Your Greatest Comforter.

By Chris Briscoe,

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*Dedication: I dedicate this book to all those who are seeking a deep relationship with God through the continual daily communion with God the Holy Spirit, who is God in action. This book is written for all those who struggle to find God and need his touch to fill them with the power of his deep, unmerited love, by his Holy Spirit.*

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the Earth give way, and the mountains fall into the sea, though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains quake with their surging."

Psalm 46:1-3. NIV Bible.

Preface

Maybe, for some of you, because this book is about God, or what some would describe as "a religious book", you may feel you have a reason to not read on, but this book concerns something - actually someone who loves you more than anyone - and because he loves you, he wants to show you his power and what the power of his personal love can do for your life. But if you are a sceptic of what religion can do, what I am talking about is not a religion but rather a relationship - which is the greatest relationship for your life because if you test his amazing goodness and power for your life, he will, in time, prove to be your greatest comfort and enhancer, up-lifter, upgrader and empowering linchpin of your life. That's why you need to experience the Comforter - in the form of God the Holy Spirit - who will prove to be the greatest source of comfort and sweetening for your life when life gets sour.

Yet, this Comforter and Sweetener needs to be experienced first, to see and feel for yourself whether what I am talking about is real or fake; in other words, just like anything of faith and trust, you have to test my hypothesis I have just stated that God's Spirit is your greatest comforter for yourself. Just like a scientist's hypothesis has to be tested through experiment, so also does this hypothesis need to be proved in the laboratory of your experience.

And this Comforter can be tested in your life - for which I employ you gently and strongly to place this test not on the bucket-list of your life but rather today, because when you come to the end of your life, it will prove to be the greatest decision of your life; when you find out that receiving the Holy Spirit in your life and heart proved to be your greatest source of comfort and peace. That's why God has invited all individuals, everywhere, to test his goodness from the Bible, in the book of Psalms, Psalm 34:8-10, written by David,

"Taste and see that the Lord is good;

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints (saints are all believers, not special believers),

for those who fear him lack nothing.

The lions grow weak and hungry,

but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."

Psalm 34:8-10, NIV Bible, with parentheses by C.J. Briscoe.

If you want to test God's personal love for you, in your life, then you can pray the following prayers in the following chapters. And I believe God will bless you, abundantly, immensely, and amazingly, so that your life will never be the same again, I believe it and that’s why I can say, "Amen!"

When you receive God's Spirit, his help and his comfort, as it says in the other Psalm, in Psalm 46:1-3:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the Earth give way, and the mountains fall into the sea, though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains quake with their surging."

Psalm 46:1-3. NIV Bible.

Chapter One

The Greatest Comforter for You!

In this life we all pass, there is no denying that there are times when we suffer and need a source of comfort – and so the good news I want to tell you about is when you start having a relationship with Jesus Christ, he will begin to let your experience the greatest source of comfort for your lives, who is actually a physical presence who will touch you physically and give you and your emotions the touch of healing, compassion, mercy, and comfort you need; there is no denying that all of us need a source of comfort for our lives, but what I want to tell you about is that the Holy Spirit is a source of the greatest comfort – I mean a physical comfort by the presence of the Spirit of God – called the Holy Spirit – which the King James Bible describes as “The Holy Ghost” however, he is much more than a “ghost,” because he wants to give you his physical peace; and his physical presence is given and manifested in the form of the Holy Spirit – who is God, himself, manifested by his Spirit in all the full Godhead; I mean the Holy Spirit is as much God as Jesus and God, yet, only in a different form - just as water comes in three forms, i.e. liquid, ice or gas.

And once you receive his Spirit in your spirit, he will prove to you to be an exceedingly great and tangible comfort. This source of comfort is so amazing and real, and once you experience it, you will always have a source of comfort that will fill you with the most wonderful sense of peace. However, this is more than an experience, he desires that you have not just an experience but a daily, and second-by-second relationship with God, manifested in an ever deeperning communion and fellowship with God the Holy Spirit; Once you have turned over the direction of your life, and surrendered all your fears and problems, and repented of living your life without him, then Jesus has promised to give you “the gift” of his Father.

Jesus promised the “gift” of his Father; Luke writes on Jesus’ reference to “the gift my Father” promised, in the Book of Acts:

“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:3-5, NIV Bible.

This comfort is so great, it is not an impersonal force but a personal force. Therefore, I cannot describe him as "it" but rather "him" because he is a person - actually he is God in the form of a spirit - the Spirit of God - he is God in his full form, nature, glory and power as a Spirit, an unseen Spirit who is well able to reveal himself to your senses; and will be, for you, your greatest empowering presence and comfort in your life, if you ask him and if you are listening to him; he is perfect in all his ways and there is no greater power inside or outside this universe; he is the greatest expression of God's full glory, grace and power with nothing diminished from God's fullest expression of his personhood. Not just a power but actually the greatest power, who is God in the form of a Spirit, who made all spirits – i.e. the Spirit of all spirits – the creator in action, the Holy Spirit - the very breath of God, and his power in action in all his personal love, character and expression. The greatest expression of his comfort, peace and every virtue of his character. A very real and exceedingly present help and comforting presence in every circumstance of life - although he is unseen because he is a Spirit - yet, you will be able to feel the power of his love and his very real help and assistance and his very real and most comforting presence in your life, who will prove to be your greatest comfort, if you let him.

As I wrote, above, I am not talking about a force or a power but a very real person, who is called the third person of the Trinity, i.e. the Holy Spirit. God's greatest comfort, through the power and love of his Spirit who was called by Jesus as "the Advocate", or "the Counsellor" or "the Comforter".

And once you taste just how sweet this comfort is for soothing your pain - your real pain as well as emotional pain, you will probably wonder how you ever survived this life without his Spirit alongside you - I know I did and I do, daily - alleviating your pain and reducing the sting of life's hard knocks and anguishes; guiding you and giving you help, peace and strength - to bring you a profound sense of peace and security that God Almighty knows your every tear and every feeling of pain and frustration, intimately, as much as you - and actually more than you because he is both God and man.

And that's why Jesus became a man in order for him to be acquainted with all your griefs and pain, yet because he is God, he can do something about that pain and hurt, even every deep scar because only he has the power to heal and save, totally; he became a man in order to experience, first-hand, all the emotions and pain of a real human being, to empathise with every human being, so that he is able to not just sympathise with our griefs and pain, but actually empathise, since he himself, suffered deeply; and therefore, he became the greatest saviour and bearer of all our griefs, hurts, sicknesses and pain.

