



GLOBAL CALL TO A

SPIRIT

EMPOWERED LIFE

Global Call to a Spirit Empowered Life

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

This message in 1 John is an urgent warning to Christ's Church. There is a flood of darkness that is sweeping across the nations of the earth in our day. One facet of this flood is a wave of materialism, secularism, humanism, and hedonism that is threatening to simultaneously destroy the foundation of every nation on the planet. A secondary wave is one of fear, oppression, natural disasters, famine, violence and terror. Together these waves represent a global flood that is seeking to destroy marriage and family, governments, businesses, educational systems, media content, and church leadership. What God is looking for is men, women and children who will allow His Holy Spirit to so separate them from the ways of the world that they are completely untouched by this worldwide flood and are therefore in a position to rescue other souls out of the flood.

This global call to come away from living for temporary pursuits is going out to every member of Christ's Body worldwide. It is a call to everyone who considers themselves a follower of Jesus Christ. The Body of Christ is being called to repent and learn to trust the Holy Spirit to set their lives apart from any and all attachment to the world's system (Ungodly media, sexual immorality, materialism in all its forms). We are being called to repent of any way that we have placed our hope in anyone or anything outside of Jesus Christ. God is calling His Church back to the true standard of the Christ-Life (Luke 7:24-28, 1 John 2:5-6, John 14:12).

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 1 John 2:5-6 (NIV)

This calls for radical lifestyle adjustments on behalf of those who have heard God's Spirit calling them to His true standard of the Spirit Empowered Life. This is not a new call but one which has been here since the birth of the Church. When we research the writings of many Christ-followers of the past we will find a similar theme echoing throughout church history. In our day, this same call is coming through the lips and tongues of many ministries around the world. There are servants of God across the nations who have heard this call directly from the Spirit of God and they are proclaiming it in their own language and in the sphere of influence that God has entrusted to them.

There are many who will hear this call and learn to establish a Spirit Empowered lifestyle. As they do, they will be conduits of God's blessing to the nations of the earth. No one is exempt from this call. Though we may seek to downplay the urgency of God's standard and current global intention, every believer has a choice to make as to whether or not we are going to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into His victorious Life or whether we will not. It is our prayer that we will see over 1 billion Christ-followers across the nations respond with a resounding, "Yes" to His call, and in so doing be a part of bringing about the revival described in the scriptures (Habbakkuk 2:14) and ultimately the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless. 2 Peter 3:9-14

How will we respond to this global call?

The following is an excerpt from the book *Journey into the Spirit Empowered Life*. We have condensed the material into a short booklet to make it as accessible as possible. We hope that you will seek to read and apply what is shared here, and in doing so, that you will become an instrument of Christ's Transforming Life right where God has placed you.

Endorsements:

***"Journey into the Spirit Empowered Life will help you discover and cultivate a lifestyle that is totally surrendered to Christ, and walks daily in the power of the Holy Spirit."* Dr. Dick Eastman, International President, Every Home for Christ International**

***"As you read this, I pray that God will speak loudly to you. It is a call to follow Jesus unreservedly with full surrender and to give up what so many of us have held on to for too long."* Milton Monell, Director of Global Prayer, Campus Crusade for Christ International**

A Longing for Something Deeper

In the heart of many people across the earth there is a pronounced longing for something more than what they are currently experiencing in their spiritual journey. There is a sincere desire among many to really know the God who created them. This booklet is written for all those who sincerely desire to explore a deeper relationship with God.

There are others who have had some form of a relationship with God for years, and yet they too have a desire for greater fruitfulness in their labors. As followers of Jesus Christ they believe that Jesus is the Son of God who lived, died, and rose again for the forgiveness of their sins and to purchase them as a people for Himself. They acknowledge that He has sent His Holy Spirit to indwell each of us who have surrendered our lives to Him. Yet many Christ-followers are equally aware that there is something more to a relationship with God than what we are currently experiencing. We know that our marriages and families should be experiencing more of God's redemptive power. We have a longing for our local church to have greater impact. We even at times catch a glimpse of the fact that God desires all men to be saved and the nations disciplined in His ways.

