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Lordship

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An Apostolic School of Ministry



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Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the content of this book, however someone put words to it. This book was written by Danetta Ferguson.

This book is one of a series of books written and distributed by The Apostolic School of Ministry from The Garden Training Center, Inc. The series arises from the foundational teachings of the school of ministry, founded by Brandy Helton. Brandy wrote several sections that are included in each book such as “God’s Love” and the prayers included at the end of each book.

Many thanks to the team of writers of the series for their collaboration to make the series available to the public. The writers are: Lauren Caldwell, Jessica Doggett, Danetta Ferguson, Elisa Griffith, Nancy Hadley, Robin Harmon, Brandy Helton, Grant Hill, and Kevin McSpadden. Each have sought Holy Spirit for the words He wants to speak through them. The result is a mixture of personalities and communication strategies that convey the total message in a beautiful, diverse way.

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Encouragement and Prayer for the Reader

Beloved of God, these teachings are written to reveal Jesus Christ and His heart of love for all who call upon His name to save them.

God has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who would believe in Him and His Word.

God desires to reveal Himself and to give us His divine nature in Christ Jesus our Lord through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God is Jealous. He wants us to encounter His presence daily and walk with Him in glory – intimate communion - today, while it is called today, and forever.

It is my prayer that this teaching would so impact the readers that all would come to know and believe JESUS, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Great God and Savior, and receive the PERFECT LOVE He has for us all as we grow up into Him and mature as true sons and daughters of God.

May you grow in faith and knowledge of your God and Savior and come to know the love that He has for you. I pray for you the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual growth:

Ephesians 3:14-21 The Living Bible (TLB)

"14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

20 Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. 21 May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ."

In Christ our Lord,
Brandy Helton
A child of God

God's Love

God's love is good news! Don't believe the lie that God is distant, unapproachable, and angry!

God is love. He is the only true, eternal God. He is perfect and holy, and He is truth. God is One. He has revealed Himself in three distinct, individual, equal persons: God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells the story of God's perfect love. In that love, God created the first family to live on the earth with Him. Through their deep intimate relationship with the Father, Adam and Eve were meant to fulfill all that was in God's heart on Earth just like it is in Heaven, for God's glory and purposes. Adam and Eve were chosen to walk with God, clothed in His glory presence and were perfect, as He is perfect, and they lived in His beautiful garden, the secret place called Eden. He gave them His breath, life and power to have dominion over all He created and wanted them to reproduce that LIFE replenishing the earth with it, until all the earth is filled with His glory.

Genesis 1:26-28

"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our

image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

God created His children in His likeness. He made them spirit beings, with a soul – mind, will and emotions – and placed them in a physical body. He gave His children the choice to love Him and to walk with Him in obedience to His every word. He gave the first family the power to overcome any temptation offered to them through God’s adversary, the devil, who had rebelled against the Most High God in Heaven’s glory and was cast down to the earth. The devil, Satan, brought great darkness and chaos prior to Adam and Eve’s existence.

Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that God was not perfect in love as Satan, the adversary, tempted them to believe that God would not keep His Word to them. Through their own will, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Father by eating from a tree that had the power to open their eyes to both good and evil. Through their choice of disobedience, they willfully gave their inheritance and authority over to the devil and his kingdom. Sin entered mankind, which produced death, eternal separation from a Holy God. Adam and Eve were banished from the dwelling and intima-

cy of perfection in the garden and were sent into the world as a fallen creation.

Father God knew He had to come Himself and save His family, and in His wisdom, He chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us and restore fallen mankind back to relationship with Him. Through His Son, He destroyed all the works of the devil and the curse of death. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”* Remission means to cancel the penalty, so according to the law there must be shedding of blood to cancel the penalty for sin. The Father cancelled the penalty for the sins of His children through the shedding of the blood of His innocent, holy Son Jesus, who was the Sent One, called and chosen to die for all, so all could live.

John 3:16-21

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may

be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.’”

Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit in the womb of a young virgin named Mary. He appeared as the second Adam, in the flesh, with the choice to walk in perfect love and obedience, full of God’s Spirit, as a man to do the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up as any male child did in the flesh but He had divine fellowship with His Father and Holy Spirit. At the appointed time, He was revealed as being sent from God to save. Jesus went around doing good and healed all who were oppressed by the devil spiritually and physically. He revealed His Father’s heart and perfect love to all who believed through His teachings, grace and miraculous power.

Salvation means eternal life, healing, deliverance, protection, peace, wholeness, and forgiveness. Salvation came to all men through the cross, where the Son of God, the perfect One, was slaughtered as a lamb, bearing all sin for all times from a fallen people. Jesus bore the wrath of God against the darkness that separated God’s family from Him. Jesus was punished for our sin and died to cleanse us from the guilt, shame and condemnation sin produces. Sin separates. Love restores.

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, spending three days and nights in the depths of Hades, the realm of the dead fallen race. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell from that old serpent the devil, Satan, and therefore, all authority was restored back to Jesus.

Great Holy Spirit breathed LIFE into Jesus and raised Him from the dead. He appeared to His disciples, those who followed Him and obeyed His teachings. He showed them that He conquered sin, death and the grave and now, had the keys of hell and death, and would give ETERNAL LIFE to ALL who chose to believe in Him. King Jesus ascended back to the Father of glory where He ever lives to make intercession for us all, and He is coming again to the earth in power to establish His Father's Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus Christ is the head and Lord over His church, those who have made Him Lord and Savior, by believing He is the Son of the Living God and God in the flesh, who finished the work the Father gave Him to do. He not only died for our sins to save and heal us, He chose to give His authority to those He called and chose to follow Him as His disciples, His family.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to do the same works that He did while He lived on the earth.

John 14:12-14

"12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

God loves us and desires that none should perish. He desires for His family to be with Him where He

is. These books are written to inspire all who read them and to reveal the heart of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit in order that we might RECEIVE THE LOVE HE HAS FOR US and be CHANGED INTO HIS VERY LIKENESS. God desires to dwell with His family forever and ever just as He did in the beginning. How glorious it is to live in His presence and dominion, beholding His goodness, forever and ever, amen.

The book of Revelation describes the time that is coming when all things are made new according to God's heart of love:

Revelation 21:1-7

"1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be

My son.”

To understand what is presented in the Bible, you must start by understanding God’s love. The good news is that God loves you!

The Heart of It

Lordship is not a topic we hear much about today outside of Christian circles or movies. We don't have actual kings and lords in the United States of America. We talk more in terms of countries with presidents than we do kingdoms with lords and kings. However, when we do hear the terms "lord" or "lordship," it may bring up thoughts of someone that's controlling or bossy. You may have heard things like, "When he got that promotion, he started 'lording' it over everyone." Meaning he became arrogant, prideful or bossy; that perhaps he took his newfound authority and allowed it to permeate through every aspect of his relationships, including those outside of the workplace. I remember a time in school when a friend was voted homecoming queen. The talk around school was that my friend was 'lording' it over all of us that she was the queen. Could some of these comments have been rooted in jealousy? Of course. But lordship, or authority, can sometimes be twisted and taken too far in our world.

This is nothing new. The Bible speaks of kings (lords) who had a real place of authority, and yet they didn't use that authority correctly and for the good of the people. We see that throughout all of history and we see it today, as well. As we

begin to read and learn about the Lordship of Jesus Christ and surrendering to the Holy Spirit, we must have the right perspective of what true Lordship, His Lordship, looks like.

The Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is good. They are always at work for our good. We are loved by them with a perfect, everlasting love and the Bible says in Ephesians 2:10 that *“we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* Our Father in Heaven loves us so much that from the very beginning He made us in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:27) and prepared good things for us to walk in all the days of our lives. He wants us to look like Him and act like Him. He wants a family and He started His first family members (Adam and Eve) off with an amazing blessing.

