



FOURSQUARE **MINISTRY TRAINING**

MODULE FIVE

“CHRISTIAN CHARACTER ...AND THE ANOINTING”

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MODULE FIVE

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MODULE FIVE: UNIT ONE

BACKGROUND TO CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT **‘Spiritual Development in the Growth in Grace’**

Principle: There are definable stages of spiritual development known as going from “Glory to Glory”. Whatever their physical age, when a person becomes ‘born-again’ they are a new ‘born-again’ spiritually dependent baby son of God. An eighty year-old newly ‘born-again’ man, has a spiritual Glory Age of a one-year-old ‘baby in Christ’.

These Glory Stages include spiritual ‘childhood’ (Born-Again & Little Child); ‘young men (spiritual adolescence)’ and ‘fathers/older women’ (Mature Believers living as a ‘Living Sacrifice’.

Key References:

- i) Matthew 18:3. Jesus says..”Except you become as a little child and be converted, you will not enter the Kingdom of God”.
- ii) 2 Corinthians 3:18. ‘But we all with open face, beholding as in a mirror the Glory of the LORD, are changed into that same image from Glory to Glory.. even as by the spirit of the Lord’
- iii) 1 John 2:12. ‘I write unto you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His Name’s sake’
- iv) 1 John 2:13. ‘I write unto you fathers because you have known Him that is from the beginning. I write unto you young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you little children because you have known the Father.’
- v) 1 John 2:14. ‘I have written unto you fathers because you have known Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men because you are strong, and the Word of god abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.
- vi) 1 John 2:18. ‘Little children it is the last days: and as you have heard that the antichrist shall come, even now there are many antichrists; by which we know it is the ‘last days’.
- vii) 1 John 2:28. ‘Now little children abide in Him, that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him, at His coming, and if you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who lives in righteousness is born of Him’.

- viii) **1 Corinthians 13:11.** ‘When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I am become a man, I put away childish things.’
- ix) **Hebrews 5:13.** ‘Everyone that uses ‘milk’ is unskilful in the Word of righteousness, for he is a baby’. But strong meat belongs to those that are mature, who by reason of the use of their well used spiritual senses, are able to discern both good and evil.’
- x) **Hebrews 6:1.** ‘Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works.. and of.. and of..’
- xi) **David’s Spiritual Adolescence:** **Psalm 119:9-16** “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your Word. With all my heart I have sought Thee.. do not let me wander from Your commandments..Your Word have I treasured in my heart that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You O Lord, teach me Your Statutes. With my lips have I told of all the ordinances of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the riches of your testimonies.. as I would rejoice in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and regard your ways. I will rejoice in your statutes and not forget Your Word.”

The Spiritual ‘Milestones’ of a Christian’s Life:

There are SEVERAL “**Glory-Step**” spiritual milestones which we reach as we go on in God; and this particular milestone of David’s which we will look at shortly is a very healthy, and totally appropriate one for him.. but first of all let’s have a look at what these ‘milestones’ look like, because there are some parallels with our own ‘natural’ growth and development. God knows us better than we know ourselves; and we are often blind to where we are.. but He never is; and He is “All-wise”, and “Only-wise”..and so is able to always refer us to the right Scripture’ and reveal its specific meaning to us for the spiritual ‘place’ we are at. Just like a diamond has sparkling facets, there are many facets to each Scripture, which He will use to **both feed and exercise our faith in Him** so that we keep on growing spiritually. When you understand these “Glory-steps” in our Growth in Grace to spiritual Maturity.. you will have a much increased Grace, Love and Compassion for each of your brethren, and better be able to encourage them, **without putting them in a ‘box’.**

Illustration of a ‘Glory-step’: The **third** of David’s ‘Glory Steps’ is found in Psalm 119, but first of all.. let’s look at the two “Glory Steps” that precede this, which would occur with David, or with any child of God before they get to Glory Step 3. (Note: We may not neatly fit into each step, because we may be transitioning to the next.)

‘Glory Step 1’ Dependence on older Believers:

... ‘Like being a born-again spiritual baby..’ It’s like what Jesus says to Peter after Peter had

denied Jesus; and Jesus met up with him and some of the other disciples on the shore of Galilee and helped them cook fish for breakfast.. **“Peter.. do you love me.. then feed my lambs”**. What Jesus was saying, was..”nurture My Born-agains, no matter what physical age they are.. because every born-again is like a dependent little lamb”. Yes, we are like little lambs when we are first ‘born-again’. Like the newly-born lamb is completely looked after by its mother sheep’s milk and warmth, we are dependent on other mature Believers to feed us with the ‘milk’ of the Word. The ‘milk of the Word’ is the simple, essential foundations which prepare us to Grow In Christ. They include essential ‘growth’ topics such as ‘hearing God’s voice’; ‘how we really know we have Eternal Life’; ‘how to repent from sin and dead works and move on from them’; ‘baptism with the Holy Spirit’; ‘How to get revelation from the Word of God as you study it’; ‘resurrection from the dead’; ‘tithing and how God will supernaturally supply our needs’; ‘spiritual self-defence’; ‘baptism’; ‘communion’; ‘The Body of Christ, our Church- our spiritual home’; and ‘the Gifts of the Holy Spirit’; and ‘Fulfilling God’s Great Commission through my daily life’. We need passionate, mature Believers to teach us these things; and above all else .. to assimilate us into our new Forever Family. They take us under their wing and mentor us; love us; help us when we muck up; and inspire us with their life in Christ.

For our part, we believe them and completely trust them as ‘authority figures’ sent from God. They are like spiritual “mums and dads” to us; and like every little dependent infant, we assume that they are right. For their part, they have to seek to get it right, so that we don’t get wrong teaching, and bad examples.. because early on, we will copy, without question, everything that we are taught, and we don’t want to have to ‘undo’ wrong teaching down the track.

Glory-Step 2: The Totally Trusting Little Child:

Jesus says to us.. **Matthew 18:3.. “Except you be converted, and become as a little child, you will not enter the Kingdom of God?”** Little children are like “sponges”, and will ask a thousand questions; and absorb new information at a staggering rate. They will trust in God with a glorious trusting, simplicity and God will reach out to them and reveal His Presence, His love, His Peace and His Power in wonderful ways. He will delight in them, and they will delight in this amazing new Lord, and His incredible Kingdom. He will bring miracles to them regularly.. because they assume that the Book of Acts is literally continually happening now today with them. Their faith in Him is enormous and very literal. They are highly focused on what God is like, and when they are told that “He is constantly watching them”, they live by that morally with a highly sensitive conscience keeping them in righteousness. A sin committed, such as telling a lie will have a deep impact on their little heart; and their sense of having hurt the Lord will be very strong indeed.

The Apostle Paul says that this is a very specific stage..”When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became adult, I put away childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11). What this is saying is that this is a very important

milestone, but there are other equally important attributes apart from Total Trust in God in this growth in Grace to Maturity.

Glory Step 3: ‘Talking the talk, and walking THE talk’:

(A young man’s Grandfather used to declare: “Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose, dare to make it known”.)

The idealistic ‘Young Man’ Believer: This milestone adds another dimension; and this involves a very strong identification with their mentoring Authority figure and what He says. He will also display ‘ownership’ of a strongly held belief system of ‘absolutes’ from that authority figure; fearlessness in pursuing dreams, and rigid identification with dedicated promotion of the chosen ‘cause’. It is a “Glory-step” where, as with Steps 1 and 2.. the growing Believer is still “the center of the world”; and there is still a strong focus on what’s happening with him, without him thinking a lot about what’s happening to others, including his mentors.

It is a time when his strongly held beliefs are not to be challenged by the more mature Believers, but are to be listened to without contradiction, or spoken consideration that there may be other equally valid alternatives. It is a time of “idealism” when with strong fervour, and in ‘boots and all’, he can identify a ‘cause’ or ‘purpose in life’ and pursue it ardently. It is a time of ‘fearlessness’ and ‘boldness’ where everything is totally possible, without even considering the risk or potential for negative outcomes.