Therefore, Jesus Christ is the perfect saviour, sin-bearer and grief-bearer of you and me since he is fully acquainted with everything you are going through because he is the perfect God and only Saviour of all mankind as he is both man and God - the Man, the new and perfected Adam, i.e. second Adam, Jesus Christ. And since he is also Spirit, he transcends this physical world and can penetrate as well as heal your hurts. And because he is God the Holy Spirit, only he has the power to penetrate your heart, your emotions and your deepest scars, to bring that greatest comfort, greatest understanding and empathy in the form of the greatest superpower, soothing us and totally healing us in every nook and cranny of secret scars and traumatic memories - with the added comfort of fully knowing and fully empathising with our pain and anguish; while healing us totally and fully because he is both man and God - the perfect Saviour ever, who is incomparable to any other so-called "god" or "saviour" who doesn't come close to Jesus Christ, whose names, “Jesus Christ” in Hebrew, “Yeshua” i.e. “Jesus” or “Joshua” in the Greek, which means “Salvation”, and “Christ” which means, “the Messiah”.

**But How Can I Receive His Spirit, Gow Can I Become a Christian?**

*Well, we first need to believe in Jesus; but if you don’t have any such faith to believe, well, don’t worry about that because God will give you even the faith to believe: as God’s word says in Ephesians 2:4-9,*

*"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, in order that in the coming ages, he might show the imcomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

*NIV Bible.*

Thus, if you don’t have any faith to believe in God, then ask him to give you the faith you need, then, this will be delivered to your heart as a deposited gift, then sooner or later, you will realise, practically, that you have the power and faith to believe in Jesus ; and just as in all cases, the ministry and work and focus of the Holy Spirit, is to confirm and deliver on all of God’s promises, and gifts and fruit and harvests.

And so you need to first believe in Jesus, then receive him into your heart, as your own personal Saviour, to save you from your sins, to save you from all your problems and pain of life; thus, you need to surrender your life over to Jesus, and make him Lord of your life, and everything; for if he is not Lord of all, then he is not Lord, at all; you need to acknowledge him as dying, personally, for all your sins on the cross – as he was the perfect, spotless, “Lamb of God” who died in our place to receive the punishment that we deserved as simners, guilty of committing sin; you need to confess to him that you have decided to repent of all your sins, for living a life without God – on your terms- and instead deciding to live totally on God’s terms. Then you need to invite him into your heart, to receive Jesus into your heart.

As John wrote in his Gospel, John 1:10-13,

. **11**He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13**children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”

So, as John says, “Yet, all who have received him, to those who have believed in his name (Jesus Christ), he gave the right to become children of God...” So we need to do two things:

1. Believe Him by his Spirit
2. Receive Him by his Spirit.

Thus, our dead spirit inside us, which has laid dormant for years, needs to be brought back to life – to be regenerated; and so, we need to be “born-again” in our spirit by the Spirit of God; not by us trying to return to our mother’s womb! No, we need to surrender and let the Spirit of God make our dead spirit come to life.

Actually, this was the same question a man called Nicodemus asked Jesus in the Bible, in the same Gospel of John, from John 3:1,

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2**He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

**3**Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

**4**“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

**5**Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6**Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26127b)] gives birth to spirit. **7**You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26128c)] must be born again.’ **8**The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “ NIV Bible.

So, we need to receive his Spirit by inviting him into our heart to make us “born-again”.

And you can start that process by praying “The Prayer of Repentance” at the end of this Chapter One.

Thus, the next question to ask is, “Do you have the Holy Spirit in you - is Christ living in your spirit?”

And to answer that question, we need to do some self-evaluation, to give ourselves a self-test, as Paul wrote in his last chapter of 2 Corinthians, 13, Verse 5,

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. 7 Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.”

2 Corinthians 13:5-8, NIV Bible.

We need to examine ourselves to see whether our faith is a real, genuine faith, in which case, God’s seed lives in us. Just like any tree or plantation, it begins with a seed planted into our spirit by God’s Spirit who plants into our heart and spirit his Spirit, his word, his breath and his life planted into our nature so that we have a brand, new, controlling nature; when this happens, it is a genuine miracle. His seed is planted in every heart who has repented of living their lives apart from him, and turned over their old life, and now have God’s living and breathing, and speaking Spirit inside them guiding them to make his Spirit-informed decisions; and so, now, we have the potential to live lives truly righteous and pleasing to God. We have been cleansed through faith in the blood of Jesus, yet, his Spirit has not only regenerated us (born-again) but is now making us more and more holy, i.e. his Spirit is sanctifying us as we walk in obedience to his Spirit,

As God’s word says, in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11,

9 “Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-12, NIV Bible.

We have been chosen before time began, yet now sealed, and are now being sanctified, by the Spirit of God, when we believe, as God’s word tells us, in Ephesians 1,11-14,

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:11-14, NIV Bible.

As we are seeking to please him first, our obedience comes with his blessing – he has promised to provide for all our needs, and to give us the desire of our hearts. As we can read, in Matthew 6: 25-33,

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:25-33, NIV Bible.

Also, God will bless us with the desire of our heart, as he has promised in God’s word in Psalm 37:3-5, which in the Amplified Version, Classic Edition, reads,

3 “Trust, lean on, rely on, and be confident, in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land and feed surely on His faithfulness, and truly you shall be fed.

4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord, roll and repose each care of your load on Him; trust, lean on, rely on, and be confident, also in Him and He will bring it to pass.”

Psalm 37:3-5, AMPC Version, Classic Edition, with the brackets removed by C. J. Briscoe.

Also, as God’s word tells us, in 1 John 3:1-10,

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”

“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.”

“Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 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. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.”

1 John 3:1-10, NIV Bible.

Once we have this seed of God’s Spirit, it will grow, or he will grow his God-given nature, as we allow him to completely destroy our old, Adam-nature, by his Spirit. Now we have the new-Adam who is Jesus living in our heart and spirit, transforming our old self into his new self and God-like character, into his holy character. And his Spirit will be like a well-spring of the fountain of God.

The Well-Spring of His Spirit - “the Rivers of His Spirit”:

I believe that this is one thing we can all agree on: that in this life, since we all go through varying degrees of suffering and pain, we all need to have a well-spring of comfort for our mind and emotions, not any old comfort but the greatest comfort which is not mere "tea and sympathy" but actual empathy because this Comforter knows what you are going through - even if what you are going through is hellish or it feels like hell, itself, because he has been through hell, himself - so he knows what you are going through since he suffered every known pain and weakness known to man.

Jesus promised that when we have received his Spirit, then, his presence will be like a refreshing water-fall bursting forth from deep within; Jesus said, in John, Chapter 7,

*37 “On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

When we become born-again with his seed in us, we have the assurance given by God the Holy Spirit that we now belong to God, we have his ownership and seal on our lives.

As God’s word says in 2 Corinthians 21,

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV Bible.

Thus, with this seed and deposit within us, we have an obligation to be led by this new nature of the Spirit inside us, no longer by the lusts or fears of the flesh.

As God’s word says, in Romans 8:12-14,

“Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if, by the Spirit, you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God, are sons of God.”