Genesis 1:28

“28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

This is a picture of the Father’s heart for us from the beginning of time, and His LOVE for us will never change. God was the Father with full authority over Adam and Eve, and in His love for them, He gave them a blessing. That blessing was one of authority and dominion over the entire earth. His Lordship over Adam and Eve wasn’t a constricting and harsh lordship. It was a blessing to grow. It was a blessing to look and act like their Father God in the earth. It is the same mandate

and blessing that our Father God, our Lord, gives us today. Not only does He give us this mandate and blessing, but He promises us that He will be with us throughout our lives to see us walk successfully in that blessing. Philippians 1:6 tells us *“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

What does this have to do with Lordship? If we do not believe that those in authority over us have our best interests at heart, it is really hard to trust them and surrender to their authority. When there is no trust, we become obedient because we have to, and not because we desire to. While it was difficult at times to honor and submit to the authority of my parents as a child, I never questioned their love for me and that they truly wanted to see me prosper in all things. They knew those things that were out there that could cause me harm. They were much wiser than I was (even though I didn't think so at the time). I might become frustrated or irritated at the rules they set in place, but in that place of frustration, I knew they loved me.

On the other hand, when we are under the authority of cruel taskmasters or bosses that view us only as a work horse for **their** promotion, **their** prosperity and **their** good, it is a miserable place to be. Those rules and laws become oppressive, restrictive and confining because there is no relationship or love there. Compare this to the rules set in place by those who love us and are for our good. Can you feel the difference?

As we journey on, it is imperative that we know

that we are loved and that the Lord is not a cruel taskmaster. He loves us and is for us. He wants us to become all He desires us to be. That can only happen when we fully submit to His Lordship (authority) in our lives.

Are you ready? Let's move on to understand the Lordship of our God.

Lordship

Vision for the Kingdom

When I think of kingdoms, I automatically think of kings and queens. From the childhood fairy tales to the movies and books of today, we see and read of kingdoms. In these stories and all through history, there are two kingdoms...one kingdom is good and is ruled by a good king, and the other is a bad kingdom ruled by an evil king.

Right now, in this world today, there are two kingdoms. One is the kingdom of darkness ruled by the evil one, satan. The other is the Kingdom of Light and it is ruled by our beautiful King Jesus. Romans 3:23 tells us that, "*we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory*". We are physically and spiritually born into the kingdom of darkness that is under the dominion of the evil one. However, when we are born again by the blood of Jesus, Colossians 1:13 tells us that "*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.*" Isn't that amazing? That is surely something to be excited about and thankful for!

In the Beginning

Jesus was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the beginning of creation. They created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden in perfect fellowship with God. *“Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us’* (Genesis 1:26 NLT). The Bible says God even *“walked with them in the cool of the day”* (Genesis 3:8). They enjoyed this perfect union with the Father because they were completely under His Lordship, His authority. There was no sin, sickness, disease or guilt to separate them from their God. It was Heaven on Earth. God gave them instruction not to eat from the ‘tree of the knowledge of good and evil’.

Genesis 2:9

“9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

He gave them the greatest gift of all – freewill – He gave them the ability to choose. They had a free will to love and obey the Lord.

Genesis 2:15-17

“15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Adam and Eve were deceived and sinned willfully, disobeying the rule that God had put into place

for them to protect them from evil, (Genesis 3), and as a consequence, they lost their kingdom authority. Now they became subject to the authority of the evil one, satan. The perfect fellowship with God that they had lived under was gone and a way had to be made to restore God's family back to Him.

In His perfect plan, at an appointed time in history, God sent Jesus, His Son, to be born of a virgin, walk completely without sin, lay down His life and shed His blood so that our sins would be covered (completely forgiven). He was buried and in the tomb for three days. During that time, He went into the bowels of the earth (Hell) and took back the keys of authority from satan. He rose to life again on the third day. He walked the earth for forty days, revealing Himself to His disciples, and then ascended back to the Father. He is there today, ruling and reigning over His Kingdom of Light that we have been transferred into if we are indeed born again (John 3).

Bringing God's Kingdom to Earth

While Jesus still walked the earth, His disciples (students that followed Him), asked Him one day how they should pray. His answer recorded in Matthew 6:10 speaks of His Father's beloved Kingdom. Jesus said to them to pray this way:

"10 Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

Jesus worshiped the Father and then made the decree that the Kingdom would come to Earth. In

the authority of the Father, Jesus came, preaching “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” Matthew 4:17. There is no sickness, disease, torment, poverty, lack or sin in Heaven. He was sent to save, heal, deliver and restore the hearts of mankind back to the Father.