David’s “Glory-Step 3”. Here under Holy Spirit’s inspiration, he says.. ‘With what shall a young man cleanse his way?’ (Verse 9). In this question, and the following answers which he sees as ‘absolutes’; we can see how important it is that TRUTH be grasped at this spiritual “Step”! The ANSWERS go like this..

- **‘Follow only what God’s Word says’** (the chosen “Identity” and associated mentality)
- **‘Seek God with your whole heart’** (the chosen Authority Figure to whom is given total loyalty)
- **‘Don’t let me go off on some alternative tangent to Your commandments’** (the horror of deviating)
- **‘I have hidden Your Word within my heart, so that I don’t sin against You’** (the fortifying of the beliefs by complete immersion in them)
- **‘Blessed are You O Lord, teach me Your statutes’** (the hunger for knowledge and information so that one can ‘master’ this chosen life)
- **‘With my lips have I declared all the judgements of your mouth’** (the trusting, forthright, fearless open declaration of what is held dear)
- **‘I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies, as much as in all riches’** (the love, and excitement of how all this works in practical ways when applied in daily

life shows that this is the ‘mother-lode’ of life.. the ‘Monte Christo’ of True riches.)

Conclusion: What a glorious step this one is. He has already built in complete dependence.. to which has been added total trust..upon which is then added this total fearlessly embraced confession of facts and truth, and an ‘in your face’ unquestioning lifestyle! . What then can Father God add to this? Well, His next step involves “including others equally with yourself”, and to this end God draws near to him in an unprecedented fashion, as the Believer has deliberately chosen to humble himself under the hand of Almighty God; and identify with the rest of his spiritual Family. ‘Assimilation’ and ‘inclusiveness’ under Christ’s headship mark this Glory Step.

Glory Step 4: Personalising this embraced ‘Faith’ through reflection, and meditation alone with God, leads to deeper revelation understanding and unimaginable Joy:

Jesus is now truly his Lord; and he feeds with Him at the feasting Table. From this food, he is empowered to live in the Spirit of the Lord, and work the works of God while it is day.

Up until now, there has been ‘across-the-board’ tacit acceptance of the Truth, but now God wants to build His relationship with the Believer deeper and stronger through the ‘secret-place’(Psalm 91:1; Matthew 6:4-6). Here He is able to take him with Him, and share with him His own personal treasures found in the Word, His Kingdom and in Himself. There now comes to this son of God a great FREEDOM never experienced before to re-examine with God anything and everything he had previously known; and in the light of God’s continuing revelations add-to, refine, and even modify the interpretations of the ‘Word seed’ by which he had successfully sown and reaped, which leads to ongoing developing spiritual changes through The Word and the Holy Spirit.

Illustration: Diamonds: It may be like having known through the study of geomorphology how diamonds are formed in the earth; and to have built up great truthful knowledge about the characteristics and properties of such diamonds. Then one day, everything moves up an enormous step, because the world’s “Master” Jeweller comes and invites him to his Office.. and shows him the greatest jewels in the world. He is enraptured as together they examine jewel after jewel.. gazing at each facet, and exploring in the finest detail what each will have as its greatest, and fullest purpose. He continually seeks to be with the “Master”, and discovers as the days turn into months and years that he becomes like the “Master”.. and the Master quietly but assuredly has taken him into His business to be a Full Partner in pursuing His plans for saving mankind from ‘selling themselves short’ when it comes to the ultimate Treasure (who is Jesus).

The Challenge of Glory-Step 4: He is ready to contribute to great change in the darkness around him, but he has to overcome passivity caused by the fear of man; and the

tempting desires for ‘comfort’ in this world.

Glory-Step 5: Living as a ‘Living-Sacrifice’ He has overcome the temptation of being immobilised.. and knows that he is ‘The Temple of the Holy Spirit’; and that **Ephesians 2:10** ‘**He is created in Christ Jesus for good works which God for-ordained, even before the foundation of the world; that he walk in these’..and he turns up at the Master’s House to report for work each day.** He has become a ‘Love-slave’ for Jesus; and counts what this world has to try and satisfy him as ‘dung’.. manure. He has committed his total being to the cause of The Gospel.

Prayer:

“Thank You precious Father that You truly know me, and where I am at, as I travel in my Growth in Grace to maturity in Christ.. that He may live through me. I don’t just want to run the race, I desire to ‘finish this course’ and Glorify You, as I was designed to do. This is my life-long desire Lord.. to honour You, and for my life each day to be a Gift of Worship to You..in Jesus’ Name, Amen”.

MODULE 5 “CHRISTIAN CHARACTER”

UNIT 2 “RIGHTEOUSNESS”

We have looked at the spiritual stages of development which the Word speaks of.. and during these stages we must develop **Christian** character, of which the awesome concept of righteousness; i.e. holy living according to God’s own standard; is paramount.

1. **What is Christian Character?** It is the combination of traits which make up the core of our being. Our actions coming from these, distinguish who we are as unique individuals. From this our disposition and temperament are made manifest.
2. **Transforming our character.** ‘Character’ is in a state of dynamic flux within a person’s life. It continues to grow, evolve and develop. It is important that we set the goals for Godly character. **Proof of being a Christian** is a “transformed life”. Being in relationship with Christians, Christ and the Word result in the most shameful life becoming Christ-like! There is a core change that is observable.

2 Corinthians 3:18: ‘And we.. are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory..’

Romans 12:1,2: ‘Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.’

We come from sinful, dysfunctional lives that have no hope, until we meet Jesus.. and then we know that we can be different. We can be different when we believe Him, and act in a self-disciplined fashion upon the Truth He reveals through His Word. The more we apply ourselves the faster The Word and the Holy Spirit change us. How glorious is that!

3. Christ’s character trait #1: RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Billy Graham says.. “Even in our time, with it’s complexities of living, God is in the business of changing men and women by the holy mystery of righteousness”.

- i) **Righteousness is the door to the Supernatural!** Acting in accordance with God’s standard in a dark, unholly, twisted and perverted world, releases God’s miraculous and saving power. When Christ enters our being, He ‘The Prince of Righteousness’ gives us a **new nature**. The old instinctive, compelling nature to sin has been dealt with. We once chose sin and death, we now choose righteousness and life. **Christ’s Spirit** brings righteousness as a gift; and as a standard of morality. We need to let Him build this into us, each day; and at each turn, and not resist Him, or place obstructions of denial or rationalisation before His Truth. **It is a right choice, by right choice process!** The supernatural power of God is released when we continue to make right choices and decisions.. **because**

we are co-operating with Holy Spirit. If we co-operate with Him one minute; and oppose Him the next.. there is no ‘flow’ of the River of His Spirit from out of our innermost being (John 7:37-39).

1 John 3:7-10 ‘Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s works. No-one who is born of God will continue to sin, because god’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning because he has been born of God. This is how we can identify the children of God, and the children of the devil. Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love His brother.’

ii) Righteousness and Obedience are “Spiritual Twins”.

God says his Principle for His Word is.. “observe to do everything that is written in the Law which Moses My servant commanded you. Keep it in your mouth. Meditate on it both during the day and night, and carry out everything that is written there. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left.. that you may prosper in it wherever you go.. for then you will make your own way prosperous, and you will have good success.” Joshua 1:5-9. In our case we are not under The Law, but under Christ’s Covenant found from Matthew 1:1 to Revelations 22:21 in which there are found over 1000 commands! Righteousness is “doing right” instead of doing nothing, or doing wrong. We need to live out of this ‘soft heart’ which God has replaced from a heart of stone; in a way that shows that repentance, brokenness and contrition are all working continually and emphatically, for our whole lifetime. Such a heart.. “does justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with our God” (Micah 6:6-8).