Romans 8:12-14, NIV Bible.

So, as we have seen, if you have repented of your sins and been washed by faith in the blood of the innocent, perfect Lamb-like saviour sacrifice, Jesus Christ, then now God’s Spirit is sanctifying you; and so, you have been regenerated and the Spirit of God makes us aware of any sin or bad attitude in us, which is much, much stronger than our conscience, which is now also, being renewed. So now, with the Spirit in us, you and I belong to him.

But we also need to be filled with the Spirit of God because we are still sinners, thus, that Spirit leaks out when we sin; he leaks out of us, often daily, so we need re-filling daily. This is also important because, as sinners who are saved, we are still sinners, who, even though, we are saints, we still capable of sinning; so we are still sinners being transformed into his perfect, holy children of God by the Spirit of God who is daily wanting to sanctify us and transform us from ever-increasing digression into ever-increasing transformation by his Spirit.

As it says in 2 Corinthians 3:16-18,

“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces, all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image, with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:16-18, NIV Bible.

**As God’s Spirit permeates every “nook and cranny” of our lives, then his freedom will result in a perfect peace and healing in every aspect of our lives. For “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”.**

And God’s word tells us to keep being filled with his Spirit.

Paul writes in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter Five, Verse Fifteen,

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord’s will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

NIV Bible.

The Seal of God’s Spirit

After we become a Christian, we are promised to be deposited with a seal of the Holy Spirit who is a “seal” and “deposit” to guarantee our inheritance until we die.

As we can read in 2 Corinthians 1:21-23,

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

Also, in 2 Corinthians 5:5,

“Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

Also, in Ephesians 5:13-14,

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

The Baptism and Ongoing Infilling of His Spirit:

Then we are also promised the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is sometimes described as “the Second Blessing”; this is when we receive the fulness of his anointing; yet, this is not just one experience but a daily infilling; so it is important to remember, when we become a Christian, we receive a one-time seal as a guarantee of our new inheritance as his child, having received his Spirit of his Sonship; yet, every Christian needs to make sure we are baptised with his Spirit – the fulness of his presence – which also manifests with his gifts of his Spirit, e.g. the gift to speak in other tongues, or prophecy etc. And we need to remember that this is not just a one-off baptism infilling experience, but God’s Spirit wants us to have a continued relationship with him; this means we need to keep developing our relationship - for example, to keep welcoming him into our day and morning, before we do anything; to welcome him into our day and invite him to be the center “linchpin” of all our activities; to continually fellowship with his Spirit, physically, to develop a sensitivity to his presence, and have a continual interaction with the Spirit; and the more we listen and quiet our mind in his presence, the more we will become aware of his presence and voice; and also, to ask him to continually give us his wisdom; this is exceedingly important, as most Christians miss out on this daily and transforming, amazing experience, most are not even aware of how to develop a sensitivity and deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. Even there are Christians who have had the deposit of the Holy Spirit- they belong to Christ, and have his seed, and have been born-again with Christ's new-nature by his Spirit of a miracle of incarnation, but they need not just a deposit but to be filled; just like there were Christians who had the deposit of the Spirit but not the in-filling, in the Bible, in the book of the Acts of the Apostles of Christ, in the 19th Chapter, we can read,

“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.”

Acts19:1-7, NIV Bible.

So, in order to be filled with God’s Spirit, we need to ask a man or woman of God to pray and lay their hands on us, or God can fill us, when we are praying alone, he and his powerful grace is more than capable. We not only need to have the baptism of repentance – which is, an inner-washing through the Spirit, by faith in the blood, which can be accompanied by a public baptism, but which is, in itself, a public symbol of our new confession – but for those who fear going under water as some believers do, this is not essential as much as the inner-baptism and on-going filling is essential to our walk with God by his Spirit.

As Paul wrote, in his letter to the Church the Book of Ephesians,

“Do not get drunk on wine which leads to licentious living. But instead keep being filled with the Spirit.”

The above translation taken from the NIV Bible has the verb-tense is changed from “be filled” “keep being filled” in the present-continuous form in the Greek translation, thus, the above translation is, “Keep being filled with the Spirit”. Also, the word, “debauchery” is changed to “licentious living" to convey the extreme wrongful lifestyles brought on by excessive drinking or drunkenness.

*“The Anointing” of the Spirit:*

*Once we receive the infilling presence of the Holy Spirit, and as we develop an ever deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, then, he will pour more and more of his wisdom and grace; thus, we will grow in our awareness of the Spirit’s activity and presence, as well as we will not need anyone to teach us, but we will be personally taught by Jesus, the Holy Spirit.*

*This infilling and ongoing work is also described in the Bible as “the Anointing”.*

*John wrote in 1 John 2;18-27,*

*18 “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

*20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.*

*24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life.*

*26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”*

Jesus is our Greatest Saviour:

If you are acquainted with the story of Jesus Christ, you will know that the reason he became a man was in order that he is not just a deity who demands our worship, but a deity who can give real comfort and strength because he himself knows what it's like to suffer as a man. Listen to these words from the Bible on the subject of high priests in the Jewish religion,

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:15-16, NIV Bible.

And listen to this from the next Chapter,

"Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 5:1-3, NIV Bible.

Also, later in this Chapter we can read,

"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered, and once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Hebrews 5:7-10, NIV Bible

Also, later in this Chapter,

"Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

Hebrews 7:23-25, NIV Bible.

Of course, I am talking about Jesus Christ who was one with the Father but who became a God-Man, which means he descended into the realm of experiencing pain and extreme suffering and the other sordid ailments you and I experience in this life; and he did this, in order to know what pain is, so as to empathise with our pain and weakness, so as to be the greatest pain-bearer and comforter; for when Jesus became a man, because God, his father, wanted Jesus to be the greatest redeemer and source of the greatest comfort, God sent him to this world - and not only the greatest source of comfort but the greatest source of peace, joy and strength for when you need it.

But in order to open our hearts and let Jesus come in by his Spirit, we need to first repent of our old, sinful ways of living our life without God, and then we need to receive Jesus.

If you would like to receive Jesus into your heart, or otherwise, if you need more time to consider this great step of faith, please pray this prayer, sooner or later:

**A Prayer of Repentance:**

"(Dear) God, I heard that you are alive and that you want to enter my life and heart and give me your exceedingly great power, which I can feel, tangibly, by your Holy Spirit. I heard that around two thousand years ago you died on a cross to take my punishment for all the things I have done wrong - and you offered yourself as a living sacrifice to cleanse me from a guilty conscience, and to give me forgiveness through your blood which flowed at Calvary. And you not only died for my sins, but you were also raised back to life through the resurrection power of your Holy Spirit, by which we can live this Christian life as your son, with the spirit of your son dwelling in our hearts and emotions, ministering to us his peace, joy and comfort."