That same prayer commissions those who have made Jesus Christ Lord and Savior, to co-labor with the Father to do the same works Jesus did. We are born again to bring Heaven to Earth under the rule and leadership of King Jesus.

John 14:12

“12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

What does bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth look like? It means God will give His family, who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, authority and power to accomplish His will on Earth. Jesus exemplified this kingdom authority when He cast out demons from multitudes of people.

Matthew 8:28-34

“28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, ‘What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’ 30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. 31 So the demons begged Him, saying,

'If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.' 32 *And He said to them, 'Go.'* So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. 33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 *And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus."*

Jesus modeled bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth for us when He healed all who were sick.

Matthew 8:16

"16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.'"

Matthew 12:15

"15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all."

Matthew 14:14

"14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick."

Whatever is legal in Heaven should be released on the earth, and whatever is illegal in Heaven should be bound on this earth. This is what we do

in prayer, and it's what we do as we go about our daily lives.

Matthew 18:18

“18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Remember that in the earlier Scriptures we learned that we were created for good works? Bringing Heaven to Earth is that good work. Bringing Heaven to Earth is a beautiful picture.

This commission to bring Heaven to Earth doesn't happen without a divine plan. It will not just randomly come to pass. We must have 'kingdom vision' and be under the authority of the One who is in charge of that Kingdom. Proverbs 29:18 says that, *“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.”* As believers, and citizens of this Kingdom, we must have like vision. We must move as one. We must catch the heartbeat of Heaven, moving in tandem with our King.

Is this for all of us? It is if you are born again. John 20:21 says,

“21 Jesus therefore said to them (His disciples) again, ‘Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

We are disciples of Jesus. Jesus says that as the Father sent Him, He is sending us. If we are sent as He was sent, then we are sent to do the works that He did. 1 John 3:8 tells us very clearly.

“8 The Son of God appeared for this purpose,

that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

We are sent by Jesus to destroy the works of the devil, bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. We are created for a unique mission and a wonderful purpose. We are not here by accident or some kind of ‘fate’. We aren’t just saved to sit. We are saved to serve. We are here “*for such a time as this*” to do the works that Jesus did. We are actually referred to as ambassadors for Christ. The definition of an ambassador is “an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country”. We are ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven while we are living on the earth.

2 Corinthians 5:20

“20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Jesus is calling for disciples. It is His invitation to us. Please give ear to the following Scriptures and you will most certainly be able to see how we co-labor with Him in His plan for us. The pattern throughout the following Scripture is: **He calls, we obey, He brings it to pass.** We are not responsible for the call, and we are not responsible for the outcome. We are simply called to obey. My beautiful friend and my apostle in the faith, Brandy Helton, says often, “A simple thing is simple to do!”

Jesus invites us to follow Him. We must obey and He will make us fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19

“19 Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

He calls us to abide with Him, which means to accept, submit to, and act in accordance with. We must obey and He will cause us to bear fruit.

John 15:5

“5 He who abides in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Jesus invites the weary to come to Him; take His yoke (His teaching) and to learn from Him. We must come and learn from Him and He will give us rest for our souls.

Matthew 11:28-30

“28 Come to Me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest; 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden light.”

The invitation is to abide in Jesus and His Word and allow the Word to abide in us. We are also invited to ask Him for what we need. If we obey in these things, He will give us the things we ask of Him. All of this brings glory to God the Father.

John 15:7-9

“7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my

disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have loved you; abide in My love.”

Matthew 28:18-20

“18 And Jesus said to them, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

As we saw earlier, Jesus has been given all authority, and in that authority, He invites us to go and make disciples of all nations (people groups). He calls us to baptize them and teach them the things that Jesus taught. We have the choice to accept this invitation and if we do, He promises to be with us always, even to the end of this age.

Can you hear the heartbeat of Heaven calling out to us, pleading with and imploring us to be reconciled to God and to reconcile others, as well? That’s bringing the Kingdom of Light to Earth! We are not moving in our own strength and power, but yet He requires our response. Nothing happens apart from the Lord. We must be willing to surrender to His Lordship in every area of our lives.