Matthew 3:13-17 ‘Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter Him saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and You are coming to me!?” Jesus replied.. “Let it now be so, for it is necessary for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised, coming up out of the water.. the Heavens were open, and the Spirit of God came down like a Dove and descended upon Him. God’s voice spoke from Heaven.. “This is My Son, whom I love, and with Him I am well pleased.”

iii) To obey is better than sacrifice: God doesn’t want our gifts and sacrifices if we give them out of ritual or hypocrisy.. He simply wants us to love and obey Him.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 ‘To obey is better than sacrifice’.

Psalm 51:16-19 God isn’t interested in penance: He wants a broken and contrite heart.

The only way we can prove we know how to obey Him, is to know what he says in His Word. If we fail, we are to quickly confess our sin as we are instructed in the following

Scripture.. **1 John 5:1-10** 'Everyone that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father, loves His Son as well... Love for God is to obey His commands of which love for one another is paramount and proves we are His children.. God's commands are never a burden.. for we who are born of God overcome the world. The victory that overcomes the world is our faith. The only ones who overcome the world are those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the One who came by water and the blood- Jesus Christ. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is Truth. There are three that testify.. the Spirit, the water and the Blood; and these three are in agreement. Man's testimony is good, but Christ's is the greatest, because He brings God's testimony to us about His Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe god has made Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given about His Son.

Righteousness with God in both the Old and New Covenants is given to define relationships-both with God and with people. Jesus through the Cross has become our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, positionally and legally we are perfect in the sight of God. We are given the ability to live righteously through the Holy Spirit. Miracle of miracles.. we are empowered to do what was previously impossible.

Romans 3:21.. 'The righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.'

Conclusions:

- Character is who we are in the core of our being, and is reflected by our traits and actions. Christ's nature of righteousness and holiness is now at the core of our being.
- The 'fallen nature' we had is intrinsically corrupt and can't improve itself.
- Righteousness is right living according to God's standard.
- Obedience to God is shown by our loving to keep His commandments
- The Law's sacrificial system pointed to The Lamb of God who is Jesus.
- In the NT we see that righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus, and belief in His sacrifice. We are perfect in God's sight. We respond by acting out God's commands in ways that please Him. ***Perfect.. 'teleos' (Gk).. complete.***
- If we disobey our heart is convicted and we repent and get forgiveness ASAP.
- **Micah 6:8** 'He has shown thee O man what is good, and what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

How will others know that you are righteous?

MODULE 5, UNIT 3: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
The flavour of Christ in us permeating all we do,
because we are “abiding in the Vine”

Illustration: A young man, keen on running decided that he would investigate how to improve his performance. After doing some research on the excellent benefits of the vegetable garlic, he purchased copious amounts, and then each day sliced up a good heaped table-spoon full, and ate it raw, washing it down with a glass of milk. The results were positive. His respiratory function, heart and general energy appeared to have improved close to 10% above his ‘pre-garlic’ days. He extolled the virtues of garlic to his wife, who surprised him with her observation. Her conclusion was an unforeseen, and negative outcome. She was quite adamant that their domestic bliss was now dangerously on the decline because of the same product. He was oblivious to the fact that the very strong garlic ‘fragrance’ was making its way with great power, and in great haste out through every skin pore, and was even stronger on every exhaled breath. She would try to come close to him for a hug, but the aroma of garlic would send her reeling away. In their bedroom after a night’s sleep, the room would no longer contain the delicate fragrances of exquisite aftershave, or exotic perfumes, it was all “*eau de garlic*” and she would awake, and immediately clamber to open the window, gasping for fresh air. Garlic was tainting every part of their life! *If Garlic could do that in a negative sense, imagine how the fragrance of Jesus Spirit within, flowing out of our new nature, words and actions, could attract others in the most positive sense to Him through us! The beautiful Spirit is what they would ‘discern’.*

The Fruit of the Spirit involves manifesting Jesus’ Nature: The ‘Fruit of the Spirit’ is the ‘fragrance and taste’ of Christ within us, which will flavour our lifestyle choices, words and actions, but only if we practise talking with Him, and expressing our life the way He shows us. The ‘fragrance’ of Christ should be dominant flavouring that people can discern when we are with them. David said..’**He tastes like honey in the rock**’. The Church in the Western world in general is on then decline, because it has been reduced further and further to a religion; instead of a lifestyle summed up by Paul saying..’**It is no longer I, but Christ that lives in me**’.

The Fruit of the Spirit enables us to:

- Manifest Jesus nature, and works that flow from it;
- Judge ourselves by examining the fruit we are producing.

Galatians 5:16-26: ‘So I say.. live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. The old sinful nature desires that which is contrary to the Spirit; and vice versa. The two are in open conflict with each other. If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the old sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies

and the like. I warn you as I did before that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Humility and Self-Control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Jesus Christ crucify the old sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in harmony with the Spirit. Don't become conceited and provoke others to envy.'

What is the 'Spirit-controlled' new nature like?

It is the best 'high' that can be found in this world! The Spirit of the Lord puts the 'tent' of His Nature over our minds in response to our deepest desire, infusing us with His Nature, and garrisoning us with His Presence. As Jerusalem ('*jeru-shalom*' means 'possessing peace') was a mighty garrison.. a mighty fortressed city, the best place for any person was to be was inside, surrounded by the great walls of protection. It is a natural example of what happens to us in the spiritual. **Philippians 4:7** 'May the Peace of God which passes all understanding keep ('garrison') your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus'. It is the picture of the Holy Spirit, who manifests the nature of God, being like a 'fortress' surrounding our hearts and minds, so that we are safe inside His all-surrounding and helping Presence. We have to choose to want Him to do this and then practice His Presence in this way until the time comes when we are fully living out of His Spirit.

What are the individual 'fruit' of His Spirit like?

1. (Agape) Love:

- a) There are three different kinds of love expressed in New Testament Greek:
 - a) 'eros' which is the sexual love of a husband and wife.
 - b) 'philadelphos' which is the brotherly love of maintaining good relationships with those within an ordinary community.
 - c) 'Agape' which is the exclusive love which God has and is; which is brought into us by His Spirit, so that we might manifest it as normal. **Romans 5:5** 'Because the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us.' It is important to ask God to do this at the start of each day. We need to wait until that fresh anointed infilling has finished, and then proceed into the day, and love all with Christ's Love.
- b) For those whose ability to love has been damaged: Whether it be by abuse or some other trauma, the ability to love may have been virtually destroyed. The commandment..(*The 'Shema'*)..'**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul, and mind and strength..**' will only expose the void caused by the emotional damage. As with any response from Father, to obtain this love we must make a **faith response**. This will bring the healing from Him, by His miracle-working power into the soul of that saint. Continued confession, over as long a period of time as is necessary; to Him by faith .. "**I love You Lord with all my heart!**" will invoke the love and Grace of God who will heal that soul. In His time He will do it; and that

'river' will flow from Heaven right to the depths of that saint's soul, and they will be flooded by the most Glorious Love of all. Once they have tasted it, they will seek it until it is who they are! They will never settle for anything less after that!

c) How great is this Love? **Romans 5:8** 'But God demonstrates His love towards us, in that while we were sinners Christ died for us!'

d) Describe the attributes of this Love: **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** 'Love is patient, love is kind. It is not envious; it is not boastful, neither is it proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it doesn't keep a record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the Truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. LOVE NEVER FAILS'

e) What is the proof that we have this Love? **John 13:34-35** 'A new command I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall everyone know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.'

2. Abiding Joy

Once again it is the nature of Christ being manifest through our own emotional state. We are kept in this state of Divine happiness by the Holy Spirit. The 'lows' and the 'downs' and the 'blues' become non-existent, because we have this deep, enduring, continuing joy. The world cannot know it, because it's joy and happiness are fleeting; and often come from self-medication, pleasure, or temporary distraction from the negative power of circumstances. Joy is the natural state of our precious Trinity.

