhealthy relationship.⁵ It will hinder not only her attempts to fulfill her role, but it will also hinder your ability to cleave to God.

Genesis 2:25 states, “and *they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*” This nakedness represents being pure, open, and exposed. There was nothing of them covered or hidden from the other. They existed in all truth, knowing no shame.

Exposure brings light to hidden or dark areas and, for the most part, results in the revelation of truth. We, as men and women, must be naked and exposed before one another before we can truly cleave to one another or to God. This exposure frees us from selfish agendas, hidden motives, and deceitful plans. We must realize that removing the coverings, masks, and veils results in a higher level of trust and a connecting that promotes a sense of security in relationships.

The Holy Spirit facilitates this transformation in our lives whereby we become transparent and open, without suspicion and mistrust. As with Adam and Eve, it is essential to be able to be naked before one another so that two may become one in the beauty of purity and holiness. Being joined as one while remaining entangled in the bondage of the past provides for a continual struggle to fulfill God's plan. The Lord desires that we be joined as one in purity, just as He desires for His church to be presented back to Him without spot or wrinkle.

Man of God, I pray that as you leave all authorities and attachments that hinder you from walking in purpose, the peace, strength, and love of God will overtake you in such a way that you never look back but only forward to your future in Christ. Remember the words of Paul in Phillipians 3:12 – 14. *“Not as though I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

Chapter Four Review

What to Leave and How to Cleave

The following tips will help you to remember what to leave and how to cleave.

- 1) You must leave your former authorities in order to be joined to your purpose in God, and to be joined to your chosen spouse.
- 2) Understand that “leaving the former authorities” is more spiritual than physical. It includes the breaking of mental and emotional strongholds and exercising control over unhealthy thoughts that would attempt to over power your thinking.
- 3) To cleave is to adhere to; stick to; unite with, and it must be done as fulfillment of God’s ordained process in marriage as well as your relationship with Him.
- 4) Be naked and unashamed before God and others. In other words, reveal the hidden and dark things to God and be cleansed by His love, which results in living a true, open and unhindered life before God and others.

Chapter Five

From Pointing to Praying

He answered, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "the woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I did eat." (Genesis 3:10-12 NIV)

After Adam sinned by disobeying God's command, God called to him asking, "Where are you?"¹ Adam's response to God was that he was *afraid* because he was *naked* so he *hid*. As we examine Adam's response to God, we will get a clear picture of where he truly was, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Adam's fear was a result of his disobedience.² Being created in the image of God, who is love; Adam was no doubt filled with the love of God and for God. After his disobedience and sin, he immediately became aware that the relationship as he knew it was severed. The perfect love relationship had become imperfect, and limited.³ His eyes were opened not only to good, but evil as well. When the perfect love, which was created within him, departed in came fear.

At that point, Adam also became aware of his nakedness. As Adam and Eve were naked up to the time that they ate the fruit, without shame, perhaps he became aware of something more than his being without covering physically. Adam became aware that he had been stripped of something of God's glorious image and likeness. He had become stripped of his spiritual covering as well.⁴ Adam's awareness of his nakedness resulted in his feeling guilty for his disloyalty to God and shameful of the condition he found himself in, which was without his spiritual covering. Fortunately, through Christ, man's spiritual covering was restored.

Another definition, listed in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, for *naked* is "*devoid of covering, concealment or disguise.*"⁵ Adam and Eve's nakedness also represents the innocence, openness, and purity that existed between them and God prior to their sin. In their prior condition, they had nothing to hide from God.

After his disobedience and sin, Adam's guilt and shame caused him to attempt to hide from God. The desire to hide is evidence of sin's ability to separate us from God, which certainly

leads to spiritual death.⁶ God, the light that reveals all truth, was too great for Adam to approach knowing he had become stained with sin and impurity.

It is the sin nature that dwells within us that prompts us to hide when sin is present in our lives. We want to hide because we feel that when the Spirit of Truth reveals the sin, we will be exposed and disgraced. Sin causes us to walk in darkness, and consequently, hiding results in separation from God and others.⁷ Because darkness cannot dwell with the light, our communication with God is hindered.⁸ Concealing and disguising our sin, results in our relationships being strained and impure.