"And you promised that he who gave life to your mortal body (i.e. God's Holy Spirit) when you die, will give life to my mortal body - not only when I die - but now, and every day."

"I, therefore, repent of my sins and surrender my life to you and I ask you to come into my heart and make my heart clean. I surrender to you and ask that your Holy Spirit fill my spirit, so that I can be in real union with the Father and feel your Spirit ministering in me, and through me, every hour of every day."

"I know that you promised to walk with me every day, as long as I keep myself faithful to you and try to serve and love you with all my heart, soul and strength. And, therefore, I know that your Holy Spirit will give me his power and wisdom to live this Christian life, all the days of my life. For which I thank you, and pray this prayer in your name and love,

Amen."

So if you prayed that prayer, then you can receive Jesus and his Spirit into your spirit. Even if you don't feel anything, just receive God's gift, by faith, and I guarantee you, that feeling will come as you hold out in faith.

In the book of John, the disciple wrote about God the Son, Jesus' ministry which is one and the same with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Although they are equal, they have different roles and emphasis of ministry,

i.e.

 1. God is the Judge of all individuals.

 2. Jesus is the sin-and-sickness bearer.

 3. The Holy Spirit is the applier or applicator of all of God's promises, i.e. God's word in action.

Yet, each three of the God-head are the one of the same one God in different forms, as water has three forms of ice, water, and steam.

Writing about Jesus, John wrote,

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to his own people, but his own people did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

John 1:10-13, NIV Bible, the sentence, "He came to that which was his own" changed to "He came to his own people" amendment by C.J. Briscoe.

Just before Jesus left his disciples after spending three years with them, he comforted them by promising "another Counsellor'', "the Spirit of truth".

He said these words in John 14:These promises can also be applied to our lives which were given for you to apply to your life and experience real and amazing results for your life; yet you need to trust him for these promises - even with the smallest of faith; yet, if you feel you lack faith, then ask him to give you his gift of faith to believe, for the Bible promises that we can believe by the deposit of faith God gives us. Listen to this from the book of Ephesians, 2:8-10,

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by your own effort or good works - so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do."

Ephesians 2:8-10, NIV Bible. The words, "not by your own effort or good works" changed from "not by works, so that no one can boast" by C.J. Briscoe.

Just before the time when Jesus was arrested by the authorities in Jerusalem and crucified, he made the following promise in John 14:15-21:

**15** “If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26686c)] in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

we read, above, from the Gospel of John, that even though physically he would be leaving all his followers, he said that he would come to his disciples and give “another counsellor” the exact same presence as Jesus – not a clone but the exact same in character and substance with nothing all his Godhead fulness diminished in the form of his Spirit, i.e. who would be the exact same as him - or the words he used was "He (God) will give you another Counsellor". (John 14:16, NIV Bible, with text-in-brackets and underlined by C.J. Briscoe)

And that "another Counsellor" would be the same Counsellor as Jesus - not a duplicate or a clone but the same as him - in everything except the three dimensions of having a physical body which has a height, a breadth and a width. But now the good news is, we can experience him as trans-dimensional being - in other words, a metaphysical being so that means he can penetrate every "dimension" of our pain and reach our deepest hurt and distress; because only God's Spirit can actually reach your deepest hurts and pains, deep in your memories and emotions, and heal those scars so that they no longer cause you grief. Wow, imagine that! That once you become a Christian and receive Jesus' Spirit, you can live forever with the same Counsellor as those twelve disciples lived with and were counselled by for three years, but have Jesus living in you by his Spirit, which is way better than what those twelve disciples experienced.

Let me refer to Jesus' words to his disciples before he left them:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." (John 14:1)

Here he was telling us that we don't need to get ourselves into a lot of distress but to just trust him and his Father.

He said, later in the Chapter,

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:15-18, NIV Bible.

Also, he said these words a little later,

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Yet, because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you: but if I go, I will send him to you."

John 16:5-7, NIV Bible.

Chapter Two

But How Can I Receive the Holy Spirit?

i.e. How can I be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

Of course, the Holy Spirit is holy, and that means he is zealous, and he comes as a redeeming fire to cleanse us with fire of all the dross of our sins. Not a literal physical fire but rather a supernatural force of God's Spirit neutralising all your fallen and lustful ways.

That means if you want to receive this Holy Invader then you need to exchange all that stands between you and him. All your sin. It means you need to give up all those things which you consider important which actually are not as important as him in your life; those things which compete with your life for God - things which you may consider good because they are exciting, but which in the long run take your time from God, or I should say take away the time which you should be spending praying to him in his presence, which should be his time because you have given not only your life to him but also your daily time; meaning, you need to spend at least one hour a day praying to him and cultivating your relationship with him. But this kind of cultivation in your relationship doesn't come instantly but over time, as you keep up a regular schedule to pray to him, although it doesn't have to be one hour. Those things, which, as a Christian, you need to surrender to him in God's time; for example, maybe, someone reading here, your over indulgence of such vices as alcohol, nicotine, football, even it could be chocolate if your consumption is not in moderation, or your smartphone which are potentially little "idols" in your life. And what is the definition of an idol:

Something which takes your time away from praying to God and spending quality time with him; anything which takes times away or distracts you from serving God, anything which distracts us from spending time praying and communing with God the Holy Spirit.

Remember if Jesus is not Lord of all, then he is not Lord at all. But if you confess him Lord of your life, then he must be Lord of all your habits - and any bad habits need to be surrendered to him - and if you cannot bring yourself to do that, now, at least you need to ask God to give you his holy desire to want to give up those vices.

Just pray a simple prayer like this can be very powerful:

"Holy Spirit of God, please show me which area of which room of my heart I need to change and surrender to your love. Thank you."

Or pray this:

“Dear Holy Spirit,

I need to make you Lord of all my life, because unless you are Lord of all my life, you are not Lord at all; thus, I cannot begin to call you "Lord". So, please give me a deep desire to change - a thirst for the right action to take - as the Bible calls it, "righteousness" so that I would know what to surrender to your love. Please show me and guide me as to what bad habits and attitudes I need to relinquish into your arms so that you would give me the power to overcome all my weaknesses, sinful desires and lusts. Please help me not to worry about the small things in life, but to trust you for my every need because you are my heavenly father who supplies my every need more than the flowers of the field and birds of the air. Thank you for all you do for me.

Amen."

As it says in the Bible book of Matthew, Chapter 6:25-33,

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the non-believers run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.  But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

John 6:25-33, NIV Bible.