Illustration: a brother returning from his time alone with God, was startled by a vision of Father, Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit walking together.. and that which he saw was their spontaneous shared joy, and laughter, and lightness of spirit.. with not one care in the world! Two years later the Holy Spirit came upon him, and left a resident Joy within him, which has never faded.

John 17:13 'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that you may have the full measure of joy within you.'

Nehemiah 8:10 'Do not grieve for the Joy of the Lord is your strength'

1 Peter 1:8 'Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with a glorious and inexpressible joy.'

3. Abiding Peace

The world cries out for "peace, peace, but there is no peace". **Apart from being in a right relationship with God there is no Peace!** Peace is first of all a product of the entrance of the Word as the only true spiritual 'Light' which brings conviction of the 'darkness' of sin. This is then followed by repentance from that exposed sin; which is then followed by God mercifully washing the penitent with the shed Blood of Jesus.

Only then does true Peace come, because God grants it when we come into a right relationship with Him. It is then sealed in us by the entrance of the Spirit of Christ, whose nature, manifests who He is through us..Christ.. The Prince of Peace.

John 14:27 ‘Peace I leave with you, Peace I give to you, not as the world gives it, give I unto you. Neither let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid, My Peace I leave with you.’

Philippians 4:7-8 ‘And the Peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

So, brothers keep refocusing your mind in whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable.. if it is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

4. Abiding Patience

There are many things about which we have to be patient such as:

- Going through trials and life's pains calmly and without complaint
- To be steadfast in Christ despite opposition difficulty and adversity
- To manifest forbearance under provocation or strain.

The 'old-nature' is impatient, and full of annoyance, frustration and rage. It **damages our relationships with people.. whereas the fruit of the Spirit enhances our relationships with people.** Jesus lived, died and rose again to bring excellent relationships! Show Jesus is in you, by manifesting His patience!

James 1:19-21 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak; and slow to become angry, for the anger of man will never work the righteousness of God.

Colossians 1:9-14 (extracts).. 'live a life worthy of the Lord, that will please Him in every way.. bearing 'fruit' in every good work...and we pray this that..you may have great endurance and patience'

5. Kindness

It is the continuing character display of help, sympathy, empathy and affection which pours "the Oil of the Holy Spirit" on the troubled waters of those we live and move amongst. It mellows the hard and the harsh.. relieving the suffering of daily life. Soft words, a smile, making time, being respectful, an understanding heart, putting people in the best light.. these are Jesus' nature.. and come out through us as 'Fruit'.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive, as the

Lord forgave you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

6. Goodness

Jesus demonstrated this by being upright, dependable, honest, generous and pure. Such as are His, will copy Him, and let the Spirit flow through them in these ways.

Romans 15:14 I myself am convinced my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

7. Faithfulness

'Unfaithfulness' in our society is rampant, and the fruit of it, for example, in a marital relationship show us the destructiveness associated with it. Therefore the opposite Spirit found in Christ showed Him utterly dependable, 100% trustworthy, totally truthful; and without any shadow of disloyalty. Such is a faithful Believer towards God, their neighbour, and themselves.

Psalm 119:90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth and it endures.

Always keep in mind the Second Coming of the Lord, because no-one knows the day nor the hour when the Son of Man returns..

Matthew 24:45-47 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, He will put him in charge of all his possessions.

8. Gentleness

To be free from harshness, sternness or violence. However it is not associated with weakness. Jesus held children in His arms and blessed them, and drove money-changers from the Temple with a whip. Such also must we be.

1 Peter 3:4 Instead it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

We are to relate to unbelievers with gentleness and respect..

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set aside Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give reason for the hope within you. But do this with gentleness and respect.

9. Self-control

Holy Spirit is at work within us to bring our human desires, impulses, passions and appetites under control.. because we know that we cannot do it without Him! In a lawless culture of self-gratification, He helps us to discipline ourselves. Self-control will only be able to grow if

we co-operate with Him by disciplining ourselves to be in accord with His promptings.

Titus 1:7-9 Since a leader is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless, not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent and not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, loves what is good, who is self-controlled, Holy, upright and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message, as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine, and refute those who oppose it.

We can bear no fruit apart from abiding in Christ.. Holy Spirit flowing from Christ through us the 'branches' not only brings the Spirit's Fruit, but miraculously transforms us into the image and likeness of His Son.

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes so that it brings forth even more fruit... No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.. neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.. I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing. If he doesn't remain in me he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; and such branches are picked up and burned in the fire. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is to my father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourself to be my disciples.

Through Christ in us we partake of the Divine nature, and escape the corruption of the world!

2 Peter 1:3-11 His Divine Power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them, you may participate in the Divine Nature and escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires. For this reason work diligently at adding to your faith goodness, and to goodness knowledge, and to knowledge self control, and to self control perseverance, and to perseverance godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective, and unproductive in your knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.. but if anyone doesn't have them, he is near-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore my brothers, be even more eager to make your election and calling sure. For if you do all these things you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the Eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

MODULE 5, UNIT 4: RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus came to role-model divine relationships to all!

Principal: The way which we conduct our relationships, and treat those around us, are a measure of the Character of Christ in us.. and hence our own character. **Character** is more important than 'Gifting', because unless we have Christian character we will not operate in our gifting as He intends. Gifts administered without Christ's Agape Love don't reflect Him.

Christianity has "Relationships" as it's highest focus.

- God reveals Himself to us as the Father of the 'Spirit-led' sons of God.
- The 'Blood of Heaven' flows in our veins, for we are descendants of the King of Kings. Our ancestry is now the Royal Blood of God Eternal.
- Our Eldest Brother, Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and we shall return and reign with Him over this Earth. We are the Princes of God, and co-heirs with Christ, who shares His whole inheritance with us. Look at the stars and speak out.. "they belong to me too!"
- Holy Spirit is God our Counsellor, Friend, Teacher and the one who Powers us as we are gradually changed through the growth walk of Grace into the likeness of our Lord and our God.
- The prime features of relationship are needs based: the need to be loved, wanted, accepted and needed. Every single one of these will be met when we deliberately build a relationship with God each day. We also meet all these needs of our individual brothers and sisters in our Church Family; as they in turn do the same for us.

The Role of the Family Unit.

The 'nuclear' family unit is the 'God-designed, chosen vehicle to get us born, growing and developing into what he planned for us to be. It is impacted both spiritually, mentally and physically by those whose ancestry is to the third and fourth generation. Some of our 'inheritance' comes as blessing, and some the chains of curses. In Christ we are to start a "new generation" where committed parents bring forth their children in an environment of God's Agape Love; and the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

However all around us, the 'spirit of this world', through Godless ignorance, and rebellion, is destroying the fabric of society. It's rapid and healthy families are fewer and fewer. We now have a generation of fatherless, aimless, angry, self-possessed, superficial and violent young people who will increasingly impact in a very detrimental sense on our future society. This is fuelled by unregulated access to the equally

unregulated electronic media, and the results are potentially anarchic. What was God's original plan for the Family?

Genesis 2:24-25 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame.'

God is His Wisdom designed a safe, loving and nurturing family unit. However with the fall of Adam and Eve and the entrance of sin into the human race, we see the horrific murder of Abel by his brother Cain.

