

GIVE  
YOURSELF  
A BREAK  
YOU'RE ALL  
YOU'VE GOT

*By Shaun T Kearney*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Two sides of the cross	3
Hope love and faith	4
The Exodus	5
The difference between standing and state	10
Release from law	12
8 Things the law can't give me	14
The law of the spirit of life	15
A new set of values	16
Complexes can be removed	17
The nature of condemnation	18
Discipline generates enormous strength	20
Help we've been robbed	21
Snared	25
I'm too old	26
I'm handicapped	27
I don't have any money	28
Our dreams are not always realised	29
I don't have the time	30
I don't know the right people	32
How can I have a meeting with God	37
Attitudes will make you or break you	41
Be a resource manager	52
Be price payer	53
3 kinds of guys	57
Afflictions the pathway to wisdom	59
1st condition of success	62
The urge for self improvement	63
An invitation to success	66
Two ways to face life	68
How to appropriate the promises of God	71
Goal setting	73

Copyright © 2008 ISBN 978-0-9582771-3-3

## TWO SIDES OF THE CROSS

### **Galatians 6:14.**

"But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world."

All the sacrifices combined under the old covenant never took away one sin, but they pointed forward to the coming one, God's Lamb who would come and take away the sins of the world. As the Passover made a new start for Israel of old, in like manner the cross marks a new beginning to our lives in Christ.

The death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is without contradiction the greatest event in human history. It is estimated that enough sacrificial blood was shed by animals before Christ came, to make the mighty Mississippi river flow out into the ocean, yet it never washed away one sin, but only appeased until the Saviour offered Himself at Calvary.

Everything looked forward in the hope that one day Messiah would come. This is what Israel of old longed and waited for. Then in the fullness of time Jesus came and offered Himself up to God for the sins of all mankind, and as He hung between heaven and earth He cried, "It is finished" and gave up the ghost. Since that point in time we can look back to the finished work of Calvary. It was complete and needs no addition, nor can anything be taken away from it.

The work was complete, and is perfect in all it's outworking. The victory has been won, it is our joy and privilege to accept it and walk in it. He finished the work His Father gave Him to do. What the Old Testament saints hoped for, we can look back on with gratitude to God, who demonstrated His love for us by the sacrifice of His Son. Like Moses we can sing.

## HOPE LOVE FAITH

### **Exodus 15:1, 9-10.**

I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously, the horse and rider thrown into the sea. The enemy said I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them; Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them; They sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Before Calvary men could only live in hope. It is true that Abraham was a man of faith, but his faith was in the promise of a savior that would come one day. In this he hoped and believed for. Jesus Himself said, "Abraham saw my day and he rejoiced." But now we look back in "faith", not in "hope", because the work of redemption is finished, and completed, once and for all. He came and paid the ransom for all that will believe it. Our faith rests in God's love demonstrated at Calvary. God so loved that He gave His only begotten son. That's a fact.

### **Galatians 5: 6**

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availed anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love".

The crucifixion was the triumph of the ages. The greatest mistake the devil made was to crucify the Lord of glory, for by that one act he sealed his doom and guaranteed our redemption.

### **Hebrews 1:14.**

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil".

Through the cross Christ has made us partakers of all that he triumphed in. He paid our debt with His redeeming blood, and arose from death to make his promise good.

## THE EXODUS

Was there ever a more amazing sight in all history than the Exodus? A nation was born and set free in a night of terrible retribution. Led by mighty Moses whom God raised up to deliver them out of the hand of one whom until that night was stronger than them. God saw that they were reimbursed financially for 400 years of slavery. Not only did they come out with great substance, but in perfect health.

Think of what the Exodus meant to the nation of Israel! Let's list some of the benefits, then later we shall see how they apply to us.

**First.** It marked a new start. It was to be the beginning of months for them. The new life was marked by a new calendar and everything from that point in time was to be reckoned from this great event.

**Second.** It was the beginning of a new freedom such as they had never known. In future generations they would always refer to Egypt as the house of bondage, and by an annual feast remember their deliverance, and recount the story to their children.

**Third.** The Exodus meant the beginning of a new fellowship. (Ex 12:14). Years later Joshua was to remind them that their fathers had served other Gods in the land of Egypt. But now Jehovah chooses them for Himself, for special favour, love, and attention above all the nations of the earth.

**Fourth.** It marked the beginning of the fulfilment of the covenant God made with Abraham 400 years earlier as recorded in Genesis 15: 13-14 and would continue to unfold to succeeding generations. Part of the promise was that God would give to Abraham a seed that would inherit a land flowing with milk and honey. The promise was to do with two things, the "**Seed**" and the "**Land**." A seed that was natural and spiritual. As with the seed so with the land. The promise was to do with a literal land, recorded with all

its boundaries. All of this has its counterpart in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our blessed Saviour is the leader of a greater exodus than that under Moses. Now instead of just one nation, people of every nation, kindred and tongue may partake of the Passover Lamb, who came to take away the sins of the whole world and give them an eternal inheritance.

**A land flowing with milk and honey.**

What the Exodus meant to Israel of old, the Gospel of Jesus Christ means to every believer. This deliverance was not just an "out of" experience; but He brought them out to bring them "in".

"**He brought us out**" from thence that he might "**Bring us in**" to give us the land that He swear unto our fathers," Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deuteronomy 6: 23.

**Exodus 3: 8.** "And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good and large land, unto a land flowing with milk and honey."

In the Pentateuch the first five books of Moses we have the Bible in miniature. In Genesis we have destruction and ruin through man's sin. In Exodus we have redemption by blood, and deliverance by power. In Leviticus we have fellowship restored through atoning sacrifice. In Numbers we find plan and purpose. In Deuteronomy we have destination by faith and patience, through the leading and counsel of a merciful God.

The order of these books is divine.

Genesis	Divine sovereignty.
Exodus	Divine power.
Leviticus	Divine holiness.
Numbers	Divine goodness and severity.
Deuteronomy	Divine destination.

The basic difference between the Old and New Testaments is, the emphasis in the Old was on "**a place**" but in the new this gives way to "**a person.**"

In the old we have the Promised Land, in the new we have the land of promises. This emphasis on a place with its centre Jerusalem is still deeply fostered by the Jewish people today. It was here God dwelt on earth, in the Holy of Holies within the Temple. Three times every year by divine decree every Israelite had to appear before the Lord at the appointed time and place. The penalty for failing to gather to keep these feasts was banishment. In the New Testament this localization of the presence of God is completely superseded by the presence of a man, the man Christ Jesus who by His spirit dwells within our hearts.

**Colossians 1:27.** “Christ in us, the hope of glory”.

**Acts 7:49.** “Howbeit the most high dwells not in temples made with hands”. This was signified when the Temple veil was rent from top to bottom at the time of the crucifixion.

**Isaiah 66:2b.** “To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word”. Jesus gave to the woman at the well a mighty revelation about worship.

**John 4:21-23.** “Jesus said woman believe me the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father: but the hour cometh and now is, when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him”.

The Son came to seek and to save those that are lost. The Holy Spirit seeks to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment to come. While the Father seeks true worshippers. It is a spiritual thing, and has nothing to do with geographical location. This is the land of promises that all believers must labour to enter of which the Promised Land is a type. Apprehending, first, then wrestling, clad like warriors in armour, earnestly contending for truth as we battle the giants of doubt and fear, unbelief and discouragement.

The book of Numbers is devoted to two groups of people. Those that came out of Egypt, and then refused to go into the land because of unbelief. And the new generation who entered in under Joshua.

**People who don't stand for something  
fall for just about anything.**

The old generation typifies carnal Christianity. The faithless failure of Israel may well foreshadow, (as it certainly illustrates) the failure of the organized church today to possess heavenly things in Christ”.

**1 Corinthians 10: 1-5.**

“Moreover brethren, I would not have you ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink, for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness”.

The severity of God on all unbelief is illustrated in these passages. “Now these things were for our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters as some of them, as it is written: They sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them did and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur as some of them murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer”.

**Some things in life can't be reasoned out  
but only believed and prayed through.**

The following verse is the reason for all that's gone before.

**1 Corinthians 10: 11.** “Now all these things happened unto them

for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition upon whom the end of the ages are come. Wherefore let him who thinks he's standing take heed lest he fall.”

What stopped them from entering into Canaan was unbelief. They debated the will and the word of God. They even sent in spies to see for themselves if God was telling them the truth. A land flowing with milk and honey seemed just too good to be true. There had to be a catch in it somewhere. Then they brought back a scandalous report, saying yes it is just like God said, but there are giants there, and we felt like grasshoppers when we saw them, we haven't got a chance against them. Try as they might, Joshua and Caleb were cried down by the other ten spies who supposedly were leaders and princes of Israel. And so the fate of two million people was sealed.

**Galatians 4:1.** “Now I say that the heir as long as he is a child differs nothing from a servant though he be Lord of all, but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the Father.”

To be an heir is one thing, but to have your inheritance is quite another. Take Prince Charles as an example. He may never sit upon the throne of England even though he is lawful heir. God won't release us to do anything, until we know “who He is,” and “who we are.” As the law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, so the Holy Spirit is our schoolmaster to bring us to maturity. While the work of Christ "for us" is perfect, the work of the Holy Spirit "in us" is incomplete. It will go on daily and until we bear the image of the heavenly.

**I John 3: 2.** “Beloved now are we the sons of God, and it doth yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is”.

Then God waited for a new generation that would hear His voice and obey His will.

## **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STANDING AND STATE.**

Our destiny is the highest possible. We shall be like Him! For this we were created, redeemed, and sanctified. We are to be conformed to the image of His son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. The apostle says those that have this hope purify themselves even as He is pure.

We have been born into a family, and family life is for growth. Almost every metaphor by which Christians are described implies our need for growth and maturation. The Christian life is a pilgrimage. We are the planting of the Lord.

**Mark 4: 28.** "First the blade, then the ear, then the full ripe corn."

**Psalms 84: 7.** "They go from strength to strength."

**Ephesians 4: 10.** The wrestler the warrior in full armour.

**2 Peter 1: 5.** Speaks of spiritual addition. Add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge. Developing through spiritual exercise the spiritual man.

**Philippians 3: 13-14.** I count not myself to have arrived said Paul, but I bring all my energies to bear on this one thing, not just to finish the race, but to win the prize. All these things imply energy, concentration, and effort, overcoming the enemy.

**I Peter 2:2.** "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby".

We have five sons and a daughter. They are ours by virtue of their birth and life relationship. Nothing can change the relationship that we have with them from the youngest to the eldest. If one of our children was handicapped in any way so as to make them partially, or even totally dependent upon us, it would make no difference to

our relationship, they would still be ours; that is their standing. But our state is something different. It is a matter of fitness to function and serve as the occasion demands in a competent and acceptable manner.

**The need for spiritual fitness.**

In Leviticus 21, God gave instructions to Moses regulating the lives of the priests who were called to minister to Him. Their service had two aspects. It was on the people's behalf to God, and for God to the people. It determined their personal suitability, they must be without blemish physically, or blame morally. Their task was to know what portion of the offerings belonged to the Lord as well as how the sacrifices were to be prepared.

**Hebrews 12: 28.**

“Let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and fear: For our God is a consuming fire”.

