

Dialogues with God

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Introduction

I didn't always, but in the last two years, I've learned to tune in very carefully to the voice of God. And I'm not talking about just any old god. I'm talking about hearing the Holy Spirit of God that came down to man when Jesus Christ ascended and sat at the right hand of Yahweh, the great I AM. He says that His sheep will hear and know His voice. (See Appendix A.)

How did it happen that I started hearing Him and how do I know it's God? Well, that's a different book. (Although some is in Appendix D.) This book is just here because God told me to start documenting some of my conversations with Him. Then He told me to put them all together so that people could read them and decide for themselves if they would like to hear God like this. Many people will definitely NOT want to hear God like this! It hurts. It's hard. It will cost you everything. But it IS possible. And I wouldn't trade it for anything.

If you don't think God talks to people anymore, then just consider this an exercise in creative writing or a poetic allegory or my own fanciful daydreaming. I don't really care what you think. I know the difference and I know He is real and I know He is directing my paths now that I know how to get out of His way. And I wouldn't trade it for anything.

These aren't particularly insightful. They're not the best things the Lord ever told me. They're not documentation of dreams and visions and deep revelations. They're not words of knowledge about the secret things in some other person's heart. They're just written documentation of snippets of the kind of daily, running conversation I have with the Lord all the time. Sometimes daily to-do lists, sometimes encouragement, sometimes just a pat on the head. I'm not presenting them because I think they are the best of all the things the Lord has shown me, they're not. There are lots of things that He's told me that are very private, some that aren't for now, some that I don't even understand yet. But these "Dialogues" are just so that maybe you'll hunger and thirst for a relationship like this. He said that His sheep would hear and know His voice. And you can, if you'll unclog your pipeline and shut up and listen.

The first of the Dialogues is more poetic than normal and was written just as my furniture store was being crushed. It was a serious low point and probably near the beginning of when I started writing the Dialogues. You will see that it is much different in style and tone than the others that followed. God is faithful! Even when you feel crushed and defeated, He will never let it go too far. Throughout everything that I have endured, He has always been faithful. He's a great Dad!

Behind these dialogues is a Spiritual Tuneup section that might help you get unclogged so you can hear better. He's a really great Dad and I know He wants to talk to you like this. **It's not just me, I know lots of folks that hear Him like this.** And lots have been raised up by Jesus through me to hear Him like this. If I can help you hear Him better so that you don't have to lean on your own understanding anymore and HE can direct all your paths, that's the best gift I could ever think of giving you!

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

God doesn't worry too much about capitalization of pronouns associated with Him. He definitely doesn't require it as a sign of respect for Himself when **He** is talking. I asked and it's just not real important to Him. I usually do it, but if I forget sometimes or I'm typing too fast, that doesn't seem to bother Him. He knows that I love Him with all my heart. He wants a broken and contrite heart, a circumcised spirit – not capitalization and a heart of ice.

I'm trying to present these in as raw a way as possible. I've only edited them where something was included about a person or some bit of instruction or information that the Lord didn't want made public.

The only other change I made is that I put His words in bold so you can read it easier. I doubt it is necessary, because it should be pretty obvious who is whom, but I don't want to make it harder than necessary.

I would love to have commented on all the amazing miracles and divine appointments and perfect timings that resulted from obeying the instructions He gave, but that too is beyond the scope of this book. I'm not trying to prove it was Him or justify what I heard or anything. I'm just presenting the raw conversations. You do what you will with them. I don't have anything to prove and He is the only one I need to please.

Dialogue with God – 7/9/2006 – Parkville, Missouri

My God and my King,
You alone are worthy of glory and praise,
You alone are above all. You are my everything.
I rest in your arms through all that comes,
I'll rest in your arms.
But I'm so tired, Lord. I've been fighting so long.
They're not listening, Lord. They're not changing.
I feel all alone and I'm so tired.
Where did You go? Where is my help?
You promised, Abba. Please?

**Rest, Child, I'm here.
I've always been right here.
I didn't say it would be easy.
You're the one that prayed to be like Me.
You said you'd do anything. You said you'd give up anything.
Did you think I wasn't listening?
You did mean it didn't you?**

Oh, Father. I meant it! You know I did!
I didn't hold anything back - or at least I didn't mean to.
I said You could have it all. I said I'd go. I said I'd endure.
But I'm so tired, Abba.

**Rest, Child, I'm here.
You can't fail. What I've made you to be, you WILL be.
You couldn't screw it up if you tried.
And you WILL try - but I know it's not on purpose.
I've already made allowance for that.
It's not about you. It never was.
Just rest in ME. I'll take care of everything.**

But it makes no sense!
They think I'm nuts.
They think I'm making this all up!
They can't see that You would do this to somebody.
They're just sure that if You called, then You would provide.
And, sometimes, when I'm weak, they start to make sense.

**Rest, Child, I'm here.
My ways are not Your ways.
And it's a good thing, too.
Your ways just get you into more trouble.
But I have a plan. And it's a good plan.
And it will confound the wise and it will glorify My Holy Name.
This isn't about you. It never was.
I appreciate that you're willing,
I love you for it. More than you know.
But this is MY show. I'll write the script.**

I know, Abba. I know. I get how big You are.
At least as much as You've shown me and my puny brain can handle.
I get the complexity and interconnectedness of Your plans. I get the majesty of it.
But right now, right this minute, I'm just hurting really bad, Daddy.
I'm sorry to make it about me, but ...

**Rest, Child, I'm here.
I know you. I know your needs.
I know you need to see the plan.
I'll show you when you're ready.
And I know you need love.
I made sure you got just enough, didn't I?
And I loved on you real good, didn't I?**

Oh, God! Oh, Father!
I do appreciate the people you sent -
and the words they spoke at the right moment!
And without me asking! I know it's You.
And, yes, You loved on me real good.
So good that I can't stop crying - and I don't want to ever stop.
And I'm sorry to ask for more, I really am, but I just need to see.
I need to see through Your eyes. I need to see the big picture.
I need to know my place. I need to see ...

**Rest, Child. I'm here.
Time after time I've let you see through My eyes.
I want to show you more, and I will.
But it's going to hurt. You need to be ready.
It's really dark out there, and it's going to get a lot worse before it gets better.
Lots of people you love are going to die. Some really ugly stuff is coming.
Are you willing? There's a lot of badness coming.**

Abba, You know I'm willing.
I've seen so much already, but I know there's so much more.
But could we please just skip to the end?
Could I please just see more of the happy ending?
I'm kind of drowning in the bad stuff.
It hurts really bad. Why won't they listen?!

**Rest, Child. I'm here.
I know what you can handle.
I can't stretch you without pain.
I can't build muscles without breaking some down.
You asked me to put all the weight on.
You asked to be big and strong.
You wanted to get it over with quickly.
There's no other way, but through the pain.
Trust me, I know about pain and suffering.
I'll give you the endurance you need.
I'm spotting. The weight will never crush you.**

Please, Father! I'm so tired!
But I don't want to rest. I don't want to stop.
I know how this works.
I know something big is around the corner or it wouldn't hurt this bad.
I'm willing. You know I am. I'll stand.
You've got me through so many times like this before.
But I need you to lift just a little more!
I need you to get the bar off my chest!
Every muscle is screaming! Every day it hurts more.
It's really heavy and I don't think I have any strength left.

**Rest, Child. I'm here.
I love you. I really do. More than you can know.**

**But I'm the one that gets to decide if you've had enough.
I'm the one that knows what you can handle.
Let Me do my job. Let Me build you up.
I know you're tired. We're almost there.
Just push a little more. Give Me a couple more reps.
Then we can rest a little while and you can see the fruit of your labor.
You'll see it. I promise. It won't be in vain. I promise.**

Oh, God. I will! I don't know how, but You know.
I trust You. I do. I'll push. I can do a couple more.
Please just slap me around when I sound like a sissy.
Please do what You do. Break me. I meant it!
I'm not backing down! Whatever it takes!
Don't be gentle. Don't go easy on me. Don't let up.
They're hurting and dying and we're losing this war,
I want to be strong. I need to be strong to reach them.
I'll go. I promise.
But ... I'm so tired. Really tired. Really ...

**I know, Son. I know. I'm here. Rest.
I'll dry every tear. I'll sustain you. I'll hold your hand.
When you can't, I'll do the heavy lifting.
Just rest. I know what I'm doing.
And we are NOT losing this war. I'm baiting the enemy.
I've got them all right where I want them.**

Thanks, Dad. I know. I'm really sorry for this.

**It's OK, Child. I know you are. But it's OK.
You're doing really good. I'm really proud of you.
It will all be worth it. I promise - and I can't lie. I promise.
I'll make it up to you. You'll see.**

I love You, Abba.

I love you too, Child.

Dialogue with God – August 1, 2006 – 2:34 pm – Liberty, Missouri

Yes, Lord? What is it?

Listen carefully, Son. I have a lot to say. Today is the beginning of a new thing. Just as the beginning of the month of Av was important, so too, is the beginning of August. Lots of decisions are made this month. Lots of people will choose whether to go into the Promised Land or chicken out. Some will try to go without me and get trounced. If My Ark doesn't lead the way, there's going to be trouble. At times, you got ahead of me or turned to the side. I covered for you, but there were still consequences. Now we're getting it all back on track, but it has come at a cost. I know you understand that.