Genesis 4:1-12 'Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said."With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man". Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.' Unfortunately, the sin of their parents destroyed their 'nature of God's Agape Love', and they received in it's place a 'fleshly nature' where God's Love wasn't naturally found. Their children inherited this, and so does every person born on this Earth today. It's relationship dimensions are characterised by:

- Controlling people and situations through anger, rage and bad-temper.
- Ingracious, unloving rejection of the whole person through judgementalism.
- Negative mental 'downers' into oppression and depression 'black holes'.
- Aggressive reactions which yell for 'justice', and 'rights'.
- 'dark' thoughts of suicide, and 'escape', and making people pay.
- Rejecting behaviours pushing individuals back into isolation and terrible loneliness.. with 'comfort' then being sought from addictive behaviours such as inappropriate sex, drugs and alcohol, and gambling.
- Vengeful thinking, and even murder.. either in the mind or in reality.
- Unforgiving, and forever holding grudges.
- Mistrusting, and refusing to give people 490 new chances.

Even though such a person may to all outward appearances be a 'wonderful' person, their nature is fleshly and under the control of the elemental spirits of 'The Old Serpent'. (see Ephesians 2:1-2). Such a person may have 'anger-management' issues, but all the behavioural change counselling in the world will only help them to modify the 'old nature' a little. They need a new nature which only Christ can bring into us when we get 'born-again'.

So..Why did God have to send Jesus?

Because: God is Love.. and when you get Jesus you get the Love of God.

Because He expertly showed us the way in which "our new nature" works. Jesus practised what He preached. He is our Truth. He is our only true role-model. Jesus never tried to love people in His own strength, he relied on the Power of the Holy Spirit. **When His Spirit comes into us, we can 'stock-up' with a fresh supply of this miracle Love just by asking Holy Spirit**

to soak our souls afresh in it, everyday, and every time we need to.

a) How did Jesus role-model this Love?

Understanding the ‘forgiveness-love’ connection.

He went to where people were bitten by sin, **and they knew it**; and showed them holy love, and **offered them forgiveness for their sins and true peace in their hearts**. E.g. Mary Magdalene, a street worker, washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, and then anointed Him with priceless, fragrant spikenard. Jesus' Holy love for her, in the worst place she could have got to in her life, and His offer of forgiveness for her sins was the greatest news she could ever hear. She deeply repented, and followed Jesus and His ways with all her heart.. and her depth of gratitude, and true love for Jesus has been recorded for Eternity. Jesus' comment on those who criticised her was.. "**Her sins which are many, are forgiven. She shows great love. To those who are forgiven little, the same loves little**" (Luke 7:47).

Again, when Saul the murderer of Christian Believers met Jesus in all His Glory, that day, on the Damascus road, and was offered grace, through Jesus' love for him.. became continuously, deeply dependent on **Jesus' Love, and couldn't stop trying to exhort us all to be the same**. The converted Paul who described himself as 'among the world's greatest sinners' declared himself, out of the deepest thankfulness to Jesus; to now be a "**love-slave for Jesus**". In **Ephesians 3:18..** he prays for us all.. ('I desire)..**that you may be able to comprehend with all the saints, what is the length, breadth, depth and height of the Love of Christ, which is beyond human knowledge.. that you might be filled with the fullness of God'**.

Stephen the Martyr: such amazing love is soaked in mercy, grace and forgiveness.	...like Jesus showed us that if you Love God you will forgive all those who sin against you!
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Stephen was being stoned to death by the crowd who had turned into baying animals wanting blood.. **Acts 7:60..’and he kneeling down cried out with a loud voice, Lord lay not this sin to their charge.. and when he said this his body died’.** **Luke 23:34..** ‘there they crucified Him ..then Jesus said.. “Father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing”.

b) What directions has Jesus given us about relationships:

i) “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.**” You need to have taken the first decisive step to make God the Lord of all your life; otherwise you'll compartmentalise His Truth, and pick and choose what you want to

implement. Some of His Word for this situation; but for this ‘other’ situation I’ll do what I want.

- ii) The second decisive step is to have Holy Spirit come and flood your heart with love for God and Jesus.. and of course Holy Spirit. (and our whole Church, and everyone else as well)
- iii) **“This is My Commandment that you love one another that your Joy may be full” John 15:12**
- iv) **Matthew 6:38-48 “you have heard it said.. ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’ but I say to you..do not resist evil.. and whosoever shall punch you on the right cheek, then offer him the left cheek as well. And if any man will sue you through the law to take away your coat, let him have your shirt as well. And, if anyone compels you to go a mile, go two with him. Give to him that asks you, and from him that would borrow from you, turn him not away.**
.. You have heard said.. you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.. but I say to you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them hate you; and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you.. then you will the children of your Father who is in Heaven.. for He makes His sun to rise upon the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.. for if you only love those who love you, what reward will you have? Tax collectors do that. If you only welcome your brethren, *you haven’t been any different to anyone else!* Tax collectors do that. You be perfect, even as your father in heaven is perfect.
- v) **‘God is love’ 1 John 4:8**
- vi) **1 John 4:20 ‘If anyone says they love God, and hates his brother, then he is a liar’.**
- vii) **‘For the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, Who is given unto us’ Romans 5:5**

- c) The Key to being a unifier, includer, forgiver, lover of God and all people, and welcomer.. as well as an overcomer is:
The Anti-venom of the Love of God in Jesus’ new nature that you continually access:
 - i) Recognise the ‘separation’ device coming from Satan through someone’s old nature, and stop yourself from judging them.. love them and reject their wrong behaviour;
JESUS NEVER STOPPED LOVING HIS ENEMIES, HE JUST REJECTED THEIR SINFUL BEHAVIOURS, AND NEVER STOPPED LOVING THEM. THAT’S HOW HE TREATS YOU RIGHT NOW! GRACE! MERCY!
 - ii) Call upon the Spirit of the Lord to help you get it right, because you don’t have enough strength in yourself;

- iii) Forgive them immediately in your heart (up to 490 times);
- iv) Bless them for giving you a chance to show Jesus' Love; (*too many Believers stop here, and miss the most powerful step of all*)
- v) Ask Holy Spirit, in Jesus' Name to give you an **Anointing of Love** for that person even though they may be your 'enemy'. Only God's Love is powerful enough to **overcome the power of the old nature. Let Him pour it into your soul until you have a 'love' for they who have been your 'enemy'.**

Illustration: David and Jonathan's Love which was immersed in Agape Love.

1 Samuel 18:1-4 'After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathon became one in the spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him, and did not let him return to his father Jesse's house. And Jonathon made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathon took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt'.

What strength of character is demonstrated in their lives simply by living out of the Spirit of Agape Love!

Jonathon:

- Even though he was Saul's son, deferred to David as God's choice for King.
- Freely gave up rightfully what was his.
- Remained loyal to David and preserved his life.

David:

- Did not usurp authority from Saul even when he had the opportunity.
- Did not take Saul's life when it would have been easy to do so.
- Kept forgiving Saul, even though Saul tried to kill him 21 times.
- Remembered his covenant of friendship even after the death of Jonathon (see 2 Samuel 9:1-7)

Conclusion: It is in the furnace of everyday relationships we can see whether or not we have crucified the old nature. We now have God's new nature within us, and we seek Him first and His Kingdom and His righteousness because of our Love for Him, then we are changed.. we grow in the character of Christ.. and we experience Christ-like Love relationships with all, whether they reciprocate or not!

Work to do?

- Do you have any relationships that need to be healed?
- Is there anyone you need to forgive and be reconciled to?

- Is there anyone you need to strengthen the Love bond with?
- Is your Love for your relationships with spouse, family member, or others a product of your strong investment of love and time in the Presence of your God?
- On a scale of 1-10 assess your own strength of character in Christ-likeness.

MODULE 5: PART 4

THE CHARACTER THAT CAN CARRY THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Do I have the character to carry it?"

There is a relationship between Christian character and the Anointing of God. Character is the foundation for fruitful ministry. Building character is a life-long transforming process in becoming Christ-like, and therefore a candidate to have the abiding anointing.

A definition of 'The Anointing' It is the tangible presence of God. It is the impartation of His ability upon an available, yielded vessel to carry out His work and His will.