The man, the message, and the method must be in accordance with God's demands “**lest the sanctuary be defiled.**”

Sidlow Baxter says, union is one thing but communion quite another; again life is one thing and ministry is quite another. You may be related, but are you in fellowship? Thank God that we all have been born to serve, but it is possible to have blemishes that make us unfit for service. Unlike the sons of Aaron we are blessed, for the blood of can wash every spiritual defilement and deformity away the Lamb thus making us fit for heavenly tasks. In his first public sermon in Luke 4:18 it was not what **He did that was important**, (it was his custom to go to the synagogue) but rather what **he said**. “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears”.

A lot of people are ineffectual; because they have no faith to believe that they can amount to anything because they are unaware that Jesus came to set the captive free. Jesus Christ came to take care of yesterday.

## **RELEASE FROM THE LAW.**

It is always an out of, and into, relationship.

### **Romans 8: 2.**

“For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death”.

### **Two Laws.**

The law of sin and death, and the law of the spirit of life. When the Holy Spirit comes in to take control of our life, He automatically frees us from the law of sin and death by a new law, the law of the spirit of life.

### **The nature of Law.**

There was nothing wrong with the nature of the law. It was given by God, and was good and pure and holy. The problem was not with the law, but with sinful flesh. And as long as men refuse to come into relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ, there will always be the need for law to regulate behaviour.

### **The need for Law.**

Thank God for the police, and for magistrates, judges and jails, for without them anarchy would prevail, and life itself would become a nightmare. If man will not relate, then he must be regulated.

Our children need to go to be under law. They need strong but fair discipline, to teach them to have respect for the law.

### **Galatians 3: 23.**

“But before faith came we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which afterwards should be revealed”.

We were shut up, placed in a stockade, constantly guarded. The law was the jailer, schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

### **I Timothy 1: 9.**

“Knowing this that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners; And anything that is contrary to sound doctrine”.

When you break the law you need a competent professional such as a lawyer to defend you. Jesus is not only our sacrifice and High Priest, but our advocate in the court of Heaven.

In Readers Digest an article appeared a number of years ago reporting an incident that took place in Montreal Canada. A situation arose when the metropolitan police went on strike for several days. While the police were ‘out’ more crimes were committed, and banks robbed and than in all the previous 20 years. It seemed that crime was unleashed upon the community with unbridled passion as soon as the restraining influence of law was removed. Someone has well said that the world is like a Zoo, and the nations are the wild animals caged up in it, just looking for an opportunity to escape. The law can give you regulations but it can't give you relationship, this comes by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. But until men have a change of heart and come into relationship strong moral law is imperative, with the power to enforce it.

**The need for freedom from law.**

Romans chapter 7 deals with the two covenants. Paul is saying to those that knew the law, that a wife is bound to a husband as long as he lives, but if he is dead then she is loosed from the law that bound her to him.

**Romans 7: 4.** “Wherefore my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised again from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God”. Why, because the law made nothing perfect. It shows us our shortcomings, Vs 7 “I had not known sin but by the law”. It reveals to us how far short we fall from God's demands. And that's its purpose, but it cannot give life.

## 8 THINGS THE LAW CAN'T GIVE ME.

**GALATIANS 3: 2 IT CAN'T GIVE ME THE SPIRIT.**  
**GALATIANS 3: 5 IT CAN'T GIVE ME GIFTS.**  
**GALATIANS 3: 11 IT CAN'T GIVE PEACE.**  
**GALATIANS 3: 12 IT CAN'T GIVE ME FAITH.**  
**GALATIANS 3: 13 IT CAN'T BRING REDEMPTION.**  
**GALATIANS 3: 18 IT CAN'T GIVE MY INHERITANCE.**  
**GALATIANS 3: 21 IT CAN'T GIVE ME LIFE.**

**HEBREWS 7: 19 IT MADE NOTHING PERFECT.**

So there comes a time in every life when we must begin to come into relationship with the person of Jesus Christ in order to come out from under the law of rules and regulations. We do not live by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God knows both good and evil, but can only do good, while we are just the opposite. We know good and evil but can only do evil, and that's our problem.

The law describes and demands perfection but it can't give it to us. The Law is precept without power. Paul says as many as are under the law are under the curse.

**Hebrews 7: 19.**

“For the law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did, by the which we draw nigh unto God”.

To try to live life without relationship is hell. When our relationships are healthy, life is a wonderful thing. Hell will overflow with people who knew right from wrong.

## THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS.

**Romans 8: 3-4.** “For what the law ‘could not do’ in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit”.

We are not without law, neither are we beyond the law, nor do we suggest that you break the law, but a higher law has taken over. Think of the law of gravity, and the law of aerodynamics. Thrust (when it's strong enough) produces forward motion and lift, and drag is reaction to forward motion. Thrust propels you forward, while drag enables you to control and direct the aircraft. It is a simple thing to become airborne, as any flyer will know. But shut off the engine, and the natural law takes over. The downward pull of gravity is always there. Likewise where there is no relationship, the carnal nature takes over and pulls us down. When there's no relationship with Christ we will always need a substitute to keep law and order.

Victories attained can only be maintained by watchfulness. God doesn't take away the old law, He gives you an airplane. It is the law of faith, not of works. To believe and receive what God through Christ has provided for us. This law has been written now upon the fleshly tables of our hearts. To the carnal man everything has to make sense. That's why you rarely find a sense knowledge man who has invented anything. Our defences need building up. Our wills and confidence need girding about with truth and determination, while indecision must be eradicated. Imagine what would happen if someone broke into a department store and rearranged all the price tags, marking down the most expensive things, and doubling the price of the cheapest items. The confusion would send the business bankrupt. That's what makes life so confusing; we've got our values wrong. Repentance means a reshuffling of values. Putting 1st things 1st, and wrong things in the garbage can.

## A NEW SET OF VALUES.

The most important moment in your life is when you get a new set of values. Repentance closes one door and opens another.

**Hebrews 12:18-19.** “For we are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of the trumpet, and the voice of words, which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken unto them any more”.

These verses are a direct reference to God giving the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. This mountain is not our destination. We have not been brought to here. We should have nothing to do with it. For example, before you can shine your light upon the fourth commandment and demand that the Sabbath must be kept, you must first push the blood stained mercy seat aside.

**Hebrews 12: 22-24.**

“But we are come to mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and the church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks of better things than that of Abel”.

Legalism always leads to self-righteousness. When you try to substitute your righteousness for His, you live a lie. We don't find ourselves easily in life. It seems life is a journey of self-discovery. From infancy to childhood; from childhood to adolescence; from adolescence to adulthood. From fatherhood to Patriarchy. Through each stage there is a time of uncertainty, an identity crisis. It is no different for the spiritual man, the hidden man of the heart. Unfortunately we don't always find the help we need from those who should be providing it. Many times it's because they don't know who they really are themselves.

## **COMPLEXES CAN BE REMOVED.**

### **Romans 8: 1.**

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit, for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death”.

### **THE CURSE OF CONDEMNATION.**

This chapter starts with "no condemnation" and ends with "no separation." There are many unanswered questions in the Bible, for now we all see through a glass darkly, but in this chapter of Romans we are left in no doubt about two things.

**First.** There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ.

**Second.** Paul declares that there is nothing in heaven or earth, or under the earth, that can separate us from the love of God.

### **YOU'RE NO MORE EFFECTIVE THAN YOU FEEL FORGIVEN.**

Yet so many believers live in condemnation. There is nothing like condemnation for neutralizing us. It has its roots in doubt and unbelief. An inability to forgive oneself because we doubt the forgiving nature of God. The fruit of this is insecurity, torment, fear, and even despair.

### **DON'T JUST TAKE CARE, TAKE CONTROL.**

The battle as ever is in the mind. I knew a man who took his own life whose only sin after coming to Christ was he couldn't forgive himself. We find this wonderful story of a father's love in Luke 15: for his wayward son. And there we read these words, “and when the son came to himself he said, I will arise and go to my father”. It is a great place to come to; to come to yourself.

**The mind and the whole personality are dyed by our thoughts.**

## THE NATURE OF CONDEMNATION.

It is a word connected with law. It means, judgment against, to judge down. The Holy Spirit has not, will not, and cannot condemn anyone. He will only convict. He is like a policeman. He will arrest you, and write you out a ticket for breaking the law, but it's not within His jurisdiction to judge you, that's the Father's prerogative. He who hands out the ticket doesn't hand down the judgment. He only refers us to the Father. He arrests us, for He cannot let us get away with breaking the law. It is for this reason that He came, to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and judgment to come.

Neither does Jesus condemn us.

**John 3:17.** “For God sent not His son into to the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”.

**If you're not what you think you should be,  
Condemnation will never get you there.**

Any ministry that produces condemnation does not come from God. To the woman taken in adultery Jesus said; “neither do I condemn thee”. Then He said to her; “go and sin no more”. He does not condone sinful behaviour, but neither does He condemn sinners, but calls them to repentance. The Father can condemn us but He will not, for His demands have been satisfied. Christ paid the price in full so we can go free. You can't carry out the death sentence twice for the same offence. “Christ died **once** for sin!”

**John 3:18.** “He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”.

If your name is in the book of life, to live in condemnation is to live in unbelief.

**1 John 3:19-22.** “And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him, for if our heart condemn us God is greater than our heart and knows all things”.

Your job is to confess your sin and unbelief, accept forgiveness, and move on. If you're not in control, then rise up and take it!

**1 Corinthians 15: 9.**

“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God, but by the grace of God I am what I am”.

Paul said, "I am what I am by the grace of God," in contrast to what he was before he was saved; a murderer. It was a crime for which the penalty under the law was death. Imagine how Paul must have felt after his conversion knowing that he had given his full support to the mob that stoned Stephen. Then there's Peter after he denied the master not once or twice but three times, before going out and weeping bitterly. King David failed morally, and then covered his sin by sending Uriah to his death, compounding his transgression. Again he stumbled in his presumption in the numbering of Israel after God had expressly forbidden it. Think of the remorse these men must have felt.

What a faithful book the Bible is. It records not only the inspiring examples of the giants of faith, but their failures also. They weren't perfect. Whether they worked, or whether they shirked, it's all there in the sacred record for our benefit.

Stop comparing yourself with giants of the past or present, it is not wise. No matter how much you have achieved when you start comparing yourself with others there's always going to be someone that will intimidate you. Don't set unrealistic goals, but learn to live within the grace that God has given you, being content and rejoicing in His love.

**Bible facts are either true or nonsense; it depends entirely on how I look them, as to what they are.**

## **DISCIPLINE GENERATES ENORMOUS STRENGTH.**

### **What can I do to defeat this attitude?**

Believe the Gospel. It is good news. Believe what God has to say about you and not your heart. Assure your heart before Him. We have not come into condemnation, but have passed from death to life. If you're not what you want to be, then condemnation won't get you there, but grace will.

**Romans 8: 33.** “Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? Will God? **no!** He's the one who has forgiven us and given us right standing with Himself. Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? **no!** The only one who can condemn us won't do it”.

**Galatians 3: 13.** “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us”.

We say, “I can't come to God the way I am”. But the fact is we can't come any other way. The only place a man should judge himself is at the Lord's Table. I personally believe that the practice of weekly communion in the early church helped the saints to keep short accounts with God and one another.

**Colossians 2: 13.** “And you being dead in your sins, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you ALL trespasses”.