The attempt to conceal or cover-up sin was also present with Adam and Eve, in the garden, as they tried to cover themselves with fig leaves.⁹ This is the “fig leaf” deception, which deceives and convinces us that we should continue to keep our sin hidden for fear of the consequence of exposure. Too often, we apply man-made coverings to ourselves because of our inability to face God after we have sinned. We as well as our sins are masked with a covering, in which we try to appear to be in right standing with God. Genesis 3:8 reads, “*they hid themselves from God amongst the trees of the garden.*” (NIV) Failing to repent, (which is to turn away from sin and be committed to changing our thoughts and behavior) we mask ourselves with rituals, obligations, relationships, and even church activities. Like Adam and Eve, we are hiding among the trees hoping that God will somehow overlook us. This pulls us further away from God and the continuation of business as usual often leads to self-deceit and hypocritical living. This is a trick of the enemy and a result of not knowing and/or trusting God’s promise to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness after we confess to Him.¹⁰

Scripture records two accounts of the curse Jesus pronounced on the fig tree. It is interesting to note that He cursed the tree because it was deceptive. Although the tree’s leaves were large, it contained no fruit. During that time, fig trees produced edible fruit earlier than the appearance of their leaves. Jesus cursed the tree because it was unfruitful and unproductive. If no early figs appeared, as in the case of this fig tree, it indicated that there would be no regular figs later on.¹¹

The Scriptures also records the account of a man named Nathanael, who although he was a good man, he questioned the report concerning Jesus. Interestingly, this man too was sitting under a fig tree when Jesus saw him and he was surprised by Jesus’ knowledge of him.¹²

Nathanael was obviously surprised that a total Stranger should speak to him as if He had known him previously. Apparently he had been completely concealed when he was sitting under the fig tree. Doubtless the overhanging branches of the trees and the surrounding foliage hid him from view. But Jesus saw him, even though he was so hidden. Perhaps it was the power of the Lord Jesus to see him when he was shut off from human view that convinced Nathanael... He had described his character, and He had seen Nathanael when no other eyes could have seen him. These two proofs were sufficient for Nathanael, and he believed.¹³

Our lives are never concealed from God. He is always aware of our thoughts, our motives, our actions, and our sin. When we attempt to hide, we only deceive a few of the people around us as well as ourselves. Continuing in this deception, results in a deeper level of denial, separation, and darkness.¹⁴

This condition – deception, separation, and spiritual darkness – is what causes us to project our shame and guilt on others. Mentally, it is an attempt to divert the weight of the sin from ourselves to others. It is an attempt to lessen the feeling of guilt by making someone else responsible. Instead of bringing to light the darkness of our sin by exposing the sinful activity and then repenting, we often dig a hole for ourselves and pull innocent people into our dark and gloomy situation. This is a form of finger pointing, which was also present in the garden.

In Genesis 3:12, Adam immediately attempts to divert the responsibility for his sin to the woman. Moreover, he was so consumed by the act of finger pointing that he even accused God of being party to his failure. He blamed God for *giving him the woman*. He states, “the woman that *you gave* to be with me, *she gave me* the fruit of the tree.” In other words he implied, *it’s her fault and your fault too God for giving her to me!* This was an attempt to take the focus off of himself as the delegated authority, the one primarily responsible for management of the garden and the enforcement of God’s mandate. Again, we shall turn to the second Adam, who is Christ, to see a perfect example of what our response should be in similar situations, which we often face.