And so you need to prepare to receive Jesus - it means before this King of kings comes and sits on the throne of your life, you need to surrender to his Kingship and authority - those little "gods" - those idols, maybe your wife or your partner - if she is telling you to not be so radical before God; or you are having a sexual relationship with your partner which you know God's word and will is that such a relationship is only reserved within the confines of a covenanted marriage. Maybe you heard or were told that this is "safe-sex" and you felt justified to have sex outside marriage, which the Bible calls "fornication" and which, in truth, is never safe for anyone involved. Therefore, you need to make a choice whether you are willing to surrender this relationship into God hands by asking him to make or break this relationship if it is competing with his love for you; so you need to stop the sex and sacrifice it on the altar of worship all together, if it stands in the way of your relationship with God.

Or such things or potential "idols" as your job or boss who is telling you to work Sundays or to overwork yourself, which God did not ordain you to do.

So, we need to clean up our home and surrender anything which isn't of God or his inspiration which competes with him, or our time spent with him. We need to surrender to the God or the Owner of our home - every 'nook and cranny' of our heart and let the cleansing, holy,  redeeming and refining fire of his Holy Spirit knock down all the walls of our heart and home and let him come in (invite him in) and let him do a huge renovation job of knocking down the walls to make a most wonderful palace fit for the King of kings.

Yet before God or the King of kings comes to reside in our life and heart, he first does a great and extensive building job on us, to transform our lowly detached or semi-detached, or even worldly-attached homes into a palace fit for the King of kings - and this means cleansing us from all those things which holds our heart and allegiance, but which are a negative force in our life; as the disciple John warns us that we cannot have the love of the world as well as the love of God in us - because they are dialectically opposed to each other - that if you love the world then the love of the Father is not in you; so the King, and actually, owner of our house comes and takes it over, or invades it and colonises it or reclaims it for the rightful owner (the owner who is the Father)

Listen to how C. S. Lewis explains the process:

“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

My paraphrase:

Jesus Christ is a gentleman. He does not force himself onto you. He does not kick down the door of your heart - first he waits until you invite him - but if you want him to come into your home - your heart - as a Landlord to clean and upgrade every room of your house, then you must regard him as the Owner who you are not afraid to invite into every nook and cranny of your heart. Not as a mere visitor but as a welcomed Invader. For unless you consider him Lord of all, He is not Lord at all. After you invite him in to take the keys of your home, that's when the real renovation begins, which, even though you feel its uncomfortable, it's actually doing you a world of good. The designs he has in you couldn't be grander and more royal - for your greatest healing: he wants to make your heart - your spirit and soul fit for a King, because he has adopted you as his own Son or daughter with firstborn rights.

Therefore, he takes over one room, then suddenly he lifts up a sledge hammer and starts to smash against one room so he smashes completely one wall between two rooms to make a giant room, he is making our home into his room - a palace fit for the King of kings of the universe - who is powerful enough to come into my heart and take out my old cold and hurting heart, and give me a new heart of love and passion and a heart filled with the excitement and sense of adventure and longing, to please my new King in my life and heart and follow him, because only he has the power to come into my heart and fill it with  the sweetest peace so that all my fears and hurts are dispelled and he gives me a brand new heart of longing to follow his gentle, loving voice; leading me into the greatest adventure, written and being worked out by the real and perfect lover of my soul; who loves me enough that even I had been the only soul on this earth two thousand years ago, he would have come and died and taken my punishment for all my shortcomings and mistakes to save my soul and place his seed in my heart which gives me hope that even though I can't be perfect, I can at least aim for perfection through the power of his perfect Spirit living in my heart.

And look at the glorious and majestic - most awe-inspiring result: A glorious palace fit for the King of kings.

The alternative belief world view is absolutely impotent in its power to inspire hope. Here's the evolution narrative:

“We all evolved from a Dung-Beetle.”

In the last book of the Bible, called The Revelation of John, in Chapter Three,

Jesus tells us that he stands at the door of our individual heart and knocks;

Listen to the Scripture,

“Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20, NIV Bible.

That’s just a glimpse of how great the love is he has for us, individually, that he is waiting for us to invite him into our life and home. And he wants to adopt us into his own family. If you have not received Jesus into your heart, repent of your sins, and given your life and allegiance to him so that he becomes Lord of your life, then you cannot call him “Lord” unless he is Lord of all your life.

John wrote elsewhere, “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know who we are, is because it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

1 John 3:1-3, NIV Bible.

But you will never know this until you experience this love for yourselves, in your deepest part of you, and you find out how much the power of his love can upgrade your life, and the lives of your love ones; if only you invite him into your life, if only you would begin opening the door of your heart, and respond to his voice beckoning you.

God loves you and wants to show you himself so that you experience his love in your deepest pain and hurt; also, in your deepest longing, to heal all your pain whereby you feel an endless peace and love, and you share with him every detail of your life, and he gives you an unexplainable peace, joy, contentment and comfort in life, daily, as you fellowship with him; where you meet God when you invite him to take the throne of your life – when you not only have a relationship with God where he takes up residence in your life and in your emotions, but he becomes President of your life – which means you allow him to sit as the King of your heart. It means surrendering lordship of your life to him, where you hand over to Jesus the steering wheel of your life; but before you can do that, you first need to get out of the driver’s seat and invite him to sit in the driving seat instead. Then to hand the steering wheel of your life so that you surrender over to him the power and authority of who now “calls the shots" i.e. who is the boss of your life, yourself who often makes mistakes and doesn’t know everything, or to Jesus, who never makes a mistake and knows everything.

So, Jesus now takes up residence on the throne of your life and you enthrone him by making every life decision an expression of your allegiance and worship to Jesus, continually endeavouring to lift up his name and trying to glorify him through your life. Seeking only his will and thoughts as you praise him and lift up his name in daily worship; and always praying, daily, for his will and glorification to be paramount above all other considerations; therefore, your life takes on a really noble - actually the noblest purpose and mission, i.e. the greatest and noblest theme and purpose. We say enthroning him on the throne of our heart; in other words, we decide to emotionally and intellectually write a letter of resignation to God – telling him that we have decided that we will no longer “call the shots of our life”, and instead to invite the President of the universe to sit in the top-chair of our hearts – because, actually, each person is born with his or her freedom to choose their own destiny.

If you are ready to relinquish control of your life and invite Jesus to “take the steering wheel” of your life, instead, then “strap yourself in, for you are in for the ride of your life – actually an experience and adventure of a lifetime!”

Remember, God is the best builder in the world, and he is transforming you into his magnificent, holy temple and a palace fit for the King of kings – Jesus Christ. He is gutting the old building and demolishing all the, old, restricting walls; this “gutting” incurs personal pain, and even seemingly loss, for you, but actually, in the long-term, is not loss but gain - incomparable gain and treasure, as Paul wrote about, it means he knocks down the old restricting walls and turns it into something glorious - his very own temple and palace.

