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# **The Word of God**

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



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## **Acknowledgments**

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

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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, Kevin McSpadden, Robin Reynolds, and Greg Stratton. 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 NKJV**

*“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**

There are really no words in the human language that can adequately describe the Word of God. As I sit with my fingers on the keypad of my computer this morning, I'm in awe once again at the honor and privilege we have as believers in Jesus Christ to hear, believe, receive, speak and live out the Word of God in our everyday, seemingly ordinary lives. It is so amazing and profound that the Father has made this available to us. Unfortunately, we sometimes take this priceless treasure for granted.

The written Word of God, the Bible, sits on many shelves and coffee tables unopened and collecting dust. We often times just do not realize what we've been given within the pages of this book. My heart in writing this is to rekindle a flame, or perhaps light a fire in your hearts for the first time about the Word of God. Maybe you're one that has never opened your Bible. Perhaps it's been a while since you've taken a few minutes to meditate on a verse or two; or maybe you are like so many that do take the time to open the pages and read by faith but just need your passion for the Word renewed. It could even be that you're one that has never really heard much about the Bible at all and are

reading about it for the first time. If that's you, you are in for quite an adventure. Wherever you find yourself today regarding the Word of God, I want to encourage you that this is for you!

## **The Word of God**

The Word of God is so vast we can never reach the end of the treasures that await us there. I heard someone say once that every time we open our Bibles, we should feel the literal breath of God rising up from the pages. How can that be? Isn't the Bible just an historical document? Isn't it just a guidebook on how to live this life until we get to Heaven? NO! This beautiful Word that you have available to you is alive and it contains power. Hebrews 4:12 says,

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (NKJV).”*

This Word is unlike anything you've ever encountered before because it truly is living! As I said before, it doesn't matter how many times you have read a Scripture or how many times you have read the Bible in its entirety, you will never come to the end of the revelation that can be found within its pages. You may have memorized a verse as a small child and that verse can have a deeper, more profound meaning today than it did then.

When you read that same verse years down the road, the revelation will be even greater.

Holy Spirit gave me a really good picture of the depth of the Word a few years ago. He showed me a picture of a scuba diver. Now I've never been scuba diving, but I've seen it done on television and I am constantly amazed at the beauty that is underneath the surface of the waters. As a diver is in the boat preparing to dive, he or she has no idea what they are about to see as they make their entry into the deep. Once they have entered, a whole new world is available for them to see and encounter. The Lord showed me that each and every word or phrase in the Bible can be seen as an entry point. Each word can take us into depths we've never imagined. The depths and beauty, the mysteries, contained in the Word of God are limitless and beautiful and they are new every time we dive in. Studying and meditating on the Word of God truly is a great adventure.

### **The Written and Spoken Word of God**

We know that the Bible is the *written* Word of God. In the Greek language this is called the *logos* word. As amazing as that written word is, there is more! There is also the Word of God that is the *rhema* word, which is the spoken Word. When you are born again, you are given the gift of a personal relationship with God. A part of this personal relationship is that He speaks to you in a very personal and intimate way. So, the *rhema* word is what God speaks to you personally.

The Bible is the written Word of God and is complete in every way. Holy Spirit inspired each word

of the Bible to be written by human beings just like you and me yet it is infallible. There is no error found in the logos Word of God. There are many accurate historical documents of Bible times written and some can be great study helps, but only the sixty-six books of the Bible are set apart as being completely inspired by Holy Spirit.

I was amazed to learn that while everything must line up with the truths that are in the Bible, we are not limited to just those words. Let me explain. Have you ever watched a trailer for a movie? That five to ten-minute clip gives you a very general idea of what the movie is about. When you go to see the movie, you will see the clips of the trailer within the movie, but you will see so much more. You will encounter the fullness of the movie, not just a part of it.

Another example would be CliffsNotes. In school you may have been given an assignment to read a book and a test would be administered to ensure that you did the work. There is a tool available for many books called CliffsNotes. These notes are designed to be highlights of the books much like the movie trailer. Most times if you studied the CliffsNotes, you would be able to pass the test, but you missed out on the full story the writer was trying to convey within the book.

Both the movies and the books in these examples lined up directly with the trailers and the CliffsNotes. They weren't in opposition with each other, however, the movies and the books were the complete stories...the full picture. So it is with the written Word of God and the spoken Word of God in our lives. The Bible contains the standard

of measure for everything we need to know in this lifetime but if we limited Him to just that, we would miss out on the fullness of all He wants to say to us personally and corporately in our everyday lives. Let me give you another example. The Bible speaks a lot about marriage. From the living pages of the Bible, we get a very good idea of what a Godly marriage is to look like and what kind of life partner we should choose. However, you will never see within the pages of the Bible the name of the man or woman you are to marry with the words, "Thou shalt marry so and so". Therefore, you need the spoken Word of God to guide you to the right person.