When a sinner brought his offering to the priest, he examined the offering, **not** the man. If the sacrifice was accepted, so was the man. We have been accepted in the beloved and are highly favoured for Christ's sake. Condemnation paralyses and incapacitates us to the point that we feel anything we do is unacceptable to God.

### **AFFIRMATION.**

I thank you Lord Jesus that your grace is greater than all my sins, I receive your forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness now.

## **HELP WE'VE BEEN ROBBED.**

**Isaiah 42: 22.** “But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivers; for a spoil, and none says restore”.

The characteristics of a thief are; sneakiness, he works silently and secretly, and loves darkness. His victims are unsuspecting and taken by surprise. Deception and subtlety are his tools. You're not aware you've been robbed until after the fact.

**Ephesians 6: 11.** “Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”.

We are not told to stand against the power of the devil, but his wiles. We as believers should not be ignorant of his devices. For greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world.

### **Legalism is our greatest thief not the Devil.**

There is something in the nature of man that's always trying to commend itself to God by works. The law made nothing perfect, yet some people act as if they are, and they are so legal. They are hard on themselves, and harder still on everyone around them. The balance between legalism and license is not what's right, or what's wrong, but does it edify!

Some religions are legal. Seventh Day Adventism demands vehemently that we must all keep the Sabbath because Sunday worship is the mark of the beast. All false cults are compulsive and rigidly legalistic. They have done more harm to the cause of Christ than any other single thing. Even in some so called Pentecostal groups there's a morbid delight in placing heavy burdens upon their followers by smugly inferring that they are the “in group”.

The discipleship movement was a classic example of legalistic, burdensome religion. Jesus called the doctrines of the Pharisees leaven. Its action is to puff up. Today we have Christian organizations setting themselves up as “spiritual know alls”, thinking they're doing God a favour as they attack any outside their jurisdiction.

**Help we have been robbed.**

We have let people; religion, condemnation, and our ignorance rob us of our legitimate inheritance in God. It is time to wake up from dead formalism and wise up, and find out what the Lord's will is.

**The will of the Lord for every sleepy Christian  
Is to wake up and be filled with the Spirit.**

The outstanding characteristic of 1st century Christianity was its great power and effectiveness. The most outstanding characteristic of western 21st century Christianity is its ineffective and powerless witness. The disciples had just come down from the Mount of Transfiguration where they had been with Jesus when suddenly they were confronted by a distraught father whose son was demon possessed. Coming to Jesus the father said, "I spoke to your disciples that they should cast the demon out "and they could not."

Later the disciples came to the Lord privately and asked Him "why could not we cast him out?" Their powerlessness was obvious to all that stood by, and a tragic disappointment for the boy's father. But at least they were conscious of their impotence. I wonder are we? If we are conscious of it, are we seeking this power? It's available because it has been promised. Without it the world is never going to be reached. The church began with an outpouring of the Spirit, and will end with one. In the meantime we need to keep on being filled.

**Luke 24: 49.**

"Behold I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high".

**Acts 1:4.**

"And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, you have heard of me".

We are not told to do one thing connected with warfare until we have been filled with the Spirit. It really doesn't matter what you

do to earn a living, our occupation is telling people about the Lord. We all need the power of Pentecost if we are going to be effective.

**Christ the spoiler.**

**Colossians 2: 15.** “And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it”. Spoil is ‘booty’ taken in battle. The cross was the instrument by which this was accomplished.

**Psalms 24: 8.** “Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle”.

**Ephesians 1:19.** “And what is the exceeding greatness of His power in and for us who believe (the key is believing) which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavens far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in the world to come”.

**Whatever the head has done on earth  
He has done for the body.**

**Ephesians 2: 4-6.** “But God who is rich in mercy, He loved us so much, even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, and has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ”.

**1 Corinthians 15: 57.** “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory (it's a gift) through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

He has given, is giving, and will continue to give us the victory in every place. If Christ has not given us the victory we have nothing.

We were crucified together with Christ.

We were raised together with Christ.

We are seated together with Christ.

And when he returns we shall be caught up together with him.

### **Fighting from a position of strength.**

The Old Testament saints looked forward in hope, but we look back to the fact of Calvary, to an empty tomb, with thankful hearts and adoration. Now He has risen and we must take our place with Him.

As we were travelling in Germany we took a trip through the Rhineland to Holland. As the train wended its way along the riverside we passed many old castles. We couldn't help but notice that these medieval castles were almost always built on the high ground, dominating the river and surrounding countryside. Later when we moved on to the British Isles we saw that the castles there were always built in a strategic location from which they would fight their enemies on their terms from a position of strength.

We are seated with Christ, far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come.

### **Ephesians 1: 19-21.**

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies, Far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come”.

Far above puts us out of the reach of everything that has been named. If that isn't a position of strength I don't know what is.

**Ephesians 2: 6.** “And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”.

The Lord is on my side I will not fear, (that's an act of your mind) what man shall do unto me. If God be for us, (and He is) then who can be against us that's worth worrying yourself sick about.

No, it is not a matter of being conceited; it is a matter of truth. Let the weak say I'm strong, and the poor man say I'm rich. Confess it and watch what happens.

## **SNARED.**

The Hebrew word is *moqesh*; and means a hook, a noose, a snare, and is used of traps set to destroy the lives of men and beasts, and in particular those, which wicked men and demons, set for the righteous.

Psalm 91:3 "Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence".

The fowler is Satan. Snares and traps are the fowler's tools of trade. There are many traps in a trapper's inventory. Every trap has its own particular lure or bait, with its own special use. For example, if you're going after a bear, you don't use a rabbit trap for obvious reasons. A trap or snare never looks like one to its unsuspecting victim. Satan's strategy is to deceive us. You can't play fast and loose with sin, Satan is not a toy. The victim always thinks he can break free from the snare and quit any time he chooses to do so. But the snare is designed in such a way so as to be far stronger than its prey.

**Exodus 34: 12.** "Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, lest it become a snare in your midst."

Time and again God warned the children of Israel against making any covenants with the inhabitants of the land. Make your own list, and see how many different traps you come up with.

**Ignorance.**

**Fear.**

**Inferiority.**

**Negative confession.**

**Poverty.**

**Sickness.**

## **I'M TOO OLD.**

Winston Churchill could have said the same thing when in his sixties he became England's wartime leader. He believed that his entire life had been preparation for the task he undertook.

Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb, were not exactly young men when they commenced the most fruitful time of their lives. It takes only a few hours to prepare a sermon to minister, but it takes a lifetime to make a minister become a messenger of God. You're not too old until you don't care, or you have stopped breathing. Moses was eighty when God called him, and although he cited many excuses age was not one of them.

Michelangelo was still composing poetry and designing structures in his eighty ninth year. He painted the ceiling of the Sistine chapel lying on his back on a scaffold when he was ninety.

Verdi at seventy four produced his masterpiece "Othello", and at eighty produced "Falstaff", and at eighty five the famous "Ave Maria".

Webster at seventy commenced his monumental dictionary.

**Acts 2: 17.** "and your old men shall dream dreams."

### **Bible dreams were of great importance because of their prophetic nature.**

Read the life story of Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame. He started to pursue his dream when most other men were looking to retire. Our educational system takes winners and turns them into losers.

## I'M HANDICAPPED.

You're not handicapped until you think you are. Of course if you think you are then you are, because you are what you think you are. Negativity is self-destructive. For a Christian it is a sin, for whatever is not of faith is sin.

The story of Douglas Bader is as inspiring a story as you could imagine. In 1930 Douglas Bader joined the Royal Air Force to become a pilot officer. Several years after he joined an aircraft he was piloting crashed during training. He had to have both legs amputated. That would have been sufficient to put to rest any further aspirations to fly for most men. In 1939 war with Germany broke out. Immediately Bader enlisted, begging authorities to allow him to fly again. He was so persistent that they finally allowed him try out at flying training school. He passed with flying colours. Not only did he become a fighter pilot during the battle of Britain, but also he commanded his own squadron and eventually became a wing commander with five squadrons under his charge.

During the battle of Britain he developed a strategy of attack on incoming bombers. It was adopted by high command and became one of the key elements that helped to bring about the defeat of the Luftwaffe in those dark days. He was eventually shot down over occupied Europe and taken prisoner. As a POW he escaped on four occasions only to be recaptured each time. He spent the last years of the war in Colditz castle, a high security prison, because of his repeated attempts to escape. The road to failure is crowded with people who keep telling anyone that are foolish enough to listen to them why it can't be done.

Ignorance isn't always a bad thing, sometimes it has enabled someone to accomplish the impossible.

**The Bumblebee can't fly.** It is scientifically impossible for a bumblebee to fly. Its wings are too small for the size and weight of its body. But the bumblebee doesn't know that, so he just goes ahead and flies. Ignorance is bliss; at least the bumblebee thinks so.

## I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

But it is not a matter of money; it is a matter of thinking. That's where it all starts.

Money gravitates to great ideas. And not only money, but also all the resources that you need will begin to appear.

**Nehemiah 2: 17-18.** “Then I said unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lays waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach”.

It wasn't the affliction of the people of God, or the reproach, but the effect that it had upon Nehemiah to fast and pray that opened the door for God to send him to restore Jerusalem. God placed the idea in the heart of Nehemiah. It was a very great and noble cause. So great in fact that he couldn't tell any of his brethren at first for fear of being ridiculed. Then at the appropriate time he told them.

**Vs 18.** “Then I told them of the hand of the Lord that was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken to me. And they said, Let us arise and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work”.

It is never a matter of money. That's not the determining factor, God is. And you with God are a majority. It is a matter of receiving, believing, and acting upon it. You say, “what if it isn't what God wants me to do?” Well He will show you if you will wait on Him.

It entered into King David's heart to build a house for God. It was a great contrast to the temporary structure that housed the Ark. The first reaction of Nathan the prophet was to tell David to do all that was in his heart. It was a noble purpose, and there was a pressing need. But because he had shed so much blood in all the wars that he had fought, God wouldn't allow him to build it.

## **OUR DREAMS ARE NOT ALWAYS REALISED.**

**Psalm 127: 1.** “Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it”.

Yet God never did speak bluntly to David and say, “you can't do it!” But in tenderness, as would an adoring father with the child of his love, God tells David about the wonderful house that He is going to build him. There is no definitive "no" here spoken by God. Like the loving father that He is, He thanks us and couches His "no" in blessings and promises. Eventually it must have entered into David's heart that he wasn't going to be able to build it, so he did "the next best thing." He prepared mightily for his son Solomon to finish what had started in his heart as a dream.

**1 Chronicles 29: 1-2.**

“Solomon my son, whom God alone hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for God. Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God, the gold, for the things to be made of gold, and the silver”.

**If money didn't gravitate to your idea  
It's for one or two reasons. It wasn't God,  
or it wasn't very noble or inspiring.**

Then at the dedication of the temple we read these beautiful words in the tribute that Solomon brought concerning his father.

**2 Chronicles 6: 8.**

“But the Lord said to David my father, for as much as it was in thine heart to build a house for my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart”. David was a better man for his desire. Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

**Our system was never meant to promote  
the glory of preachers or priests.**

## I HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME.

You say you haven't got time! Time for what, that's the important thing? Each of us has 24 hrs in any given day regardless of who we are. Whether prince or pauper; paperboy or president, all of us has exactly the same number of hours in any week. Time is immensely precious, utterly irretrievable, and unquestionably the most valuable commodity we have. It's more precious than silver or gold, yet there's nothing we squander more recklessly than time. If you love life, don't waste time, for it's the stuff life is made of. It's a paradoxical thing. It has no substitute, it waits for nobody, and it takes its toll on everyone. It is in short supply, and high demand and there never seems to be quite enough of it.