Whatever it takes Lord. Whatever the cost to me. I deserve whatever comes. I just want to be in Your Perfect Will. Please restore me, Lord.

Listen. There is a half-moon on the 9th of Av. Which way are you going to go? To the darkness or to the light? Everyone will have to decide.

(A bunch of dialogues between August and October were lost when we switched email servers unexpectedly.)

Dialogue with God – 10/25/06 – Liberty, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. I'm here.

Good morning, Son. I love you.

I love you, too, Lord. What's the plan.

Don't go to work today and don't call in. You need to finish writing {the Red Dragon book}. You could have got it done yesterday, but you goofed off and got distracted. Don't eat or drink until you finish writing and don't go get the rest of the stuff out of the house. Focus on this. I'll help.

I'm sorry about yesterday, Lord. I'm sorry I let other things distract me. Please forgive me.

I do, Son. Stay on task today. This is really important. The Dragon wants to take your mind off of this. He'll use anything or anyone to keep you from finishing this. Because you allowed it without listening to Me I'm going to have to dial up the pressure today.

I understand, Lord. It's fine. Thanks for that.

Don't answer the phone unless I specifically tell you to. Don't go anywhere or plan on doing anything. Don't take a nap, don't eat, don't get distracted. I will help you write this. It needs to get finished today.

Yes, Lord. Thank You, Lord. What am I missing?

It needs to be short and direct. This is not the time for a full exposition of every verse and every nuance. We'll fill it all in later. Right now it just needs to get out there and be said. Also it needs to be clear that ONLY those with a personal spirit of repentance for JERUSALEM are truly free. If they're not weeping and mourning for THEIR part in it and repenting for THEIR sins and the sins of THEIR forefathers, then they're just fighting against it or creating their own Dragon. It's not enough to feel sorry that it happened or to wish it was fixed or to ask the Lord to forgive THOSE people that did it. You ALL did it and you ALL need to repent for your part in it.

Yes, Lord. I understand. Can I ...

No.

Can I ...

No. FOCUS!

Oops! Sorry, Lord. You're right. I love You, Lord. Please help. There is lots of stuff swarming and it's really messing with me.

I know, Son. I'll help. Clear out the sphere and unplug the pipeline.

Oh, yeah. That helped. Thanks, Lord. They're trying really hard.

A lot hangs on this. Hey! Focus!!

Wow. I'm drifting again! Sorry, Lord. OK. I'm getting it. Do you want me to write on the Jezebel thing?

No. Just the Dragon writing.

Can I check my email?

No. Just the Dragon writing. If you can stay on task, it won't take long. I don't want this to take all day. There are other things that need doing.

Thanks, Lord. I'll try really hard. I love You. Please help and don't let anything keep me from hearing You today.

I love you, too, Son. It will be fine. I've got it under control. Get to work.

Dialogue with God – 10/26/06 – 9:31 am to 9:48 am – Liberty, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. I love You.

Good morning, Son. I love you, too.

What's the plan, Lord. I feel really heavy. Today is already starting off with fear and trembling.

Yes, Son. Today is important. Today is transition. I am doing a new thing.

Please Lord, please say I'm not out of order. Please say that You and I are OK and that I haven't failed you. I know I goofed off on Monday and didn't get the Dragon thing written, but I'm really sorry.

Son, hear me. Rest. You are OK. You are in My hand. I will prove it to you today. I will show you signs that you are where I want you. Rest.

Whatever You want, Lord. Thank you. Please give me Your peace. I'm very tired and I don't know what to do next. Please give me wisdom. I'm kind of scared. There are so many things coming against me and I have no idea how it's all going to ever get settled. I want to serve and focus on You, but today they are all coming at me. The money, the law, the state, the bank, the house, the family, the work, the brothers, I've got lying spirits in the mouths of the prophets, I've got red dragons to deal with, I've got a bad tire on the van and so many other things all at once. I know You said You wouldn't give me more than I can handle, but it sure seems like I'm at the limit.

I know Son. This is a big day. I know it's heavy. But it's not demonic, it's just Me sitting on you. Don't be afraid. I will cover you like a blanket and there will be lots of tears today, but don't be afraid and don't let the enemy turn it into despair or loneliness.

Yes, Lord. Please help. I'm so weak. I have no hope without Your hand.

I am here. It's time to be fruitful and multiply. I gave you Genesis 1 this morning for a reason. I made each according to his kind and I made you for a purpose and for this time. And I have looked and seen that it is good. Rest. Today we plant the seed and I will water it and bring the increase. It will grow up fast. You'll see.

Thank You, Lord. I love You. Please forgive my people. Please heal my land. We are wretched, naked, blind and poor. Please open blind eyes. Please, Abba. I'm sorry. Put it on me. Whatever it takes, just heal my people.

Send the e-newsletter, Son. I'll help write it. Offer the Dragon writing to those who have ears to hear. Ask the intercessors to pray. Tell the story.

Huh? Tell my story? Like the whole thing about what I've been through and going through?

Yes. Tell them. Let them share your burden. Show them what it costs to seek Me all the way and delve into the deep things. Tell them how to help.

Lord, that doesn't seem very humble. What happened to "like a sheep led to the slaughter"?

No one is making accusations. Before the brethren you tell them what you're going through and you give the glory to Me for bringing you thus far. I will move on their hearts as each needs.

Please Lord, I need a confirmation. I don't want to speak forth the whole story if I'm not 100% sure it's You. Please?

Send this to Suzanne. You already called Elijah. Call again on your phone. I will confirm it.

Please, Lord. I love You. Please give me strength.

I AM sufficient. Rest. I'm here. It's all good.

Thanks, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 10/30/06 – 9:00am to 9:10am – Liberty, Missouri

Yes, Lord. I'm here.

Good morning, Son. I love you.

I love You, too, Lord. Good morning. Thanks for getting me up early. Thanks for prayer time with Your saints. What's the plan today?

First, I want you to rest. Go back to bed. I'll get you up when it's time. We need to get that tire replaced at the Goodyear and you need to get a couple cans of Deft and the hardware to finish up the sign and for the board tomorrow at Veronica's Voice. I'd like that done before 5:30pm. Also, you need to go make copies of the books and the Apology and the Red Dragon writing. And mail the box to Chris. Don't UPS it.

Yes, Lord. Two cans? Am I going to V.V. tomorrow? How many copies of the books? Do I need binders? Do I still need to buy those sticky hooks?

Yes, two cans. Yes, you're going to V.V. tomorrow. Rain = 10, Apology = 10, Dragon = 20, Apologies = 500. Yes, you'll need binders for the books. I'll tell you where. Yes, you are going to need hardware for the sign anyway, so go buy the hooks.

Do I need to go fix Judy's shower handle?

Not yet. I'll tell you when.

Am I sending money to Brother {XXXXXX} in Kenya?

Nope. Not yet.

But Lord, he's got starving orphans! Some money showed up. Shouldn't I help?!

Nope. Not yet. It's not as bad as you think. I'm doing something there. I know they're suffering but {XXXXXX} has to look to Me first, not to any Man.

Yes, Lord. Have Your way, Lord.

Lord, do you want me to let my wife have those two checks from Bruce?

Nope. She's on her own. That was My provision for the ministry. Have Bruce resend them.

Yes, Lord. I've got a lot more peace than normal, don't I? Usually I'm bawling when we do this. Are we OK?

Yes, you're hearing Me better and I'm helping make things easier. We're going to do this a lot from now on and I can't have you always making puddles everywhere you go. ;-)

Thanks, Lord. You're funny. I love You.

I love you, too, Son.

Anything else?

We'll adjust as the day moves along. Go get some sleep.

OK. Thanks.

Dialogue with God – 11/2/06 – 8:26am to 8:54am – Liberty, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. Thanks for what You've already done today. Thanks for revelation and wisdom. Thanks for healing. Thanks for being present. Thanks for allowing the Spirit to pray through us.

Good morning, Son. All is well. You're doing very well today. Keep pressing in and listening to my voice. I will lead and guide you through the day. We have a lot to do, but it may not seem like a lot at the time.

What's first, Lord?

You can snack while you're on the computer. Drink the water bottles I provided. Tomorrow you're fasting. I'll give a lot of grace on what you eat today.

Thanks, Lord! Your will. Whatever you want is fine with me.

First, answer Leslie's email. Pray for her clarity and focus. Pray a shield around her and break the fear. Explain the Red Dragon to her personally and concisely. She's having a hard time keeping focus long enough to hear me.

Yes, Lord.

I want you to pray in tongues a lot today. I want to stretch you and teach you new things. Use the new one sparingly, but I'll give you more. It is a complete language package, even though you only got one word to start. It's important. Keep pressing in.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord.

Get in touch with Merri. See about moving some stuff over there to store temporarily. You will be staying with them, at least for a little while. I can't have you here anymore. You'll be in motion. Don't get too comfy – and pack light. Store everything else at Merri's. I'm giving them a choice, but that's the plan.

Yes, Lord. I could really use some brake work on the van.

I know. I've got it. Contact Steve. I'll provide the funds when the time is right.

Call him today?

No. Not today. But soon. I'll tell you when.

Should I send the last dialogue to Brother {XXXXXX} in Kenya?

No. Not yet. Don't respond yet.