This booklet is an attempt to lay out God's heart desire for every one of His followers. We will get hands on and learn about the practical components of a Spirit Empowered lifestyle, and how this can be implemented in our personal lives, families, and sphere of influence. Could there be a greater adventure than this?

There's only one catch. In order to enter into more of Christ's Life, we must first let go of more of our lives. The more we die to ourselves, the more we will experience the reality of His Life.

The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less." John 3:29-30 (NIV)

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Romans 6:5-7

It is our hope and prayer that as you interact with the scriptures in this booklet, and as you interact with the Spirit of God, that He will lead you to a deeper place in Him than you have ever experienced before. Not only that, but we pray that as you experience God in this way that He will take you deeper and deeper into Himself all the days of your life.

This booklet is written with the vision to equip millions of Spirit Empowered followers of Jesus Christ in order to disciple every nation in His ways. It is our prayer that Jesus Christ will receive all the glory and

honor that He deserves in the nations of the earth. He wants to disciple the nations through us. Will you let Him use you to be a part of His work? May we each be counted among those who accept the invitation to enter more deeply into a Spirit Empowered Life.

What is a Spirit Empowered Lifestyle?

I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God. Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

This is a lifestyle that is fully surrendered to Jesus Christ and lives moment by moment in faith and in step with the Spirit of God to such a degree that it is no longer us living but God Himself living in and through us (Gal. 2:20, Romans 8:14).

With this as its foundation, a Spirit Empowered Life is:

- A Lifestyle of Deep Intimacy with God – Through reading the Word of God, worship, and prayer.
- A Lifestyle of Total Dependency on God – Living moment by moment in step with God's will and ways.
- A Lifestyle of a Prayer Warrior – Daily interceding for the purposes of God.
- A Lifestyle of a Soul Winner – Constantly seeking opportunities to witness Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him.
- A Lifestyle of Discipleship – Taking the time to teach and model what God has taught us in a depth of relationship with others.
- A Lifestyle of Sending Disciples – Sending others to go out and establish this lifestyle in their personal lives, families and sphere of influence.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

(Jesus said) Truly, truly, 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 the Father. John 14:12

With such solid promises from God Himself, why is it that so many sincere Christ-followers feel confined to a life of spiritual mediocrity? How is it that those who have the Spirit of God living in them are failing to live in victory over sin? Why is there so much lack of love and unity among those called to represent God's life to the world?

In order to share what we mean by a Spirit-Empowered Life, there are two simple questions that help to reveal what we are talking about.

1. What percentage of your typical day is self-led? Meaning, how much of your typical day is led by your own mind, will and emotions?
2. What percentage of your typical day is truly Holy Spirit-led? Meaning, what percentage of the day is lived in a place of being completely dead to your own thinking, will and emotions and instead led solely and only by God's Spirit?

What this lifestyle looks like and how we practically begin to live out a Spirit Empowered Life is what we want to examine in this pamphlet.

Heart of the Spirit Empowered Life

(Jesus said) I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:14 (NIV)

The victorious Christian life is not a matter of trying harder, but of surrendering further and allowing the Spirit of God to live all on our behalf. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we believe that by learning and applying these two sides to abiding in Christ and the corresponding spiritual keys, that you will see amazing things take place in your life, in your family and in your sphere of influence.

Two Sides to Abiding in God's Spirit

#1 – A Heart of Full Surrender

A helpful prayer to remember in order to remain in this position:
“Father, all that I am and all that I have is Yours.”

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Matthew 16:25-26

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

Jesus, the King of Kings is offering to come into our lives and take over, but what He is asking of us is a full surrender of every area of our lives. This full surrender is a position of the heart, in which we abandon everything to Him. In this place of full surrender, every single element of our lives is given completely over to Him. We are not holding onto our past, our present, or our future. We have given up on our self-led life in every respect and we are no longer attempting to live the Christian life in our own efforts. We have surrendered our family, our friends, our social or ministry status, our means of income, our material possessions, our personal dreams and desires, even the state of our physical bodies is entirely given over to Him. Everything that we could possibly withhold from God is given into His care.