It is conceded a salesman's success is 9/10ths-time management, and 1/10th territory. That goes for the servants of the Lord. There's no place that's any harder than another. You actually have all the time in the world to do everything that God wants you to do, and still have leisure time available. You need to ask yourself, what do I want to do with my life? What do I want to achieve? Do I have any career goals, and personal goals? If so what am I doing to reach them, and what do I need to prune from my life that's hindering me from achieving my goals?

You can't **do a goal**, you can only **do an activity**. If you want to become financially free (and that should a goal for every one) then pursue activities that will help you to accomplish that goal. Ask yourself, "Is this assisting me to reach my goals?"

Plan on a daily basis. Don't weigh yourself down with over management. Don't be a paper king. Make a list of the imperative and the important. Imperative is that which must be done. Important is that which needs to be done but it's not imperative today. Don't write down trivia. Focus on the things that must be done. Ask yourself, "What are the consequences if I don't get this done?" That's how to separate what's imperative, from what's important, and it sets today's priorities.

Poor planning produces poor results. Minimize time robbers. The cure for procrastination is analysing the outcome of failing to get something done. The definition of a perfectionist is, he's a perfect procrastinator. He rarely gets anything done. Check up on yourself at the end of the day. Review your accomplishments against what you had to do. Read edifying books and articles, the kind that will help you in your quest. And listen to tapes that will assist you to sharpen your skills and make your goals more achievable. Redeem time by using it wisely. Break big projects up into small bits. How do you move a mountain? One shovel full at a time. Successful people don't start with their work, they start with their time.

### **MY SKIN IS THE WRONG COLOUR.**

The best way to offset colour prejudice is to be awfully good at whatever you do. George Washington Carver was the son of a slave, yet he overcame great obstacles to become one of America's most renowned and beloved botanists and naturalists.

“How much further will the son of a Jamaican seamstress rise in American affairs of state?” *CHARLES ALDINGER*, of Reuters, reviews the possibilities of General Colin Powell in 1992 retiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Powell did not attend the elite United States Military Academy at West Point. Instead he joined the Army as an infantryman through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, while making what he concedes were very ordinary marks at City College, New York.

From that modest beginning he rose steadily through the ranks to become the first black ever to serve as White House National Security Adviser. He served former President Reagan and later as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Presidents Bush, Clinton, and Secretary of State under the Bush administration.

### **Some things are so simple that sophisticated people usually miss them.**

Stop thinking like a loser. Whatever your colour is, it is what God intended it to be. It is one of the assets that you have to help you to succeed.

## **I DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE.**

**Proverbs 21:1.** “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water He turns it whithersoever He will”.

I remember an occasion when we needed a larger building to hold our services in. After looking around we found some premises that seemed ideal for our purposes. The owner was an extremely wealthy property developer with a reputation for being very difficult to deal with. I duly contacted him and arranged to meet on site. When the time came to discuss terms the amount he was asking was far in excess of what we were able to pay.

Knowing about his reputation I said to him, “Sir, I believe that the price you are asking is a fair one. I have seen other buildings in town that are just as expensive but not nearly as nice as yours”. I never tried to rubbish his property or terms. Instead mustering up great nerve and forgetting about any feelings of inferiority, I confidently and enthusiastically told him that we could give him 50% of what he requested for the lease, whereupon he looked at me, smiled, and said, “It’s yours”.

## **I COME FROM A BROKEN HOME.**

Well you're not the first person to use that as an excuse, and you certainly won't be the last. It is not a level playing field in the game of life, and you **can't** alter the past, but you **can** have a future, and it's in the power of your hands to do with it as '**you will**'.

## **1 Chronicles 4: 9-10.**

“And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, (sorrow maker) saying, because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, 'Oh' that thou would bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand would be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested”. With a name like Jabez you certainly would have a cross to bear.

### **BORN IN SORROW:**

Jabez was born in sorrow. His name means “causing pain” or sorrowful. Nobody has life the way they want it. We all have thorns and briars. They are the effect of the curse. Just because we are believers does not mean to say that we are immune to the trials and testing that face other men and women. But as Isaiah says, “Arise and Shine”. The brightness of our rising is what will cause kings and leaders to be drawn to us.

### **You lose the confidence of your childhood as you grow older.**

Every great visitation has been born of adversity. Consider Luther when he was summoned to Rome. Wesley; Knox; Booth; Joseph; Moses; David; Gideon, and the master himself Jesus Christ. No one said it was easy.

At His dedication Simeon told Mary his mother.

**Luke 2: 34.** “Behold this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against”.

### **BORN IN OBSCURITY:**

History knows nothing of Jabez. Even the names of his father or mother are not recorded. We are not told anything about the things he accomplished. For that wasn't what God was trying to draw our attention to, but rather to the cry of his tormented soul. God's choice is a mystery to men, “not many wise, not many noble,” but the halt, the maimed, the lame, the youngest son, these are His selection, yes His delight, for doesn't it say in Isaiah 33: 23 “then was the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame took the prey”. Think of it! “the lame take the prey”.

**1 Samuel 2: 8.** “He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory, for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's and He hath set the world upon them”.

**HE WAS MORE HONORABLE THAN HIS BRETHREN:**

God sought him out because he sought after God. He had the same father and mother as his brethren, but he was more honourable. The difference being he was prepared to do something about a life that he was totally dissatisfied with. The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout all the earth seeking to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards Him. God is seldom in a hurry, but here is an exception, as He hastens to perform His word .

As the Sabbath was among the days of the week;  
As Israel was among the nations;  
As the Levites were among the tribes;  
As Jacob was preferred before Esau, and Isaac before Ishmael;  
And David over all his brothers, so God exercises His choice, for He is God, and He works and moves on His own terms.

**Ezekiel 9: 4** “And the Lord said unto him, go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof”.

**HE WAS A MARKED MAN:**

God marks those that cry and sigh for whatever reason. Israel cried by reason of their bondage for deliverance. The Kings of Judah cried in repentance for their sin, and here Jabez. His deplorable condition and the cry of his soul is all that's recorded about him. Why? So that we might cry like him! Is there anything causing you pain or sorrow? Then do what he did.

**He called on God and prayed,  
“Oh that thou would bless me!”**

Cry out and shout thou inhabitant of Zion for great is the Holy one of Israel in the midst of thee. If you've never prayed “**OH**” you've never prayed. He knew he had to have a meeting with God, and nothing less would suffice. So he asked the Lord for four things.

### **1. Bless me indeed.**

The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow with it. The blessing of the Lord is our greatest wealth, and nothing that we can do, can add anything to it.

There is a blessing that makes rich and adds no sorrow, no remorse, no regrets, and no “if only”. **It's the blessing of the Lord.** When five small loaves and two fish provides enough nourishment to feed 5000 men, their wives and families, and afterwards leaves a surplus that fills twelve baskets full, that's Gods blessing.

We as individuals and the body at large, have been barren like Rachel and Sarah. Demand always exceeds supply, it is just the nature of things. If we have to work until we can accumulate enough wages to buy bread to feed the multitudes we couldn't do it in a dozen lifetimes. We are in urgent need of the blessing of the Lord, and given that little else really matters.

**2. Enlarge my coast. Isaiah 54: 2.** Have you ever cried, “There's got to be something better than what I'm experiencing?” That's because there is much land yet to be possessed. Increase and enlargement is God's agenda for all of us.

### **3. That your hand would be with me. Psalm 145: 16.**

“You open your hand and satisfy the desire of *every living thing.*” He gives the birds three meals a day, the lilies neither toil nor sow, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these. Oh ye of little faith, aren't you much better than all of these?

His hand is not a clenched fist, it is an open hand, it is a full hand, it is a hand extended in friendship, and fellowship. It tells us that His wonderful presence is ever at our side.

### **4. Keep me from (injurious) evil. Matthew 6:13.**

**Psalm 91: 11** “For He shall give His angels charge over thee in all thy ways”.

**Psalm 32: 1-2**

“And Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him, and when Jacob saw them, he said, this is God's host, and he called the name of that place Manhanaim”.

God has a multitude of angels and they're all on our side. He has given them a charge to surround and watch over every believer. “And the angels of God met him.” It wasn't a chance meeting but it was by divine appointment. Like Jacob I can well remember on more than one occasion when the angels of God intervened to deliver me and Anne when we were in grave danger. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord.

**Psalm 121: 3**

“He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, He that keepeth thee will not slumber, behold He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep”.

An old bishop with many responsibilities for saints under his care tossed and turned one night unable to get to sleep as the weight of his charges lay upon him. Listening to the clock strike one, two, and then three O'clock, he suddenly heard the voice of the Holy Spirit speak to him saying, “All right son, you can go to sleep now, I'll take over”. Immediately a scripture flooded into his soul, “He that keepeth Israel never slumbers nor sleeps,” rolling over he went to sleep. God **heard** him, and **granted** him that which **he** requested.

**Psalm 72: 12.**

“For He shall deliver the needy when he cries, and the poor also, and him that hath no helper”.

You can wait for God to sovereignly come to you, but I wouldn't hold my breath on that one, so don't count on it: Or you can request like Jabez did. Let's say together: ‘I thank you Lord that your angels encamp around about us to deliver those that fear you’. But much more do we give our praise to the God of the angels.

## HOW CAN WE HAVE A MEETING WITH GOD?

**Isaiah 40: 3** "The voice of him that cries' in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**Hebrews 13: 10.** Tells us "We have an Altar."

Whenever the Patriarchs wanted to have a meeting with God they built an altar, and God would always meet with them there.

**Jeremiah 29: 12-13.** "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

We must prepare a highway for Him to come to us on. When we are indifferent, He will respond to us in like manner.

**2 Chronicles 1: 6-7.** "Solomon went up to the brazen altar before the Lord and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did the Lord God appear unto Solomon, and said into him, ask what shall I give thee?"

**1000 BURNT OFFERINGS.** An exceptional offering brought an extraordinary response from God to his servant. These offerings were not compulsory, but completely voluntary. Solomon sought God with all his heart, and God gave him all he asked for, plus what he never asked for "*wealth.*"

**2 Chronicles 5: 6.** "Also king Solomon and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told or numbered for multitude."

**2 Chronicles 7: 1.** "Now when Solomon made an end of praying, the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house".

The God of fire descended in an extraordinary way into their midst.

### **I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD EDUCATION.**

Well not that many people have. That can be just as much an asset as it would appear to be a handicap. I knew a scientist in a church where I used to minister regularly. He had, so I was told, a very high IQ, and was involved in highly secret government work for which he was extremely well paid. After a time I quickly came to the conclusion that he had no ability to come to grips with spiritual matters. His head seemed to get in the way.

**People don't care how much you know  
until they first know how much you care.**

While I would be a fool to despise education, the fact remains that I am yet to see an IQ Test that can measure the things that really matter. To be clever with words, have a wonderful command of language, and be a master of mathematics may be very admirable qualities. But these things are not the only barometers by which an individual should be assessed. Unfortunately admission tests don't always measure the qualities that really make the difference between success and failure.