What else, Lord?

Make some more buttons. Finish off the ones you have printed. You're going to need to order more parts soon. We're going to distribute some of those today. I want you to talk to Lee at HyVee about selling them there. And call Linda K.

Yes, Lord. Call Linda about the buttons?

Yes, about the buttons and whatever else I put on your heart or hers. Get the design for the next t-shirt finished for Chris and work on his sign.

Yes, Lord. Thanks for smoothing that over with Chris. Please heal any hurts there. Thanks, Lord. I love You, Lord.

You're welcome. It will be fine. I love you, too.

Can we talk about the Adamic language?

Not here. Not right now.

Yes, Lord. What else can I do for You?

Pray for J.P. and John H. Pray for Edwin and Austin. Pray for Bob T. Pray for Carlton.

Carlton, who? I don't know any Carlton.

Just pray – and mean it. Pray the hard prayer. Use the new tongue. I've got it. Pray that Clare would get everything she needs before she goes back to Australia. Pray for Jay. Use the new tongue for that, too.

Yes, Lord. Thanks for Your love for all Your children. Thanks that You are watching out for us. Thanks for all the people that You tell to pray for me when I need it.

I love you all. I will not leave you nor forsake you. I will hold you in the palm of my hand and keep you safe. Even when the fire is raging, the flames will not consume you. You are mine.

Thanks, Lord. You are an awesome God and there is no other besides You. Please don't ever let me give Your glory to another – or to me. Please keep me humble and broken.

Yes, Son. I will. I always answer that prayer. Teach them to pray that prayer.

Yes, Lord.

That's all for now. Keep listening. There are some surprises – and some great ministry that will happen later tonight. I have something special coming for all of you.

Thanks, Lord. Your will. Please don't let me impose any expectations on You and what You are doing. You are faithful and true and Your promises are yeah and amen. Thanks, Lord.

I love you, Son.

I love you, too, Dad.

OK, that's it. Email Leslie.

OK. Thanks.

Dialogue with God – 11/3/06 – 8:54am to 9:20am – Liberty, Missouri

Good morning, Lord.

Good morning, Son.

What's up?

Son, I want you to focus today. There is a lot that needs doing. I want you to really try hard to listen to my voice. I'm going to give you a list of things and I want you to get everything done. It's going to be tight. We're training here. Just like the waffles this morning, if you start praying late or finish late, they will burn and the kids will fuss. There are consequences when the timing is off. Try hard today. The day is coming when seconds here or there will make a huge difference. It's not just obeying, it's obeying at the right moment and in the right way - and not adding anything to it so that it runs over time. That's a big one with you that we've been working on for a long time now.

Yes, Lord. I get it. It sure is. Please do whatever You have to do to me so that I can fully and completely follow Your schedule.

You need to go through all of the stuff you have and I'll sort it. Some to store and some to pack. You're going to need to finish the sign for Chris as well. I'll help with that. You're going to have to be over at the house at 5:00pm to pack up the sauna. And you're going to drop stuff off at Merri and Joseph's house. I'll tell you when. Also, you're going to go by HyVee and talk to Lee. I'll tell you when. Keep praying through the day and practicing the new tongue I gave you. You're just scratching the surface.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. Thanks for Your direction. Thanks for Your gifts. Help me stay on task and be a good steward of all that You've given me - including time.

You need to get gas. And you need to call Steve today about the brakes. Just replace the pads. No matter what else looks like it might be a problem, just replace the pads. Pull a big disc backup of all the files on the other computer, including the buttons. Backup the email files on the E: drive.

Yes, Lord. Do I have money for gas? And for pads?

Yes, it's there. \$20 in gas and I'll take care of the pads.

Thanks for what You did last night. Thanks for the surprise. That definitely was. Help me to equip Clare fully for the work that You have for her. Thanks for today and what You are going to do through her. Thanks for the phone call to Nick this morning. Thanks for Your presence. I wish we could have stayed on the line all day, just silently feeling You. Thanks for that.

I want you to finish the Jezebel book. I'll show you how. Also, you need to start documenting all about all the different demons that I've shown you. It's getting to be too many for the average person to remember. I'll help. Just start making a list of what you've learned about each one, what they do, what they look like, where they hide, where they port up, etc. I'll help.

Yes, Lord. Today, Lord?

Some today, but it will take awhile. As I lead. You won't be able to finish the Jezebel today, but dig into it and we'll see how far we can get.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. Am I going to Northtown to take the sign?

Not today. Go tomorrow. Chris will be there and you can go by the salvage meat place. Oh, and you're not fasting tomorrow, just today.

OK, thanks, Lord. You know I'll fast if You want me to.

Yeah, I know, but it's OK. This is a period of rest and restoration. There will be long fasts down the road, but this is a time of refreshing.

Yes, it really has been. Thanks so much, Lord. I love You. Thanks for Your saints and the blessing that they have been to me. Even in the midst of warfare and deliverance, I've just had a whole lot of fun and really enjoyed having people around to walk with all day. Thanks for that.

I know what you need. There will be more of that coming. Lots of intimate time with individuals in their homes. Lots of chances for me to bless them through you as they care for you and offer their hospitality. Don't forget that that is the point. I'm wanting to bless them, so I'm sending you in to give them a chance. If they receive you, I'll pour out onto them. If they receive you a little, they'll get a little. If they fling open their arms and put everything on the table like Clare and Suzanne did, I'll pour out beyond anything they could think or imagine.

Thanks, Lord. Please soften the hearts of the saints to receive God's anointed. All of them. Let the prophets and apostles find comfort and rest among the saints. Let the Body be restored. Thanks, Lord.

That's about it. I'll adjust as we go along.

Thanks, Lord. I love You, Lord.

I love You, too, Son. Don't go making this about YOU. This is all about ME.

Yes, Lord. I'm sorry, Lord. I love You, Lord.

I love you, too. Get to work.

Yes, Lord. Thanks.

Dialogue with God – 11/7/06 – 10:00am to 10:28am – Phillip's house, Liberty, Missouri

Good Morning, Lord.

Good morning, Son.

Thanks for the work You're already doing this morning. I love You. Please be fully in charge today. I don't want anything that's not 100% You. Please help me to stay on task and keep my eyes on You all day.

I love you, too, Son. I'll help. Today is important. Keep watch over your heart. The enemy will try with loneliness and sorrow today.

Yes, Lord. Thank You, Lord. Please help, Lord. You are my shield. You are my strong tower.

Yep, that's me.

You're so funny! I love You, Lord.

I love you, too, Son. Be strong. Today I need you to get the sign to River City T's and the disk for the next shirt. Have him total up what money remains and spend it all on getting as many of that shirt as you can. On light colors, but not too many white ones. I'll help. LISTEN!! Stay focused.

Oops. Sorry, Lord. I drifted.

You need to get over to Suzanne's and get the last of your stuff. You'll need to get the stuff in the van emptied now and sort through it all at Merri's later. You need to get to Metro North today and settle with them about the massage chairs. Leave the keys with Suzanne. Let her know you have to take the mattresses and put them back in the trailer. Leave the keys and the lock in the top drawer by the sink. Get anything else of yours out of the trailer. Either pitch it or leave it in the garage at the house. Throw all the bills and statements and stuff in the desk and the file cabinet in the trash. Bring the food from Suzanne's over to Merri's. I'll tell you what to do with it.

OK, am I calling anybody down South?

Yes, call Sarah Fotopulos. Call Kevin.

Lord, I don't have a number for Sarah.

Send her an email and let her know you're coming and ask for a phone number. Then call her when you get one.

OK. Thanks.

Leave on Wednesday. I'll direct. No hurry. There are stops along the way. I'll direct your path.

Thanks, Lord. I just emailed Sarah. Was that OK?

Yeah, it's fine. Good job.

Are we done?

Yeah, that'll do. Print it out and try to stay on task.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. I love You.

I love you, too. Hang on, it's going to be a crazy ride! :-)

Dialogue – 11/10/06 – breakfast time – Ozark, Missouri At Fotopulos' kitchen table.

Good Morning, Lord.

Good morning, Son.

I love You, Lord!

I love you, too, Son. Gonna be a good day, today. You did really well last night. I'm very proud of you.

... HEY!

I'm sorry, LORD!...the dogs distracted me. I'm sorry.

Stay focused on Me. I'm going to dial some things up today. Trust Me. Speak what I tell you to speak.

Yes, LORD. Give me strength. What's the plan for today?

Call your Dad. I'll lead from there. No, it's not time to call the Lighthouse yet. We are going to some pastors' today to pray.

Yes. LORD. As you lead. Email?

Yeah, I'll get you online again. No, not calling Uncle Ted yet.

Soon?

Yeah, soon. I'll tell you when. Yes, call Elijah today - when I lead.

Thanks for what You did last night! Thanks for what You're doing in Kevin. Thanks for communion time and what You told him to do. That was really pretty.

Yeah, I had a great time, too. You're welcome. I love you.

Oh, I love You, too, LORD.

Time to go. Get moving.

Dialogue with God – 11/14/06 – 6:53am to 7:24am Honeysuckle Inn, Branson, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. Thanks for the sleep.

Good morning, Son. I love you.

I love you, too, Lord. Please help me today. Please rule and reign and be sovereign in every way. Please direct my paths and put Your words in my mouth. It's all about You, not about me.