Lordship

Jesus Christ is King of kings and He is Lord of lords. There is no one greater. There is no higher power. His name is the name above every name and *“at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow*

and every tongue will confess that He is Lord of all!" (Philippians 2:11). Yet we have an enemy. The king of the dark kingdom will see to it that there are many things in this life calling for your attention and loyalty in order to lead you away from your full submission to the Lord.

Making Jesus your Lord and Master means that all other things in our lives must bow. We are not our own boss any longer. Instead, we must allow Him to lead and guide our every thought and every step.

When we realize just how much He loves us and know that the future He has in store for us is good, we will grow and mature to want to obey and lay everything in our lives at His feet.

This is not the 'normal' thing we see in our world today, nor has it been in any generation. Human beings without the Lord find no hope for change, and even with the Lord, our flesh and its desires try and rise up causing us to want what we want, when we want it and how we want it, as opposed to leaning into the Lord and obeying His command for our lives.

The Bible teaches that when we are born again, we die. That sounds like an oxymoron (contradiction) but what it is saying is that we die to our sinful life and fleshly desires, so that we can fully live with Christ who is now living in us. Galatians 2:20 confirms this truth:

"20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by

faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

You see, being born again, making Jesus Lord, isn't about being good. We can never be good enough to get to Heaven on our own. The very slightest mistake without His blood would send us straight to Hell. This destroys the theory that good people go to Heaven and bad people go to Hell.

Making Jesus Lord isn't about going to church. We are to be a part of a body of believers as Scripture teaches, but church membership will not get you into the Kingdom of our God. Jesus wants all to KNOW Him intimately and out of OUR LOVE for Him, submit fully to His Lordship.

The way to enter into the Kingdom is through Jesus and Jesus only. Scripture says in John 14:6, *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”* There is no other way. There is no alternate route. There are not many ways to God as some might teach. Only through Jesus can you be born again and enter into the Kingdom of Light. It is a narrow way.

Matthew 7:13-14

“13 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Entering into the narrow way begins with our

confession or declaration that Jesus is Lord. Remember that He calls, but we must respond. He allows us to **choose** LIFE. We even co-labor with Him when we are saved. Salvation is a gift that we cannot earn, but we do have a part to play. We must believe and speak. Romans 10:9 says, *“that if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.”*

Philippians 2:9-11 shows us again what the Word says about our confession.

“9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

God really did make it simple for us. So, why then aren't there more receiving this great salvation? Why is it a narrow way if it is so easy? The god of this world, satan, will twist the Word and tempt us just like he did Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. All he had to do to Eve was get her to question God's intentions for her. Let's look again at how this occurred.

Genesis 3:1-8

“1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."'

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

In essence satan said to Eve, "Did God really say...?" "Does He really have your best interest in the depths of His heart? He really is trying to trick you into believing that you'll die. You won't die, you'll just be like Him and He can't stand that." That is still the basic tactic satan uses on us today both to keep us from being born again, and to keep us from walking in the fullness of who we are called to be once we've come into the Kingdom. It is satan's tactic to keep us from bringing

the Kingdom to Earth. Beware of his schemes. This is why, from the beginning of this book, we had to establish that God loves us so and He does have a bright future and plan for our lives. It is a narrow way because we are trusting Him with our very lives. We are giving up the control and moving out of the driver's seat. We are surrendering it all to His Lordship. We have to know and believe the love He has for us so that we can fully believe His Word. Then when the enemy comes to us with, "did God really say?", we can answer with, "It is written, God said...!!"

God really did make it easy for us to come to Him by first providing Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb, covering all of our sins, sicknesses and diseases, worries, cares and anxieties, bringing us wholeness and peace. He even sends the Holy Spirit to us to hover over and draw us to Him while we are yet in the womb. From the very moment of conception, Holy Spirit is wooing you to the Father's heart because God wants His family to come home. 1 Corinthians 12:3 tells us that, "*no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*" Without Holy Spirit's help, neither God and His family nor Jesus and His Kingdom would be a thought on our fleshly radar. Holy Spirit leads us to the Father through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus.