Jesus our Role-model Jesus was the first person to have the Holy Spirit come down on Him and remain. Up until then there had been many 'fillings' of the Holy Spirit upon the saints of the Old Testament, but Jesus life-example was a continuous immersion in the "River" of God's Holy Spirit. However, for Jesus to have the "river" (*John 7:37-39*) to keep flowing out from Him, He had to have the character that made this possible. Holy Spirit will remain in you and I as this 'river', when we haven't erected unrighteous fleshly dams of disobedience to God which impede His ability to move. He becomes grieved. The 'Dove' of the Holy Spirit was able to find holy rest continually upon the Lamb nature of Christ, so that they lived and worked in concert. Jesus chose Baptism to "fulfil all righteousness". Simply put **righteousness is doing the continuous will of Father God**. Jesus public statement of His obedience, pleased God, and He told the world about it... ***'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased'***. Jesus first act of humility was to have John the Baptist baptise Him, after He had publicly proclaimed He was here to God's righteous will.

Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to deter him by saying.."I need to be baptised by You, and You are coming to me?!" Jesus replied.."Let it be so now; it is proper to do this now to fulfil all righteousness". Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised and came up out of the water, the heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from Heaven said.."This is My Son whom I love, and with whom I am well-pleased."

Jesus was baptised in a river of water, and got a Spirit River, so that He might baptise us with the same Spirit River as He has!

John 1:29-33 The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said.."Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I meant when I said.."He who comes after me, has surpassed me, because He came before me". I myself did not know Him, but the reason that I have come baptising is so that He might be revealed to Israel. Then John gave this testimony.."I saw the Spirit come down from Heaven as a dove and remain on Him. I would not have known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptise with water told me..The man on whom you see the Spirit come down, and remain is He

who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.”

What is the difference between “fillings” and “baptism with the Spirit”?

In the Old Testament they had ‘fillings’ (the Spirit by measure) which is like God taking them like a drinking glass, and pouring in a measure from time to time out of His ‘divine jug’. At Pentecost we receive the ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit’ (the Spirit without measure) which is like Him taking the ‘drinking glass’ of your whole being and immersing it in the “River” of the Spirit! When we take the ‘drinking glass’ (John 7:37-39) of our life, and are ‘in the river’ we are both ‘filled without measure’ and are also immersed or ‘baptised’. If you as a Believer are ‘filled’ with a measure of the Spirit you will have an anointing of the measure of God’s Power to do things according to the measure of the anointing you have. If you have the Spirit in fullness.. there will be no limit to doing the works of Christ. Live in that Holy Ghost River! You will also need the Christ-like **character to sustain the “River”!**

The Principle Jesus showed us, and lived:

Therefore like Him, **we must continue to live and walk in the Spirit and be filled with all the fullness of God in order to maintain our Baptismal fullness.**

Ephesians 3:16-20. ‘That He would grant you, according to the riches of His Glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ might dwell in your hearts by faith; and that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length, and depth and height’ and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge..**that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.** Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.. **according to the power that works within us.. be Glory..’**

Ephesians 5:18.. ‘and don’t be drunk with wine, through which debauchery of every kind is found..**but be filled with the Spirit..** speaking to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..’

Galatians 5:16-26 (portions only). ‘**walk in the Spirit..** and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh, which always lusts against the Spirit..**if you are led by the Spirit..** you are not under the law...those who fulfil the lusts of the flesh..**shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.** But those who are of Christ have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts. **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

The way to be living in the “fullness” of the Spirit, as Jesus did:

- **Be filled with all the fullness of God**
- **The ‘power’ that works within you**
- **Walk in the Spirit**
- **Be led by the Spirit in righteous obedience to Father’s continually unfolding will**

of ministering His leadings through the Spirit's power..

- Live in the Spirit.. Here's an illustration of just one character strength.
...Jesus' Kindness
Dan Clark, an actor, songwriter, recording artist, and video producer once wrote an article that can inspire us to be kind.

Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. You could tell they didn't have a lot of money. Their clothes were not expensive, but they were clean. The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, elephants and other acts they would see that night. One could sense they had never been to the circus before. It promised to be a highlight of their young lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armor." He was smiling and basking in pride

The ticket lady asked the father how many tickets he wanted. He proudly responded, "Please let me buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets so I can take my family to the circus."

The ticket lady quoted the price. The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. The father leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again quoted the price. The man didn't have enough money.

How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad put his hand into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill and dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word). My father reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man knew what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking, embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied, "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. We didn't go to the circus that night, but we didn't go without.

This story exemplifies the kindness that we are to have as Christians. The kind of kindness that reaches out to others with the love of Jesus.

- **When we are kind to others, people can see Christ's character living through us.**
- **William Wordsworth once wrote: The best portion of a good man's life, is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.**

If you are to 'fulfil all righteousness', you may well have to wrestle!

(..especially with yourself)

- i) Like Jacob you may have to 'wrestle' with God to show your character is one of persistence and determination to have this, or any other great Blessing of God, so that you can fulfil your fruitful purpose!
Genesis 32:24.. And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him until the sun rose on the next day. **Verse 26.** Jacob said, "I will not let You go until You bless me" **Verse 28** And God said.."Your name shall no longer be called Jacob(*Usurper*), but Israel (*Prince of God*) for as a Prince you have power with God and with men, and you have prevailed.
What is God telling you right now that you need to do to fulfil righteousness?
- ii) Those 120 who waited on God in the Upper Room for Pentecost.. they humbled themselves before God, left what they were doing and chose total obedience to Christ's command; and waited on God until He was ready, and He knew they were righteously ready both individually and corporately..ready for the "River" of His promise..

Acts 1:4 And Jesus being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for 'The Promise of the Father' which He said, I have already told you about. For John truly baptised with water..but you shall be baptised with the Holy Ghost not many days from now. **Verse 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Ghost has come upon you;** and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the Earth."

- iii) Wrestle, like Jesus had to when He was being tested by Satan and his temptations:

Jesus was tempted to use the anointing for:

- Self-gain.. (Many do) .."turn the stones into bread"
- Draw attention to self. (Many do).."Cast yourself off the Temple"
- A short-cut to his goal. (Many do).."Worship me and I will give you.."

Luke 4:1-14 .. Read this carefully!

As Christians and ministers for God we are also tempted with:

- Girls/Guys.. moral failure, sex
- Gold.. material greed
- Glory.. power and self importance
- Being unloving, being miserable, being stirred-up, being impatient, being unkind, being unfaithful, being puffed-up, and being too quick on the trigger.

1 John 2:16-17 For everything in the world.. the cravings of sinful man, the boasting of what he has done, and what he has, and what he does.. comes not from the Father, but from the world. The world and its desires will pass away..but the man who does the will of God will live forever.

Character is our Gift to God..

Jesus character was produced in 30 years; and His Anointing came upon Him in thirty seconds! Our Gift to God is to display the character of Christ. As we operate in the Word, and the Spirit, the anointing is present, and it takes character to rightly divide the Word of God, and act on it day in and day out, with people, and when you are alone. Obedience is learned by suffering and experience. (Hebrews 5:7-8)

Spurgeon says of a Christian's Character: *"A Christian is as essentially different from a worldling as a dove is from a raven, or a lamb from a lion. He is not of the world even in his nature. You could not make him a worldling. You might do what you liked; you might cause him to fall into some temporary sin; but you could not make him a worldling. You might cause him to backslide; but you could not make him a sinner, as he used to be. He is not of the world by his nature. He is a twice-born man; in his veins run the blood of the royal family of the universe. He is a nobleman; he is a heaven-born child. His freedom is not merely a bought one, but he has in his liberty his new-born nature; he is essentially and entirely different from the world."*

Such a one's character displays one who is holy, moral, Truthful, obedient, righteous, committed, disciplined, loyal to Christ and his own local Church Family, generous, faith-filled, God-pleaser, optimistic, passionate, full of gratitude, an overcomer, a Kingdom-builder, a gatherer, a lover of souls, a worshipper, humble, patient, kind, forgiving, patriotic to Christ, a Lover of God, compassionate, courageous, bold, fearless, trusting, empathetic, gracious, just, merciful, a seeker after God, Holy Ghost led.. and so on.

