

Welcome To *Life!*

A Foundational Guide To Spirit-Filled Living

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WELCOME TO LIFE!

A foundational Guide to Spirit Filled Living.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

➤ Chapter One – From Death To Life!

➤ Chapter Two - The New You!

Who you are, what you have, what you can do in Christ.

➤ Chapter Three - The Holy Spirit

The ministry of The Holy Spirit.

Speaking In Other Tongues.

3 Kinds of Tongues.

➤ Chapter Four - Growing Up Spiritually

The Word, Prayer & Fasting, Meditation,

The Local Assembly.

Giving in the Local church

➤ Chapter Five – The Great Commission

FROM DEATH TO LIFE!

Hello there! Congratulations on your salvation! Becoming a child of God is the best thing that could ever happen to you because Nothing else in this world can compare to the gift of eternal life In Christ Jesus!

Jesus said in John 5:24

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, **and shall not come into condemnation; but IS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE.***

Friend I want you to know today that **YOU HAVE MOVED FROM DEATH TO LIFE AND ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW FOR YOU!** It doesn't matter who you were or what you've done, Because you are now IN CHRIST all your sins have been FORGIVEN and God will never remember them

or Hold them against you! Your salvation is **ETERNALLY SECURED** in Christ Jesus because you believe in Him and in His sacrifice on the cross for your sins, You have been brought out of Darkness into God's marvelous light, separated forever from Eternal death and condemnation and now Satan and Sin has no more power over you because you are seated with Christ in Heavenly places far above all principalities and powers! Hallelujah!

Dear friend, I want you to understand that when you received Christ, you received LIFE! Christianity is not a religion you joined, It is a life to be lived!

This little book is designed as an introductory guide to help you understand this Wonderful New life you've received. You will get the best of this book when you Study it along with your Bible as this will bring further clarity and help you understand Better!

Once again I congratulate and Celebrate you!

Welcome to Life!

- Pastor Jorel Okpani Ephraim

Chapter Two

MEET THE NEW YOU!

As a Born again child of God it's important for you to Know **WHO YOU ARE , WHAT YOU HAVE & WHAT YOU CAN DO IN CHRIST.** Without a proper understanding of these Vital truths you won't have a fruitful Christian life. Right Believing produces right living and also wrong believing will ultimately produce wrong fruits in your life and make you unstable in your faith (up today, down tomorrow) and that is not God's will for you.

As you receive and Believe these Vital Truths they will firmly establish you in the faith.

The first truth you must know is that;

IN CHRIST YOU ARE;

1. A NEW CREATURE

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This means that who you were and the things you did before you received Salvation has been taken away, that old you is dead and gone and no record of your past exists!

Colossians 2:14

*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances
that was against us, which was contrary to us,
and took it out of the way, nailing it to his
cross;*

This is amazing! God is saying to you that every record of your sins and mistakes have been blotted out, cancelled, and wiped clean! When you believed in Jesus you were saved from condemnation and given a new identity, so now in the eyes of God you are As Perfect, Righteous and Holy as Jesus is! Praise God!

IN CHRIST You are;

2. RIGHTEOUS & HOLY

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who
knew no sin; that we might be made the
righteousness of God in him*

In Christ you are Holy and Righteous! Not because of any good thing you ever did or will ever do but because of What Jesus Did on the cross for you! So then

What is Righteousness?

Righteousness is the Very Divine nature of God given to us which Qualifies us to stand before God without a sense of inferiority, condemnation or guilt. Righteousness gives us Right standing and boldness with God and because of this we can have a relationship with Him. Righteousness makes us produce "fruits" and "works" that are consistent with our new identity in Christ which are pleasing and acceptable to God.

What is Holiness?

Holiness is the state of being Holy, it is the very nature of God which expresses His Perfection, righteousness, Purity and sanctity. Being Born again we have been purified and Sanctified by the blood of Jesus (blood-washed!) Therefore we are Holy and acceptable unto God.

Colossians 1:20-22 Says

*And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, **TO PRESENT YOU HOLY and UNBLAMEABLE and UNREPROVEABLE in his sight:***

Let this become your reality, see yourself the way God sees you and call yourself what He calls you!