This heart level position of full surrender to God is absolutely essential if we are to be used as a vessel for His glory. Any area of our lives that is not fully given over to Him is an area in which we lack authority, and is an area where we are still in bondage. If we desire to enter more fully into the Christ-Life then we must begin here with a repentance of our self-led life.

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

God wants us living in the reality of this truth and not merely the head knowledge of it. As we enter more deeply into the reality of being a bond-servant of Christ, we start to experience in reality what it means to have the literal God of the Universe living His Life in us and through us.

2 – A Heart of Complete Trust

A helpful prayer to remember in order to remain in this position:

“Father, I will trust You with everything.”

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “It shall be done to you according to your faith.” And their eyes were opened. Matthew 9:28-30

We are called to not merely surrender everything to God, but to then trust in His character, His will and His ways. A lifestyle of faith lives with a deep assurance that the things God has promised, both present and future will take place. Hebrews 11 also lets us know that many of these things that we are trusting God for are “not seen” in the physical realm at the time we are exercising our faith. A life of complete trust is a life lived in total confidence in a Being who is greater than the physical realities that are in front of our eyes.

If we surrender everything to God, but fail to trust His faithfulness, our surrender will not last very long as we will quickly take things back into our own hands as soon as things do not go the way that we had hoped. We see that surrender and trust are two sides of a lifestyle that remains deeply connected to God. We won't surrender to God if we don't trust Him. If we trust Him, we will come to surrender more and more of our lives to Him.

Prayer Time:

Pause and take a moment to pray into the need to surrender yourself completely to God (***“Father, all that I am and all that I have is Yours.”***). Allow Him to show you any way that you have held onto your life and lived for temporary pursuits rather than for His eternal purposes. Pray about any aspect of your life that you are not fully trusting God with. (***“Father, I will trust You with everything.”***)

Prayer: Jesus, I choose to surrender the entirety of my life to You. I let go of everything I have held onto in the past. Help me to understand Your faith so that I may walk in complete trust in You all the days of my life. I choose as an act of my will to trust You to lead me into all Truth. You are Truth, and I believe You to impart into my life the same faith that You have. I desire to walk in Your faith, and I believe this is more Your will than it is mine, therefore, right now I receive Your unwavering faith. (Continue to pray as God's Spirit leads you.)

Spiritual Keys to Abiding in Christ

While this lifestyle is amazingly powerful, and while it is the Biblical standard for all true followers of Jesus Christ, how do we learn to live in this place of full surrender and complete trust? It is one thing to know these truths in our minds but how do we remain in them in reality?

What if instead of focusing on our weaknesses and our inability to overcome sin, we simply sought to fill our lives with the things of God. Is it possible that this dramatically different approach to overcoming sin would cause us to be set free? Is it possible that if we sought to draw into a deeper intimacy with God, that we could watch His Life overcome sin on our behalf?

While there are many things that are critical to an intimate relationship with God, we are just going to focus on five Spiritual Keys that will help to ensure that we continue to progress in our journey of Christ-likeness. These keys help us to position our lives in such a way that God's Spirit is released to live more and more of His Divine life in and through us.

Spiritual Key #1: A Lifestyle of Praise and Worship

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:22-24

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We don’t want to stop at the point of just singing a few songs with our lips, but we want to allow the Spirit of God to teach us to enter into a lifestyle that lives moment by moment in a place of praise and thanksgiving to our King. God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3) and we want to learn to live in His manifest Presence.