Signs of a poor character that need to be identified and eliminated:

Immoral, tells lies, opportunistic, manipulative, weak, fearful, abusive, lacks self-control, aggressive, controlling, procrastinates, double-minded, divisive, can't commit, unforgiving, disloyal, betrayer, secretive, steals, arrogant, boastful, jealous, gossip, self-centred, hater, self-promoter, disloyal to Christ and his own Church Family, coward, shallow, drunkard, has other gods, rumour-monger, a destroyer, hypocrite, dishonest, folds under pressure, dispassionate, disloyal, stirrer, scatterer, pleases man, double-life, murderer (in the mind as well), vengeful, bitter, unloving, careless, compromises, unfaithful, faithless, unjust, law-breaker.. and so on.

Character is the foundation for effective ministry

Character is continually tested. If character cannot stand, the ministry crumbles. The temptations are ever-present and increasing. The mature ministering Believer has learned to overcome testing by exhibiting the character of Christ during their test of faith.

James 1:2-9, 12-18 Consider it pure joy my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish it's work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom he should ask God, who gives generously to without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, **he must believe and not doubt, but he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.** That man should not think that he should receive anything from the Lord; he is an unstable man in all he does, and is double-minded. **Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. When tempted, no-one should say "God is tempting me". For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when he by his own evil desire, is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.** Don't be deceived dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who doesn't change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all that He has created.

When we fail in our ongoing ministries..

Failures in ministry are not failures in the anointing.. they are failures of character. If we try and grow ministry beyond the maturity of our character we are asking for trouble. Character must be built into us, grown through obedience. It starts when we are very young, and develops through our adolescence and teen years. We need to know as parents or Church Family how to provide a godly atmosphere. The problem is that many Believers have developed disobedience, carelessness and irresponsibility.. and heartaches can be the only outcome!

Can our character change to become Christ-like?

Yes! However developed dysfunctions take determined application of the Word and the Spirit to dig deep, break up, clean-out, and rebuild the foundations of character strong enough to support an anointed ministry. The Holy Spirit supernaturally imparts gifts, and helps us to discipline ourselves, so the fruit of the Spirit may grow in our lives. Let's be truthful... character development is hard work! It takes years and years.. but be encouraged.. it is all progressive.. and is a continuous road of freedom upon freedom upon freedom!

There is no substitute for character.

Personality and professionalism are no substitute for Christian character.

- Personality manifests in good times and easy circumstances.
- Character manifests in hard times and testing.
- Personality and personal charisma can be used to manipulate people and get them to respond to our desires.
- Professionalism and ministry skills can be substituted for the anointing.
- Tricks of the trade.. styles, mannerisms.. we can learn how to do it and how to say it, but it is superficial and shallow with no lasting fruit.
- Do we know the difference between noise and anointing, between personal charisma and anointing?
- Some people have a personal charisma that gives them great power and influence over other people. If you have it, you have a heavy responsibility. You need true character to carry it as God's servant and not abuse it. This is a very dangerous area.

Be fruitful.. it is your destiny to become like Jesus!

Jesus developed character, and so could carry the abiding anointing. God intends for us to develop this same character that allowed Jesus to live in that Anointing. ***We can change! We shall be changed!*** God will provide everything we need.. and we can respond with obedience and self-discipline.

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brothers. And those He predestined He also called. And those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also Glorified.

God Himself is at work in you to bring your mind, will and emotions in line with His Divine purpose in your life...

Philippians 2:13-15 For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you might become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved

generation, in which you shine like stars in the Universe.

Therefore be confident in God, because you are His child, called according to His good purpose. Allow Him to have His way in your life. He purposed good and not evil for you! Fulfil your destiny!

Philippians 1:6 Be confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

What to do now?

- i) What character strengths do I have in place right now?
- ii) What character weaknesses has the Holy Spirit put His finger on that I need to address with the Lord's help?

Prayer: 'Dear Father, I come to You in Jesus wonderful Name. Thank you for the good work which you have already started and done in my life. I desire true Christian character.. I lay my soul bare before you today, and ask You to start afresh on my life as one of Your Divine projects. I wish to confess and eliminate all evidence of poor character. I see what it did to Peter when e was tested at the Cross. I need the nature of Christ, to bear true witness to Christ so I can fulfil my planned purpose, and at the end be Glorified. I submit myself to You in spirit, soul and body.. just make me like you Lord is my cry! In Jesus' Name, Amen'

Module 5. UNIT 5
'The Anointing of the Holy Ghost'

Why did God have to send Jesus?

Because He came to show us what the fruit of His life.. the life of the promised 'Messiah'/'Christos'- ('Anointed One ') would be, so that we could seek to do His works, under the Power of His Anointing.."Even greater works shall you do as I go unto My Father who is in Heaven". Therefore.. even as the Father sent Jesus, so He sends us.

Acts 10:36-38 'The Word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching Peace by Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all!), that Word I say you know which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached.. how God Anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.'

- Jesus had the character to continually carry the Anointing of the Spirit without measure..He saw Himself as the 'Source' of our 'rivers', just in the same way he saw himself as the 'Vine' and we are His 'branches'. We are to drink of the Spirit which He sends to us to do His works! **John 7:37-39 In that last day, that great day of the Feast (of Tabernacles) Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirsts, let him come unto me and drink! He that believes on Me, as the Scriptures has said (John 14:12) out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."** **He was speaking about the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because Jesus had not yet been glorified.**
- True Peace robbed by sin, Satan and death can only be restored to us by Jesus.. because he is LORD of all!
- Father Anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost Baptism of Power; and then when Jesus was Glorified for what He had done for us; He as Head of the Church has become the Source for every Baptism and every Anointing. Jesus baptises us with the Holy Ghost and Power
- The purpose that Father Baptised Jesus with Holy Ghost was to do "good", which collectively is to bring peace with God; peace from all Satan's devices of oppression; and a 'garrison' of peace in our mind and soul. The Prince of Peace dispensed true peace everywhere he went; and the bottom line is that bringing peace is doing good for our fellow humans. He anoints us to carry on this work in His Name as a lifestyle... **Matthew 5:9 'Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God'.** True children of God have the title of sons of God.. and sons of God are genuinely led by the Spirit of the Lord. The royal blood of Heaven flows in our veins.. we are Princes in God's Family, and our elder brother Jesus is the King of this Family. Father is the Father of it. Holy Spirit is that Person of unlimited Power who flows out of us to bring Peace wherever we go. World Peace and Peace Treaties

are Satan's counterfeits selling 'harmony' but it is harmony leaving out everything that Jesus died to bring Peace for. There will only be Peace when Jesus rules with a rod of iron over this entire Earth, which will start very shortly. Living a 'good' life on man's terms, totally leaves out the true 'good' that Jesus brings. Jesus says that **"There is only One that is good"**.. and that is God. True good brings true works of God.

- **God was with Him..** Jesus as our 'role-model' could only do the 'good works' because He hungered after 'righteousness'.. he came to fulfil righteousness by obediently doing and completing the will of God for Him each day. Father and Holy Spirit were inseparably joined to Jesus.. just as they are with us..'**Behold I will never leave you, nor forsake you**'. We need to continually grow in this awareness, by practising the reality of this by faith in our minds many times a day until it has become as real to us as the birds and the trees. Truly we can then say..'**I am going about my Father's business**'.

What is 'The Anointing of the Holy Ghost'?