You are God's unique creation and He talks to you in your own language and in ways that only you may understand. Most often, He speaks to me through nature, animals and family. He may speak to others in their language of craftsmanship or technology. He knows us best and He will speak to us as a father would speak to his own child, in very detailed encouragement and instruction meant only for us. He also speaks to us as a part of a local body (or church); or as a universal body of believers. God is a big God and He loves relationship. He loves talking to us and He has a lot to say.

The spoken Word of God can come in the form of music, books, teachings, and sermons. Composers, authors, and teachers that write true words from the Lord will hear as Holy Spirit gives them a message. They then will pen those words and release them to the Body of Christ. These songs, books and sermons minister to all who hear the sounds or see the words. It is interesting to note

that there will be seasons for certain subjects with both books, music and teachings. Writers from all parts of the world will write songs and books that contain the same subject matter during certain seasons of time. They did not meet at an annual convention of writers to see what the subject of the Lord would be for the coming year. No, Holy Spirit speaks to each of them a spoken Word of the Lord to get a particular message out to the nations using many different sounds and languages, releasing what Heaven is saying in these times and seasons.

God can speak to people through words of knowledge, a spiritual gift given by Holy Spirit. This is where Holy Spirit will give a person a 'word' to release to another person or group to encourage them or give them direction. There are words of wisdom and prophetic words given to the body for the same reasons.

God's angels can bring the Word of the Lord to individuals. The Lord speaks through dreams and visions. These events happened repeatedly throughout the Bible and the Bible says that God is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. What happened then to ordinary people can and will happen for us today. Remember how the angel came to visit Mary to bring her a word from God that she would conceive a child in her womb by the Holy Spirit even though she was still a virgin (Luke 1:26-38). Of course, this upset Joseph because they were engaged to be married. I'm sure Joseph was heartbroken because he knew they had not been together as man and wife. The law of the day gave Joseph permission to put Mary away or even have her stoned. He had chosen to

put her away quietly. However, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream and told him that indeed the child she would bear was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-25). That is just one of many examples of the spoken Word within the Bible.

When you get down to it, if there had not been the spoken Word of God in ages past, there wouldn't be a written Word. The Bible is a compilation of all that was spoken from Heaven by God through many avenues to reach the people on Earth. The spoken Word of God is a beautiful thing and is a picture of the Body of Christ working together with Holy Spirit to advance His Kingdom on Earth. Again, a reminder and warning to you... EVERY spoken word that you hear must line up with the written Word of God or it is a false word. The Word of God will never contradict itself...never!

### **Hear It; Believe It; Receive It; Speak It; Do It**

These five things are very vital to encountering the Word of God in all its fullness and as we move forward, you will begin to see these threaded throughout the Scriptures. Growing up, I heard the Word, and believed the Word. I even tried to the best of my ability to do what the Word said to do. However, I was never taught the importance of receiving and speaking the Word of God. In your journey with the Lord, you are to *hear* the Word (both written and spoken); then you have the choice to *believe* it or reject it. We must believe the promises of the Lord even though we have not seen them come to pass yet. This takes faith. The Word of the Lord is a gift that you are to not just



believe, but to *receive*. Once you receive it, you are to *speak* it out and then *do* it. If you were to tell me you had a gift for me, I have *heard* your voice. I can choose to *believe* that you are telling me the truth about the gift, or I can choose to reject or ignore what you have told me. If I choose to believe that you are telling the truth, then I must *receive* the gift you give me. If I see you holding a gift for me in your hands, but never reach out to take it and make it mine, I'm just hearing your voice and believing the gift is for me. I haven't actually taken possession of it and it is of no good to me. I must take it and unwrap it, but even if I stop there, I've come short. I now must use it. I must *do* with the gift what it was created to do or be. It is the same with the Word of God. The Word of the Lord must be heard, believed, received, spoken of, and applied to every part of our lives as He chooses to give it to us.