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do you want me to go deeper in a lifestyle of praise and worship?”**

Spiritual Key #2: A Lifestyle of Waiting and Listening to God’s Spirit

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27

As we enter into a place of heart-level worship, we begin to empty ourselves of our human understandings. As our human desires and ways are laid down, we can begin to hear the wisdom and ways of God. As we wait before the Lord with a surrendered will, we are prepared to hear clearly what the Spirit of God is speaking to His Church. In this place we receive clear direction from God regarding His character, His purposes, and His ways. It is important to note that God’s Spirit will never tell us to do something that is in contradiction to the Word of God or the character of God.

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do You want me to learn to listen to You more?”**

Spiritual Key #3: A Lifestyle of Being Filled with the Word of God

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1-3

Clearly a life that is filled with the Word of God is a key to keeping our hearts on fire for God. While many have a discipline of regularly reading God’s Word, this spiritual key is encouraging us to go much deeper than the normal routine. May we make it a daily priority to spend extended time in the Word of God. May we make it our goal to allow God’s Spirit to teach us how He desires the Word of God to fill us.

We can fill ourselves with the Word of God through reading large amounts of scripture, through meditating on scripture, studying scripture or by memorizing scripture. In all the various ways that the Holy Spirit may lead us to interact with the Word of God, He is using this to fill our minds with the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do You want me to fill my life even more with Your Word?”**

Spiritual Key #4: Lifestyle of Prayer and Intercession

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

(Jesus said) “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?” Luke 11:13

As the Word of God and worship begin to become more and more a part of our lives, we will begin to tap more deeply into God’s heart for us, our families and the world around us. As His heart begins to fill us, we will begin to long to see what is in His heart become manifested on the earth. This is where prayer begins to flow supernaturally in our hearts as we long for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Just as one of the disciples asked Jesus, you too can regularly ask God’s Spirit, “Teach me how to pray.” (Luke 11:1)

I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it ... Ezekiel 22:30

Prayer from someone abiding in God’s Spirit = Effective prayer

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. James 5:16

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do you want me to live out a life of effective intercessory prayer?”**

Spiritual Key #5: A Lifestyle of Accountability and Mutual Submission

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

No matter how mature we are in our faith in Christ, we need regular fellowship with other believers. Specifically, even within a larger body of believers we should have at least one or two other close relationships with whom we are open and honest and who we allow to hold us accountable.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

Having a support group of this nature is a key to our spiritual growth. Jesus modeled this type of relationship with the twelve, and He even had three within the twelve in which He revealed more of Himself (Matthew 17:1). There is no substitute for having this type of deep relationship with others who are seeking to walk closely with God.

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do You want me to have greater spiritual accountability with other believers?”**

The Holy Spirit is our Guide into deeper intimacy with God. All too often we can be deceived into attempting to get closer to God through religious striving, rather than coming to Him as a child and allowing Him to lead us. We must be broken of human striving if we desire to enter into the life that is truly led by God’s Spirit. When you come to God, come in faith, believing that He will give you wisdom and direct your time of fellowship. Then proceed however His Spirit leads you.

We serve a creative God. The God we are seeking intimacy with is more than able to keep our times with Him fresh, vibrant and alive each and every moment of every day! If we ever find our time with Him lacking

life, there is a good chance that we have allowed unconfessed sin, or we have begun to lean on a form of godliness, that is limiting His Spirit from truly guiding us into His Life.

The Battle to Establish God's Kingdom on the Earth

We would be remiss if we simply painted a beautiful picture of establishing a Spirit Empowered Lifestyle in our personal lives, families and sphere of influence, but did not mention the blood, sweat and tears that will likely be necessary in order to see this take place. In most cases, due to the fact that we are entering enemy occupied territory and seeking to establish Christ's Kingdom, there will be a fierce battle.

There is a very real spiritual battle whenever we seek to see a literal establishment of Christ's Kingdom on the earth. This is the case whether the battle is within your personal life, your family life, or your sphere of influence. The larger the territory you are going for, the larger the battle. The last thing that Satan and his demons want is for you to live wholeheartedly for the Lord Jesus Christ in this Spirit Empowered Lifestyle. There will be a real battle to get you to be pushed back and settle for a lifestyle that is far from what God intends.