Son, I want you to crystallize all that I have given you in the last 48 hours about the Church at Branson. It has much wider applications, but I've given you words and dreams and visions and written things on your heart and now it's time to write it on tablets so that the people will hear and know.

Yes, Lord. Please help, Lord. You tell me what to say.

As I have shown you, there is a goal here, there is a finish line of sorts. They will know that they are ready to handle the people that are coming and I'll be ready to turn on the faucet wide open when they can eliminate all the static. When a word or a gift or a directional arrow can move all the way through them without losing integrity. Use the parable examples that I gave you, of the "telephone game" and of a corporate retail sale and of a medical school. They cannot be an effective hospital until they are in harmony, each playing their instrument in their own way, but each in tune and in harmony with the others and all playing the same piece of music. When we change keys, they ALL have to change seamlessly. When the pillar of fire picks up and moves, they all have to see it and stand and walk together at the same time. Show them the kick line. {Like the Rockettes.}

Yes, Lord. I understand. Open the doors for me to speak it.

It starts with the word Kevin gave on Sunday. It has to flow out and be pure and be spread throughout the spirals. And it has to retain its integrity. Don't focus just on brain things either, or it will put too much emphasis on the soulish. It's the same with the spiritual things that are distributed to the people. They have to be efficient dispensators of that which was entrusted to them. That's how they will grow, how they will flow together and how they will become wine, not just individual grapes connected by a vine. When they are ready for harvest, I mash them together. They do NOT remain independent any longer. The wine has ONE flavor throughout, not different flavors in different parts of the bottle. They will know you by your love – for each other, for My Word, for My Spirit and for Truth.

Yes, Lord.

They will know they are ready when it can flow throughout the body without interruption or twisting or misinterpretation. When they are walking shoulder to shoulder without jostling each other. There will be some that plug it up or mangle it. In order for this to work, they have to 1) have a hunger to obey, 2) be Jezebel-free, 3) be all the way full of the Spirit, 4) be able to hear My voice really well and 5) have MUCH fear of the Lord for what will happen if they transmit a mangled message. And, 6) they have to get completely Red Dragon-free, and 7) then they have to know how to enter into my rest.

Yes, Lord. I understand. Please don't let me mangle Your words either! Please let this be pure and stop it if it's not!

This is MY move, Son. This is MY work. They submitted to Me and I will do it. It will be a quick work, but not many will be able to go all the way in the first wave. Be prepared to identify those who can't yet or won't - and make allowance for them. DO NOT BRING DIVISION - but some will be doctors, some will be nurses, some will carry stretchers and some will be assigned in the Mess Hall or the Motor Pool or be M.P.'s guarding the gates. All are needed. But the ones that listen the best are the only ones that can be surgeons. But understand that at ANY MOMENT I might bust through on ANYONE and equip them to be the best doctor there or I might take a doctor and make them the best MP. DO NOT put someone in a box and never let them out. Expect me to use the base and foolish things. Continue to grow them and try to

raise up doctors. And teach the doctors to be humble and willing to do any job in the place. This is NOT about raising up superstars! This is about raising up vessels that will be transparent and I can equip and use anywhere at any time. This is about being a swarm of bees. Each with a stinger, all doing the work assigned to them, all critical, all focused on the harvest and all able to swarm viciously at a common enemy. You may be able to take out a man or a bear or a dog, but who can defend against a swarm of bees?

Yes, Lord. I understand. Please write it all on my heart and help me to explain it to Kevin and the others. Help me to take it to all the places you intend for it to go. I love You.

I love you, too, Son. This is MY show. Rest.

What's the plan today, Lord?

Nick will call. Spend time with him. Do as I lead. Get ready to move out of the hotel room. Call the Pheasant's. You'll be with them for a few days. Prayer at the Mack's tonight. I'm not going to give you too much more detail today. Things are fluid. You did really well yesterday even though it seems like not much happened.

Thanks Lord. Could you please put some dead people in my path? I'd like some more practice with the big prayers. How are we ever going to raise the dead if we're never around dead people.

You're so cute. In time, Son. I'll open doors. It's all good. Answer your emails this morning and go get breakfast. Not the buffet, unless they offer it for free. Tomorrow you're fasting.

Yes, Lord. Thank You, Lord. I love You so much. You alone are worthy of glory and honor and praise. You alone are the source of every good thing. You are my provider and my guide and my rest. Thanks, Lord.

I love you, Son. I'm proud of you. I told you that we would get here and here we are. Never forget.

Yes, Lord! You are true in every way. Thanks so much! Thank You, Lord! You're the best Dad ever!

We could do this all day, but you need to get to work. Send this to Kevin.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 11/15/06 – 12:18pm to 12:28pm Pheasant's house, Forsyth, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. Thanks for what You've already done this morning. Thanks for having Chris call. Please restore his minutes on his phone and mine and provide. Thanks for ministry in this home, Lord. Please let Your words sink in and all of mine fall away. Let Your peace rest on this place.

Good morning, Son. I love you. You're welcome. You did just fine. Keep listening and I will continue to increase your land.

I love You, too, Lord. Thanks so much. I'm having a great time. Thanks for Your peace. I couldn't do anything without You. Please don't ever take Your Spirit from me.

Rest, Son. Today will go faster than you think. Ministry tonight at Nick's house. Prayer for Forsyth later on. Gonna get a hair cut.

Cool! Thanks Lord. You show me where and how. Lord, do You think I should worry about the money?

No. That would be bad. Just trust me. I've got it.

Lord, why did you have me write that? I never worry about the money anymore.

For the people reading this. I know you're all good.

Thanks, Lord! You're so funny. :-) Anything else?

Pray for Chris and the battle he's fighting. Tell Suzanne, but just broad strokes.

OK.

Write some more on the demon list. You're going to need it soon. And take a shower this afternoon before you leave. Do the laundry.

Did I get all the laundry out of the van?

Nope. Wash the green sweater and the black pants, too.

OK, thanks, Lord! I sure love You a lot. You're the best Dad ever!

I love you, too, Son. I've got you in the palm of my hand. You are safe. Rest in me and I'll open every door. I'm really proud of you.

Thanks, Lord. It's all You. I didn't do anything and I know it. But thanks.

Go get the laundry and do that now. Then get to writing.

Yes, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 11/20/06 – 9:21am to 9:39am Mack's house, Branson, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. I love you.

Good morning, Son. I love you, too.

Thanks for the day. It's really pretty. Thanks for what You did yesterday and how You showed up at the Sunday morning meeting in Branson. It was really great.

Yeah, I thought it was great, too. Could have had a little less talking and more praying, but it was really good. I'm going to finish what I started here, you don't need to worry about leaving. It's not about you anyway.

Yes, Lord. Thank You, Lord. I know You have it under control. Please bless them abundantly and send me back whenever You like. Help me to get better at moving on without tears.

No, Son. I'm never going to do that. I made you this way and I'm just NEVER going to make it stop hurting when you leave part of the Body behind.

Yes, Lord. Have Your way, Lord. Thank You, Father. Bless Your holy name. Your will be done.

Son, I'm opening doors, your time here is almost done. Tell Kevin that he can send the Bonfire story about the Lampstands to all his people or use it to show them what's coming. Send him this dialogue. Call the papers and see about ad rates for non-profits. Go by the bank. Make more copies of the books when you have cash. Use the UPS store coupon. Listen to me very carefully about the computer issue. Make some more buttons to leave here. Email Pat and Paul the address in Liberty.

Yes, Lord. When am I leaving?

Wednesday. You'll be here for Thanksgiving with them on Tuesday night.

Lord, where am I going?

I'm not ready to tell you yet. When I do, you need to keep it quiet and go cloaked. I don't want them to see you coming.

Yes, Lord. You direct, Lord. What else today?

Get the Lighthouse brochure off of Giles desk. Read it.

Yes, Lord. Do you want me at the intercessory prayer meeting tonight at 7pm?

Yes.

OK, thanks, Lord. That would be great. Can they pray for me?

Yeah, that's part of the plan, too. But stay flexible because things are in motion. Have to tie up all the loose ends before you leave.

Great! Thanks, Lord. Anything else?

That's all for now. Get to work.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. I love you so much. You've been so good to me. Thanks for the provision You poured out. Please help me hear you really good and be a good steward.

I love you, too, Son. I'm here. Rest. It's not about you anyway.

Yes, Lord. Thank You, Lord.

**Dialogue with God – 11/25/06 – 1:04pm to 1:09pm
Hubbell's house in Winnsboro, Texas**

Yes, Lord?

I love you, Son.

I love You, too, Lord. Thanks for that. It occurs to me that you always start with that and I sure appreciate it.

I love it when everybody starts with that, too. Tell them, would you?

Yes, Lord. I will. What's up?

Don't expect too much today. It's rest mostly. Some teaching and lots of watching. There's something hidden here and it's going to be hard to find without a lot of focus and attention. Talk less and listen more.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord.

Get the bag of originals out of the van so you'll have the cup model handy. Go through that with them when I tell you to.

Yes, Lord. I'm really pooped.

I know. You can take a nap. It's all good.

I love you, Lord.

I love you, too, Son. Rest.

Yes, Lord. Thanks.

Dialogue with God – 12/1/06 – 8:22am Best Western, Addison, Texas

Good morning, Lord.