Before we move on, it is imperative for you to be able to *trust* the Lord and to *trust* that He loves you and that He has your best interest in the depths of His heart. If you don't believe that, it will be very difficult for you to want to receive from Him. His Word for you is good. His Word for you is life. Jeremiah 29:11 says this:

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

We can take such comfort in these words. God's Word is truth. Every single one of us has been lied to by someone we trusted in our lifetime. Every single one of us! When this happens, it hurts and it causes us to doubt others and their inten-

tions toward us. Have you ever watched a little child? They are a picture of what total trust looks like. A little toddler can jump off of a high place into Daddy's arms and have no fear at all. My children loved to be tossed high in the air. They would laugh until they couldn't laugh anymore because they totally trusted the person throwing them. I believe that is one of the reasons why the Word tells us that we must come to the Father as a little child. Most of us probably laughed at the same things when we were little but unfortunately there came a time that life 'dropped us'. Someone we trusted let us fall to the ground making it extremely difficult to believe them again. Those hurts make it difficult to trust anyone again. As imperfect human beings, we will hurt people and we will be hurt. We have all lied to someone in our lifetime and we have all been lied to. Too many times, we project this distrust onto a perfect Heavenly Father that has never, nor will He ever, lie to us. When He promises us something, and we hear it, believe it, receive it, speak it and do it, it will come to pass just as He said it would. It takes our faith to co-labor with His Word to bring it into existence. He is faithful and He even provides the faith that we need to get it done. Numbers 23:10 says,

*“God is not a man, that He should lie,  
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.  
Has He said, and will He not do?  
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it  
good?”*

God's promises are sure and they are true. God doesn't change His mind regarding His promises. He doesn't promise us something one day to get

our hopes up and then pull the rug out from under us the next. Here is what He says in 2 Corinthians 1:20 about His promises:

*“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”*

All means all. If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ and you find a promise in the Word of God, it is meant for you. His answer to you is yes and amen (so be it). Let me say this again, He never changes. James 1:17 tells us that *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* God is not a moody God. He isn’t happy one day and angry another. He is not mad at you and He is not in a bad mood. His love is stable; it is perfect; it is complete. He knew you before you were formed in your mother’s womb and nothing you’ve done or ever will do takes Him by surprise. So, when He speaks a promise in His Word, He speaks it knowing the end from the beginning. He speaks it for you to believe and receive.

Isaiah 55:11 also speaks of the surety of God’s Word.

*“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”*

When you see the word “shall” in Scripture, you can know that you are seeing a legally binding,

covenant Word from the Lord Himself. It cannot be broken; it will not be broken because He cannot lie. His Word is very important to the Lord. The Psalmist shows us in Psalm 138:1-2 just how much weight the Father puts on His Word.

*“I will praise You with my whole heart;  
Before the gods I will sing praises to You.  
2 I will worship toward Your holy temple,  
And praise Your name  
For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;  
For You have magnified Your word above all  
Your name.”*

He magnifies His Word above His very name. That’s incredible because we know that according to Scripture His name is exalted above every name.

*“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.”*

John 17:17 says it so simply, *“Thy Word is truth.”* We can rest in that truth knowing that He will never leave us. He will never fail us, and He will never forsake us. We are constantly on His mind and His very heart’s desire is to pour out blessing upon blessing to those who will just believe Him.

## **Jesus is the Word Made Flesh**

Jesus embodies everything that God wants to communicate to mankind, the fullness and essence of God's Word. John 1:14 explains it, "*And the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*" Jesus actually spoke of Himself as being the fullness and essence of God in John 14:9b-11 as He taught His disciples saying, "*He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*" Everything that Jesus did and every word that He spoke while on the earth represented the character and personality of God perfectly.

When we read about the creation story in Genesis, we see words like "*Let Us make man in Our image...*". You see, it wasn't just Father God throughout the creation process. The Word doesn't say, "I will make man in MY image". Instead, we see the words 'us' and 'our'. That is because the fullness of the Godhead was active in creation, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus was around before creation and then He became a man. We see in Genesis 1:2 where "*the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the earth*". That's Holy Spirit. Of course, we see God the Father all over the days of creation. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the three in one were in the beginning as we see in John 1:1-3, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through*

*Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” Jesus, the Word, was in the beginning and will forever be.*

**John 3:16**

*“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.”*

At an appointed time in history, God sent Jesus His Son to Earth to do what no man could do. He bore every sin, every sickness, every disease, every bit of poverty, every curse and every kind of evil that had ruled mankind.

**1 John 3:8**

*“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”*

Jesus bore it in His body on the cross of Calvary in our place so that we could be a part of God’s family and live forever with Him.

**John 1:12-13**

*“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Isn’t that great news? The same Jesus, the Word, that was from the beginning, came to Earth to make a way for us all to become children of Fa-

ther God. Not only that, that Word put on human flesh to destroy every work of the devil on our behalf so that by hearing, believing, receiving, speaking and doing, we can have a victorious life in the here and now...not only when we get to heaven! What grace and mercy has been given to us. Psalm 107:20 gives us another example of this magnificent grace that we've been given.