If He says You are HOLY, UNBLAMEABLE and UNREPROVEABLE in His sight then you shouldn't call yourself anything less than that! It is not humility to continue to call yourself a sinner or anything different from what God calls you, to do so is to insult the sacrifice that was paid to redeem you! So from this moment begin to correct your thinking and language to align with God's view and become ever conscious of your New identity in Christ.

IN CHRIST You are;

3. VICTORIOUS!

1 John 5:4-5

For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

As a new creature in Christ Jesus you must always be conscious of the fact that you are a victor! Christ has won

the victory for you over Satan ,demons spirits , witches and wizards and every weapon of the kingdom of darkness! Glory to God!

The bible says in Luke 10:19

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Dear friend, You are seated with Christ in Heavenly places far above principalities and powers so you must never fear the tricks and antics of the devil and his cohorts.

The Bible says in 1 John 4:4

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

Hallelujah!

IN CHRIST You are;

4. BLESSED!

Ephesians 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who hath BLESSED US with all
spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

2 Peter 1:3-4

*According as his divine power hath given unto
us **ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND
GODLINESS** through the knowledge of him
that hath called us to glory and virtue:
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great
and precious promises: that by these ye might
be partakers of the divine nature, having
escaped the corruption that is in the world
through lust.*

Philippians 4:19

*But my God shall supply **ALL YOUR NEED**
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

IN CHRIST You are;

5. **CHOSEN**

Ephesians 1:4

*According as he hath **CHOSEN US IN HIM** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

1 Peter 2:9-10

*But ye are a **CHOSEN** generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which*

*had not obtained mercy, but now have
obtained mercy.*

Revelation 17:14

*... and they that are with him are called, and **chosen**, and
faithful.*

IN CHRIST You are;

6. ACCEPTED

Ephesians 1:6-7

*To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein
he hath made us **ACCEPTED** in the beloved. In
whom we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches
of his grace;*

Now that you know who you are, it's time for you to know
What you have in Christ.

IN CHRIST YOU HAVE:

1. **ETERNAL LIFE**

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his
only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in
him should not perish, but have **EVERLASTING
LIFE.***

This means that you are Eternally Secured! The life of Christ which you received when you believed is the very same kind of Life that God himself has, it's Called ZOE -The God kind of Life! A life without end! No one who believes in Jesus and follows Him would ever perish or be condemned!

The Bible says in *1 John 5:11-13*

*And this is the record, that God hath given to
us **ETERNAL LIFE**, and this life is in his Son. [12]*

*He that hath the Son hath life; and he that
hath not the Son of God hath not life. [13]
These things have I written unto you that
believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye
may know that ye have eternal life, and that
ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

And also John 10:28 Says

***And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never
perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.***

Glory to God!

IN CHRIST You have;

2. ALL THINGS

Everything we require for a fruitful and purposeful life has
been made available to us in Christ!

The Bible says in 2 Peter 1:3-4

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Philippians 4:19 says

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

God cares very deeply about you, He's a loving and responsible father Who delights in providing for His Children. He knows what we need even before we ask them and He is willing and Able to give us whatsoever we desire according to His will for us when we ask in the name Of Jesus.

IN CHRIST You have;

3. POWER AND AUTHORITY

*Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive **POWER**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...*

St. Luke 10:19

*Behold, I give unto you **POWER** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

2 Timothy 1:7

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **POWER**, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

When you receive The Holy Spirit He brings the Power of God into your life which enables you to live the supernatural life right here on earth. With this divine power you will be able to;

1. Destroy the works of Satan and the kingdom of darkness around you.
2. Enforce the will of God to be done in your environment, circumstances, as well as in the lives of others around you.
3. Fulfil God's perfect plan and Purpose for your life.

When The power of The Holy Ghost is active and working in your life you can never be defeated, you'll Always be victorious no matter the circumstances.

1 John 4:4 says

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Glory to God!

IN CHRIST You have;

4. DOMINION OVER SIN

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

As a new creature in Christ you are not under The Law that Condemns but Under The new covenant of Grace that Redeems and Empowers.

What is GRACE?

Grace is a free gift of God which gives us the Power and ability to live above the Dominion of Sin.

Romans 5:17 says

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Grace is NOT a license to sin, rather it is the enabling power to live above sin.