Good morning, Son. I love you.

I love You, too, Lord! What's the plan today?

Check out at 11:00am. Make some calls to find binder parts. I'll direct you after 11:00am. Call Ellie about the time for the prayer meeting tonight and give her directions. Don't hurry today, it's going to be a long night.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. Thanks for a good night sleep. I really didn't want to stay here. Thanks for making me. I hope that whatever was missed can be made up for. I understand that the blood is on my head for talking too long at lunch and missing the next appointment. Thanks for not making me sleep in the van in the cold.

Keep praying for my best, Son. Sometimes there will be suffering, sometimes there will be comfort. Stay willing for either. I will put you in situations that require suffering, but I will always get you through. Be willing to accept the times of comfort and even luxury as well. It's a great laptop, isn't it? :-)

It sure is! Thanks for making me buy it. Thanks for having me stay here. I would have been fine in a place half the cost, but I know that there were divine appointments to get here. Thanks. Please help me to receive. Thanks for James' prayer yesterday about that. Please answer it and raise up more folks to watch over me. I love You, Lord. You're altogether lovely and altogether too good to me for what I deserve.

I love you, too, Son. No, it's not time to send out an e-newsletter yet. Soon. Lay low.

OK, thanks. Please be with Amalia at ORU {Oral Roberts University}. Please keep that fire in her burning. I would REALLY like to see something bust out there.

Me, too, Son. It will. I've got it.

I'm still tired, Lord. But I can't sleep anymore, can I?

Yeah, you can go back to bed. There's nothing urgent. It's all good. I'll help you rest.

Thanks, Lord. Am I finished?

Yep. Love you. December is going to be amazing.

Love You, too. Thanks, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 12/8/06 – 10:45 am to 11:08am Aicardi's house, Pensacola, Florida

Good morning, Lord. I love You.

Good morning, Son. I love you, too.

What's up, Lord? Am I off schedule?

Nope. We're right on track. I know it seems weird, but today is going to move slowly for awhile.

OK, Lord. Thanks, Lord. How come I worked for an hour and a half on a trip update and then the computer crashed just before I finished?

Don't worry about that. It was just for me.

OK. Whatever. I know You've got it. Thanks for not letting me throw the computer or something! Thanks for your peace that passes understanding. Please continue to spontaneously disrupt my life and my efforts at any moment. Whatever You want is fine with me!

I love you, too. :-)

So what's the plan today, Lord?

I want you to leave right at 11:30. Go to Foley and have lunch at Lambert's. Watch for appointments. Take a cup model in your pocket. Then stop at the Pensacola Christian College after that and go where I lead. Be back before 4pm to meet Mitt. Important stuff tonight. Big part of why you're here. Pray for Mitt's safe travel as well.

Uh, Lord, don't you pretty much have big angels around his car and this all planned out? I never get why I need to pray for stuff that I know You're going to do anyway.

Stop thinking so much. Just do what I tell you. ;-)

Yes, Lord. You're the boss.

Pretty sure. ;-)

Thanks, Lord. Thanks for this leg of the trip. Thanks for letting me see Rick in Mississippi. Thanks for Tom Morris {the hitchhiker} and all the other folks along the way. Thanks for David and Bob and Mitt and the folks here. Please watch over Mitt's car and keep he and his wife safe on this trip. Please don't let anything throw off Your schedule and Your purposes. Crush anything the enemy is trying to do, in the Name of Jesus.

There you go. That wasn't so hard was it? ;-)

:-p Love You, Lord.

Love you, too.

Hey, am I getting an alignment today?

Nope. Tomorrow.

Hmm. OK. Whatever You say. Should I call them or go by or something? OH! Sorry, Lord, I got distracted.

It's OK. I didn't go anywhere. I told you today would be kind of relaxed.

Yeah, thanks, Lord.

Don't worry about the alignment, go by in the morning. The place Bob told you.

Thanks, Lord. Anything else?

Yeah. Rest.

OK, I'll try. Please help. Thanks, Lord.

You betcha. OK, that's it. Love you.

Love You, too, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 12/11/06 – 8:43am to 8:56am Best Western, Nashville, Tennessee

Good morning, Lord. Thanks for breakfast. I love You.

Good morning. I love you, too, Son.

Please, Lord, what's the plan today? Am I in the right place?

Yes, you're just fine. Thanks for asking. You're doing a great job. Remember that when pieces of YOU surface, it's just so I can kill them, not to make you feel bad. I didn't send my Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. It's just to show the distance between where you are and where you should be, so that you can ask for more of me and less of you. It's not to make you feel bad. That can't really be helped, I know, but don't live there.

Yes, Lord. I get it. Thanks. Thanks for Your Son. Thanks for Your sacrifice. Thanks for Your patience and love. Especially Your love.

You're welcome, Son. Stop dwelling on Pensacola. I've got it. You did fine.

But, Lord, how come it's still messing with me? Why can't I get it out of my head? Is there something still unresolved or something on me? I don't want to play footsies with it anymore, but it won't go away. How do I close the door? It usually doesn't bother me like this!

You have to ask me to do it.

But I have been and it's still messing with me! I don't get it.

I love you. I love them. Break the ties. Speak it out. Slice it off.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. It's done.

Yep. Now stand in faith.

Yes, Lord.

I've got it. I'll take care of it. Not like you expect. Not like Dave, but I'll fix it. Stop worrying about writing an email to the folks there. You're severed until further notice. No contact until they contact you. So don't worry about it.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. That helps. What's the plan today?

Gonna go slow and rest. You have two hours till checkout. Take a nap.

For real? I just got eight hours!

Yep. You know you're tired. Get off the computer and nap. Then go to the Baptist building, then to Vanderbilt. I'll lead from there. Don't call the Friths until I tell you.

Yes, Lord. Please help me sleep, Lord.

I will. I love you, Son. You're doing a great job. Keep listening and learning.

Thanks, Lord. It's all You. I know I couldn't do this. Please finish the work You started in Rachael {my wife}. Not too soon, but whenever you're ready.

I will, Son. She'll be glorious. Just rest. I've got it.

Thanks, Lord. I love You!

I love you, too, Son. Rest.

Dialogue with God – 12/18/06 – 7:49am to 8:03am Troyer's house, Mt. Hope, Ohio (Holmes County, Amish country)

Good Morning, Lord. I love You.

I love you, too, Son. Good morning. I'm real proud of you.

Lord, I didn't do anything! It was all You!

I know, Son, but you listened and obeyed and it was really pretty.

Thanks, Lord. It WAS really pretty. I so love it when You come and straighten things out. It could have gone really badly last night, but You just swooped in and gently moved hearts the right direction. I sure appreciate it. Please wreck Holmes County. Please fill the Amish so full of Jesus that nothing else can fit!

That's the plan, Son. Rest. I've got them all right where I want them. Nothing can stand against my Fire.

Thanks, Lord. Thanks for letting me watch. What's the plan today?

More of the same. Teach them how to get so full nothing else can fit. Don't be in a hurry, I'll direct all of your paths. Rest in me.

Yes, Lord. Whatever You say. Thanks for Chris. Please bless him abundantly and get anything out of the way that keeps him from hearing You really good all the time. Thanks, Lord. I'm having a lot of fun with him.

You're welcome, Son. Isn't he a great kid? I'm really proud of him. He's real special, so take good care of him.

Yes, Lord. I will, Lord. Anything I need to do right now?

Nope. You're fasting until further notice. Just go where I say. Keep praying for Jonas. The enemy knows you're here now. Expect them to regroup and attack from a new direction. Watch for sneaky, subtle attacks. They're also going to go for the soft targets, so armor up Wilma and Leon and the girls really good.

Yes, Lord. I will, Lord. Thanks, Lord. Anything else?

Don't worry about anything. I've got it all under control. You're right where I want you. Rest.

Thanks, Lord. I love You.

I love you, too. Work on the Demon book until Chris wakes up.

Yes, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 12/29/06 – 8:43am to 9:32am Overstreet's house, Liberty, Missouri

Good morning, Lord. I love You.

Good morning, Son. I love you, too.

I'm here, Lord. What's the plan today?

Rest, Son. I've got it. Today is a day of details and tying up loose strings. Try Kevin again when I tell you too. Keep praying for Suzanne and Susie. Check in with Chris E. after noon, unless he calls you first. You're not going to be able to get the t-shirts before you leave. That was just you. Leave that alone.

Sorry about that Lord. Please forgive me. I'm sorry for the wasted time and gas and stuff.

It's OK, it was part of the plan. I forgive you.

I love You, Lord. What else?

I love you, too. Be ready for quick directional changes. Don't put me in a box. This is listening and obedience practice for all of you. But whatever path I send you down, I'll meet every need and you'll be ready.

Yes, Lord. I know, Lord. Thank You. Do I need to call David at ORU?

Nope. Not yet. Send him the two email trip updates when you find his email address. Amalia sent it to you in an email - if you can't find the scrap of paper you wrote it on. ;-)

Oh, yeah! Thanks, Lord. Please increase my faith. Please help me to trust my brothers and sisters more and know when they are hearing you really well. Please help me to stay out from under any of the red dragons. Please, Lord? They really scare me because I know it means I'll wander from Your perfect will.

Rest, Son. I'll put you through what I choose for you.