Jesus came to Earth from Heaven with an assignment given Him by His Father. His assignment was to be the final and only acceptable sacrifice, whose shed blood is the atonement for the sin of mankind. Jesus was to sacrifice His life for our reconciliation to God.¹⁵ Being sinless and innocent of any charge, He pointed no fingers. He did not condemn those who were in fact guilty. He spoke not one negative word against those who persecuted Him. Jesus fulfilled the call and purpose for His coming; taking the death sentence that belonged to us and is now seated at the right hand of the Father¹⁶ and He continues to pray to the Father on our behalf.¹⁷ Instead of looking at us saying, “He did...” “She’s doing...” “They are such a mess and don’t deserve...” He is continually praying us through situations in our lives and communicating with the Father on our behalf when we cannot or simply will not pray for ourselves. If Jesus was like us, He would probably say something like, “Father, look at them. It’s those same people again. I already died for them, provided them direct access to you, and they still can’t get it right. They won’t even pray to you. You created them, blessed them, and look at how cruel, ungrateful, and unlovely they are.” It’s frightening to imagine where we would be (or not be) if Jesus’ response was accusatory regarding His bride (the church), as Adam’s was with his bride (Eve). Even in our most shameful, darkest situations, Jesus never has or ever will become our accuser. When we accept Him as Savior and allow Him to be Lord, Jesus continues to love us and intercede on our behalf no matter how much mess we have within us that needs to be transformed.

Had Adam fallen on his face and cried out to God in repentance for his own disobedience and interceded for Eve as well, he would surely have touched the heart of God.¹⁸ Take a minute to ask yourself the following questions reflectively:

- 1) How many times have I resorted to complaining about and/or accusing my spouse or others before kneeling to pray for them?
- 2) How often do I intercede in prayer for my spouse or others concerning issues and areas of imperfections prior to finger pointing?
- 3) Do I give God the opportunity to move in situations and glorify Himself because I act more like Jesus than Adam in handling my relationships?
- 4) How often do I pray for the ability to stand for God and oppose ungodly decisions made by those close to me?

As indicated in our reference scripture, sin causes guilt, shame, and leads to serious consequences, which in many cases lead to death. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes *death* as: *a permanent cessation of all vital functions; the cause and occasions for loss of life; the passing or destruction of something inanimate.*¹⁹ Death comes in many forms. It may be a physical death as in the loss of life. It could be a spiritual death as the state of one who has never accepted Christ as Savior and Lord and remains “dead in trespasses and sin.”²⁰ In Adam’s case, not only was physical death introduced to mankind, but the fulfillment of his intended purpose died, also. Adam’s purpose was to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.²¹ As Adam was created in a pure sinless existence,²² he was to produce sinless, godly seed after his kind. However, his disobedience and sin aborted the fulfillment of that assignment and purpose. This same type of death – the passing or destruction of something inanimate – can occur in relationships, friendships, dreams, aspirations, and other situations. Just as with Adam, the purpose and calling of countless men are being aborted everyday due to disobedience, sin, guilt, shame, nakedness, and hiding. Men of God, if you know that you have never surrendered yourself to the Lordship of Christ and allowed God to reveal your calling and purpose, make the decision to do so right now. Those who know Jesus as Lord, however, have areas of darkness and concealed sin that is covered by “fig leaves”, strip them off right now, and let the Light of Christ shine on you to give light to your path to fulfilling your purpose.

Men of God, I challenge you to cover your wives, families, and others in prayer as Jesus has not only covered you by His blood but He continually covers you in prayer before the Father. As Christ is to His bride, the church, you are a spiritual covering to the woman God has placed in your life. Moreover, as Christ, you must be willing to die to self in order that life is restored to dead and dying situations, circumstances, and even spiritual lives. Failure to intercede for and be the covering for your spouse, and others under your authority, results in discontentment, complaining, and accusations, which provides a root for the growth of bitterness, contention, unforgiveness, pride, and rebellion.²³ It also causes you, the head, to leave them without guidance and leadership.²⁴ This provides the enemy an opportunity to work havoc in their mind and emotions. In Matthew 16:19 declares, “And I will give you the keys of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”. (NKJV) God has given you great authority and as you vow to die to your own self will and carnal nature, God will honor your efforts and bless you. The bible declares in Proverbs

16:7, “*when a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.*” (NIV) God knows your heart and He knows your motives and agendas.

You have been given authority to rule over all the Earth. Praying for those under your authority is crucial to walking in victory.²⁵ You must also ask God to give you insight into their purpose, calling, gifts, strengths, and weaknesses. You must stay aware of things that involve them. As you diligently seek God and pray for your family, He will reward you. Genesis 1:26 reads, “*let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creations that move along the ground.*” (NIV) God was releasing the control of the Earth and its affairs to man. In prayerful study of the Word you will find throughout scripture God declares that He will only involve himself in the matters of this earth and everything in it once invited in. However, if you fail to utilize the Authority in our Words through prayer, He, by way of His own decree has no right or reason to get involved in our affairs. Confirmation of this is found in 2 Ch 7:14 which reads, “*if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.*” (NIV) There is no such help or healing without you calling it into existence by way of your words through prayer.