**Psalm 107:20**

*“He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.”*

The Bible is very specific about healing and deliverance from demonic oppression. This healing is not only spiritual, but is an emotional, mental and physical healing, as well. In the life of Jesus found in the Gospels, we see where much of His ministry was spent healing the people from every kind of sickness and disease. He cast out demons from those He came in contact with and saw them freed from years of oppression, and even demonic possession. The Word of God made flesh healed and delivered when He walked upon the earth; and Jesus, the Word, still heals and delivers today.

When the Apostle John was taken up into heaven, he wrote about his encounter in the book of Revelation. He saw astounding things. One of the things he saw revealed yet again, that Jesus is the Word.

**Revelation 19:11-13**

*“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges*

*and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He [a] had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”*

## **A Sad Story**

John 5 is a powerful passage of Scripture. It begins with Jesus healing a man who had been lame for 38 years. One would think that everyone that witnessed this miraculous healing would be filled with joy and happiness, but that was not the case. The religious of the day were so caught up in the law they were furious that Jesus would heal on the Sabbath, because the law stated that no work should be done on that day. Being so bound to the law, they could not see who Jesus really was nor could they rejoice at the miracle that had taken place before them. They didn't have the spiritual eyes to see that the new covenant, the Word made flesh, was in their very presence. The living, breathing Word of God, Jesus, in human flesh was performing signs, miracles and wonders, bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth right in front of them yet they couldn't grasp it. This is what Jesus said to them in John 5:39-40:

*“But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”*

It is sad to say, but this isn't just something



that happened a long time ago. It still happens today. Many people study Scripture and have a great deal of head knowledge about Jesus and the things that He did. They read the words that testify of Him, but they don't *know Him*. It is so easy to become entangled in certain theologies, denominational beliefs, opinions and manmade doctrines that we, too, can easily become ensnared in the 'law', just like the religious men did in the story found in John 5.

I remember one afternoon having a conversation with a beautiful lady who loves the Lord. We were speaking of a particular Scripture in the Word that had to do with certain spiritual gifts. My friend could see that the word was clear regarding this particular gift, but she was very hung up on her doctrinal beliefs. She would say, "I see what the Bible is saying, but [her denomination] don't do that." As the conversation continued, I asked her if she could see that she was exalting her denomination above the Word and she agreed that she was doing that. She was just so entangled in that denominational belief, even from childhood, that she couldn't step into the more that the Father had for her. I remind you again, this precious lady loves the Lord and is a believer. We must purpose in our hearts to take Him at His Word, not filtering what He is telling us through theologies, commentaries, opinions or doctrinal beliefs. It is imperative that we hold fast to the pure, unfiltered Word.

The passage above, John 5, speaks clearly of those who search the Scriptures and think that their head knowledge is enough. They aren't willing to make the changes necessary to come to Jesus,

making Him Savior and Lord. They've become so saturated by other things that they are unable to see and feel the very Presence of the One they have read about. You see, the Scriptures testify of Jesus and all that He did, but unless we give our lives completely to Him, we don't know Him. We've not encountered Him, we've just read about Him. We want to *know* THE WORD with every fiber of our being and to have His very breath in our lungs all the days of our lives. We want the Word made flesh inside of us with our hearts beating in perfect rhythm with His, and that's what He wants, too. We don't want to just read about Him, we want to know Him.

How do we do this? It seems like it would be so difficult to encounter the Living God, the very One who spoke the earth into existence. Praise be to God that we don't have to strive for that. He has provided everything we need. It is ours for the taking.

### **1 Peter 1:2-4**

*“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the [c]orruption that is in the world through lust.”*

We can take a deep breath here and relax. He has already given us anything and everything we need to encounter Him in every way. Notice the words

‘all things’. He has given us all things that pertain to life and to godliness. One of the phrases that Jesus spoke while dying on the cross was “It is finished”. After leaving the glory of heaven to step into a virgin’s womb, being born of flesh, living a perfect life and giving Himself to die a horrendous death on the cross for us, Jesus said, “It is finished”. Those are three of the most beautiful and most powerful words ever to be uttered. The living God became a man who dotted every ‘T’ and crossed every ‘t’ so that we would have all we need. He did not leave one thing undone so when the Scriptures say that He has given us ‘all things’, it is ALL THINGS.

It’s also interesting to note that this passage doesn’t just say we’ve been given promises. It says that we’ve been given *great and precious* promises. These great and precious promises are ours so that we can partake in the divine nature, the very nature of Jesus. If you are thinking right now that this is just too good to be true, or it can’t be for you because of something you’ve done, please take this encouragement. IT IS FOR YOU. The Word says it is not His will that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Come to Him, receive Him, and give Him all that you are. His blood washes you clean just as if you’d never sinned. He made that way for you to walk in. Hear these words, believe them, receive them, speak them and then walk in them. It is an amazing journey of love.