'Mighty works from His Power to do good'

A Definition: 'We are enabled through faith in God, to do the Spirit-led good works of God, by God's power flowing through us to materialise it'.

When one is anointed from 'The King's Anointing'.. it is the 'Rivers', or the 'Oil', or the 'clothing with Holy Ghost Power from on high' which Jesus pours through each one of us as His branch, as that branch is alive in Jesus.

God enables us to do the works He has pre-ordained for us. We need power above and beyond anything we have as humans to do His works, because we cannot work the 'good' works of God without His enabling. That's why Jesus said..**John 15:5** "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in Me, and in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing.**" We are literally 'a branch of Jesus'.. and so we will produce the same 'fruit' as Jesus, by the same process.. 'The Anointing' of the Holy Spirit.

'Jesus went about doing good' (Acts 10:38) for this was the Anointing upon Him. Some of these works would appear to be those that any person with exercising any faith whatsoever in the Power of God's Anointing could do.. (see Matthew 25:31-46)

- **I was hungry and you gave me food**
- **I was thirsty and you gave me drink**
- **I was a stranger and you took me in**
- **I was naked and you clothed me**
- **I was sick and you visited me**
- **I was in prison and you came to me**

Once we put in the crucial factors, which are.. led by the Spirit; and having Faith in God;

and Anointed to do that particular work.. we come into a different dimension. We have been appointed to move in the miracle-power of God as Jesus did in each one of these..

- The physically hungry were fed from buns and fish in their thousands; and the spiritually hungry for righteousness had God's continuous will opened up for them to do.
- The physically thirsty had a 'Rock' follow them through the wilderness dispensing 'rivers' of water for Israel and all it's wilderness thirsts. In the spiritual that same 'Rock' is in us dispensing rivers of power to meet the needs of a dying world passing away before our eyes.
- In the natural, the 'stranger' like the man robbed on the Jericho Road was taken in and cared for until he had fully recovered. In the spiritual, we were once all 'aliens' and 'strangers' to the Kingdom of God, but Jesus took us in and paid for our son-ship with His life and His Blood. The miracle of aliens becoming the sons of God!
- In the natural the naked may be those who genuinely have hardly a stitch, and by faith in God we see Him through us meet their needs. Often the 'naked' are those whose lives like the rebellious daughters of Jerusalem were a vulnerable, open shame. The Mary Magdalene's became clothed with holiness, dignity and strength as they wore their new 'fine white linen' of the saints. A miracle of the Spirit and the Word through Jesus.. and now through us!
- The sick are not just to be visited and given some flowers.. but raised up from their sickness and healed. **"You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover"** **Mark 16:18** We are led by the Spirit as to what to do, and Anointed to do it. We proceed in faith to do what He says. (see *James 5:14-16*) Both the sick and the dead didn't stay sick or dead when Jesus and the disciples came to them in the power of the Spirit.
- Those in 'prison' were imprisoned for their Faith in Christ awaiting trial and death. Anointed Prayer was offered by the Church for Paul and Silas; and also in a different situation for Peter.. and they were delivered by God demonstrating His Power! Those demonically possessed and oppressed are delivered by the Name of Jesus and The Anointing. **'They that call upon the Name of the Lord shall be delivered'**..**Joel 2:32**

Question: Which of these is the Spirit 'quickening' in you now to do? With whom? Where?

How do you know that The Anointing is on you?

1. **By Faith** If you sense that you need a fresh Anointing for the task in hand, then ask, and then you shall receive. The 'Father's Promise' in **Luke 11:11** states.. "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for that fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, shall he give him a scorpion? If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children..**how much more shall the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?** If you are asking for the Holy Spirit, you shall receive the Holy Spirit, if you are asking a

for a fresh Anointing of the Holy Spirit, you shall receive a fresh Anointing of the Holy Spirit.. but if you are double-minded in your asking, receiving and applying it to the task in hand you shall receive nothing...**James 1:6-8** **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea that is driven by the wind and tossed.. for let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.** Jesus says this..**Mark 11:23,24** **“For truly I say to you that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea.. and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe those things he says shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he says. Therefore I say unto you..Whatsoever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.”**

Illustration: A young Pastor who was just coming into the ministry experience of moving in the Power of the Holy Ghost was ministering with another who was several years more advanced, and experienced than he. As they were ministering together on an altar call, he took his turn to lead, after his brother had prayed for the first half-dozen or so, and each one had their needs met in the Spirit of the Lord, and some couldn't remain standing. The young Pastor laid hands on the next requiring ministry, but nothing seemed to be happening. He glanced across at his brother, raised his eyebrows quizzically and said softly..”What do I do now?” His brother whispering to him replied..”Just keep your hand there”. He did so, and God the Holy Spirit's power flowed into that man, and he was healed and neither could he stand.

2. **Abide in the Vine.** Grape vines consist of the vine which grows out of the root-stock, and as it grows it sends out branches. Each branch looks just like the stronger, larger vine, but it is not the vine, for the vine goes on and sends out further branches. Each individual branch sends out buds for leaves; and a runner, or two on which the flower will come and the grapes will form in clusters. The same ‘sap’ which flows through the vine, flows out through the branches to the leaves and the fruit. The leaves convert the sap into sugars by photosynthesis which gives life to the whole vine. Each branch's leaves contribute to the vine, just as each body organ contributes to the human body; and each believer to the local church as the ‘visible body of Christ’. A dead branch is dead because it has detached from the vine, and so it withers and dies, and the gardener (Father God) will remove it and burn it. **John 15:4-6** **“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, neither can you unless you live in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He that lives in Me, and I in him will bring forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. If a man doesn't abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and men gather them up and cast them into the fire and they are burned.”** When Jesus felt the faith of the woman who had been haemorrhaging for years, and the ‘virtue’ (The Anointing of God the Holy Spirit) flowed out of Him, and healed her; He was describing the process of our ministry. We live in Christ, and Christ lives in us. The Holy Spirit of the Lord remains powerfully upon us; and He

flows from us to the one of faith who is being ministered to and heals them, and breaks the yoke of oppression. Through constantly pressing into Christ afresh each new day, He reveals Himself as our Source; and we bear fruit for Him. The Anointing is always by faith, and sometimes it is accompanied by feelings or sensations; but feelings and sensations are not a true indicator of The Anointing, because in the end the minister may begin to rely on physical signs, instead of faith in that which is Eternal but unseen.

3. **The Promises:**

a) **Your fruitfulness begins and ends with Jesus:**

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men.. a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.. and we hid our faces from Him. He was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But 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. No wonder they marvelled at Jess speaking with authority, and doing the mighty works, for the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him.

b) **Very specific dates are given for His appearing!**

Daniel 9:25-26 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to build and restore Jerusalem unto The Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and 62 weeks. The street shall be built again, and the wall even in troublesome times. And after 62 weeks shall the Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself. And the people of the prince shall come and destroy the city and the sanctuary, and the end of it shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. This prophecy given by Gabriel gives the time-line for the coming of the Messiah, and His crucifixion. It begins with the first period of seven weeks to rebuild Jerusalem after the Jewish captive exiles have returned from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem under Nehemiah. There then follows the next period which is from the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the Crucifixion of Jesus the Messiah which would be a period of 483 years.

c) **Your Fruitfulness is guaranteed as you abide in Christ:**

John 15:5 “I am The Vine, and you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him that person shall bring forth much fruit.. for without Me you can do nothing.”

d) **Mark 16:15 “Go and preach the Gospel into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every person.. he that believes and is baptised shall be saved, but he that doesn't believe shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe..In My Name they shall cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up snakes; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not harm them; for they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.”**
So then after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into Heaven and was seated at the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached

everywhere, the LORD working with them, and confirming the Word with signs and wonders following. Amen.

GOD IS WITH YOU. GO AND DO GOOD, AND HEAL THOSE OPPRESSED BY SATAN.