FROM A WRECK OF A BUILDING TO AN HABITATION/HOME FOR THE PRSENCE OF THE GLORIOUS KING OF KINGS – THE MOST MAGNIFICENT PALACE!
In Romans 8:18, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Just think: Unless you give God a chance to move in your life, he never will. He sends out this invitation to all from Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."  You cannot know how delicious this cake is I am eating unless you were to take a piece yourself and taste. Most people miss the chance to taste of God's sweetness and light, and one day it will be too late to enter because they will only see from a faraway distance the glory and paradise that could have been theirs, if only they took that tiny one step of faith and tested God's goodness.

Please do not miss this chance. Unless you experience or test his promises you will never know. So please go ahead and open your heart. Just ask him, "Please come into my heart and life and turn it around for your good, and please forgive me. Show me who you are and who I am in you. Let me experience your love first-hand and see your promises in action. I believe you died for me on the cross and I give you all the things that drag me down, I deposit them into the rubbish bin - the cross of Jesus Christ; I believe you bled and died for me to take the punishment for all my mistakes. Thank you that very soon you will exchange all this scum for your peace, and I receive your forgiveness and healing now. And I decide to follow you all the days of my life, with your strength and grace. Amen."

Also, if you have been struggling with an ailment of sickness for a long time, he also promises to be your healer. He says, “I am the Lord that heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

This healing that Jesus promises you is first in your deepest part of you: in your spirit, because God regards that as the most important part of your healing; and when you realize in your spirit that God loves you, unlimitedly, as a Father, and that you have been adopted into his family, then you will know that he is the healer of all your wounds, including emotional as well as physical; and when we ask our Father in heaven to heal our spirit first, he comes into our heart and then we receive the revelation of who he is, and who we are in his estimation; meaning, we realize the same love God has for his Firstborn, Jesus Christ, God sets that love on us, and lavishes on us; and we are changed in a twinkling of an eye, when we realize that God is our Father and our healer - he heals us spiritually so that our once dead spirit is revived and comes back to life; which is most important because it impacts every other wound, including, emotional, mental and  physical.  If we still have a physical wound outstanding, whether he heals our wound instantly, gradually or later, he will, in time, heal us perfectly.

Chapter Three.

My Life Can Become Alot More Eased From its Constant Pain, With God’s Presence.

**Without Having God in my Life, I Can't See How I Would Have Survived.**

I hope and pray that both you and I have allowed ourselves and are allowing ourselves to be filled with God’s Spirit while continually emptying ourselves of everything or anything that would quench the waters of his Spirit penetrating and subduing every passion that would try and compete with our allegiance to God's and the guidance and obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit; with this in mind, as a way to encourage your own walk with God by the Holy Spirit, this chapter includes more personal testimony what happened to me in my own walk with God by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

As you walk this road called life, did you know that there is a way you can actually supercharge your life so that you come into contact with the greatest source of love, comfort, joy, peace, fulfilment and sense of wellbeing? You may be asking, "What is this greatest source of all these qualities or virtues?"

Well, you, too, can find that greatest source when you come to truly experience a relationship with God - not through just reading words from the Bible or a religious instruction manual, but rather experiencing what it means to have those dead words come to life through the Spirit of God; for real and authentic religion is about touching a person where he or she hurts through the Spirit of God who is actually the confirmer and guarantor of all his promises found in the Bible. That's why the religion of Christianity stands out alone because it doesn't just leave its disciples with a dead book written by dead men about a dead man who was resurrected to life by God's Spirit; but has given all believers in Christ the same Spirit who will confirm all his promises with real miraculous power that has real practical solutions for today's normally intractable problems.

And when I say power, I mean the kind of power which not only brings dead things back to life but is able to penetrate the coldest and most stubborn heart and deposit enough supernatural faith to enable a person, who, only in his wildest dreams, would ever think he could be religious. That's why Christianity is not about a religion but rather about a relationship with God as our heavenly father who loves us enough to not only want to replace a heart of anxiety, pain and hurt with his healing and steadfast peace and security, but also give you the greatest and most noble reason to live; since when you experience his love in a practical way, you will feel his deep love which will move in a physical  way in your emotions; for me, it means whenever I pray and invite God the Holy Spirit to come, he comes to me and I can feel his amazing, physical presence manifest and alight on my eye-lashes, so they begin to shake - i.e. rapid eye-movement, but more than that, is God the Holy Spirit manifests an abiding sense of soothing, inward calm and peace in my inward faculties because I suddenly feel a profound peace inside me.

This is all the practical work of God the Holy Spirit; and all the while, he is confirming and affirming that he loves me unconditionally and is continuing to work in my life and transform my circumstances according to his miraculous will and good purpose for my life as I continue to trust him. And when I say miracles, I mean he is working 'behind the scenes', and also 'in front of the scenes' doing his mysterious work of blessing as long as he sees me wanting please him and trying my best to please him - although I am far from perfect, he knows my heart, and is changing my heart to make it more like Jesus Christ by his Spirit.

And this movement of the Holy Spirit is such a holy but practical experience, God will use it to open and wash away all the blindness of unbelief and scepticism that might have built up as a wall between you and God. And also, some people are so entrenched in religion without a deep relationship by the Holy Spirit, nevertheless, one touch of God’s Spirit can destroy all religious fetters.

John Wesley's Process and Touch from the Holy Spirit:

In the 1700s there was an Anglican preacher called John Wesley who felt he hadn't got the faith to preach about Christ. On the 24th May 1738, he had what is described by some as his evangelical conversion. When John Wesley was first touched by the Holy Spirit, he wrote in his journal, "I felt my heart strangely warmed."

But before this experience, he tried to preach and work out his salvation by his own strength.

John Wesley was before being touched by the Holy Spirit, very frustrated. He did not have the faith to continue to preach. When death stared him in the face, he was fearful and found little comfort in his religion. To Peter Böhler, a Moravian friend, he confessed his growing misery and decision to give up the ministry. Böhler counselled otherwise. "Preach faith till you have it," he advised. "And then because you have it, you will preach faith." A wise Catholic once made a similar statement: "Act as if you have faith and it will be granted to you."

John acted on the advice. He led a prisoner to Christ by preaching faith in Christ alone for forgiveness of sins. The prisoner was immediately converted. John was astonished. He had been struggling for years. Here was a man transformed instantly. John made a study of the New Testament and found to his astonishment that the longest recorded delay in salvation was three days - while the apostle Paul waited for his eyes to open.

The Moravians assured him their personal experiences had also been instantaneous. John found himself crying out, "Lord, help my unbelief!" However, he felt dull within and little motivated even to pray for his own salvation. On this day, May 24th, 1738, he opened his Bible at about five in the morning and came across these words, "There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, even that ye should partakers of the divine nature." He read similar words in other places.

That evening he reluctantly attended a meeting in Aldersgate. Someone read from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to Romans. About 8:45 p.m. he wrote in his Journal, "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

It took him some time to learn how to live the life of faith, for he was not always possessed of joy and thought he had fallen from salvation. It took time for him to see that it is not Christ and good works, but Christ alone who saves, resulting in good works.