### **The Word of God is a Seed**

I heard someone teach many years ago that the Bible contains sixty-six bags of seed. I thought that was very interesting. There are sixty-six

books in the Bible that are packed full of promises and truth for us, so it stands to reason that it could be equated with seeds. The Bible has much to say about seeds.

**1 Peter 1:23-25**

*“having been born again, not of [a]corruptible seed but [b]incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides [c]forever, 24 because*

*“All flesh is as grass,*

*And all [d]the glory of man as the flower of the grass.*

*The grass withers,*

*And its flower falls away,*

*25 But the [e]word of the Lord endures forever.”*

*Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”*

We know that in order for a seed to produce any fruit, it must be planted. But before the planting can take place, the ground must be tilled and softened to receive the seed. Once the seed is planted, care must be given to that ground. It requires watering and the pulling of weeds that would otherwise suck the moisture and nutrients from the ground, stunting the growth of the plant. So it is with the seeds of the Word. The Holy Spirit is constantly preparing the soil of our hearts to be able to receive the seed, the Word. It is our responsibility to surrender our hearts to Him for that purpose. When He points out a sin or weakness, it is our job to repent and let Him remove it from us. If there are hurts and wounds in our hearts, we need to allow Him full access to work with us and through us to get rid of those things that hinder. We co-labor with Him when we pray,

read and meditate on the Word and believe Him and what He said He would do. This is the watering and nurturing the seed. Mark 4 gives us a very clear picture of what the soil of our hearts and the seed of God's Word looks like.

**Mark 4:1-9**

*“And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. 2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:*

*3 ‘Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds [a]of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no [b]crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.’*

*9 And He said to them, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”*

The disciples were having a hard time understanding what Jesus meant by these words. He explains them in Mark 4:13-20:

*“And He said to them, “Do you not under-*

stand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, [a]accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

We need to pay close attention to these words. The enemy (satan) is constantly trying to steal the Word because he knows that it is life to us. John 10:10 tells us that, "*the thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*" These are the very words of Jesus. The enemy wants to pick off the seed the minute you hear it, but if he can't do that, he has other methods. Doubt and unbelief are two heavy hitters that the enemy will use to steal the seed. It may not be as obvious as him telling you the Word isn't true. Most of us would not buy into that one. He will, however, try to convince you that while the promises are for everyone else, and while God

is faithful to His Word, you don't deserve His grace much less His promises so you are disqualified.

Another scheme of the enemy is to attempt to make you so busy with the daily cares of this life that you don't have time to abide in Him and in His word. He will throw so many noises and distractions at you that hearing the still, small voice of the Lord will seem almost impossible. Let me give you an example. Have you ever heard a sermon that just rocked your world? It was amazing and you knew that the Lord was talking to just you. As you leave the church you begin to discuss what you'll eat for lunch. Then the baby starts crying and laundry is screaming your name. You might walk in the house and a pile of bills are waiting to be paid and the phone is ringing. The next thing you know, you are trying to remember exactly what it was that the preacher preached on anyway!! Sound familiar? That seed was stolen. The weeds of life just overtook it.

Distractions can come in the form of many things. Social media, television, sporting events and schedules are just a few examples. It doesn't have to be something bad and sinful that distracts us for us to fall prey to the enemy's tactics. He uses good things, too. He can use something as precious as our families to keep us from the promises of God if we put those things above Him and what He has for us.

It goes without saying that willful sin will kill the seeds. We all fall short. Many times, we don't realize that what we're doing is sin because we are still growing. We can also sin by not doing the good that we should; but willful sin is intention-

ally, blatantly going against what we know to be right. It is almost as if we are shaking our fist at God and telling Him we don't really care what He says, we are going to do what we want to do anyway. This is dangerous and deadly.

**James 1:21-22**

*“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and [a]overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

We are called to get rid of the filthiness and to be doers of the word. Remember the ‘do it’ that we spoke of in the beginning? Hearing it is not enough. That is the difference between head knowledge and heart encounter. Hearing and not doing causes us to be puffed up with a knowledge but it never changes us, nor does it change the world around us. Suppose you joined a class to learn how to play basketball. You sat at a desk while the instructor taught you all the terminology necessary for you to understand the rules. You learned the rules of the game and even passed a test. The instructor demonstrated the correct way to dribble a basketball; then he showed you the proper form for the shot. He drew on the board offensive and defensive strategies and taught you lots of plays to move the ball. At the end of the course would you be able to say you were a basketball player? Not at all. You had just heard about the game. You hadn't even held the basketball, much less learned to dribble and shoot. While learning all the rules and techniques of the game is important, you do not become a player until you get on the court and begin to do what



you've been taught.