How do you measure integrity, or faithfulness, sincerity, or imagination, determination, intuition, diplomacy, or initiative?

**Integrity.** The bible says the upright's integrity shall preserve him.

**Faithfulness** is the opposite of indifference and insensibility. The unfaithful are unprofitable. God fixes His eyes on faithfulness not on the talents we possess.

**Sincerity** is to believe in yourself and what you're doing.

**Imagination** is like vision. It's the ability to climb high above the demands of the present to imagine a future not yet realized. It's prophetic in its essential essence.

**Albert Einstein** once said that imagination was more important than experience.

**Determination:** Jesus said, "no man putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom." The problem is that we have too many people with rear vision mirrors on their plows.

**Intuition:** Is that blessed quality that comes to a life that's in union with Christ.

I well remember an occasion when during an appointment with a young man in his twenties who was a Christian leader, but was going through a difficult time, suddenly I felt intuitively that he was in an adulterous relationship. Looking at him I surprised myself as I told him that he was an adulterer and needed to repent right there and then. He became indignant, and very angry, and yet I was so sure that I was speaking by the Holy Spirit and told him so. Then he fell forward and began to weep and repent.

We need the mind of Christ, for that young man was about to make shipwreck not only of his life but that of the married woman with whom he was involved.

**Diplomacy** is the ability to communicate graciously, and with sensitivity. It costs you nothing to be courteous and polite. "You'll catch more bees with honey than you will with vinegar."

**Initiative** is that wonderful quality which sees what needs to be done, and does it without having to be told to every time, always reporting back when it has been taken care of. A person may have great talent, and tremendous potential, but if they lack these things they will surely fail. The bottom rung of the ladder is crowded with talented people.

**Resourcefulness.** Winston Churchill was an academic failure. His parents all but despaired of him, but he had a resourceful spirit and a possibility-thinking attitude that made him one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century.

You can change; yes you can, because God has made it possible by His grace. So gird up the loins of your mind. You have become too flabby in your thinking. It's not your circumstances that are licking you; it's your thinking.

**Philippians 4: 13.**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Yes you can. You can you know. You can right now.  
You're not alone, you never have been, and you never will be.  
Start now, today, you can do it, yes you can.  
Think right and live right.  
Think wrong and live wrong.

## **ATTITUDES WILL MAKE YOU OR BREAK YOU.**

A man is literally what he thinks. It really doesn't matter whether he says he is a believer or not. The bottom line for every individual is, that they are what they think. As a man thinks in his heart so is he! It's that simple. I am talking to those of us who have accepted the Lord as personal Saviour. We have been given the mind of Christ, it's found in His word. Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus we are told. It is not mind over matter, or blab it and grab it. If you want to live right you're going to have to learn to think straight.

We believe in the total depravity of man, that he is lost, blind, and without hope outside of Christ. From the moment of our conversion we become three things. A child of God, a son of God, and a saint. Although the work of Christ for us is perfect, our education has just begun, and so our heavenly father has placed us in the hands of the Holy Spirit to bring us to maturity.

**1 Peter 2: 2.** "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby."

**Romans 12: 1.** "Be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

There are three major hurdles we must clear if we are to become a mature member of the redeemed community.

**CHILD**

**SON**

**SAINT**

The Lord's program has no stopping place ever. The invitation to rise up and take our place as ministering members of the redeemed community is extended to every one of us. We have come from death to life. Now we must go from childhood to discipleship, and from discipleship to sonship, and from sonship to partnership. Every believer has ministry potential. Not every believer has entered into the place of being a minister.

When I was born again I instantly became a Child, a Son, and a Saint. As a **CHILD** I will always be dependent, and need guidance. The trait is humility. As a **SON** I have destiny, I am learning authority, that I may be taken into partnership; Trait is learning the authority of the word over me as well as through me. How? By being under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, as the centurion who came to Jesus seeking healing for his servant was under the discipline of his superior .

**HEBREWS 5: 8** "Though He were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things that he suffered; and being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

**SAINT** is a status we grow into. He is separated from the world unto God. Every trait of the life of Jesus is developing in him. God has designated us saint, not when we die, but now.

A child is being corrected by teachers.

A son is being instructed by his father

A saint is being perfected by suffering and trials.

He only has one son without sin, but none without suffering.

A child receives correction. A son receives instruction.

A saint is perfected through trials patiently endured. That's how we are disciplined. It's how our earthly parents should have disciplined us. Sadly many of us never were, but it makes no difference now that we have come to Christ.

**Life is made up of choices and options,  
and you will have to choose,  
so be sure you're making the right ones.**

You do or you don't,  
You will or you won't,  
It's not that you can't.

It is entirely our choice to be corrected or be a camp follower. If we won't receive instruction that's our choice. We choose the cut

off point in our own development. The Lord never excludes anyone, we eliminate ourselves. "Oh I was brought up in a Christian home," someone said to me, as if this didn't apply to him. Yes I thought to myself, and you're a mess!

Discipleship has to do with learning, it involves a teacher and a pupil. The teacher is the Holy Spirit. Elders are God's intended method for assisting and exercising discipline. The rod of correction is the word of God in the hands of spiritual guides who love us, not the gift of prophecy in the mouth of some saint. For discipleship to happen the pupil must be in touch with the teacher. Growth takes time.

**BE A SELF-ESTEEMER.**

Jesus said "Thou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and your neighbour as yourself." Most people think they don't deserve to be a high achiever because they weren't one at school. Others are on life's ladder where they think they ought to be. You will never rise above the level you rate yourself. A little black boy from a poor family when asked in Sunday school class what he believed replied, "I don't know a lot of things but I knows this, I must be good, cause God don't make no trash."

**GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK YOU'RE ALL YOU'VE GOT.**

You deserve to be a success as much as anybody else. It is not your circumstances that are licking you it's your thinking. To conclude you are never really going to succeed at anything is to self-destruct. Some people act as if success is a non-Christian word, and that God takes great delight in our failure.

God has never programmed the life of any individual to fail, but just the opposite. He made us in His own image and likeness. We are partakers of a nature that cannot fail. God has given us an antidote for every spiritual, mental, and physical dis-ease, for an anchor in the storms of life. He has given us hope for discouragement, faith for fear, armour for warfare, life for death, healing for sickness, and success for failure.

**Hebrews 13:5-6.**

“Let your life be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have.”

**SUCH THINGS AS YOU HAVE.**

It's a good exercise to take inventory of just what we do have instead of always focusing on what we don't. "For He hath said, I will never leave you or forsake you, so that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

The person most responsible for the level of your achievement is the one who sets your goals. With God's help set them for yourself, don't let others do it for you.

**BE A DREAMER.**

Dreams are one of the most powerful tools you have.

Dreams are what fuel desire.

Desire is the secret to succeeding.

It costs nothing to dream. By dreaming we mean imagination.

Great dreamers never stop dreaming.

Walt Disney formed a group of dreamers around him whom he called "Imagineers." They were the heart and soul of Disney's successes. God wants to open the eyes of our understanding and enlighten us.

**Ephesians 1: 18.** "By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you."

Every successful achiever was a dreamer be he an athlete, a writer, a businessman, a scientist or a politician. It all started when he began to dream. It costs you nothing to dream but imagination. God can't think through a brick. Most bible dreams were of paramount importance because of their prophetic nature. The greatest achievements started as a dream, an idea, a seed thought. What better seed is there to plant than the word of God?

**Isaiah 55: 10-11.**

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not but waters the earth, and makes it to bring forth and bud, so that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it."

It is guaranteed to germinate. Under the right conditions it will bring forth 100 fold. The apple sleeps in the seed, and no man can even guess the number of apples that seed contains. The bird waits in the egg. And the highest vision and greatest dreams are yet to be dreamed in God. To labour without a dream, is monotony, no it is worse than that it's agony. The only person with the power of veto over your dreams should be God.

**Work without vision is drudgery.**

**Vision without work is visionary.**

**Work with vision is revolutionary.**

## **BE A FEAR DISSOLVER.**

**1 John 4: 18.** "Fear has torment. But perfect love casts out fear."

### **Lets give a new definition to fear of failure.**

1. Failure doesn't mean you have failed, it just means that you haven't succeeded yet.
2. Failure doesn't mean you won't make it, but it may mean you will have to work a little harder and wait a little longer.
3. It doesn't mean you haven't got it, what it does mean is you'll have to do something different to get it.
4. Failure doesn't mean you're a fool to have tried, it means you're very courageous.

Failure never means God has abandoned you, He's just waiting for you to come to him for a better idea. Delete the word failure from your mind, you deserve to be successful as much as any man.

Gary Player once said, "God hates mediocrity." Believe it, He does! And He will do everything He can to help you overcome it and succeed. When once we find an inner adequacy to meet life, fear drops off like the dead leaves from the branches of a tree in autumn.

### **Stop telling yourself what you can't do and begin to dream again**

We were not born with fear, God has not given us the spirit of fear, but love, power, and a sound mind. A mind full of fear is an unsound mind.

### **The reason people quit is because they can't see themselves winning.**

The setbacks we encounter are not brick walls; they are the

hinges upon which doors of great opportunity swing. As the things we overcome by His grace strengthen our character, so the success it brings increases our confidence, encouraging us to go further and aim higher. Fear and doubt will always lead to failure and defeat.

**BE A DECISION-MAKER.**

By the time you have got this far into this book you will have made a decision, even if it's to do nothing. We suffer from the paralysis of analysis and so never learn to make right decisions. To do nothing about a problem is the worst decision you can ever make.

You can learn by others mistakes,

Learn by your own,

Learn by experience, or do nothing and never learn. The best way to get experience is by making decisions, right or wrong. There's a wonderful verse of scripture that's been a great comfort to me many times when I have had to make an important decision.

**Proverbs 11: 3.** "The integrity of the upright shall guide them".

Seeming certain failure looms because of the consequences of making the right decision. Friend, if you know it's the right decision, make it. You are not responsible for the outcome, God is.

**Daniel 3: 16-18.** "Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego answered and said to king, Oh Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand oh king. But if not, be it known unto thee oh king, we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image thou hast set up." That's straight to the point. Decisions are based on a value system.

**1. Is it lawful?**

**2. Will it edify?**

**3. Does it take faith?**

## SET YOUR GOALS.

Why should I be a goal setter? Because it is a sin not to. Sin means to miss the mark, to fail to hit the target. How can you hit the mark if you don't have one to aim at? "Play the game according to the rules" said the professor to his class, "but suppose there are no goal posts" one of the students replied. God has already set some goals for us, I call them required goals.

Like getting out of debt.

Like having a surplus over and above your own needs so you can be the answer to someone else's problem. And then there are others that you set for yourself. Don't let other people set your goals. Some goals are negative because you hate what you're doing or you let someone else set them for you.

Your goals must be specific.

They must be God-given.

They must be to you.

They should be realistic.

They need to be measurable in time.

They must be in God's order of priority.

Spiritual, that's God and me; Social, that's my wife, and family.

Mental and Physical health, and my financial well being.