What are the enemies that would seek to come against us?

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
Ephesians 2:1-3

In Ephesians chapter 2 Paul identifies three primary hindrances or "battlefields" to the establishment of Christ's Kingdom on the earth.

- **The flesh/sin nature** (Pride in our character, our will and our ways and unbelief in God's character, will and ways. This pride and unbelief is what comes naturally to us and only the Spirit of God can set us free to live in surrender and faith in Him.)
- **The course of this world** (The world's system: Relationships we have in marriage, and family, the local church, business, government, and the influence of our minds due to education, media etc.)
- **The prince of the power of the air** (Satan and his demons)

The schemes of the enemy that Paul mentions here are the three main hindrances to the advancement of the will of God on earth. If we are to overcome them we must identify any way in which we are still in bondage to them and begin to allow the Person of the Holy Spirit to set us free, so that we may be effective in helping to set others free.

We must choose to reject the areas of darkness that have a hold on us and then ask the Spirit of God to overcome on our behalf. Until we make the choice to reject the darkness we will remain in slavery (Romans 6:15-16). God will lovingly discipline us as a good Father if we choose to live in darkness but He will not deliver us from something if we refuse to let go. He waits for us to choose Him over our darkness, and at that point victory is guaranteed because the Spirit of God does not struggle with sin. If God's Spirit is given the freedom to live in and through us we will overcome.

The Spirit of God not only desires to reveal any way in which we are still in bondage but He expects us to trust Him to overcome these forces of darkness.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God. Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death. Revelation 2:11

Overcoming these hindrances is not optional it is essential. The Spirit of God expects us to trust Him to overcome every one of these hindrances to such a degree that not only are we free ourselves, but we are in a position to push back the spiritual forces in the heavenly realm and carry Christ's Kingdom back into the world's system to impact it for the glory of God.

Fruit of the Holy Spirit – An Overcoming Life

If we are truly empowered by the Spirit of the Living God, what type of fruit should we expect to see in our lives? Though we are all a work in progress, it is helpful to look at the level of fruitfulness that God desires for us. As we look at this expected fruit, and compare it to the fruit that we are currently experiencing, this can be used by God to bring conviction, repentance, and a new lifestyle.

We previously discussed that the fruit of the kingdom of darkness is to bring us into bondage to our flesh, the world's system, and demonic forces. Therefore, when the Spirit of God is given greater freedom to live His Life in and through us, we should begin to be set free from each of these traps of the enemy.

1. Spiritual Fruit: A Lifestyle of Overcoming the Flesh

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Galatians 5:16-17

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

For obvious reasons, if we are to truly walk in the Christ-Life, then we must learn to allow the Spirit of God to overcome our flesh (pride in ourselves and unbelief in God). The flesh and the Spirit of God "are in opposition to one another". A fruit that we should expect to see when we surrender more fully to God and trust His Spirit is that the power of pride and unbelief is broken. In time this victory should become so consistent that it is the regular pattern of our lives.

For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13

2. Spiritual Fruit: A Lifestyle of Overcoming the World's System and the Religious System

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

(Jesus) said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. 'But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' Mark 7:6-7

Here John refers to the necessity of forsaking temporary pursuits if we are to truly possess the love of God. In the book of Mark, Jesus addresses the spiritual blindness of a religious system that acknowledged God with their lips but denied Him with their lifestyle. The world's system seeks to push us to make our lives about ourselves and our pleasures. The religious system tries to push us to be seen as significant in the eyes of our fellowman and to do things for God in our own strength (Gal. 3:2-3). When God's Spirit begins to lead every aspect of our lives, we die to our desire for temporary pleasure, we lose our desire to be approved of by our fellowman, we die to our attempts to live a godly life apart from Christ, and we begin to live solely and only by the empowerment of the Spirit of God. As we are set free from the world's system and the religious system, we are in a position of authority to be used by God to help set others free.