That is how it is with the Word of God. We must activate it by using our faith and putting feet to our prayers and the promises of God. I can know about the promise of tithing that is found in Malachi 3. The Word says that if we tithe to the Lord, He will bless us so much that our barns won't be big enough to hold it all. We can only experience this in our own lives when we act in faith and write the check. We have to step out and do in order to receive the promise. Hearing the word is a start because without hearing, we would never know of the promise; but once we hear, we must act. Knowing the word is great but the Bible says that even the demons know the Word of God and they tremble, yet they are still bound for hell. We must hear and do.

Even our walk with the Lord must begin by doing. Salvation is a gift from God. Ephesians 10:8-9 says, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*", so certainly there is nothing we can do to achieve this gift. Ephesians makes that very clear. However, to be born again the Bible says in Romans 10:9 "*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.*" You see, there is promise of salvation but that promise doesn't come to us by simply reading about it or hearing someone say it. It is a gift that must be received by faith and by action. We must confess with our mouth. That's the doing! The Word says by hearing and not doing, we are self-deceived and any seed we've been given will be stolen because it

was never really planted in the first place. Planting takes action.

There are many, many ways the enemy will come against the seed. Ask Holy Spirit to show you where he's hitting you in your life and then be obedient to let Him work to see you set free. Let the seed of the Word be implanted in your heart deeply and then tend to it with much care. Bearing good fruit for the Kingdom is what we are all here for. It brings such glory to God.

## **Listen**

No matter how many times we have heard the Word of God, we will never reach the place of not needing to hear. To really hear the Word is much more than a passing thing. We are called to meditate on the Word.

### **Proverbs 4:20-22**

*“My son, give attention to my words;  
Incline your ear to my sayings.  
21 Do not let them depart from your eyes;  
Keep them in the midst of your heart;  
22 For they are life to those who find them,  
And health to all their flesh.”*

### **Joshua 1:7-9**

*“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may [a]prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you[b] shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that*

*is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

I mentioned to you that the Lord will often times speak to me through animals. He taught me a very important lesson regarding just reading (hearing) and meditating (really listening) on the Word of God. Years ago, I had two dogs named Bailey and Casey. On occasion, I would take them scraps of meat that were left over from dinner. My sweet, spastic Casey would grab the meat and immediately swallow it. There was absolutely no way she had time to chew it, much less taste it. Bailey, on the other hand, would take the meat and retreat to a corner of the yard. She would hold the meat between her paws and gnaw and chew on it slowly. I could walk out in the yard an hour later and still find her enjoying her treat. Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and pointed out that too many times I had been guilty of taking the Word of God on the run, just like Casey gobbled down her meat scraps. A quick devotional on my way out the door was too often my morning routine. He encouraged me to treasure His word in the same way Bailey treasured and enjoyed her treat. He went on to explain to me that He has offered us a place at His banqueting table and there is unlimited food (Word) for us to savor and enjoy. He called it a banquet table, not a fast food drive through. I've never forgotten His heart toward His Word and the beautiful example He used to teach me that this is how He desires for us to tend to the seed of His Word that's being planted in the soil of our

hearts.

**Deuteronomy 29:9**

*“Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.”*

**Romans 10:17**

*“So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”*

As Holy Spirit ministers this living word to your heart, please notice the promises of life that are made available as you listen and hear the Word. These promises offer *life, health to your flesh, prosperity, success, boldness, no fear and faith*. Wow! And that’s just a few Scriptures that talk about the benefits the Father provides for us as we listen to His Word, both written and spoken. Once again, it takes us getting still and spending time (abiding) with Him. The enemy will always come against the abiding because he knows that if the believer ever grabs hold of these things and intimately encounters the Living God, there is no stopping him or her. There’s such power in the Word of God.

**Speaking the Creative Word of God**

**Hebrews 11:3**

*“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed [prepared, spoken] by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

As we saw in Genesis’ account of creation, the heavens and the earth were created by the spoken

Word of God. This is the creative word. God said, “*Let there be light and there was light*”. Creation happened when God spoke. There is a difference in making something and creating something. Let me explain it this way. If I decide to bake a cake, I will gather flour, eggs, milk, oil and other ingredients and mix them all together. I am not *creating* a cake. I am *making* a cake. I took items that were already in existence and combined them to make something else. When God *created*, He didn’t take things and mix them together; He spoke them into existence. He *created* something out of nothing. We are made in the image of God and we are given creative words. In referring to our tongues, Proverbs 18:21 says,

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit.”*

We see a similar verse in the New Testament as we read the words of Jesus in Luke 6:45:

*“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil [a]treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”*

The words that we speak are so important and carry creative power. They will produce power for good, or power for evil and they come from within us...from our very hearts. That is why it is so important to know and truly believe the true Word of God, both written and spoken, in all its fullness. When that word (seed) is planted deep within the good soil of our hearts, it will come out of our mouths and literally change the atmosphere

around us for the good. Unfortunately, when our hearts are full of things not of the Lord, words will be released from that place that will produce an unhealthy and detrimental environment.