**These help to make me fit to serve others.**

**Proverbs 3: 6.**

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

**The past and the future are never  
as important as the present.  
The key is not the occupation,  
it's the individual.**

## BE ENTHUSIASTIC.

**Isaiah 6:7.** "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this."

Zeal is an attribute that's attributable to man; but we don't often think of it being an attribute of God. Yet the fact is that God is very enthusiastic about our prospects because He knows that all power in heaven and in earth is given unto Christ, and when we accept Him we have unlimited potential. The word enthusiasm comes from the Greek word "*en theos*", and simply means "God within."

**Romans 12: 11.** "Not slothful in business fervent in Spirit serving the Lord." To be zealous, is to be enthusiastic, earnest, ardent and eager. It is to be hot, to boil over, and to glow like molten metal. It is not necessary to be loud to be enthusiastic. It's an attitude of the heart. Find something you can get enthusiastic about and you're halfway there. Nothing great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm. The great Babe Ruth holds the record for home runs scored, yet he struck out more times than any other major league player. Why? Because when he went to the plate he meant business. Whatever your hand finds to do, you do it with all your might. Jesus said: "I would that you were hot or cold, but because you're neither, I will spew you out of my mouth."

### **Did you hear about the man who died at twenty and was buried at forty?**

**Psalms 39: 3.** "The more I mused and thought about it, the hotter the fire inside me burned, then at last I spoke." If we want people to show any interest in what we believe and do, we need to have a conviction about it. As I have travelled around the world I've watched worship leaders in many churches standing out front of the congregation singing and looking like they have been baptized in lemon juice. Instead of being uplifted quite frankly I felt put off, and so too will the people they're trying to influence. If you're not very enthusiastic about what you're doing then stop doing it, or try turning your lemons into lemonade. (not my quote but I like it ).

## **BE A PROBLEM DESOLVER.**

Every individual is involved in relationships of one kind or another; within your marriage, in your family, with your peers, and in your employment. Some are not a problem, but they all have the potential to become one. There are some relationships we need to walk away from, and some we can walk away from or neglect without doing any harm. Then there are others that we cannot ignore except with great loss to the other party and ourselves.

Who said Christians don't have problems? My life has been a chapter of problems, but most of them solved. You can suppress them, ignore them, and try to deny them, but they won't get solved that way, and they don't go away. Having a problem doesn't mean you're unspiritual, but ignoring it does. 'Unresolved problems have started wars, broken marriages, ruined businesses, and destroyed partnerships. Unresolved interpersonal disputes are the greatest problem in church, business, and family life. Then there are just plain old problems of a different nature. Like a mathematical problem. I believe life is full of problems.

**A problem is a matter for solution,  
often difficult but never impossible. *Websters' Dic.***

**Psalm 34: 19.** "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivered him out of them ALL." It is not what your problem does to you, it's what you do with your problem. It will do one of two things. It can lead you to God, or drive you to despair.

All we see is the problem, and never the design. No problem ever leaves you where it finds you. Every adversity hides a possibility. Trouble is a great motivator. Finding a solution for an unsolved problem made many a man a millionaire. Jesus Christ has already solved our greatest problem. We need to put our problem in its right perspective. Don't make mountains out of molehills, but let God make molehills out of your mountains.

## **BE POSITIVE ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS.**

A woman was complaining to her pastor about her husband. So the pastor asked her, "Does he beat you?" "Oh no!" she said, so he asked, "Does he run around with other women?" "Oh no!" she replied. So he asked another question, "Is he a drunkard, and waster refusing to work and provide for you?" to which she quite indignantly replied, "Certainly not!" Whereupon the pastor said, "Sister if I were you, I would go home and take very good care of that man before someone else comes along and grabs him, he sounds like a pretty nice fellow to me." The lady said, "Pastor I think you're right. She immediately went home and put the minister's advice to good use.

Problems have made more millionaires than any other single thing. We live in 14lbs per square inch. That is a fact. There is no such thing as a pressure free environment. Astronauts in the weightless atmosphere of a space capsule find the simplest tasks extremely difficult. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all." Even as believers we are not immune to the problems of sorrow, sickness or calamity. But we do have an anchor for the storms of life and don't need the props of drugs and alcohol that have proven to be like quicksand to everyone that's turned to them to get them through. All you're doing is exchanging one problem for something far worse.

The world's not going to give you anything for nothing, so you had better make up your mind and start to do something about it. Paul said our sufficiency is not of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God who has made us sufficient. Jesus said, "All power in heaven and in earth is given unto me, go ye therefore and tell others about the good news." We have a source that we can draw upon in every emergency.

**2 Corinthians 3:5.** "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God."

## **BE A RESOURCE MANAGER.**

The Worlds greatest problem is not lack, but waste.  
Management is the key.  
Learn to manage yourself by managing your time.  
There's nothing we squander more than time.  
Time is the most important gift that we have.  
It's the stuff life is made of.

You can be extremely efficient in many areas, but hopelessly ineffective. A patient was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery. After consultation the surgeons went ahead and removed his appendix. The operation went smoothly and was performed with copybook precision. However the man died. The autopsy showed that the patient's ailment was not appendicitis, but an obstruction in the bowel. You see you can be very efficient, yet totally ineffective.

If you're a salesman and your target is to sell so many units in an allotted time, then is what you're doing actually getting you in front of prospective buyers, or are you forever sharpening pencils? You need to be reading books on how to sell, going to seminars and sales motivation courses because if you don't you will never become a successful salesman. And I'm not saying that study and learning from successful people isn't necessary, but to succeed you must get out there where sales are made, doing the things that produce results. You have to keep asking yourself is this producing income, because that's what pays the bills. It's what you live off, not the just knowledge.

So many in middle management are nothing but paper shufflers. They are not producers, and in many cases are superfluous. It reminds me of a song in the film "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's court", entitled "I'm busy doing nothing working the whole day through".

## **BE A PRICE PAYER.**

### **The price of true success is total commitment to Jesus Christ.**

Some people can tell you the price of everything but don't know the value of anything. The price of success is nothing compared to the cost of failure. You must put something in, to get something out.

### **WHAT ARE YOU PREPARED TO GIVE UP TO GET IT?**

You have to care about the other person in your life. Some people are the centre and the circle of their own circumference. They are selfish and self-serving. It's the sure way to get the rug pulled out from under your feet. Their beatitude is: Blessed am I when I can get everyone serving me so I can fulfil my dreams. They may not walk over everyone who gets in their way, but they make sure that they get their way just the same. People like that should never be in charge of anything but alas many are.

Compassion is the key to men's hearts. Jesus said love your neighbour as yourself, to whom a bystander asked, "Who is my neighbour." Then Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan and when He had finished said, "Now you go and be a good neighbour."

Oscar Hammerstein who partnered Rodgers in writing the music and lyrics for so many of those wonderful musicals of stage and screen fame, was leaving a theatre on Broadway, New York one day, when he ran into Mary Martin. She was on her way to a rehearsal. They stopped for a moment to exchange greetings. Little did Mary know that this would be the last time she would see Oscar alive. He had found out he had a cancerous tumour, and was on his way to hospital for surgery from which he would not recover. About to depart Oscar thrust a crumpled piece of paper into Mary's hand saying "These are some lyrics that you might like to do something with." I'm sure many of us have heard these beautiful words.

A song is no song until you sing it  
And a bell is no bell until you ring it  
And love in your heart was not meant there to stay  
For love isn't love until you give it away.

**Love is an act John 3:16.** Give and it shall be given unto you in every area, materially as well spiritually.

Cause and effect is absolute and undeviating. The law of equal and opposite reaction is indisputable. It works positively as well as negatively. We reap what we sow. It is as certain, and as sure as the sunrise. Sow to the wind, and reap the whirlwind. Sow to the spirit, and reap life. Christ came and became a curse for us, to set us free from the effects of the curse that came through the fall. But we have to take the tools He has given us and use them if we are to be successful. "I have given you the land," God said to Israel, "Now go in and possess it." Our life is like a garden. We have to dress it, and keep it from destructive elements. Thoughts that are injurious, unproductive and unfruitful are like weeds and thorns, they must be ruthlessly rooted out.

**2 Corinthians 10: 5.** "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Men are anxious to improve their circumstances but unwilling to improve themselves. Man is continually revolting against effect from without, while continuing to harbour the cause within. That's the root of the problem. Thought is so deeply rooted, we need to continually be on guard.

**2 Corinthians 10:5b.** "Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." We must make prisoners of rebel thoughts. Life issues forth from out of the heart, the seat of our emotions, our thoughts and will.

**A strong man cannot help a weaker man until he's willing to be helped**

We have desires and goals for betterment that are continually frustrated by self-doubt, and fear, and so we just give up.

## **DON'T BE A DRIFTER.**

"We ought to take more earnest heed to the things we have heard lest at any time we begin to drift". To be carried by a current of aimless thought. To move passively, showing no fight. Aimlessness is a vice drifting to catastrophe. We shall certainly be caught in dangerous currents and end up on the rocks if we are not under power but just drifting. We must have strong moorings, fastened to the solid rock of God's word, or when we are under way empowered by the promises of God. Those who have no central purpose in life fall easy prey to failure, and unrighteousness.

A drifter: an aimless person with no fixed job. You must have a goal in life. It needs to be specific, measurable, and achievable.

A good place to start is to get a job. It's unhealthy and unscriptural not to try. If you don't you'll end up a beggar and a no hoper. Have some respect for yourself, and look for one until you find what you want. Matt 7:7-8.

**SPECIFIC.** Take a pen and write down in detail what your goal is.

**MEASURABLE.** You need to be able to look and measure how far you have come.

**ACHIEVABLE.** Be realistic in your aspirations. It needs to incorporate every area of your life. Spiritual, physical, mental, social, and material. The whole man needs to be involved.

**3 JOHN 2.** "Beloved I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers."

## **EFFORT LEADS TO RESULTS.**

In all the affairs of human life there are two measurable things, *effort* and *results*. The strength of the effort is the measure of the result. The result will never be less than the effort.

**Proverbs 24: 30-34.** "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall was broken down.

Then I saw and considered it well; I looked upon it and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; So shall thy poverty come as one that travailed; and thy want as an armed man."

### **A PERSONAL DESCRIPTION OF A LAZY MAN.**

His circumstances are bad and his prospects even worse. He is slothful and ignorant. He lacks the will and the courage to make the physical effort, and the mental decisions to do something about it.

His circumstances are not the problem, **he is.**

He has a farm capable of producing all he needs to prosper him.

His condition and that of his farm is the result of long neglect.

The cause of his problems is he's too lazy to plow, plant, prune or weed. He maintains nothing to help keep his property in good repair. One cannot help but pity his family.

The result of his indolence is abject poverty, and misery. He is jealous and resentful of the prosperous. The lesson is this, that to follow the example of the slothful is to come to the same end.

## THREE KINDS OF GUYS.

### THE FIRST IS "THE FOOL."

He is anxious to improve his poverty stricken condition but he won't work. He is envious and jealous of people who are prosperous. He claims that their success was due to good luck as if luck had something to do with success. He's an artful dodger. He thinks he's worth a lot more money than they're paying him, so he feels justified in deceiving his employer by doing no more than he tells him to do, and a lot less if he can get away with it. A man with this attitude is totally unfitted to rise out his hopelessness. His attitude is digging a bigger and deeper hole for himself. He does not understand that the first principle of success is not good fortune or chance, but being faithful in that, which is another man's. It is the key to getting, that which is your own. We are called not only to be faithful "to" that which is another man's, but "in" that which is another man's also.