3. Spiritual Fruit: A Lifestyle of Discerning and Overcoming Satanic Opposition

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

We are not destined to be victims to Satan and his schemes. Jesus died so that we could live a life of victory over every plan that Satan has purposed to bring against us. God has given us a clear strategy against Satan in the book of James. As we submit ourselves to God in full surrender, and as we resist the devil by choosing to reject whatever temptation he is bringing against us, he must flee (James 4:7, 1 Cor. 10:13)! As we invite the Holy Spirit to go to war in our defense He will overcome. The more we entrust ourselves to the Spirit of God, the more we will experience His Life within us overcoming every demonic attack so that even our trials are used to draw us closer to God (James 1:2-4, Romans 8:28). As God's Spirit reveals each area that Satan is seeking to come against us, we should write these down and begin to take them to the Lord in prayer. We can believe God to give us clear wisdom and understanding as to how He would have us overcome.

He who overcomes and he who keeps my deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS. Revelation 2:26

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Romans 8:31

An Overcoming Life leads to Effective Evangelism, Discipleship & Unconditional Love

When we are still bound by our flesh, the world, and the enemy it is difficult to even begin to help others. We lack real authority to call them to be free when we are still living in bondage. As God's Spirit sets us free we are simultaneously released to be used of God to assist others. As we look at the sphere of influence that God has entrusted to us it is helpful to be equipped in three key areas: Evangelism, Discipleship and a Lifestyle of Unconditional Love.

Effective Evangelism

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:19-20 (NIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

While not everyone is called to be an evangelist, as Peter mentions here, we are all called to "be prepared to give an answer" to those who ask us about the hope that we have. Paul speaks of a fearless readiness to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in every situation at any time. This lifestyle of evangelism is more than simply going on a specific mission to declare Christ to a foreign nation, but it speaks of a faith that flourishes in every situation from morning until night. This lifestyle of evangelism is always looking for opportunities to share the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus.

Are we regularly winning souls into the Kingdom of God? Do we live in the awareness that if the souls of those around us do not come to know Jesus Christ that they will spend an eternity in hell? What level of

urgency do we have for the lost? When was the last time we tapped deeply into the heart of God which “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”? Why not begin asking God to give you His heart for the lost?

He who is wise wins souls.” Proverbs 11:30

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do You want me to grow in a lifestyle of effectively sharing the Good News of Your Son Jesus?”**

Effective Discipleship

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus did not simply ask us to make converts but to make disciples. Jesus told us that the way we are to disciple an individual, our family, and our sphere of influence is a process of teaching them “to observe all that I commanded you”. It is difficult to teach others to observe all that Jesus has commanded us when we ourselves are not yet surrendered to this lifestyle.

When the Holy Spirit begins to bring us through to the reality of a full surrender to His will and ways, we are being prepared to become an instructor of others. As we seek to encourage those around us in a lifestyle of radical abandonment to Jesus, we can take courage from His final statement in Matthew 28 where He promised to be with us “always, even to the end of the age”.

Jesus modeled for us what a life of discipleship looked like as He invested the bulk of His time over three years pouring into 12 men. He lived in close relationship with them, and taught them His commandments both through His Words, but most especially with His Life. In this lifestyle of discipleship, Jesus laid the foundation of His Church.

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

We see Paul mention the need for modeling the Kingdom Lifestyle in close relationship with others. This same pattern of discipleship is essential in our day if we are going to see Christ’s Kingdom established on earth as it is in heaven. The discipleship of our families ought to be our first priority (1 Tim. 3:1-2, 12, Titus 1:6-7). Then we are in position to seek to disciple every other aspect of the sphere of influence that God has entrusted to us.

- **QUESTION: Ask God, “How do You want me to grow in my discipleship of others?”**

A Lifestyle of Unconditional Love

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:8

Of all the characteristics that could be mentioned regarding the Spirit Empowered Life, the most important indicator of our progress is our wholehearted love for God and for others. It is clear that Jesus intended for love to be the primary distinctive that caused the people of God to stand out above every other people on the earth. It is by our love for God and our love for others that Kingdoms will be conquered and nations disciplined.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest

commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

While there are many fruits of the Spirit, the scriptures are clear that none compare to love. Unconditional or "agape" love has no parallel. This type of love is the greatest measure of our depth of connection with God. God has revealed His loving character to us, and if we desire to properly represent Him to the world, we must tap more deeply into His love for us and for others.