Titus 2:11-12 (AMP) tells us more

For the Grace of God (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind. It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet

*(temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout
(spiritually whole) lives in this present world,*

From the Scripture above, it is clear that God's grace helps
Us to Live Holy and acceptable lives that are pleasing to
God

Romans 5:21 (NLT)

*So just as sin ruled over all people and brought
them to death, now God's wonderful kindness
(GRACE)* rules instead, giving us right
standing with God and resulting in eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The Grace of God at work in is Helps us produce works of
righteousness.

IN CHRIST You Can

1. DO ALL THINGS

Ephesians 3:20 KJV

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Mark 16:17-18 KJV

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Dear friend, This life which you now have is far above ordinary, it is SUPERNATURAL! By reason of the new birth and the indwelling of The Holy Spirit in you, you have become licensed to operate in the supernatural power of God! (Read the verse above again) There's no limit to what you can do in Christ!

Jesus said In John 14:12-14

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

And also in Mark 9:23 Jesus said

If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Dear friend if only you can believe, nothing will be impossible to you! Your life will become an unending stream of the miraculous, you'll become a Walking, talking, Living Blessing to your world just like Jesus! Praise God!

No matter what comes your way I want to assure you that in Christ nothing can stand against you and prevail! Even in the midst of persecutions and tribulations, you

are still victorious! Your circumstances does not invalidate the power of God at work in you!

Apostle Paul testifies to this in 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

He goes further in Philippians 4:12-13 (AMP)

I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or

going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want. I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

Be strengthened and Inspired by these words so whenever you face challenges in your life, always be reminded that the greater one lives in you and through Him and In Him you have overcome!

THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:26

*BUT THE COMFORTER (COUNSELOR, HELPER,
INTERCESSOR, ADVOCATE, STRENGTHENER, STANDBY),
THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY
NAME [IN MY PLACE, TO REPRESENT ME AND ACT ON
MY BEHALF], HE WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS. AND HE
WILL CAUSE YOU TO RECALL (WILL REMIND YOU OF,
BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE) EVERYTHING I HAVE
TOLD YOU*

In the beginning God the Father did His best to reveal Himself to man but man had problems relating with God and so In order to reveal Himself more and bring man closer to Himself God sent His son Jesus. When Jesus (The Word of God made flesh) Came into this World He was Called EMMANUEL meaning “God with us”, so for 33 and a half years God Almighty was physically present on earth in Human flesh, you could even touch and hold Him

But He could only be in one place at one time. After His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead, Emmanuel ascended back to Heaven but promised that The Holy Spirit who is exactly like Him would come but He would not be limited by Human flesh to be at only one place at one time. So then Just as He promised, God sent His Holy Spirit to the earth to not only be WITH us but most importantly to be IN us forever! (John 14:17)

Praise God!

The Holy Spirit is not an object, He is not wind, power, fire or a force, Even though His presence and power can be manifested and experienced in those forms but that's not His identity. **The Holy Spirit is a PERSON**, a very real personality with a Will, emotion and intellect, He is the spirit of God. He was sent to reveal God to us, He's the one who helped you to believe in God whom your eyes cannot see but in your heart you know He is real, The Holy Spirit makes God real to you and opens your understanding to perceive, receive and believe Spiritual realities. The Holy Spirit is God with you and In you. He was sent to be your Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners and Standby. Jesus said "and you shall receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon

you.” When you receive The Holy Spirit He brings the Presence and Power of God into your life. Hallelujah!

The Ministry of The Holy Spirit In a Believer

The Holy Spirit was Has a ministry in the life of every believer, There are specific things he has been sent to do in your life when you receive Salvation, they include;

1. Activation of Your Spiritual Senses

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural (unsaved, carnal) man is limited to the physical, He cannot relate with spiritual things. He cannot believe what he can't see so therefore spiritual things are foolishness to him.

Until and unless your spiritual senses are activated The things of God won't make meaning to you. When The Holy Spirit comes into your life He activates your Spiritual Senses so you can perceive, receive, believe, and engage with the things of God.

2. Revelation and understanding of Scriptures

John 14:26

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

The Holy Spirit is the one who reveals the Word of God to you, some people struggle with understanding the Word of God as documented in scripture and this is because they have failed to engage the Holy Spirit who is the author of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21)

Scriptures don't make you understand the Holy Spirit, rather The Holy Spirit Makes you understand scripture. when you study the Word of God ask the Holy Spirit to

teach you and He will grant you understanding of the scriptures. He will unveil spiritual Realities to you Until The word goes beyond mere mental enlightenment and becomes a revelation. The more the revelation of Christ dawns in your soul the more like him you become.