**Luke 16: 12.** "And if you have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own." The other man being those that are in your chain of command, those you are responsible to, as well as those you are responsible for. You will notice that Jesus said, "Who will give you that which is your own." Yes your very own. It has your name upon it. There's something there for all of us when we're faithful.

**Matthew 25: 14.** "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into far country, which called his own servants and delivered unto them **HIS GOODS.**"

### THE SECOND IS "THE GREEDY MAN."

He's a menace to everyone who has to do business with him. He can be bribed, and will not hesitate to bend the rules if he thinks nobody is watching and he can get away with it. He cuts corners, short changes, and cheats, adopting questionable methods to get ahead.

**Proverbs 15: 27.** "He who profits illicitly brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live."

**You steal from yourself when you take from others.**

Jesus said, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

**Jeremiah 17: 11** "Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay, so is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone they will desert him, in the end he will prove to be a fool."

The man who accumulates riches by dishonest means will leave them in his prime to someone else. What a fool he is.

**Isaiah 5: 8-9** "Woe to you who add house to house (by violently expelling the poorer occupants) and join field to field until there is no space left and you live alone in the land. The Lord Almighty has declared in my hearing; surely great houses will become desolate, the fine mansions left without occupants."

**THE THIRD HAS NO CONTROL OVER HIS APPETITES.**

Maidens, money and meals. Not necessarily all of them, or in that order. He needs to lose weight, but he has a problem, he's a glutton. He would like to lose weight, so he's prepared to spend large sums of money to get slim, but he will not do anything to curb his carnal desires for every food. The problem is that if you feed an appetite until it's full, you won't satisfy it, but only increase it He doesn't deserve good health.

**Galatians 5: 22-23.** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness *and temperance.*"

Temperance is self-control. It's moderation in the indulgence of the appetites and passions. What does it profit a man if he gains all that weight only to lose quality of life. He's miserable and probably won't live long enough to enjoy his riches.

## **AFFLICTIONS THE PATHWAY TO WISDOM.**

**Psalm 119: 71.** "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." God is in the trouble making business in order to get our attention.

**Psalm 73: 28.** "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Thy works."

This does not mean because we suffer we are virtuous; therefore to be Godly one must be a sufferer. Poverty and wretchedness is the result of failure to understand, and act upon the word of God. Material possessions are the result of right living..

It's a bad thing when some men are afflicted, because they become bitter rather than better. They blame man and censure God for their troubles. The thought never seems to enter their heads that perhaps someone might be trying to get their attention. They are so negative and melancholic that it's a trial to have them around.

### **AFFLICTION WORKS PATIENCE:**

A patient person is the offspring of adversity. You rarely find compassion in a person who has had no trouble. Jesus is touched by the feelings of our infirmities, because He was afflicted and smitten of men.

### **THREE AREAS BY WHICH GOD EQUIPPS US**

Firstly, from the moment of our conception, our personality, sex, mind, will, and emotions were being formed. Our physical attributes, our strong points, those areas that will enable us to excel over other areas of our lives. Things that God knew were necessary for us to fulfil His will for our lives were put in place.

**Psalm 139: 13.** "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb."

1. The instant you became a believer the Holy Spirit gifted you.  
"Having then gifts differing according to the grace given us."  
Romans 12: 6

**1 Corinthians 12: 7.** "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

**Ephesians. 4: 7.** "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

2. We were equipped at birth; and again at the new birth; and then when He ascended on high He gave gifts of men, some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints.

3. We become equipped through all the experiences of life to allow us to become involved in the lives of others.

**2 Corinthians 1: 3-4.** "Blessed be God even the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our tribulation, so we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort where we ourselves are comforted of God."

Affliction prepares us. This is one reason why God allows us to suffer, to build character, and to equip us to comfort others.

**Ephesians 5:14.** "Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and the Lord shall give thee light."

**We can all learn from past experiences  
but we shouldn't live in them.**

Here Paul admonishes the church to wake up, to get up, to dress up, to wise up, grow up and fill up. And we can add to that give up, for God will have the last say.

## **AFFLICTION WILL KEEP US.**

**Psalm 119: 67.** "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept Thy word."

It's through affliction that God separates the precious from the vile. The word used for "astray" is not wilful wickedness, but rather wandering, through careless ignorance. If you don't read the signposts you stand in danger of being prosecuted for trespassing. Or perhaps something even more drastic, you could wander into a minefield.

### **Hebrews 12: 5-6; 10-11.**

"And have you completely forgotten the divine word of appeal and encouragement in which you are reasoned with and addressed as sons? My son do not think lightly or scorn to submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage and give up and faint when you are reprov'd or corrected by Him. For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes.

For our earthly fathers disciplined us for only a short period of time, and chastised us as seemed proper and good unto them, but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness. Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness in them which are exercised thereby."

Chastening that's endured will always yield good fruit. The profane are those that have refused correction.

If you are never afflicted how will you get to know God?  
How will you ever trust Him if you never get to know Him?

**If you won't make an appointment to get  
to know God, He will make one for you.**

## THE FIRST CONDITION FOR SUCCESS.

All men are looking to improve their station in life, because there's an inherent desire for betterment in all of us. The first condition of success is to assume responsibility. To hide from responsibility is to hide from the God of salvation. Adam hid, and man has been hiding ever since. "Where art thou Adam?" asked God, and Adam replied "Here I am." "What have you done Adam," said God? Adam replied "I heard Thy voice and was afraid, I hid myself also because I was naked." And man has been afraid ever since, afraid of the truth! So what does this man do? He looks for someone that he can place the blame on for his condition. Next Adam said to God, "The woman that you gave me made me do it." Addressing Eve the Lord God asked, "Is that true?" to which she replied "The devil made me do it." A typical statement today is, "Everything's going wrong and I don't know why!" Well if that's the case, it's high time you found out.

The Greeks blamed their gods, and so does the western world, and the Hindus blame their gods or life in another incarnation. "My karma is bad" they say. While the Muslims say "It's the will of Allah, the stars have decreed it, or we are in the grip of Kismet." And so these people stoically resign themselves to their fate.

Sadly many Christians are no different. To blame fate is to blame God. We are free moral agents, the tree in the garden, the man and the woman's relationship to that tree testifies that this is so. Then some claim that we are the product of our environment. Environment does affect us, but not mechanically. Only those parts of the environment to which we respond affects us. The choice is always ours, because God has allowed an area of freedom in man thus limiting Himself. And since He has made another will He must step back and let it operate.

**It's not you're circumstances that  
are licking you, it's your wrong attitude.**

## THE URGE FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

The urge for self-improvement: There's got to be something better than this that I'm experiencing. The desire to go beyond what you know and have, and want to have, is universal. Nobody wants to just exist. The next question to arise will be. Is there anything out there in the universe that will help me to go beyond myself? Did God give me a brain that craves for answers or is it just to store information, or to think with? I have desires for food and love and sex. Has any provision been made to satisfy these appetites? Or has a creator who cannot satisfy the longings that He placed in His creations hearts just plonked us here?

These questions answer themselves. "Cry and supply are inherent to the nature of reality." There is no known hunger where there isn't something there to meet it. Would God supply the physical without respect for the spiritual and mental? The answer is no, a thousand times no! The fact that you have dissatisfaction with what you are and what you have, is evidence in itself that every resource is available to help you make the transformation that you need to make, to be the kind of person you want to be. To recognize this is the greatest step you can ever take. For this is what gives us hope. Yes things can change, but more important, *you can!*

**Matthew 5: 6.** "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."

## THE URGE FOR THE RIGHT DIRECTIONS.

Whereas the first was an urge to be different and become a better person, the second is the craving to know that you are moving in the right direction. Orientation: Mankind is lost, gone astray, in darkness. Have you ever lost your way in a strange city and had to rely upon locals for directions. It is not very reassuring when you are given several different sets of instructions about how to get to your destination.

We are in need of an awakening so that we know we are on the right path. This urge goes deeper, and is more fundamental even

than sexuality, or craving for power. It's greater than the desire for possessions. That's why we are never full when it comes to things. If you feed an appetite until it's full you will never satisfy it but only increase it, and become a slave to it. That goes for every appetite.

**SUBMISSION WITHOUT LOVE IS SLAVERY.**

Here's where every religion and system of philosophy comes in, claiming to have the answer to the problems of life. In many cases you are just exchanging one taskmaster for another. To satisfy our craving to be pointed in the right direction is the heart cry of every person who wants to get ahead. It's a universal wish that is expressed in all religions, like as when the JW's or Mormons come knocking on your door to tell you that they alone can show you how to get to where you need to go. So we not only want to realize our potential and go beyond what we are, but we want to know we are going in the right direction. It is as instinctive as breathing. "Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth." Truth won't set you free but knowing it will. To "know" is to have experienced, all else is information.

**THE URGE TO FIND A SCAPEGOAT.**

It is a failing of human nature to want to blame someone else for our sins, and our many shortcomings. We have been doing it for as long as we can remember, from our very early childhood. Then as we get older we become more sophisticated at it. It is a bad habit that must be broken if we are going to make any headway in the right direction.

**Our lack of advancement is not in the hands  
of other people, it's in our attitude.**

We are not wrestling against flesh and blood. The battleground is in the mind. Our lack of advancement is not in the hands of other people, or in our circumstances. It's in our attitude. We can't afford to wallow in the mire of self-pity, it won't get you anywhere except to help you lose the few friends you have left. There's no future in the past. Nobody loves a loser. Nobody wants to emulate them, or be like them, so eventually you don't want to have them around, or be anywhere near them.

## **STOP LOOKING FOR SCAPEGOATS THAT'S A COP-OUT**

We have all done it, but it is only an excuse for our own failure.

**Isaiah 54: 17.** "No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper, says the Lord, and every tongue that shall (that's future tense) rise up against you in judgment, you shall condemn." "This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord." God has vindicated His servants by reconciliation, and will continue own you as His".

### **GRASPING TRUTH. 2 TIMOTHY 2: 15.**

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

To be engaged in the learning process is as good a definition of "study" as one can find. But it is only one aspect of our approach to the word of God. The key to receiving any benefit from what you hear, read, study and memorize is to meditate. It's this and this alone that will enable you to firmly grasp what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. Like the four fingers of our hand without the thumb find it almost impossible to firmly grasp anything, the word of God will yield little without meditation.

### **THE KEY TO WHAT I KNOW IS MEDITATION.**

"Thy meditations have made me wiser than all my teachers."

**Read** the word; **talk** about it; **study** it; and **memorize** it; But the key to doing it is **meditation**. It is the key to a life of success, because as a man thinks so is he. Meditation like our thumb helps us to take a hold of the principles of God and godly living.

## AN INVITATION TO SUCCESS.

**Joshua 1:8.** "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for THEN you shall make thy way prosperous, and THEN you shall have good success."

No provision here has been made for failure. God is no respecter of persons, as we shall see. His truth endures to all generations; that includes this generation as well as every other. God does not give us desires of success that we can't fulfil. It centres in your relationship to Lord and to His word. This adds up to success. What you read, listen to, talk about, and think about, you will do, yes you will, you absolutely will. It works negatively, as well as positively. All are born with a desire to succeed. Nobody wants to fail. I have never yet met a person who wanted to be a failure. The key to success is to meditate. You can't meditate on what you haven't heard, read, or don't know. To meditate is to ponder, to think deeply, to reflect deeply, to thoughtfully contemplate, to roll over in your mind. Wrong meditations result in wrong living. Right meditations result in right living. What you meditate on will affect your life. It will influence every part of your being. It's decisive, and uncompromising. It's the key to doing the will of God, and fulfilling your dreams. Your dream is for a fulfilled life. Psalm 37: 4. "Delight thyself in the Lord and He also will give thee the desires of thine heart."