To be truly loved is the greatest need of every human being on the planet. Every person will try to fill this void with something. We can try to mask this need for love as much as we can through pursuing temporary security in education, a successful career, material wealth, or through alternative sources of spiritual power, but from celebrities, to politicians, to corporate boardrooms, to the homeless on the street, this need to be deeply loved remains within all of us. We were created by God to be loved.

But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). But what if we have not allowed God to love us? What if we have rejected His love? Then it should be no surprise that many non-believers lack love. They have not received God's love for them therefore they have no sacrificial love to give to others.

But what about those who claim to follow Jesus Christ and yet lack love? What about the many believers who are easily irritated, frustrated, and lack love on a daily basis? Could it be that we too have failed to receive God's Love for us?

Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

When was the last time that you allowed God to reveal to you just how much He loves you?

Why don't you take some time right now and stop whatever you are doing and allow the Spirit of God to show you just how much He loves you? Will you let Him do this for you now?

Prayer time: *God I ask that You would reveal the love that You have for me. (Take time to wait on Him.)*

I hope that you took the time to allow God to saturate you in His Love for you. This is the most important thing in all of life. God is Love. We can only love others when we have a revelation of His love for us. Love is the most powerful witness to the reality of God. Therefore, allowing God to love us must become top priority in our lives.

From this place of love, we have the Life of God necessary to impact every circumstance no matter how difficult. Love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). Love breathes new life into places that were dead. A vast throng in heaven can testify that it was the love of another believer that won their heart over to Jesus.

In Conclusion

Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

This pamphlet is not intended to be read one time and then set aside. This teaching will only be helpful if you take the time to study each aspect of a Spirit Empowered Life and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to put this into practice. In the process of establishing a Spirit Empowered Lifestyle, we are not looking for a quick fix but we are seeking to learn what it means to dwell in Jesus in such a way that this lifestyle remains and begins to bear much fruit (John 15:5). Rather than thinking of this like a race in which we are trying to

get all the spiritual keys figured out and into practice as quickly as possible, think of this as a journey with God's Spirit in which He is teaching you how to put this lifestyle into practice. Be thinking in terms of taking weeks, months, and even years to allow the Holy Spirit to grow and mature each aspect of this lifestyle to such a degree that you are consumed with the Life of God Himself. First start in your individual life, and then out to your family, and then to your sphere of influence.

Prayer Time: We would highly encourage you to stop here and take time in prayer to surrender the entirety of your life to Jesus. Please take however long you need to for this to become the reality of your heart. You may consider putting this booklet down and just going to God to express your heart to Him now.

If you have decided to begin to seek to live out a Spirit Empowered Life please take a moment to contact us via email or on our website to let us know that you have made a commitment to live whole-heartedly with God. If you contact us, we will seek to provide you with free media resources that can assist you in your commitment towards a Spirit Empowered Life (including a free online course related to this lifestyle.) We also have resources and networks related to establishing a Spirit Empowered Marriage and Family, Workplace, and School Campus.

Also contact us if you are interested in more information related to the vision of raising millions of Spirit Empowered Christ-followers across the nations and how you can connect into what God is doing.

Email: office@dninternational.org

Website: www.dninternational.org/contact

If you are interested in the full book, "*Journey into the Spirit Empowered Life – A Guide to Personal, Family and Community Transformation*" go to www.dninternational.org/SpiritEmpoweredLife for more information.

If you are not sure if you have ever been born again this is the essential first step prior to learning what it means to live a Spirit Empowered Life. You can learn about entering into a New Life in Christ by visiting our website: www.dninternational.org/new-life-in-Christ

Journey into the Spirit Empowered Life

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