We must understand that our words are foundational for victorious living. The transformation from pointing to praying is very challenging as is every change that requires dying to self. However, God guarantees us that as we seek to do His will and allow His desires to consume our lives, He “*...gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.*” Isaiah 40:29 (NRSV) Remember, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.²⁶

Chapter Five Review:

From Pointing to Praying

God is expecting you to be the intercessor like Christ, not the accuser like Adam. Please remember the following:

- 1.** Expose your sin. Stop the cover-up and become naked before Him, instead of attempting to hide from Him. Allow confessed and exposed sin to get you to the point of honesty, repentance, and healing. Unconfessed sin results in continual guilt, shame, and more sin.
- 2.** An accuser is an abuser. To stay full of shame is to be full of blame. Instead of shifting accountability, take responsibility. Be an intercessor. Prayer is the answer.
- 3.** Look at the example of Jesus; no matter how wrong we are He still prays for us and covers us by making intercession. Have a heart like Christ, filled with love, compassion, and grace.
- 4.** Seek God on behalf of your spouse or other close relationships. You need to know them in the spirit. You need to know what God is saying about them, not what they are saying or you are feeling.
- 5.** Seek the face of God earnestly. Declare God's Word and His promises in your prayers. Remember that God declares that he has given you the keys to heaven.

Chapter Six

He's Eating the Dust... At God's Command

“So the Lord God said to the serpent...upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life” (Genesis 3:14 KJV)

The Scriptures record in Genesis 3:14–24, God's sentence on the perpetrators who committed the inimitable crime – the fall of man. God pronounced an individual curse upon each accomplice - Adam, Eve, and the serpent (Satan). Each curse imposed a unique penalty and very distinctive consequences, which transcended throughout the history mankind. In this chapter, we will specifically explore the curse or the sentence that God imposed on the serpent. Through this passage, you will discover the limitations to the power that the enemy has in your life. This life changing revelation will help you experience a more victorious approach to life's circumstances.

In verse 14, we read the curse God pronounced on the serpent (Satan) which includes, “...on your belly you shall go and you shall eat dust all the days of your life...” Interestingly, in verse 19, God's admonishment to the man is, “...for dust you are and to dust you shall return.” Let's consider what *dust* represents in this passage. Dust is the origin of the flesh – the physical make-up of man.¹ Therefore, dust represents flesh, which speaks to the carnal nature of man – the body apart from the spirit.²

As we study the Word of God, we see God continually leading and instructing us to stay in His presence.³ He continually reveals to us the importance of the flesh being crucified, so that the spirit may live freely.⁴ Our flesh (carnal/sin nature) is the most vigorous hindrance to fulfilling God's purpose. It is also the greatest opposition to our becoming filled full of His Spirit. With this in mind, let us look again at God's command for Satan to eat the dust all the days of his life. Spiritually speaking, God has given the enemy the “authority” to eat up or devour the flesh – the carnality of man.

As God has ultimate authority over Satan, God uses Him as a tool of sorts. He has given the enemy the authority to destroy or devour that which is in you that is useless to God – and only that.⁵ When you come under the Lordship of Christ, you are given “authority ... over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.”⁶ Satan has no authority or power over your

spirit unless you give him permission by way of sin and strongholds. Those are the doors by which you allow him access to areas he otherwise has no authority over.⁷ It is not the spirit man that leads you into sin, but your sin nature or flesh which, as we established earlier, is comprised of desires in the mind, will, and emotions that are distinct from God.

When Satan attacks, he will always challenge the things of the spirit – those things which God has revealed to us through His Word and His servants. Satan will turn up the pressure in such a way that it will reveal any doubt, confusion, fear, and all other issues and thoughts we may be struggling with in our human or carnal nature. We must not let those feelings and emotions overtake us as he intends. However, understand that through the power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, those feelings and emotions can be overcome by the truth and promises found in the Word of God.