3. Guidance and Direction

John 16:13

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

The world we live in is full of darkness, deceit and falsehood and anyone who isn't guided by the Holy Spirit can be easily deceived. The Holy Spirit who is The Spirit of Truth helps us discern evil and guides us into all truth. There are also times in our lives we are in need of Customized, specific guidance and direction, in those times the Holy Spirit communicates to us the wisdom of

God and helps us make decisions in line with God's perfect will. In your life Learn to make The Holy Spirit your first and Last resort, don't keep Him afar and go about looking for solutions where there are none. Rely on The Holy Spirit and He will guide you into all truth.

4. Renewal and Transformation

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The more the revelation of Christ dawns in your soul the more like him you become. Without the Help of The Holy Spirit it is impossible to successfully live the Christian life, many people struggle in futility to try and change their lives in their own strength by sheer will-power and determination, Eventually such people wear out themselves and end up frustrated.

The Bible says in 1 Sam 2:9

“By strength shall no man prevail”

And in Zechariah 4:6

*‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’
Says the Lord of hosts.*

So you see True Transformation can only come by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has a special ministry of Transforming us from within to become more and more like Christ, as we behold the Glory of The Lord in the Word and as we stay in fellowship with The Holy Spirit, He begins to purify our desires, mindsets, behavior and perceptions to be in alignment with God’s purpose for us in Christ and then we start to become the kind of people that God wants us to be.

5. Empowerment

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.”

Empowerment is causing God's ability to work in and through you. It is supernatural endowment upon your life as a result of the Presence of The Holy Ghost in your life. God empowers us with The Holy Ghost and His anointing so we can be effective witnesses of The Gospel on the earth. The work of God cannot be done without the Holy Ghost. Without the power of the Holy Ghost, Satan can embarrass and hinder you, you don't assume the power, you must be filled with the power! Until and unless you are, your work will have no effect. It Takes endowment of power to obtain what is yours on the Earth. Clean hands (salvation) qualifies you for victory ,but strong hands (Holy Ghost power) enforces the victory!

The Endowment of power is for every believer. If you're yet to be filled with The Holy Spirit, Desire Him genuinely in your heart and you can receive Him by faith even right now. Just say this prayer:

“Oh Lord God, I thank you for The Gift of salvation which qualifies me to Receive your precious Holy Spirit, I open up my Heart to Receive Him now in the name of Jesus! Sweet Holy Spirit come into my life and fill me in the name of Jesus!”

Having said the prayer above you may feel a strong urge to pray, that's the Holy Ghost stirring you up! The manifestations may differ but the experience and results are the same. As you are being filled with the Spirit your tongue will be loosened to speak in other tongues which your mind is not familiar with, when this happens don't suppress it or try to analyze it just go ahead and speak it out as the Holy Ghost gives you utterance!

Hallelujah!

Just Go ahead and pray right now!

Speaking In Tongues

Speaking In other tongues is a proof of the infilling of The Holy Ghost. The Bible says about the 120 disciples who were gathered in the upper room on the night of Pentecost;

Acts 2:1-4

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural ability given to us by God through which we can speak mysteries and receive

Edification in our spirit. It cannot be learnt or taught, it can only be imparted when one receives The Holy Spirit.

There are 3 kinds or expressions of Speaking in tongues as revealed to us in the Bible;

They are;

- Proof Tongue
- Personal Tongue
- Prophetic Tongue

PROOF TONGUE.

1 Corinthians 14:21-22

*In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. **Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers;...***

On the night of Pentecost when The spirit of God was released upon the earth to dwell in men something supernatural happened! The Bible tells us that people who were gathered in Jerusalem from different nations to celebrate the feast of Pentecost heard the disciples speak in their respective native languages Declaring the wonderful works of God even when they (the disciples) have never been to those places and never learned the languages. (Acts 2:5-11).

This supernatural event happened as a fulfilment of prophecy: *“with men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people”*. God communicated The message of His Goodness to unbelievers from other lands through the disciples who were filled with the spirit. This kind of supernatural utterance is mostly granted to us by God to use as proof of His Power and to communicate His message to unbelievers regardless of their native language.