James 3:2-7 gives us a very vivid picture of what the words of our mouth can do.

*“For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a [a]perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 [b] Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.*

*See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of [c] iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of [d]nature; and it is set on fire by [e]hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.”*

Have you ever seen the devastation that is left behind after a fire? Everything is dead. What was once green and full of life is gone. Land is gone, trees are gone, fences are gone, wildlife is gone. The atmosphere has gone from green to gray. The air smells of death instead of sunshine. It is a horrid sight. It is very sobering to realize that the words of our mouths can cause devastation just like that, not only to the lives of others, but

we can speak things over ourselves that cause destruction. What happens to your countenance when someone speaks a kind, encouraging word to you and says you are doing a great job? You stand a little taller and your load gets a little lighter. Compare that to living under constant criticism and never being good enough. Do you see how words change the atmosphere surrounding you? It is very real.

The story of Abraham and Sarah is an awesome example of holding fast to the Word of God by faith. God had promised Abraham and Sarah a child and told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. He even told him to go outside one night and look at the night sky. He promised him that just as the sky was full of stars, so his descendants would be. Years went by and Sarah didn't conceive. However, they held on to the promise until they were well into their 90's and Sarah's womb was many years past child bearing. In fact, the Bible said her womb was dead. Still they held on until one day they bore a son, Isaac. God had spoken a word to them and they took it by faith, believing it would come to pass. Romans 4:17 speaks of this testimony:

*“(as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did...”*

Talk about creative power! A son born to two old people well advanced in years. A son conceived in a womb that was dead! That is our God!! That is the power of the Word, Jesus! How encouraging it should be to us that God not only gave us

the power to create with our words, but He gave us the means in which to have a clean heart on the inside so that our words could be used for the good. By faith, holding fast to the promises we find in His Word, we too can speak something that isn't as though it were. What do you need to believe for? If you need to believe for a financial breakthrough, find those promises like I mentioned in Malachi. Believe them, receive them as your own, begin to speak them over your financial situation and act. Praise God for the victory even before you see it manifested in your bank account. You can do this because your Word says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not yet seen". There are no limits in the Lord. What He says, He will do! We just have to believe Him.

**2 Corinthians 4:13**

*"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak..."*

The book of Proverbs is packed full of wisdom and instruction concerning our words.

**Proverbs 21:23**

*"Whoever guards his mouth and tongue  
Keeps his soul from troubles."*

**Proverbs 10:11**

*The mouth of the righteous is a well of life,  
But violence covers the mouth of the wicked."*

**Proverbs 12:18**

*"There is one who speaks like the piercings of*



*a sword,  
But the tongue of the wise promotes health.”*

**Proverbs 13:3**

*“He who guards his mouth preserves his life,  
But he who opens wide his lips shall have de-  
struction.”*

**Proverbs 14:3**

*“In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride,  
But the lips of the wise will preserve them.”*

**Proverbs 15:2, 4**

*“The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,  
But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*

*A [a]wholesome tongue is a tree of life,  
But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”*

**Proverbs 16:24**

*“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,  
Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”*

As you can see, our words make a difference. They truly do carry life and death. We want our words to be filled with the Word of God to create light and life everywhere we go.

**Light Overcomes Darkness**

The Bible teaches us very clearly that Jesus is the Light of the world. He is the Word made flesh sent to bring that light to a very dark, dreary and hopeless Earth. Darkness has to flee when light appears. When you go to flip a light switch, you aren't flipping off the darkness; you are turning on the light. The light overtakes the darkness

and it disappears every time. Even a small candle causes things in a dark room to appear. The Word of God is a powerful light. Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us just how incredibly powerful this word is:

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*

When the light of God’s Word is allowed to penetrate every area of our lives, hidden things are exposed. I recently moved my refrigerator to clean. As I did, I shined a flashlight behind it to see what was underneath. I was surprised. I keep a pretty clean house and was taken aback at what had gathered underneath. It is the same way in our lives. Some things in our homes are big and obvious like a messy living room and dishes in the sink. Kids may spill a drink on the floor that becomes sticky. All of that is in the light and needs to be cleaned up, no doubt; but those hidden corners and underneath the furniture are much less obvious. It takes some moving around of things and light shining in to expose what’s really there. That’s what the light of the Word does for us if we let it. Please understand that the Father isn’t wanting to expose these things to show us how horrible and dirty we are to bring us shame. He shows us so that we can get it cleaned up. In the same way, the above verse speaks of a two-edged sword that divides soul and spirit; joints and marrow. The Word of God acts as a surgeon’s scalpel,

removing the infections and ugly things from us so that we can walk in health and wholeness in spirit, soul and body.