As time went on, John Wesley was mightily used by the Lord to reform England. His Methodists became a national force. John rode thousands of miles (as many as 20,000 a year) preaching as only a man filled with the Holy Spirit can preach, telling the gospel to all who would listen. He acted "as though he were out of breath in pursuit of souls." Wherever he preached, lives changed, and manners and morals altered for the better. It is often conjectured that his preaching helped spare England the kind of revolution that occurred in France.

If you read John Wesley's journal he wrote,

"In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitefully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart. But it was not long before the enemy suggested, “This cannot be faith; for where is thy joy?” Then was I taught that peace and victory over sin are essential to faith in the captain of our salvation; but that, as to the transports of joy that usually attend the beginning of it, especially in those who have mourned deeply, God sometimes giveth, sometimes withholdeth, them according to the counsels of His own will.

After my return home, I was much buffeted with temptations, but I cried out, and they fled away. They returned again and again. I as often lifted up my eyes, and He “sent me help from his holy place.” And herein I found the difference between this and my former state chiefly consisted of. I was striving, yea, fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered; now, I was always conqueror.

Thursday, 25. —The moment I awakened, “Jesus, Master,” was in my heart and in my mouth; and I found all my strength lay in keeping my eye fixed upon Him and my soul waiting on Him continually. Being again at St. Paul’s in the afternoon, I could taste the good word of God in the anthem which began, “My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: with my mouth will I ever be showing forth thy truth from one generation to another.” Yet the enemy injected a fear, “If thou dost believe, why is there not a more sensible change? I answered (yet not I), “That I know not. But, this I know, I have ‘now peace with God.’ And I sin not today, and Jesus my Master has forbidden me to take thought for the morrow.”

Wednesday, June 7. —I determined, if God should permit, to retire for a short time into Germany. I had fully proposed, before I left Georgia, so to do if it should please God to bring me back to Europe. And I now clearly saw the time was come. My weak mind could not bear to be thus sawn asunder. And I hoped the conversing with those holy men who were themselves living witnesses of the full power of faith, and yet able to bear with those that are weak, would be a means, under God, of so establishing my soul that I might go on from faith to faith, and from “strength to strength.”

That's Why Christianity is the Most Practical Religion.

Actually, Christianity is not a religion at its core, but rather a relationship with God who is calling us into his practical love and care. Who its leader has not left us over 2,000 years ago with a dead spirit written by dead men, but has sent his own very Spirit to confirm every word of that book, and who will send his Spirit, and the power of his unending love to you; and do much more, for example, breathe life into his every promise and into every waiting soul who reaches out to him with the most atomic-sized faith.

And even if you don't have any faith, and need his faith to believe, he has even promised to give you faith to believe; listen to this promise from the Letter of Ephesians, Chapter Two, Verse 4-10,

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 has made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:4-10, NIV Bible.

Did you notice in verse eight, it promises that, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast"?

So, if you need faith, God the Holy Spirit can deliver this to you so that you can believe easily, with ease by his gift of faith not by your own effort to believe. And through using this faith and patience, you can be saved from the possibility of hell and the fear of death - which normally puts the fear into billions of people.

That's good news because this is not a religion which expects its adherents to follow blindly and doing good works, but rather does the real heavy-lifting in our life's overcoming and in our life's work by sending his practical Holy Spirit, who will confirm these promises with his signs and miraculous power, as you believe and trust, and wait in expectation on his Spirit to accomplish what you cannot do.

One of the thousands of promises given in the Bible is the one from Jesus who said these words about what a believer in Christ will receive of his own Spirit. This is found in John, Chapter 7, Verse 37-39,

"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

John 7:37, NIV Bible.

Jesus Has Promised to Never Leave You Alone:

This is great news that this Christianity is not a religion which leaves its adherents or believers to get on with trying to make this religion work and interpret his book of messages given thousands of years ago, but Jesus has sent his own Spirit to bring light, clarity and everyday practical knowledge of how to live the most fulfilling and overcoming life. After spending three years with his disciples, of intimate fellowship and instruction before being arrested and crucified, Jesus promised those eleven that he wouldn't leave them alone but that his Father would send an exact same person, an "Another like Him" of him who is called the Holy Spirit; another of his names is “the Comforter”, or “the Advocate”, who is part of the Trinity of, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And thus once receiving, those eleven disciples - not the Twelfth, Judas, because he betrayed Jesus  - as well as all those disciples who were to believe in the future, could enjoy more intimate fellowship and instruction with Jesus, by his Holy Spirit, penetrating their very hearts, i.e. their individual spirits- their entire being and living in their spirit and mind. Of course, living in their hearts means more intimate fellowship than those three years the disciples spent with him.

Jesus said these words to his disciples, in John 14:15-21,

"If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

John 14: 15-21, NIV Bible.

And that unlimited love has many practical applications for your life that are so good and upgrading for your life, you may one day come to wonder how on earth you managed to live your life without such a love residing in your heart and mind. I know I have many times.

For example, if someone, somewhere, did something to you which caused you to be so hurt or offended that you ended up hating that person because you hadn't it in you to forgive; well, the good news is once you receive the unlimited love of Jesus Christ into your heart or your Spirit, you will have the resources of an unlimited love which you can use to forgive your enemies, to love your enemies, and to pray for them. By an act of your will, even though you don't feel like forgiving them, you choose to forgive because Christ chose to forgive you, and instead you love them with his unlimited love that Christ loves you with - thus, like me, you can feel this unlimited love well-up from deep within you - as all of God's virtues he gives are physical as well as spiritual - i.e. not just pie-in-the sky-promises but real practical solution for where the-rubber-hits-the road of this tough life.

Then, as a result, where once there resided an unforgiving spirit which once did you more damage than the person who it was directed to, instead there is now a calming peace - an amazing peace and forgiveness. Isn't that a better choice? And this unending and unconditional love will give you the practical resources to love with his love - not your own love - to forgive and love the most obnoxious and annoying person who you happen to meet along life's path. So instead of being susceptible to all the toxic tendencies whereby, in response to that obnoxious person, you might hit-back and say all kinds of vicious words to them behind their back or in front of their face, instead you let Christ's love on the cross be the umpire and adjudicator of the weaknesses, and natural tendencies of the human heart, i.e. the normally uncontrollable lusts of your heart; because once Jesus Christ comes to reside in your heart - your spirit - you are no longer a normal person, you are no longer just a natural person but instead a supernatural person because you have his superpower residing in your heart, your mind and emotions, which guides you how to overcome all of life's obstacles and assailants, and gives you an unending physical calm, comfort and sense of peace.

Therefore, in this life whereby we need to be both natural and supernatural, we can be filled with practical wisdom and be both naturally-supernatural as well as supernaturally natural.