Acts 2:6-8,11

...the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak

*in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And **how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**”*

The second kind/ expression of Tongues is the Personal Tongue;

PERSONAL TONGUE

1 Corinthians 14:2

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:4

*He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself**, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*

1 Corinthians 14:14

*For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays**, but
my understanding is unfruitful.*

This kind of speaking in tongues is very important as it is a direct frequency of communication unique to every believer with which they can communicate with God and no man or spirit can understand or listen in because it is mysterious and only God understands it! And what more? The more often you do it, the more your spirit is Edified (i.e built up, strengthened, glorified!)

When you speak in tongues like this your mind won't understand what you're saying and that is because you're speaking a spiritual language. For example you are able to read and understand what I've been communicating to you in this book because your mind has been taught to recognize and understand the English language, you see how the letters are arranged and your brain is able to process the information and interprets it to your understanding. But with tongues it's different, your brain won't be able to make meaning of the things you're saying in tongues because it doesn't understand it but

don't let that stop you! You're communicating SPIRITUAL MYSTERIES! Your mind doesn't need to understand, it'll catch up later when the interpretation of what you've said in tongues is brought to your understanding. But whether or not the interpretation comes, one thing is certain, Every time you speak in tongues You are EDIFIED!

Jude 1:20 (AMP)

*But you, beloved, **build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit;***

So this therefore means that every time you speak and pray in tongues you make spiritual progress, rising higher and higher like an edifice, Glory to God! The more you speak in tongues the more you will be alert and attuned to receive from The Holy Spirit so speak in tongues always! Your prayer life takes on a whole new dimension when you begin to pray in tongues, you'll soon discover that you'll be able to pray longer and deeper.

There are spiritual mysteries which English or any other language cannot communicate when you pray that's why Apostle Paul recommends In 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

From the verse above we can see that priority is given to the Spirit's prayer, this therefore implies that we must take it seriously and give attention to praying in the Spirit.

The personal tongue is for you, to be used in your personal Prayer, worship, intercession and for your personal Edification. It is important to note that personal tongues can be used for your personal Edification even In a public worship service but you cannot use it to Edify other believers except there is an interpretation for it. This brings us to the third expression of tongues;

PROPHETIC TONGUE

1 Corinthians 14:23-28

Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. How's it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

The Prophetic Tongue is mainly used in public worship for the general edification of the church. With Prophetic tongues, prophetic messages are spoken in tongues and then interpreted for all to understand and be blessed by it. When we speak in tongues personally we are blessed even without an interpretation but in a public worship service there must be an interpretation of the tongues spoken **to** the general assembly if not there will be no order and no Edification and this was what Paul the Apostle was pointing out in the scripture above.

Imagine being in a worship service and one fellow gets up from His seat, walks up to the podium and starts speaking in other tongues to the congregation, he continues this for about 10-20 minutes and then just goes back to his seat without saying anything else, that would be weird wouldn't it? What just happened was that the service was interrupted for the duration that fellow was on the podium and nobody was edified by his speaking because there was no interpretation! Now imagine again that as that same fellow was still up there speaking in tongues, two or more other fellows walk up to the podium and also starts speaking in tongues, that would certainly be a confused and chaotic service! So for the sake of Edification

and order the Bible says “ *...let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.*”

There are some who misunderstand the above scripture to mean that we shouldn't speak in tongues when we gather to worship but with this explanation you now know that's not true. There's a difference between Speaking in tongues **TO** the Church and Speaking in tongues **IN** the Church, the former requires interpretation so that the church may understand and be edified, The latter however does not always require an interpretation.

Chapter Four.

GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY

1. The Place of The Word

When a baby is born it needs proper care and nourishment, anything short of this could retard the growth and development of that child. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 2:2

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

You see The same way a natural baby needs milk to grow well so also you being a Spiritual baby (Newly converted born again Christian) also need Spiritual milk which is the word of God so you can grow and be well developed.

As a child of God, The word of Christ is what you need! It contains inexhaustible nourishment for your Spirit, soul and even your body! The Bible says in Luke 4:4

But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

So inasmuch as natural physical food is necessary for the growth of your body, you'll be terribly malnourished if that is all you feed on. Your body may look fresh and robust but your spirit would be starving!