In Luke 22:31-32, we find Jesus' warning to Simon regarding the impending attack Satan waged against the disciples. It reads, "*Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*" (NRSV) This passage reveals several insights.

First, it reveals the boundaries placed on Satan's attacks. Although he was within his rights to "demand" permission because of the mandate in the Garden, he was still required to make his request to the Authority, the Lord God, just as he also did regarding Job.⁸

Secondly, Jesus' statement indicates that He would not prevent Satan's attack; however, He prayed that the disciples' faith would not fail because of the attack. He allowed the attack. There was and is no question about Jesus' ability to restrain Satan; however, He knew the attack would serve a greater purpose, which Jesus' statement further reveals.

Finally, He told them to strengthen (encourage) their brothers (fellow believers) *once they turned back*. Jesus knew that the attack would reveal their doubt, confusion, fear, and all the issues the disciples struggled with regarding their calling and their mission. He also knew that they would waver and temporarily abandon the call. However, just as He does with us, He knew the Spirit of Truth would prevail and the disciples would be the better for it.⁹ They became more effective in fulfilling their mission because (1) they realized their ability to overcome through Christ, and (2) they were able to empower others by their example and victory. So it is with you, men of God. You are today's disciples with your specific mission and purpose.

The passage found in Isaiah 54:16 reads, “*Behold I have created the smith who bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the waster to destroy.*” (KJV) The New International Version reads “...*and it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc...*” This passage further reveals (1) the identity of the waster/destroyer, (2) how God permits him to destroy or work havoc, and (3) why he is permitted to do so.

Satan is the enemy and he destroys what is waste to God, which is anything that is not useful to God in performing His will and His purposes in our life. Remember, the mandate in Genesis 3:14 was a curse. As the curse pronounced upon Satan was punitive, he was certainly not to achieve any victory or triumph as a result of his attacks against mankind. This would invalidate the punitive objective of the curse. By this, we surmise that his attacks and devices serve the purpose of expediting the refining process by which the purpose of God for your life is realized and perfected, achieving greater glory to God.¹⁰

Consider the following verse, Isaiah 54:17 states, “*no weapon formed against you shall prosper [prevail] and you will refute every tongue that rises against you.*” (NIV) God will not allow any weapon to take you out, meaning the whole man – soul and spirit. He created the waster to destroy waste. You must understand that the waster, who can only destroy waste, is the same serpent that was assigned to eat dust (your carnality). Should he attempt to destroy anything other than waste, God says that he will not prosper. He will fall. So again, we maintain victory over him. It is important to remember, Satan’s power is limited. He cannot take your life or your purpose. Contrary to his intent, which is to steal, kill, and destroy, his assignment is to eat away the carnality that is exposed by adverse situations, circumstances, and pressure.

The Word of God assures us that whatever we ask according to God’s will, we shall have;¹¹ whatever we bind on Earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on Earth shall be loosed in heaven;¹² and that we can speak to our mountains and they shall be cast into the sea,¹³ just to name a few of the promises. These promises and the many like them confirm that God has given us power to change circumstances by the authority of our spoken word coupled with our faith. However, there are trials and tests in our lives that we often mistake for adversities intended for our detriment and we begin “rebuking and binding” to no avail. In those times, we must realize that because God ordains and approves adverse situations to destroy the waste in our lives, neither our profession nor our faith, no matter how great, can alter the will of

God. Remember, the refining process is to take you to the next level in God. Learn to allow the waster to destroy the waste then you can attest to the truth “that no weapon formed against you will prosper” because the enemy will never be victorious in destroying any vital part of your life – only strengthening and building up the weak areas to the glory of God.¹⁴