.....

Yes, Lord. Thanks for letting Chris E. call just now. Thanks for showing me the thing that was still holding him back. Thanks for freeing Him. Please tie up all the loose ends there. It was real pretty, Lord. All the way down to having Chris and I say goodbye the very INSTANT before my phone ran out of minutes. I love how You do that. Last night the phone died the second after I was done talking to Suzanne. I know most people might not be impressed, but it's that little stuff, all day long that helps build my faith. OH! So thanks for answering the prayer I just prayed above! Wow! That was fast! Thanks! You're the best.

You're welcome, Son. There are FAR, FAR more things like that than you are capable of noticing. I've packed your days with so many little treasures like that that it will take years of you and I watching the replays to see them all! We'll just sit and laugh and you can marvel at how well the Father takes care of you, even when you don't notice. If you (or anybody reading this) asks me to start showing them all the little "coincidences" that I've arranged in their lives, I will. I love doing it and I want them to see how involved I truly am in their lives.

Oh, YES, Lord! Show them ALL to me! I know I see lots of them all day long. So many I couldn't even write them all down! But show them all to me. As many as I can handle without my head exploding. Show me ALL the spirals and applications of all that you're doing around me on every level.

Rest, Son! I will, but it would occupy too much of your system resources to handle it all. We'll get there. I love your heart.

Oh, Abba. Please just use me as a walking, talking example of You. Whatever You want to do with me is fine.

Whatever I have to give up is fine. I trust You. Have Your way. I love You.

I love you, too, Son. Rest. Yes, you can get a hair cut today.

Thanks, Lord. Are we done?

Yep. But I love you.

I love You, too. Please be fully in charge today and rule and reign in every way and order all of my steps and control the words of my mouth and the intentions of my heart. Please have Your way in all things and roll over me if I try to have my own way.

OK. Happy to do it. Love you.

I love You, too, Lord. Thanks.

You betcha.

Dialogue with God – 1/2/07 – 4:52pm – Overstreet's house, Liberty, MO

Oh God! I hurt so bad. Oh, God, I'm so lost. Please help. Please hold me!! What is this?

I'm here Son, I love you.

I love You, too, Lord. Please help. Please explain it. I need You, not any man.

I'm here Son, I'm here. It's all Me. Trust me. I know what I'm doing. My ways are not your ways. It's all part of the plan. Rest.

I don't know how to rest, Lord. It hurts so bad!! Please help me! Everything feels wrong, everything is twisted.

I know, Son. I know. Just power through. Cowboy up.

Oh, God. Please Abba, please, I don't now what to do. I'm not hearing good and it's freaking me out.

You're just fine, the problem is with too much input. Remember when you first got tongues and you were translating everything and answering questions in it? It was so strong for three days until it settled in. This is like that. You didn't notice right away, but the anointing shot up and so did your input . I know it's scrambling some things. Just know it's all part of the plan and I know what I'm doing. It will settle down soon. It's like feedback on a hot microphone. Just endure the screech for a little while and it will go away when the levels settle back down.

I don't know what to do, Lord. Nothing seems to be helping and I feel far from You. Things are changing really fast and I can't get a handle on it.

You're not supposed to, Son. That's the point. That's always been the point. You don't need to figure it out, just obey.

I'm sorry, Lord. Yes, Lord. Please help me. This hurts really bad! I'm way over my head here.

I'm helping, Son. Get some rest. Get some time alone. Don't try to reach out, just you and me is enough.

I'm sorry, Lord. Yes, Lord. You and me. Please, Father, please take me home. I hate this place. But not my will, but your's.

In time, Son. Rest.

I don't know how to rest, Lord. Not when there is so much pain. Everything is changing. I don't know what I can stand on. It's not about the people, I'll give them all up. I did give them all up. It's not about my pride or my ministry or whatever. I just feel like there is nothing reliable at all.

That's what it was like when I was here. That's the way it's always been. Nothing here is reliable, only the Father. You were just lulled into a sense that it was stable, but it never was. Marriages, jobs, cars, economies, weather, governments – none of it is really stable when I don't want it to be. You have to learn to trust in ME and ME only. And you have to want ONLY what I want. If we go with what YOU want, this is never going to work out right. You had to learn this. And I have to write it on your heart so that you'll never forget.

Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord. Whatever it takes, Lord. Don't let me back down!! Please, Abba. Don't let me chicken out. Give me whatever it takes to endure. I'll stand, I will, I promise. Please help me.

Lay low for awhile. Let the dust settle. I'll take care of everything.

Yes, Lord. I'm so tired, Lord. I really need a hug.

I'm here, Son. I'll hold you, just rest in My arms.

Thanks, Abba.

Dialogue with God – 1/5/07 – 12:52pm Best Western, Baker City, Oregon

Good morning, Lord. I love you.

I love you, too, Son. I'm right in the middle of all of this, don't worry.

Thanks for helping me with the drive Lord. I know that you have to have been doing something for me to drive 31 hours straight with just a couple of hours of sleep! Thanks for protecting the van and watching out for me on the road. How many times have you saved my life since I first left Kansas City two months ago?

You're welcome, Son. I'll always give you everything that you need to accomplish MY purposes. I've saved your life 14 times in the last two months.

Wow! Thanks Lord. I know about some of them, especially when that cement truck stopped short in front of me! And I know that deer on the shoulder of the highway in the Rocky Mountains yesterday was really thinking about jumping in front of me. Thanks for all the ones I don't know about as well. I know You are taking really good care of me and watching out so well for me. Thanks for the provision for this trip and working out the details so we could get access to the funds just in time. I never know where it's going to come from, but I never have to worry!

When money doesn't come, start to wonder if you're working my plan or planning your own work.

Yes, Lord. Help me to always stay in Your perfect will. Please ignore any prayers that I pray, even the intentions of my heart, that don't align with your best, most perfect will. I know that You will adjust sometimes to please us and still find a way for it to bring You glory, but I don't want that. I want Your very, very best and I know that means that it needs to be ALL You and NONE of me. I know it's my birthright as a joint heir and that You will hear my petitions, and that no man can take it from me, but I lay it down willingly. Please have all of Your way and NONE of my way.

Ready to listen now and stop talking?

Oops. Yes, Lord. Sorry, Lord.

Keep driving. This meeting with John is important. You'll see. Then head for home. Not going any farther South on this trip. Now is not the time for California.

Yes, Lord.

Gonna give you more info on the way. I'm sorry about you having to miss your daughters' birthday party, but it's not time yet. I do want it all restored, but it's not time. The girls will be fine.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. I love You. Whatever You want is fine.

Time to go. More later.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 1/9/07 – 7:19am Hicks' house, Hampton, Iowa

Good morning, Lord. I love You.

Good morning, Son, I love you, too. I'm right on top of this. Everything is fine. I know it looks strange, but I know what I'm doing.

Lord, I'm perfectly willing but the persecution has increased and I don't seem to be doing anything to slow it down. In fact, I'm just pretty sure YOU are having me say things that make people more mad at me! How is this bringing unity and peace? Chris says he heard You tell him that I have a Red Dragon with my face on it. I'm sure I don't, but he's going to need to hear from You about why we're hearing differently. I don't know what the deal is.

It's fine. I'll take care of Chris. You're going to have to learn to let ME do the talking sometimes. Everybody has to give each other the benefit of the doubt and seek Me really hard and I'll sort it out. You don't have a red dragon. You laid it all down in Branson, everything you want or desire or think is best. The intentions of a persons heart are not the same as having a red dragon with your own face on it. Most of it is subconscious anyway. Trust me, I know what I'm doing.

I do trust You, Lord. I do. I'll endure whatever. I know that a lot of the persecution in the past has come because I said things that I could have held in. I know that You're trying to make me tough and to show the Body that real persecution will come if you let Jesus out of your mouth all the time. Please don't stop. Have Your way in all things. Don't let me ever get in your way. I trust my shield, Lord. I trust that you have it under control and that if it makes it out of my mouth, it was part of Your plan. I know that You are sovereign in all things.

Yep. I AM. Hang in there, Son. It's all under control. I won't put you through more than you can handle. Sometimes the refining fire hurts and sometimes when fire comes out of your mouth to refine others it takes on really unexpected forms. Just rest. I've got it.

Thanks Lord. Am I finished fasting, cause You know I'll go on until whenever if that's what You want.

Nope. Not yet. Soon.

OK, thanks, Lord. Anything else?

No. It's all good. Just hang loose and try not to let stuff bother you. I've got it under control. I'll take care of Chris and Suzanne and Clare and Rick all the others.

Thanks, Lord.

Dialogue with God – 1/10/07 – 8:11am to 9:21am Hicks' house, Hampton, Iowa

Good morning, Lord.

Good morning, Son. I love you.

I love You, too, Lord. It was a weird night. Do I need to write down that song for my wife I got in the dream?

No, it's not for now. I'll give you more later on that. Start paying attention, though, I'm going to start giving you songs like that.

Wow. Thanks, Lord! Should I keep a recorder around at night?

Yeah, that'd be good.

What's the plan today, Lord?

We're going to do some city-reaching today. Appointments are all arranged. Just listen good and I'll work it all out. Go in humility – and get a hair cut.

Thanks, Lord. I will. Show me where.

Roger's.

OK. Thanks, Lord.