### **THE PROSPEROUS MAN. Psalm 1: 1-6.**

This psalm is devoted to the comparison of the godly and the ungodly man. The only difference between them is that one walks in the counsel of the scriptures, and the other takes his from every Tom, Dick and Harry.

**NEGATIVES:** The wicked man takes his advice from the ungodly. It doesn't mean that everything they say is wrong, they may have some good things to say, and have wealth to prove it, but the real measure of a man is in what he is, not just in what he has.

The problem is their counsel is a mixture of truth and error. the ungodly are like chaff that the wind blows away. They are double minded and unstable because of double standards. Their way of life will not stand close inspection when rightly judged. Their end is to perish.

**POSITIVES:** The godly man is blessed of the Lord. It is a blessing that adds no sorrow with it. Blessed means, to be happy, and to be envied. His delight is in the law of the Lord, he meditates in it day and night. He has made it his rule of life and conduct. Whatsoever he does shall prosper. He is like a cultivated, well-watered, and fruitful garden. The way up starts with seeking godly counsel.

We are literally bombarded by ungodly counsel, over radio and television, and in the media, which seems to delight itself in tragic, sad and calamitous events. Then we have the economic gurus, and it's very noticeable that hardly any two of them or their political counterparts seem to be in agreement. The advice is almost always conflicting on any subject you care to name. Avoid their counsel like the plague, it's demoralizing and destructive.

**Isaiah 1: 19.** "If you be willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land." Willing and obedient; are the two conditions of blessing. For most of us who love the Lord it is not a question of whether we are obedient or not, but whether we are willing or not. One step of obedience will accomplish more than years of human effort. It is not your circumstances; it is your will that's going to determine the way you will go. It is not just being obedient; you have to be willing also. As a man thinks in his heart so is he. We can't afford to just drift along. These statements in the Psalms were not made just to Joshua but to whosoever, and that's you and I, and anyone else who will believe and act upon them. Do you want to eat the good of the land? Of course you do, we all do. Are you willing? You may have been obedient, but are you actively willing? Do you intend to do something about it?

## TWO WAYS TO FACE LIFE

**It's not the gales it's the set of your sails  
that determines the course you take.**

Forty years of captivity had left them with a slave mentality.

You can face life out of God's abundance or your own inadequacy.

**2 Corinthians 9: 8.** "And God is able to make all grace abound towards you; that you having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work."

In this verse we have the word "all" repeated in the Greek five times. How can you abound to every good work if you haven't got enough to meet your own needs. I am not saying that you won't be tested, but afterwards God will abundantly bless you.

**Hebrews 10: 36.** "You have need of patience that after you have done the will of God you will receive the promise."

Give and it shall be given unto you. The will of God is to give. He promises that when we do, it shall be given back in a greater measure, pressed down and running over. What we do with it is another matter. That is primarily to do with stewardship.

**Philippians 4: 19.** " And my God will liberally supply, fill to the full your every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." These verses apply to every believer.

**2 Corinthians 1: 20.** "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him amen, unto the glory of God by us." "By us" refers to all who believe in the promises of God.

**Romans 4: 20.** "Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God." How can you and I give glory to God.? By having faith in his promises.

**Obadiah 17.** "The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise. 3 John 2. "Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers." 3 blessings that are God's will. If any one of these blessings were not His will, would John the beloved be wishing it?

**Material blessing.** The gospel of no want to believers is one of the clearest in the word. Jesus said "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all the things he was talking about; shelter, food and clothing, will be given to us". The things that sinners seek after, God said he would give us. God has sworn in his word that he that does not provide for his own is worse than an infidel, denying the faith. Well we have a father, a heavenly one, and His beloved son told us when we pray to say to Him, "Father give us this day, not tomorrow, but today, our daily bread please." He daily loads us with benefits.

**Healing and Health.** God is a healing God. From cover to cover the bible reveals it. "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

**Matthew 8:17.** "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

**Soul prosperity. James 1: 5.** "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him". Remember you're not asking God to give you something He hasn't made up His mind about.

**Every provision has been made.**

God never created anything that He didn't make provision for beforehand.

He never made a fish until it had water to swim in.  
He never made a bird until it had a tree to nest in.  
He never made a cow until it had grass to eat. And He never made man until he had a dominion to rule over.  
God never puts a man into a place that He didn't make provision for beforehand.  
This whole plan of God was thought out long before the foundation of the world was ever laid. Everything that Adam lost, Christ has won back and much more besides.

**2 Peter 1:1-4.**

"Simon Peter, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Peter states that this is addressed to all who have obtained "**like precious faith.**" That's us!

"Grace and peace be multiplied through the **knowledge** of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ."

His divine power has given unto us **all things** that pertain to "life and godliness."

He has given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; "**that by these**" we can escape the corruption that's in the world, and partake of the divine nature.

## HOW TO APPROPRIATE THE PROMISES OF GOD

There is a difference between a promise and a fact. You thank God for one, and pray for the other.

**God's commands are almost always accompanied by rewards.**

- 1. Locate the promise.**  
There are over 7000 of them throughout the bible.
- 2. Meet the conditions.**  
Ask and keep on asking; seek and keep on seeking; knock and keep on knocking.
- 3. Claim its fulfilment.**  
To demand a thing supposed due. *Collins dictionary.*  
In some cases we must exercise our authority over the enemy demanding that he release the prisoner.
- 4. Then "commit" thy way unto the Lord.** In Hebrew "Galal," is to roll it upon. Rolling it upon, casting it on, handing it over, and then taking your hands off. To commit is an act.

**"Trust"** also in him. It is total confidence in the one you are doing business with. It's as safe as a bank. To trust is an attitude.

**"And he shall bring it to pass."** Then the responsibility is no longer yours, it's God's. The ball is no longer in your end of the court. The next play is His.

**HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS.** Not He might, but He shall.  
There has not failed one word of all His good promises to us. If you have met the conditions nothing can stop the blessing from coming.

**Today if you will hear his voice harden not your heart** is a solemn

tone on which to end, but sadly a mixed multitude still dwells among the children of God. When the children of Israel left Egypt the mixed multitude came with them and caused them great harm time and again. They were always there, and sadly they are still here. When you hear His voice and obey it, you are declaring that you are not a Canaanite, but a true Israelite.

**The time frame is today.** It is always now with God. Nothing is said of tomorrow, except that tomorrow never comes.

**It is today for us, and tomorrow for God.** What we do today determines our tomorrow.

**It is a day of obligation.** We have heard the truth.

**It's a day of opportunity.** God has called to us to depart from fear failure and procrastination, and head into a new freedom today.

**It is a limited time.** Today is now, tomorrow may be too late.

Let us do something right now. Set your goal. Make a plan. Put it in a time frame. Make it measurable. Commit it to paper. Commit it to God. Pay the toll to work your goal. Your goal will be spiritual, physical, mental and material.

**JOSHUA 3: 5.** "And Joshua said unto the people, sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will work wonders among you."

To sanctify yourself means to set yourself apart for the purposes of God. It was His purpose that they should go in and possess the land. Sanctify yourselves, means just that, no one can do it for you, it's a personal decision, if you don't do it, it won't ever be done, no not ever. Your destiny in is your own hands don't blow it.

**Prayer:** God help me by your grace to be willing, and obedient, so that I may give to you great pleasure and satisfaction, for this you created me. Amen.

## SETTING YOUR GOALS

### God given goals.

#### 1. Getting out of debt.

Living in the Surplus

#### 2. Finding a better paying job.

Give yourself a break

#### 3. Personal prayer.

Share everything with Him

He really cares

#### 4. Pray with your spouse.

It will draw you closer

### Personal goals.

#### 1. Maybe a business venture

Deuteronomy 8:18.

#### 2. Maybe a ministry call.

You don't have to be a professional pastor to serve God. Yuk!

#### 3. Perhaps it's a dream.

Don't die wondering

#### 4. Relax God loves you.

Have some fun God won't mind, honestly

**When these things are in your life  
nothing can take can take you down.**

**THE END.**

## **MINISTRY PROFILE OF SHAUN T KEARNEY**

1967 the Lord led the Kearney's and their five children, (four sons and one daughter) to the North side of Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand. There they began to pioneer a church that was to have a significant impact on the whole church nationally and the community at large. In 1972 this small but growing body of believers miraculously acquired a tract of land where a Convention Centre and facilities for a Bible College and Christian Campground were established.

This beautiful location became the scene of many wonderful events. It was the venue for many conferences sponsored by the church. Speakers from many parts of the world came there to minister to God's servants as they gathered from all over New Zealand, Australia, and many parts of the world as far away as India, South East Asia and the South Pacific. Ministers also attended these gatherings from every mainline denomination to be challenged and blessed.

During Brother Kearney's six-year tenure as chairman of the Pentecostal Ministers' Fraternal in Auckland, a milestone was reached. For the first time, a conference for every stream in Pentecost, both classical and independent, was held at the convention centre. Accepting an invitation from Brother Kearney Jack Hayford Pastor from "Church on the Way" to be the guest speaker. All the leaders in the nation, without exception attended. As they lived together for five glorious days, the Spirit of God broke down barriers, allayed suspicions, thus paving the way for the formation of the Associated Pentecostal Churches of New Zealand.

In 1979 the Kearney's travelled to the United States for a Sabbatical along with their family. Returning to New Zealand in 1980, they sold their possessions and went back to the US. Then in 1989 they moved to Australia from whence they continued to travel to the US, Canada, Asia, Middle East and Europe extensively. In 2006 they settle back in New Zealand. He has written many books on the 'Unstructured Church life'.

## A LIST OF AVAILABLE BOOKS

Some books have been audio streamed on our website.

### THE LORDS SUPPER

Do this in remembrance of me.

### THE COUNTERFEIT CHURCH

An in-depth look at practices that have no scriptural foundation, but are nothing more than traditions and customs

Many saints suffer from anorexia they seem to have lost their appetite

### FROM ASHES TO BEAUTY

A message of blessed hope for all those suffering from the consequences of wrong decisions made in haste on life's journey.

### THY KINGDOM COME

Jesus came preaching the Kingdom and we gave Him institutions

### WHERE OH WHERE CAN WE GO

For all those that are looking for something better than what's on offer.

### LET US GO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Things to avoid getting bogged down in a religious ghetto.

### I LOVED THE CHURCH BUT I HATE WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO IT

The pastor's antics behind the pulpit hold most churches together.

### A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE AROUND THE LORD'S TABLE.

An inspirational study that exalts the work of Christ at Calvary.

### GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK YOU'RE ALL YOU'VE GOT

For Christians who have a desire not to become just another statistic.

### PROPHETS PROPHECY AND THE PROPHETIC

An insight into an area of great importance for the church in this hour.

Please visit our website

**[www.kingdomline.com](http://www.kingdomline.com)**

**Get "Dovetales" online**

**[shaunkearney@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shaunkearney@xtra.co.nz)**

**A monthly study with substance**