Remember, this is a slow death to flesh, a crucifixion of the carnal man within you. Your soul should be a servant to your spirit, obediently doing what the Holy Spirit directs, but in many cases the spirit is enslaved by the soul, (mind, will, and emotions) being driven by your ever-changing desires.¹⁵ The Bible references the elder serving the younger.¹⁶ The “soul man” is the elder of the soul man and the spirit man. Your own thoughts, desires, and emotions have governed every aspect of your life since you were born - ever how long that may be. But your spirit, which was dead in trespasses and sin, was made alive the day that you invited the Savior into your heart.¹⁷ Your spirit represents the “younger” of the two. As you strive to live according to the Spirit of God, which bears witness with your spirit,¹⁸ the spirit man is strengthened and brings the flesh under submission to serve the will of the Father, which is manifested in you. In the natural, the younger is generally submissive to the elder; however, as with many principles of Scripture, God’s ways are always contrary to our ways.¹⁹

Without Christ, you live with strong, thriving, robust flesh continually exercising authority and power over your spirit. You are vulnerable to defeat and powerless against the enemy. You are unable to be victorious or exercise power over Satan’s attempts to distract and deter you. Satan’s goal to distract and divert you is aborted by your knowledge of his very limited authority and your awareness and resistance of his tactics. The key to victory is keeping the door to sin closed. You must walk in the power of the Holy Spirit where God can lead you into all truth and victory over sin, while fleeing from the flesh or carnal nature where the enemy is lurking to devour you through the sin sickness produced by the flesh. Remember, when you walk in the spirit, the enemy is only permitted to destroy the things that are deemed useless to God. In every trial and test you overcome, you are strengthened and God is glorified.

Allow life’s situations and adversities to have their perfect work. Although the process can be painful and the consequences of your actions can be weighty, be assured that God chastens those He loves and He wants you to stay in His presence where there is victory, power, and prosperity. Allow the adversities to push you deeper into prayer and into the presence of God. Allow them to eat away at and destroy your carnality as opposed to resisting and further

strengthening the flesh. When you find and walk in God's will and ways, you have the power to crush the head of the enemy. You must do all that God requires in order to have a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. Spend time worshipping and loving God, adoring him simply for who he is. Regardless of your title, calling, or level of anointing, you must always stay in the presence of God. Don't get so overwhelmed doing "*Godly stuff*" that you spend no time with Him. The closer you are to Him, the clearer His voice is to you and you are more likely to be obedient to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. God has wonderful things in store for those who will be faithful and endure. I encourage you to grab the hand of God and take hold of everything that he has for you.

Chapter Six Review:

He's Eating the Dust... At God's Command

Here are several things to remind you that he's eating the dust at God's command.

1. God's command to Satan to eat the dust all the days of his existence was a curse. Dust relates to the carnal human nature or the "flesh" as related in the Word of God. God wants this flesh eaten up in order that the Spirit of God is the ruler in your life.
2. Do not find yourself mistakenly rebuking God. He ordains many adversities for His glory and your victory. Adversities can accomplish a greater purpose in your life, so before you start rebuking, consult God for instructions in times of adversity.
3. Reflect on Isaiah 54:16, 17 and remember that the waster can only destroy waste and the enemy can only eat dust! Do not allow him to operate in any way more than God has commanded. He has no power or authority over your life. He can only do as much damage as you allow him to.
4. God chastens those He loves, and He does so to keep us in His perfect will and under His never-ending care.
5. Live righteous and holy so you can walk in victory against the enemy and inherit the blessings of God.

Chapter Seven

The Importance of Your Presence... Walking as a Godly Example

There is a need for your presence and for you to be a godly example in your households, families, churches, societies, and world. Not your physical presence only as a spectator or bystander, nor as one who provides financial security only, but as a true Christian leader. Without such a presence (both physically and spiritually), greater opportunity exists for misdirection, confusion, perversions, and utter chaos in the lives of those who need you. The absence of a godly man within the family forces the women to attempt to carry the weight of being both mother and father, which inevitably causes frustration, heartache, stress, and burn out. Moreover, the most successful attempts still produce considerable inadequacies in most cases. This deficiency within the family has the most significant adverse impact on our children and ultimately on our society. The increases in the number of boys and girls who are forced to live without fathers, and even more so godly fathers, is at a staggering increase and the results are devastating.