The Bible says in Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The Word of God is your source of strength and sustenance, it is your anchor when the waves of life billow against you, it gives you direction for your life, it is your guiding light in this dark and evil world, it is your assurance and insurance In a world where things are always Changing and nothing seems to be guaranteed. From age to age The Word of God stands sure, unbroken and unchanging!

As we hear the Word of God and receive it with Joy in our hearts it brings faith to us. The Bible says in Romans 10:17

*So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing
by the word of God.*

Faith is absolute trust, confidence and belief in God, whether your faith in God will be weak or Strong will be determined by How much of His Word you're hearing and receiving. So keep studying and listening to the Word, be excited when you're being taught The word, do not despise it or treat it like a common thing, Value and appreciate it greatly. The Bible says in Proverbs 13:13

*He who despises the word will be destroyed,
but he who fears the commandment will be
rewarded.*

The Amplified Translation puts it this way

***Whoever despises the word and counsel [of God] brings
destruction upon himself, but he who [reverently] fears
and respects the commandment [of God] is rewarded.***

The importance of the Word of God in the life of A believer cannot be overemphasized as its benefits are too numerous and inexhaustible, therefore if you ignore

the word, you do so at your own peril.

The Bible says in acts 20:32

*And now, brethren, I commend you to God,
and to **the word of his grace, which is able to
build you up, and to give you an inheritance
among all them which are sanctified.***

The Word of God is able to deliver to you all that you require for life and Godliness, it will establish you in the doctrine of Christ so that you will not be swayed about or deceived by the doctrines of devils, The Word of God will produce in your life what it talks about and make you into the person God wants you to be if only you will be diligent to listen, study and give it your attention. Proverbs 4:20-22 says;

*My son, **attend to my words; incline thine ear
unto my sayings.** Let them not depart from
thine eyes; **keep them in the midst of thine
heart for they are life unto those that find
them, and health to all their flesh.***

2. The Place of Meditation

Another very important key for Spiritual growth and development is MEDITATION. Meditation is a conscious action that involves focusing your mind to Contemplate on the Word of God.

Joshua 1:8

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but **thou shalt meditate therein day and night**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

When you make the conscious and consistent effort of meditating on The Word DAILY The Word starts to sink deeply into your spirit and it permeates through every fiber of your being, transforming you in the process. When you meditate often, you condition your spirit to be open always to Revelations from The Word.

3. The Place of Prayer & Fasting

Prayer and fasting are very critical aspects of the Christian Experience and if you must make any progress in your faith walk you then cannot afford to ignore the place of prayer and fasting.

Through Prayer we communicate and have fellowship with The father, Son and Holy Ghost, Through prayer we dispel the powers of darkness and Enforce the Light of Christ in our World and circumstances and establish the will of God. Prayer is a Highly Spiritual Activity that you must engage in daily to be refreshed and empowered. Man is traditionally from the realm of the spirit and until he starts engaging in spiritual activities he would live a frustrated life. Your human Spirit needs to be trained, prayer is a training you must give your human spirit. Christians who don't pray lack spiritual power.

Fasting is a period of Abstinence from food and/or drink as an element of devotion to God. It is a time of isolation from everything carnal in order to give undivided attention to the things of the Spirit. For a fast to be effective, it must be accompanied with intense and

earnest prayers. The Bible says about The Lord Jesus in Luke 4:1-2

*And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. **And in those days he did eat nothing:** and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.*

Fasting conditions your Spirit to be tuned to God's frequency and hear Him more clearly, it helps you build spiritual strength and disciplines the flesh, Fasting helps you focus more on God and the things of the kingdom.

Prayers made during a fast are usually effective because they are prayed with a sincere heart free from distracting influences and cares of the world. Fasting opens your heart to Revelations from God.

Fasting is also Effective for supplications and intercessions during times of adversity. (Jeremiah 36:9)

The Bible says in

Philippians 4:6

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing **by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.***

Prayers, supplications, Meditation, and The Word are very vital for healthy spiritual growth and development, and we must engage them wholeheartedly to see the benefits.