Once we have said yes to God, He tells us in Colossians 2:6, "*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.*" He sends the invitation and we must respond by believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths, but it doesn't end there. We spend the rest of our lives on this earth learning to obey and glorify our

Father in Heaven.

Obedience

There is a rank and order within any kingdom government and the Kingdom of Heaven is no different. There are offices and many giftings and parts within this Kingdom, but today we will focus on the most important thing...Jesus is the Head. He is the King of His Kingdom. His Kingdom has already been established and remains forevermore. Now, we must learn how to operate within the Kingdom and under the authority of Jesus Christ and our obedience is the key. In fact, it is so important that Jesus asks us a very sobering question in the Luke 6:46. He says,

“46 Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord’ and not do what I say?”

To better understand this question and the power of it, let's take a look at the Strong's definition of Lord. Lord means “supremacy, supreme in authority, Master”; “He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding”; “the owner, one who has control of the person, the master.” Knowing the meaning of the word ‘Lord’ sheds some light on why Jesus would ask this question. We've probably all heard the phrase “talk is cheap.” It is one thing to call Jesus Lord like it's some sort of title built into His name. As merely a title, it is not much more than calling someone ‘sir’ or ‘ma'am.’ A title shows respect, but it doesn't always show authority. **Jesus IS Lord.** It is a position of authority that He will forever hold. He IS King of His Kingdom.

Colossians 1:18

“18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.”

Jesus purchased you with His sacrifice on the cross. The Bible says *“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1 Corinthians 6:20). He paid for you with His own blood and “Lord” is much more than just a part of His name. There is a difference between calling Him Lord and surrendering your entire life to Him as Lord.

Jesus goes on to say in John 12:15, *“If you love Me, then you will obey Me and keep My commandments.”* If you are submitted to Jesus as the Word says, every promise in the Scripture is yours because you are in the Kingdom. You are not only in the Kingdom but you are a child, an heir...joint heirs with Jesus Christ the King.

Romans 8:16-17

“16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Understanding that Lord is more than a title is of the utmost importance. Jesus says,

Matthew 7:21-23

“21 Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many

will say in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It is very clear in this Scripture that Jesus is serious about truly being Lord. Unfortunately, the church has fallen into the trap of softening the Gospel so much so that many are being deceived into believing that going to church and trying to be good is enough; that calling Him Lord is all that needs to happen. The Lord also warned us of false prophets and teachers. The above Scripture says 'many' will say in that day (the day of judgment), "Wait, Lord. Don't you remember when we stood in the congregation and prayed and prophesied? How about that time that I cast the demon out of Sister So and So? Don't you remember that, Lord?" Yet He will say to those, "Go away from Me into everlasting darkness. You practiced lawlessness." What is lawlessness? Strong's says that lawlessness is a "*violation of law or wickedness; the condition of without law because of ignorance of it or violation of it.*"

A kingdom has laws and rules that the Lord of that kingdom establishes. Lawlessness is any disobedience to that law, whether by ignorance or rebellion. I once got pulled over by an officer and was told I was going ten miles over the speed limit. I was shocked because I thought I was going exactly the posted speed limit. Unfortunately, I had missed a speed limit sign that had dropped the limit from 70 to 60. The officer did have grace with me and I didn't get a ticket, but I had broken

the law just the same. Sometimes we are stopped because we are intentionally speeding, ignoring the posted law just because we think we can. It is not done inadvertently or seldomly. It is something we do all the time.

We can call Jesus Lord all day long and do wonderful things that look good to those around us ‘in His name’, but if we are continually disobedient to His Word and breaking His laws, we are practicing lawlessness. We may say He is Lord, but we are far from acting like it and honoring Him as such.

Every one of us will mess up. We will fall short of perfect obedience at times and there is grace for that. The Father knows us, just as a parent knows his or her child. As a parent, we recognize a mistake and have grace, but we also can recognize the out-and-out rebellion of our children and with that, there must be consequences.

John 14:23-24

“23 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.’”