These deficient families most often produce young women who have no sense of love or belonging. They have no concept of a healthy, godly relationship with a man as a father, and they do not develop a healthy need for love and acceptance by a man as God intended. They are more apt to grow into one of two unhealthy categories of women. These young women have either very little respect for men or they yearn so much for acceptance and attention that they are easily deceived due to their indiscretion. The later category become women who struggle greatly with such issues as low self esteem, lack of self worth, promiscuity, teenage pregnancy, abusive relationships, drug abuse, and suicidal ideations.

Families deficient of a godly father also most often produce young men who have no concept of their true identity as a man, which causes them to be attracted to anyone or anything in which they find acceptance. They have few Christian role models, if any at all, therefore, for lack of positive direction, they rarely realize who or what they have the potential to become. These young men are also more apt to develop distorted views of other men. Many lack respect for other men and especially those in positions of authority. The other extreme is that they so much desire the acceptance and attention of a father, that it opens the door to perverted

relationships with other males. The later produces character ills such as low self esteem, lack of self worth, abusiveness, rebellion against authorities, gang associations, promiscuity, homosexuality, and countless other issues.

Unfortunately, in our society, the father figure has been replaced by the TV stars, musicians, rock stars, sports figures, and thugs, who have become the primary role models for our youth. These insufficient replacements further warp the minds of our children by distorted depictions of true success and prosperity. Ultimately, without the strong Christian man taking his rightful place, spiritual and moral decay is unavoidable. Men of God, it's time to run back to the garden where your Father waits to restore your identity and purpose. It is there that repentance, instruction, and healing can take place. It's time to embrace all of the promises and plans of God for your life and walk in your full potential as a godly man. It's time to take your relationship with God to a higher level where you can find peace, wisdom, and power.

The enemy uses many lies to hinder men from developing an intimacy with God. God wants His men to be free from all self created concepts and philosophies; many of which have been the keys which have locked the doors of bondage.

For too long, men have been labeled, diverted, and distracted due to their excessive attraction to "guy" things (*sports, television, women, etc.*). They have also been robbed of the benefit of many opportunities due to their lack of interest in things perceived to be "girly" things or stereotypically female activities. These, as well as many listed below, are some of the most common diversions and misconceptions that have caused many men to walk in error. As you replace these ideologies and falsehoods with the truth of the Word of God, you will become empowered to walk in the freedom and authority that pleases God.

False: Men are not supposed to cry.

Truth: "Jesus wept." *John 11:35 (KJV)*

"You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?" *Psalms 56:8 (NRSV)*

"Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seeds to sow will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." *Psalms 126:5-6 (NIV)*

False: Men should be proud and tough.

Truth: “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord, though hand joined in hand, he shall not be unpunished.” *Proverbs 16:5 (KJV)*

“...God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” *James 4:6(NIV)*

False: Men should not be too sensitive.

Truth: “I have chosen the way of truth I have set my heart on your laws. I run in the path of your commands, for you have set free.” *Psalms 119: 30, 32 (NIV)*

“The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” *Psalm 51:17 (NRSV)*

False: Eve tricked Adam into sinning with her.

Truth: “... she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband and he did eat.” *Genesis 3:6 (KJV)*

False: Every man should be married.

Truth: “For I would that all men were even as myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner and another after that.” *I Corinthians 7:7 (KJV)*

False: Men are superior to women.

Truth: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created he him; male and female he created them.” *Genesis 1:27 (KJV)*

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” *Galatians 3:28 (NIV)*

False: You're a Man; you have [sexual] needs. This is the lie used to trick men into promiscuity and fornication.

Truth: “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.” *I Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV)*

False: Men are dogs.

Truth: “God created man in his own image...” *Genesis 1:27 (NIV)*

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” *Galatians 3:26 (NIV)*

“For everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated with the Word of God and prayer.”
1 Timothy 4:4 (NIV)

These are only a few of the lies that have been imbedded in the minds of people and perpetuated throughout generations that have misguided men in their walk with God, even after salvation.