4. The Place of The Local Assembly

The Local church or assembly is God's own idea. He puts His Children in spiritual families so they can be raised and groomed to fulfill their purpose in Christ through active Kingdom service. No man is an island and no Christian no matter how spiritual or gifted can effectively function in isolation. We are one body with Christ as our Head and just as parts of the body must remain connected to the body to function so also must Every Christian be connected to and remain an active member of a local assembly.

Hebrews 10:25 says

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Church Services and other activities are vital to the development of your faith, there's no excuse good enough to not fellowship with God's people, always endeavor to be present in all services and participate actively.

A Local Assembly has a Leadership put in place by God to guide you, teach you and establish you in the doctrine of Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

You have a responsibility to trust, follow and obey and support the Leaders that God has put over you as they lead you in the way of the Lord. The Bible says in Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

The Local assembly is a place where you are trained and equipped for the work of the ministry. It is a place where your spiritual gifts are nurtured to their fullest expression.

Ephesians 4:11-12 says;

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting *(equipping, training, maturing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Giving in The Local Church

For the furtherance of the gospel there are many things that need to be done which requires lots of finance. The Gospel itself is free but getting the message out is not cheap, You must ensure you Participate and do your very best to make sure the Work that God has committed to that church runs smoothly. Be a vital part of the kingdom work, Give your Time, money, energy, ideas and resources. Always give your very best and nothing less and as you do you're storing up treasures and rewards for yourself in heaven.

Colossians 3:23-24

*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; **Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.***

Revelation 22:12

*And, behold, **I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.***

THE GREAT COMMISSION

One of The hallmarks of a true Christian is commitment to The Great Commission.

What is The Great Commission?

The Great commission is The Last Charge, command and Instruction given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ before He ascended to Heaven. In the book of Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said;

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching
them to observe all things whatsoever I have
commanded you: and, lo, I am with you
always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Our Lord and Master Jesus gave us the responsibility of reaching out to others with the good news of His saving power, to tell them of The sacrifice which He paid so they can be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life.

The Bible tells us in Romans 1:16 that The Gospel is God's power to save! That means there's no other means by which anyone can be saved except they receive and believe in the gospel. Romans 10:13-15

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

It is God's desire to see people saved and come to the knowledge of the truth , that's why he's sent us and empowered us to take his message out to the unsaved. I praise God that you are saved already that's why you're reading this book right now but there are many others out there that still need to be saved, they are everywhere around you; amongst your friends, family,

neighbors, colleagues, even strangers! It really doesn't matter who they are as long as they remain unsaved they are in serious danger and so you must do your very best to preach the gospel to them and win them to Christ.

Now you may say "but I'm not a Pastor or an evangelist so I can't preach" but that's where you're wrong, everyone can and should preach. The Bible says in 2 Cor 5:18-19

*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, **and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; **and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.***

From the scripture above it is clear that both the Word and Ministry of Reconciliation (soul-winning/Evangelism) was not given to any special group of people, The work of

soul-winning was given to **US – Believers**. This means that you don't have to occupy a special office or bear a title before you can win souls! As long as you're a Spirit filled believer in Christ you are already mandated and empowered to Evangelize and win souls to Christ!

Soul winning is God's number one Job in the earth today, He is very interested in saving souls and that's why He sent Jesus in the first place! Soul winners are also very important to God, see what He says about them in Proverbs 11:30 ;

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and
he that winneth souls is wise.*

Imagine The God of all wisdom Himself referring to Soul-winners as WISE! Wow! Wouldn't you love to have such a good report before God?

Daniel 12:3 tells us more;

*And they that be wise shall shine as the
brightness of the firmament; and they that
turn many to righteousness as the stars for
ever and ever.*

Soul winners are the real MVP's, they are God's superstars! As a soul winner your life is guaranteed in God because you are vital and valuable to His agenda in the earth.

Take pride in winning souls! Explore every medium and opportunity to reach out to the lost with the message of the Gospel! Never be ashamed to proclaim Christ everywhere! Some people may not like it, you may even suffer punishment and persecution because of it but refuse to be moved! Don't stop! There's a cloud of witnesses cheering you on from the grandstands of heaven! There are rewards and crowns of glory awaiting you!

As we await The Rapture of The church and The servings coming of Our Lord Jesus who is soon to come, We must preach this gospel till the whole world knows, till the Kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and the knowledge of the glory of God covers the earth as the waters cover the sea.