That's it. Get dressed.

OK. Thanks, Lord. I love You.

I love you, too, Son. It's all good. I'm fully on the Throne. Rest.

Dialogue with God – 1/16/07 – breakfast Comfort Inn, Albuquerque, NM

Good morning, Lord.

Good morning, Son. I love you.

Oh, I love You, too, Lord. Please rule and reign today in every way. Please get me where you want me and control the words of my mouth and the intentions of my heart. Please, Lord? There's no other way to do this without that!

Yes, Son. I will. You're on the right track. Head South.

Do you want us to go pray in the ghost town?

Yes, that would be fine. Wait for a call from Carl, but head South anyway.

Lord, what's that mean? Wait, but head there anyway?

Don't think so much. Just do what you need to do and I'll work out the details.

Yes, Lord. I love you, Lord.

I love you, too. Don't worry about what to say to Carl. I'll give you the words. You're going in ahead of Paul to plow the ground. Like Daniel Nash.

OK, happy to do it, Lord. Even if I don't see Paul. Is that it?

Yeah, that's all for now. Get moving. And brush your teeth.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Dad! :-)

Dialogue with God – 1/18/07 – 9:12am to 9:52am Quality Inn, Glendale, Arizona (Phoenix)

Good morning, Lord. I love You.

Good morning, Son. I love you, too.

What's up?

You did really well yesterday. I'm really proud of you.

Thanks, Lord. It was all You. I know that I didn't do anything except get out of Your way.

I know, Son. But you did a really good job of getting out of my way. It was really pretty, wasn't it? That was all VERY important yesterday. He is very important to the kingdom and to what I have for you to do. He was still chained and you freed him. It was really pretty.

Oh, Lord. I didn't free Him, You did!

Yes, I know, but you were there and you were the tool I used and I want you to know that I'm very proud of you and that I appreciate what you did yesterday.

Thanks, Lord. I never quite get that, but thanks.

Don't think so much. I'm trying to show you that, even if someone does something in obedience to God and they're just transparent and it's pure Jesus coming out of them, be gracious to the person and thank them and acknowledge their part in being there and being obedient. I know it's a fine line between building their pride and making it about them and just appreciating their obedience, but try to find that place. It builds their faith and acknowledges their Sonship when you give them a little pat on the head for doing the right thing.

Yeah, but didn't you make them do it anyway? Wasn't it all part of the plan and they really didn't have as many choices as they think they have? Wasn't it going to get done one way or another anyway?

See, that's what I'm talking about. Stop thinking so much. I don't really need your understanding to help me out here. Just acknowledge me in all of your ways and I will direct your paths.

Yes, Lord. Sorry, Lord. Have your way. Please teach me how to properly affirm and encourage people for their part in your master plan. You are sovereign and you know best. I love You.

I love you, too, Son. I made you this way for a reason and it's OK that you have to analyze everything, that's part of what you're for. But sometimes you have to just rest. There are some mysteries you will NEVER be able to get your head around until you're disconnected completely from this world. And I'm not going to do that until the job I have for you is completed.

Yes, Lord. Have your way, but the sooner you take me Home, the better. I hate this place.

I know, Son. But it's not time yet. I'll tell you when it's time.

Thanks, Lord. Please bless Dezi and Carl and all the other folks we've met on this trip. Please bless Paul and Rita that they would have a refreshing and growing time with Carl and Sheila. Please bless Bob and Andrew and Michael and Rick and Darren and Mike. Have your way with them, Lord. Whatever it takes to get them walking in the fullness of all that you have for them, do it. Even if it hurts. Bless Your holy name, Lord. Please be with the folks at home, with Suzanne and Clare and Eddie and Larry and all the others. Please be with Janice and Dena and Kristi and Jimmie and Dave and Jon and all the folks from the furniture store days. Please reveal yourself to them in new ways and give them a bigger and bigger cup of Jesus.

I will, Son. They are all in my hand.

Thanks, Lord. And Lord, please, when you're ready, could you please finish the work that you started in my wife? I know your promises to me about this and I'm willing to wait, but if there is something that I need to pray to loose You in some way to finish the work, please have me pray it. Please don't let me do anything or say anything or desire anything that gets in your way. Finish the work that You started in her. I know that she is a mighty warrior and that she will be a mighty helpmate. Please, Abba, I'd really like that when it's Your time. Thanks for your promises. I'll wait. She's worth it. You're worth it. I know that I'm just walking the same path that You are walking, waiting for a pure, spotless Bride to return to You. And I'm willing, Lord. I said that I would share in Your suffering and I will – at least the portion allotted to me that I can handle. And I'm glad to do it, but it hurts a lot. But I'm not asking you to take the pain away, just to help me walk under the burden and fulfill your purposes.

I love you, Son. It will all be worth it – for you and for me. You'll see. It will be glorious.

Yes, Lord. Thanks, Lord. Have Your way, Lord.

Are you done talking now?

Yes, Lord. I'm sorry, Lord.

This meeting today is important. They're all important, but today is like a lynch pin. It's a key. All the component pieces are coming together. They won't line up quite like you're expecting, but all the pieces are coming together. You're restoring the connectivity of the Body and tying together all the loose pieces. It's just the beginning of what is to come, it's just your little piece of it, but you're a forerunner walking it ahead of them. I sent Chris to help track and organize all the contacts so that you wouldn't lose a single one. Yes, you need to get in touch with Charles in Latvia. The fire is about to spread across the ocean. And you need to get with Moses in Kenya as well. You need to explain the Lampstands to him as clearly as possible. When I tell you to, rewrite the city church book with all that you know now. Quote Nee as an appendix, but not as the main bulk of the book. You have enough now to stand on your own.

Yes, Lord. I will.

Also, send the Dialogues book to Lisa and to Susie and to Sarah for their input. And to Hlena. Keep working on the demons book and incorporate all you know about the shields and the progression we walked through.

OK. Wow, you want me to tell them about the shields, too?

What is there to lose? You already sound completely nuts. ;-)

Yeah, I guess so. Thanks, Lord! You're so funny. Thanks for what you've made me to be. Thanks for this wild adventure. I was reading back through some of the Dialogues and on December 1st you told me December would be amazing and it sure was! That was Pensacola and Alabama and Nashville and Knoxville and Manchester and Holmes County and Patterson, New Jersey and then a race back to Kansas City, then Christmas all together, then back to Branson and then that bombshell revelation on New Year's Eve that almost crushed me and then ending the year fellowshiping with some beautiful folks at a biker church in Arkansas. It really was amazing. Asbury and Berea and UT and picking up Chris Frith and just one miraculous provision and appointment after another. Even the stuff with family was all You. You're an amazing God. You are always true to Your word and yet we're never quite able to get our heads around what You are really up to. Thanks for that. Thanks for the adventure. Thanks for the puzzles and scavenger hunts and brain teasers. Thanks for the surprise presents and hidden treasures and unexpected blessings. You know what I need and I'm never going to lose interest in You! Thanks, Lord.

I love you, too, Son.

Do I need to make copies today? I'm almost out of the laminated cup cards.

Yeah. I'll show you where.

Is there anymore to do on the Dialogue book?

Not for now. Just add this one and save it and send it off. But I did already tell you to add your “Personal Experience with the Holy Spirit” writing to it – don't forget.

Oh, yeah. OK. Thanks, Lord.

That's it. Take care of that this morning before Chris wakes up.

OK, Lord. Thanks. I love You so much. Thanks for adopting me. I can't imagine what my life would be without You.

I love you, too, Son. You're mine and I'm never going to let you go. Now get to work and stop crying.

Yes, Dad.

Need A Spiritual Tune-up?

Lots more available on www.FellowshipoftheMartyrs.com

In the last couple of years I have visited dozens and dozens of different congregations. Sometimes I will fellowship with four or five different congregations on one Sunday. As the Lord has led, I've had the great privilege to get familiar with more pastors of more denominations than most anybody I know. I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly in all the different styles and traditions and doctrines.

The most common thing that I've seen is that almost universally there is a tendency toward putting on programs and ignoring the individual. The bigger the congregation, the greater the tendency. (Read the "Undeniable Axioms" online.) In reality how that manifests always includes a statement about family and concern for the individual but then it's offset and negated by the reality of a structure seemingly engineered to disregard individual needs. However unconscious this may be, the reality is clearly that millions of Christians are NOT walking in the fullness of Christ or worse, walking around with massive oppressions that continue untreated.

There are TONS of people leaving the institutional churches. Millions of them per year. Why? Because they don't feel like their individual needs are getting addressed. They may sit through a good sermon that has some life application, but they don't see or feel the radical transformation that should come as a part of the normal Christian life. Or worse, they have a crisis or a need and nobody in the "church" responds appropriately.

We are NOT honoring God. We are singing and dancing and pretending everything is fine while people are bleeding to death in the pews (not to mention in the streets). Listen to me, God does NOT want you to praise and worship Him while you're ignoring the person sitting next to you who is having a crisis! It DOES NOT bring Him honor for you to raise your hands and tell Him how great He is while you FAIL to act like Him and heal those nearest to you. Heal them – or at least TREAT them – and THEN you can go praising and worshiping and telling Him how great He is. He just DOES NOT want to hear you singing while you're ignoring people that are crying inside! Your prayers are going to bounce off of the brass over your head until you act like Jesus. Just knock it off – or else. He's not going to ignore their cries much longer.