Love and obedience seem to go hand in hand. We know by the Word that Jesus loved the Father perfectly and the Father loved His Son perfectly. Because Jesus loved perfectly, He obeyed perfectly. John 5:19-20 says,

“19 Then Jesus answered and said to them,

'Most assuredly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.'

Conclusion

Our focus is to clarify what it means to make Jesus Lord over our lives. It's not just a title. It means surrendering control to God who is good and wants to give us the fullness of His Kingdom. It is His delight to do so. Luke 12 says,

“12 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Once we exercise our free will and submit to Jesus as our Lord, we can operate under the guidance of Holy Spirit and in the authority of Jesus to bring the Father's Kingdom to Earth. We can accomplish the good works set out for us to do and destroy the works of satan, who has set up his kingdom of darkness on Earth.

Obedience is a key. Jesus calls, we obey, and He brings it to pass. Jesus is the head and we follow out of love for Him and what He did for us. It is a total commitment to Him. It's not about going to church and doing good works on our own, it's about abiding in a very real relationship with Jesus. We co-labor with Him to bring the Kingdom of our King to Earth.

Is Jesus your Lord and Christ?

Notice in the following Scripture that Jesus is referred to as both Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:36

“36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

We have just seen what the Word says about Lordship and obedience. Christ means anointed or set apart to save or redeem. So, it is important to make sure we declare that Jesus is both our Lord and our Savior. We are instructed in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to test ourselves to see if we are in the faith.

“5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves; that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”

This is one of the most important questions you will ever ask yourself. Is Jesus your Lord and Christ? Is He Lord in name only, or is He Lord of your whole life? Where is your obedience? I believe that your obedience will help gauge your love.

For those who have made Jesus their ONLY Lord and Master, they will be able to say with all assurance, **“Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Master, He is both Lord and Christ. He is God. He is the Son of God. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He was crucified for the sins of the world and was dead, buried, descended into Hell, and resurrected three days later**

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father and is coming again.”

Prayer for Salvation

If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior, and you desire this with all your heart, then please, join me in prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe with all my heart, Your love for me. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, the Son of God, and that He is God in the flesh. I believe that You sent Him to this earth to save me. Thank You. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and He was dead and buried three days, and then rose again from the dead and that He ascended to Heaven and is now seated at Your right hand and is returning again.

Father, please forgive me for all my sin and iniquity and I choose to forgive others who have sinned against me. I give You all my heart and choose to live with You forever. I believe I have been born again according to Your Word and that I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. I declare I am forgiven and healed! Now, I ask for Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, baptize me in Holy Spirit and fullness in order that I may know You intimately and serve You all my days.

Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Amen.”

Scriptures:

John 14:6

“6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Romans 10:8-13

“8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

John 3:3-8, 16-18

“3 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 4 Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said

to you, *“You must be born again.”* 8 *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

II Corinthians 5:17

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

I Corinthians 15:3-5

“3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

II Corinthians 5:21

“21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“13 He has delivered us from the power of dark-

ness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 11:9-13

“9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I Timothy 3:16

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”*

Fresh Infilling of Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If you have been born again and filled with Holy Spirit and you desire MORE and want to encounter the Lord’s presence afresh and anew, please join me in prayer:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for loving me and I ask according to Ephesians 1:17-19, that You would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus, and the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Amen.

Father, according to Colossians 3:9-12, I ask in Jesus name, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Amen.

I surrender and yield my life to the fullness of Holy Spirit; His power and anointing; the spirit of wisdom and revelation; counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord and knowledge according to Isaiah 11:2, in Jesus' name. Amen."

The Garden Training Center, Inc. The Apostolic School of Ministry

The Garden Apostolic Training Center is a place that fosters spiritual growth. The center provides training to equip believers in Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry and to be victorious and free in all areas of their lives through the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. For more information check out **thegardenstc.org**.

The Garden Gathering Church

The purpose of The Garden Gathering Church is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ: to fully embrace the love of God; to walk in freedom; to carry His presence and glory; and to be equipped and trained for the work of the ministry through worship, teachings, and impartation.

“It’s all about Love. When you see His eyes of Love for you, nothing else matters. That’s it. That’s all you need to know.”

-Brandy Helton