Additionally, men have been hindered in the fulfillment of their God ordained purpose because their *suitable helpers*, God’s delegated assistants, are unable to operate in the full capacity of their calling. This is mostly due to the “this is a man’s world” mindset. Men have dominated every area in our society for so long that the woman’s true role and purpose has been overlooked. This is a chauvinistic mind-set that has impeded the plan of God. It is apparent that the Church has been infected by the same way of thinking. Although, statistically the majority of congregations are comprised of 60% women, 20% children, and only 20% men, the majority of those men are in the pulpits or leadership positions. However, in many cases, women actually lead the prayer meetings, sick and shut-in ministries, singles ministries, and in some cases, the couples ministries. It is time for the men of God to rise up and begin to properly walk in your God-given authority, releasing the women who, in many churches, are bound and hindered from fulfilling their God given purpose and calling. Empower them to walk alongside you so that the Father’s will and purpose for their creation is fulfilled.

Man of God, regardless of your current situation, whether good or bad, God is calling you into a place in Him where you can know the truth and the truth will make you free. He desires great things for you. He also desires that you take your assigned position in the task of tearing down the kingdom of darkness and building up the Kingdom of God. Jeremiah 29:11 states, “*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I bring you back to the place from which I carried you.*” (NIV)

Where Adam failed, you can succeed because you now have God’s Word, Jesus’ example, the Holy Spirit’s presence, and delegated authority and power. You are called to be the head and not the tail – to be above and not beneath. God is so in love with you that in the midst

of Adam's failure he had a plan prepared to redeem you. He wants you to walk in the fullness of his love where peace, prosperity, and victory overtake you. God needs you, women need you, children need you, and this dying world needs you. God is looking for a few good and honorable men who will go where and when He instructs you.

It is my prayer that the move of God that is overtaking the body of Christ would also overtake you and usher you into your destiny in Christ. Also, I pray that through these God inspired words you have been taught, challenged, encouraged, inspired, and greatly provoked to further walk out the Word of God and the Will of God for your life as a man of God.

I call the supernatural blessings of God to overtake and overpower every man of God who has decided to walk in the full purpose of God for their lives. I call everything crooked area of their past to be made straight in their future for the glory of God. I pray that they would meditate on the revelations and Word of God. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus who is the Christ. Hallelujah!

Most wise and glorious God,

I honor You, worship You, and adore You. Your creations sing Your praises and I welcome You in the place of my heart. I praise You not only for what You have done but also for who You are. I see You as God Almighty, high and lifted up, on the throne of righteousness.

Lord I repent. I turn away from every way that is not like You. I ask You to release the bondage of every false authority that has kept me from Your authority and presence. Lord, I want to be like Jesus. I ask Your forgiveness of both sins of commission and omission. I turn away from it all as I turn to You and face the purpose that You have for my life.

Lord, I thank You for Your forgiveness. Thank You for removing the guilt of sin. Thank You for my salvation, Thank You for an opportunity for a higher level of intimacy in my relationship with you. Lord, as I walk in faith and believe on Your promises, I ask that You supply my needs of the spirit, the emotions, my relations with others, and of my physical nature as well. Meet every need in accordance with Your will for my life in Your way and in your timing. I fully trust You, Lord.

In the all knowing, saving, delivering, powerful and perfect name of Jesus,

Amen

Notes

Introduction

1. 1 Corinthians 5:45-49
2. Romans 8:6-10

Chapter One

1. Proverbs 18:21
2. John 8:28-29
3. Mark 11:12-14, 20-21
4. Ephesians 4:29
5. Revelation 12:10-11
6. Matthew 12:36
7. Proverbs 18:21
8. 1 Thessalonians 2:4
9. 1 Corinthians 15:45
10. Genesis 2:18
11. James 1:14-15
12. Romans 12:2

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2. 1 Luke 3:38
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23. Hebrews 12:15
24. Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3
25. 1 Peter 3:7
26. Philippians 4:13

Chapter Six

1. Genesis 2:7
2. 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
3. Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17
4. Galatians 5:16,17
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6. Luke 10:19
7. 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-10
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10. Zachariah 13:9; 1 Peter 1:6-7
11. Matthew 7:7; Matthew 21:21
12. Matthew 18:18
13. Matthew 21:22
14. James 1:2-4
15. Ephesians 4:14-15
16. Romans 9:12
17. Colossians 2:13
18. Romans 8:16
19. Isaiah 55:8-9