Therefore, you couldn't be more equipped to have the advantage in life over all your enemies - both physical and spiritual.

AND THAT'S WHY CHRISTIANITY IS THE MOST PRACTICAL RELIGION IN THE WORLD, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T JUST COMMAND ITS ADHERENTS TO FOLLOW THE LETTER OF ITS LAW, BUT SENDS ITS SPIRIT TO REVIVE AND EMPOWER WITH A PHYSICAL STRENGTH, PEACE AND COMFORT, AND BRINGS EVERY WORD OF THE BIBLE TO LIFE INTO OUR PROBLEMS AND FEARS, AND SMASHES THEM TO SMITHEREENS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

The most comforting and enabling power known to man, the power of God’s deep love and unending power revealed to man only through his Spirit.

That's why the Holy Spirit is actually the Guarantor of all of God's word and promises found in the Bible. Religion without the confirmation of God’s love and power by his Holy Spirit would be a very decrepit and impotent religion. For without the validation and sealing of God’s words and works by the Holy Spirit, then God would never reach or ever hope of entering into any deprived heart and bringing health, wholeness and setting it free from its countless vices and pain that blight us all, daily.

That is why real and authentic religion needs a guarantor, because otherwise, what's the point of having hope and good intentions for this life, and more importantly, for the life to come, if you have no guarantor to back up those good intentions, hope and promises? I mean, even in the mere material world we live in, for example, in a person's business dealings on this Earth - such as buying a home - when he places a down-payment on a home, he needs a guarantor to back-up his promise. In Christianity our Guarantor is the Holy Spirit who guarantees every promise of the Bible for future, and even he can flood us with the assurance we are needing, now. But we need to seek him for this and practise training our senses to become sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Yet, what I am talking about is something of infinitely more importance and consequence than mere physical matters in this present day – I am talking about the unlimitedly more important future meta-physical blessings of man and woman, he can enjoy in his now, as well as in his future, when he receives the word which is guaranteed by the Spirit, making the Christian life the true and authentic religion to empower his life, his spirit, his body and soul - all guaranteed by God the Holy Spirit, God’s Guarantor.

As the Bible tells us in Ephesians 1:11-14,

“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.  And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:11-14, NIV Bible, with underlining by C.J. Briscoe.

As you can read from the underlined text in the above Scripture, when we believed, God sent us the Holy Spirit into our heart, i.e. our spirit, as a seal of his ownership who acts as our Guarantor of the amazing and lavish inheritance you and I have received until we are fully claimed in the fullness of time, in that we have become sons of God – even if we are female, we have still been adopted as his sons with all the same rights of a firstborn son – even Jesus’ same inheritance and ministry has been bestowed on us.

Also, listen to these words from the Bible which speaks about the role and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life in the Letter written in 1 Corinthians, by the Apostle Paul, Chapter 3, Verse 4-6,

"Such confidence before God is ours through Christ. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim that anything comes from us, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kill, but the Spirit gives life."

1 Corinthians 3:4-6, NIV Bible.

And that ministry is for you when you believe - but it's not a ministry which leaves you alone to get on with the work but gives you the practical power to carry it out.

Which means he ministers to your broken heart the most comforting feeling and sense of profound, deep peace; its profound because it's a funny or a strange kind of peace which is deposited and stays even when normally your circumstances would be telling you to worry; in other words, it's a physical peace and sense of security that you don't need to fear because underneath you are the everlasting arms of the most secure love and the strongest being in the universe, who would never let you come to disaster and eternal punishment when you trust in his eternal love for you.

That is why Christianity stands head-and-shoulders above every other religion, for it alone, can confirm all of God's promises with his Holy Spirit, when the Holy Spirit enlightens by bringing enlightenment where there is only darkness and ignorance - where a weak and deprived man or woman or child is touched in his most inner-man, inner-pain, inner-yearnings and inner-thirst and hunger for real comfort and empowerment for the inner-recesses of the human heart who is daily stricken with countless problems. Only the Christian religion backs up the thousands of claims of the miraculous and supernatural blessings by the touch of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind and heart or spirit and resurrects his old, cold and indifferent heart, and propels him or her into the perfect love of God. Then you will experience what it means to have God as your true heavenly father who brings heaven's blessings and miracles to you, by the Holy Spirit, through your faith.

Then you will experience the joy of knowing God loves you unlimitedly, and unconditionally, so that if you were the only person living on this Earth, he would have still sent Jesus Christ to this Earth to die in your place a horrible death as a way to exterminate all the powerful hold that hell and death once had on your soul, which because of the failings and ruin and corruption,  or corrupting force of the human tendency to be more always subject to his fallacies and weaknesses and corrupting forces of sin - that's why Jesus died and took your punishment for all our sins, so we can now be forgiven by God - who is now our Father, and likewise through this amazing love, as a result of his love, forgiveness and peace entering your heart by his Spirit, (when you have faith - and if you feel or know you don't have faith - God can deposit also faith into you by the Holy Spirit because he is the greatest DEPOSITOR known to man, woman, or child.

So, what is the Application of all this:

If you have never been a Christian and you want to be a Christian, can you pray the following prayer?

If you struggle to believe in God,

“Dear God,

I am not sure if you are alive, but I ask you to help me in my faith by giving me your faith to believe.

I believe I am a sinner who has committed sins, and haven't lived up to your GOLD STANDARD, but I believe when I believe in you, and have your Spirit in me, I can live up to your standard by your power. I believe you died for me to save me from my punishment for all my discrepancies and indiscretions. I believe that the blood you shed on the cross means I can receive forgiveness, and not only forgiveness but your wonderful healing that makes me whole. So, I need your Holy Spirit in me, to make me born-again, and fill me everyday with your practical love and grace, and also to guide me throughout my day with your wisdom and peace.

Thank You, Lord, for doing all this.

Amen.” ( Amen = it has happened, or so be it)

Now, since Christ has forgiven you, can you also choose to forgive and love all those who have committed sins against you? If so, you can receive God’s forgiveness by believing that Jesus died for you and has taken your punishment for all your weaknesses and intentional and unintentional sins,  and believe that he took all your sins in his body on the cross, practically and spiritually, i.e. to forgive and heal you and make you whole in both your physical body and spiritual body so that he instantly gives you assurance and peace that when you die, you will live in this eternal peace with him, forever; then if you believe this and want this for your life, then please pray the Sinner's Prayer above.  And also, if you struggle to believe or have faith, also, pray this prayer.

The end of this book, but I hope the beginning of a glorious adventure.

Further Reading Recommendation:

I recommend to you the author and pastor, A W Tozer, on this subject from his books, titled, “The Divine Conquest” and “Experiencing the Presence of God” by A W Tozer.

If you have found this book useful, then this is part of a series called, "Your Greatest Series."