What is this darkness and this ugliness hiding in our lives and how do we protect against it? God's Word tells us how to protect ourselves with His armor.

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [a]wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [b]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saint.”*

We are in a war with the evil one (satan) and his

forces. God has given us a full armor to successfully come against these attacks. Take a look at exactly what He's given us within this armor; truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and Holy Spirit. All of these things are found in His Word.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us

*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...”*

The enemy's number one target is to attack us in our minds. He will shoot thoughts our way and make us think they are our thoughts. They will be subtle and will always come against the Word of the Lord.

Remember in the book of Genesis when the serpent met Adam and Eve in the center of the garden at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? God had told Adam and Eve that they could eat of any tree of the garden, except they could not eat of the fruit of this tree or they would surely die. The first thing the serpent did to deceive Eve was to ask her, “Did God really say...?” He got her to question the Word of God and His beautiful plan for her life. They ate of the fruit and God's plan for them to live forever on this earth (never to die) was destroyed. Their lives took a terrible turn for the worst all because they allowed the evil one to

cause them to doubt what God had said. Satan's tactics are no different today. He will labor to steal the Word by causing you to believe God isn't good or that He is out to get you for something you've done. When you read a promise found in Scripture, or are given a solid, prophetic word from the Lord, listen to what thoughts hit your mind. If it doesn't line up with Scripture, it isn't from the Lord. Immediately, you cast that thought down and grab hold of the living Word. We must hear, believe, receive, speak and do what the Word says all the days of our lives. Psalm 119:105 says,

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.”*

How true that is! His Word lights our path every day if we let it. His Word will never lead us astray. It will always lead us in the paths of righteousness. His Word will always cleanse and purify us as He teaches in Ephesians 5:26, *“that He might [a]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”*

The Word of God is our only source of real truth. It always has been and it always will be. The world will attempt to tell you that truth is relative; that whatever you choose to believe is truth to you and that your truth may not look like someone else's truth. The world will also try to convince you that there really is no right or wrong and that what is wrong for one is right for another. This is a deception from the evil one to move us away from God's standard and from His perfect will for our lives. Human logic, human opinion and human theories and reasonings shift and change from one year to the next and from one generation to

another, but the Word of God will never change. It is His covenant to us and it will forever stand.

In summary:

- The Word of God comes to us in the written (logos) form, and in the spoken (rhema) form. God is a creative God and loves to speak to us individually in a way that we will surely understand.
- We should always be careful to **hear** the Word; **believe** the Word; **receive** the Word; **speak** the Word; and **do** what the Word tells us to do.
- Jesus was with God in the beginning, coming to Earth later as a man. He is the very essence of His Father and is the Word made flesh who came to destroy every work of the evil one (satan).
- The Word of God is a seed. We should desire that the soil of our hearts be cultivated and perfectly prepared to receive the seed of His Word so that we will bear much fruit.
- God's Word has creative power. As believers in Jesus Christ and ones made in His image, our words carry creative power, as well. Death and life are in the power of the tongue.
- The Word of God is living and active. It brings light that overcomes the darkness in every area of our lives.
- The Word of God is TRUTH and it is an eternal Word.

I hope that you've been able to see that His Word is such a gift. I've heard the Bible called His love letter to us, His Bride, and I believe that to be true. Every word is so rich and full of His heart towards we who believe. My prayer for you is that in reading these pages, your love for the Word of

God has increased and been enhanced by Holy Spirit. We must have Holy Spirit as we read and hear the Word of God. He is the One that brings it to us with such passion, causing it to be different than any book you will ever read. He truly brings the Father's heart and illuminates it for us. This beautiful Holy Spirit is available to all who would receive Him. We begin by making Jesus the Lord of our lives. Jesus says in Revelation 3:20, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*" Jesus Himself invites you into a loving and personal relationship with Him. He invites and it's up to you to respond. We respond to His invitation by repenting of our sins (changing the way we think; turning and going another way) and presenting our whole lives to Him in total surrender. We open the door, let Him in and give Him the keys to our hearts. When we do this, His precious Holy Spirit comes to live in us just as He said He would. He makes His home in us and we become a new creation in Christ Jesus. Jesus will baptize us again and again in His Holy Spirit if we just ask and receive. He will fill us full until we literally overflow.

I will leave you with a precious promise from the very heart and mouth of Jesus;

**John 15:7**

*"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you[a] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."*





## **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 3:3-7, 16-18**

*“3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born [a] 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**

*“6 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**

*“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*