The church should be like the TV show "M*A*S*H". If they're having a party and someone shouts "Choppers!" then the music stops and everybody rushes into action to do triage. That means rapidly identifying and categorizing the wounded based on needs - the bleeding, sucking chest wounds go first, then the broken legs, then the scratches. AFTER everybody is treated and in Recovery – THEN you can go back to your party. But what kind of hospital would you be if you let them bleed to death in the compound because you refuse to stop singing and dancing because you had a schedule to keep?! You planned for this party to take an hour and a half and, by golly, you're going to stay on time no matter what.

Even when Jesus was right in the middle of a great sermon and had them all in the palm of His hand, if a paralyzed guy dropped down out of the roof, Jesus STOPPED TALKING and healed him. THEN He could go on with his sermon - AND everybody was REALLY impressed because of the miracle that had just happened in front of them! I'm not sure which would be the bigger miracle in some churches, that a paralytic rose and walked away or that the pastor stopped in the middle of a sermon!

The people of God need to be trained up in how to rapidly identify the physical, emotional and spiritual warfare oppressing and killing their brethren and they need to be empowered to go and treat them on the spot. The music needs to stop until EVERYBODY in your camp is bandaged up. "Church" will not be **The Church** until it stops being a show and starts being a hospital, first and foremost. The reason it's not that now is because we abdicated to paid leadership to do all the work for us and they can't possibly keep up. In fairness, many of them got to liking it and now don't trust the Body to help them - so it's a vicious cycle. But it's got to stop. The Body has to learn to care for the Body, whether or not there is a paid staffer. We need the Gifts of Discernment of Spirits and Knowledge operating in force and we need to get back to fulfilling the Great Commission - first by cleaning up our own messes, then by GOING. We can't wait for them to COME – cause when we do, they're not staying, and it's because they're not getting healed (because we're not acting like Jesus).

If any of this stuff has convicted you and you realize you played a part in sustaining a system that hasn't been working or you ever ignored someone that was bleeding because you had your own agenda, now would be a good time to find a quiet place, hit your knees and say you're sorry. Crying helps God know you're serious. You might also want to admit it publicly to the people affected. How are they ever going to learn how to repent really good if somebody doesn't show them? Don't wait for somebody else to do it. It has to start with you.

So what is a Spiritual Tune-Up?

First it's aimed at people that already have Jesus, but the process is the same regardless. A person who is lost could turn their life over and push through lots of the steps right away and be that much more effective sooner. It's just a matter of hunger level and God's sense of your preparedness. The goal is immediate radical transformation, not gradual incremental change culminating in perfection after death. We believe that it's possible that God can heal and deliver and restore and sanctify instantly and we're going to aim for that. If He chooses to take longer, that's fine, but we're going to ASK for maximum change in minimum time - even if it hurts. Which it will.

Typically, we would take a hard look at each of the three factors; Body, Soul and Spirit. Asking the Holy Spirit to help us discern any areas where there is resistance to the will of Christ, we would "scan" through each layer looking for whatever the Lord would choose to reveal. It might be a physical illness that has a spiritual cause, it might be a soulish anger or bitterness or unforgiveness that is blocking Him and bringing down physical curses, or it might be a spiritual problem of diminished capacity for Him because of limitations or "filters" that have been placed on God. It might be a demonic oppression that has really old roots in abuse or addiction or some unresolved, past sin that opened a doorway and allowed legal ground for the enemy. All of these are resolvable within the scope of the power granted to us through Christ. Some can be settled nearly instantly and done away with once and for all. Many people have experienced through this process an immediately lightness at the removal of some old yokes of oppression. Some experience immediate physical changes as healing to their illnesses or removal of addictions comes at the same time. We want to allow God room to act in ANY way He sees fit. We don't want to put Him in a box anymore! We want to believe that He is big enough to conquer anything and that He wants us free. He is big enough, right? And He does want us fully free, right? All the way free? Of everything?

When you do a tune-up on a vehicle, you want to find anything that is keeping it from running at peak efficiency. A misalignment, a missing part, low fluids, bad filters, even burnt out bulbs - anything that needs to be changed or adjusted so that it can be renewed back to the way it was designed. It's all in Romans 12. In thanks for His mercy we offer our bodies as living sacrifices - holy, pleasing and acceptable - that is our spiritual act of worship.

So first, we have to be willing to offer our Body - the vehicle, and all that it holds - as a sacrifice. We need to be willing and we need to commit to hold NOTHING back. That verse does NOT say we offer half of our body as a living sacrifice - or even 90%. The whole thing needs to go on the altar. ALL means ALL.

Before we can do anything else, we need it to be a holy, pleasing and acceptable sacrifice. And since our sinfulness screams against our holiness, and our own nature confirms it, it's clear that only by the atoning Blood of Jesus is there any chance that we can be a pleasing and acceptable sacrifice. So before any tune-up is going to do any good, we need to scrub the whole thing down with the Blood of Jesus. You have to have acknowledged your needfulness for the Blood and asked Him to wash you clean of every sin.

Said less religiously, you have to tell Jesus you're sorry for all the bad stuff you let in and you have to really mean it - and you have to believe that His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient to wipe you clean. This IS NOT an acknowledgment that Jesus existed or that He was the Son of God - even the demons believe that. This is not a statement you repeat after someone else so that you can join a church. This is a full-on commitment to humble yourself before Him and to give yourself over to Him so that He can be in charge from now on. That you would like to bow down and let Him be who He is - Master, King, Commander, Ruler, Lord - in your life from now on. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Way too many churches are making it way too easy - and the result is sick, powerless, shackled, unwise people in the pews.

OK, NOW you're an acceptable sacrifice. So what's next? Get up on the altar and shut up. You don't need to figure out your personal purpose. You don't need 40 days to figure out what YOU can do for God. You're the sacrifice! Get cleaned off, climb up on the altar and lay there naked. By doing this, by really doing this, really laying there naked - fully exposed and willing to accept anything that comes - you are most definitely NOT conforming to the "world".

When He's good and ready, He'll move on to the next step. Which is that He will take a big sword and begin to hack chunks of your head off and put His head on. It's painful at times and folks around you may not understand what's happening during that strange in-between time while you're trying to figure it all out and get the pieces of your head and His head to get on the same frequency. But eventually, unless you panic and jump off the altar, He will hack off all the bits that stand in His way and then you'll have the mind of Christ. He will have transformed you

by the renewing of your mind. RE-newed, that is, back the way it was supposed to be when it was new. Back the way He designed it. Back in His image. Rebooted and set back to the defaults the way it was before you mangled it up and the "world's" viruses corrupted it. Read Matt. 18:1-4, Mark 10:15. He wants faith like a child.

Then and ONLY then will you know what is the pleasing, perfect will of God. And then you can go do it. It's not just so you can bask in the knowledge of what He wants, it's so you can OBEY. GO - reach, heal, save, deliver, free the captives. Do the stuff that's on HIS heart - and now that your mind is renewed and you know what is His will, it should be a lot easier. You probably won't need a committee or demographic studies or anything. If you didn't hold anything back, by this point, you're probably hearing Him really well and you don't really need any Man (or group of them) to tell you what God wants for you. And I can tell you this, it's going to cost you everything. But you won't miss any of it. Besides, none of it was yours anyway. But you better count the cost, because this is a hard walk. Job, family, money, comforts, control - all could be taken away or destroyed. If you pray to be like Jesus and He answers it, you'll be hated and ridiculed by the world. Guaranteed.

Sound like something you want to try? If you're lukewarm, it might just be better for you to stay where you are than to taste the goodness of God and then turn your back on it. Persecution is going to come with every step that gets you closer to walking in the fullness of Christ. But if you don't care what it costs and you're still willing, we can proceed.

Jesus affirmed repeatedly that these two commandments are the greatest. That if you understand and implement these, you have pretty well grasped the Kingdom of God.

Here it is quoted in three different Gospels: (Please go read them in context)

Mat 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mar 12:30-31 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Luke 10:27-28 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he (Jesus) said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

So, it boils down to this - the most important commandment, the most central task before us as individuals and as the Church, is to love God with every component of our being - Mind, Soul and Heart and to do it with all of our Strength. How are you doing with that? That's what we're going to find out. If you haven't got that one down, the second commandment - loving your neighbor as yourself - is going to be a pale imitation of what it should be. You will love them to the degree you love God. If you're clearly not loving your neighbor as you should, it's a pretty good indication that you're not loving the Lord your God with all your mind and soul and heart and strength. If you're loving your neighbor with 10% of your strength, then you're probably loving God with 10%. It's like a math equation, just plug in the percentage.

Submission to God x quantityN = manifestation of Love for Neighbor x quantityN

If they will know us by our love and we're not evidencing much love for each other (especially inside the Church) and for those in need, then we must not be very submitted to God. What other conclusion can you come to? Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. I know it stings a little, but try to embrace it. (Try Psalms 141:5-6)

Paul says this in 1 Thessalonians 5:23:

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We are made of these three. Body, Soul and Spirit. and they are to all be in submission to Christ. All means ALL! Let's try one of those verses again:

Mar 12:30-31 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind, and with ALL thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Before we go any further, now would be a good time for the warning label.

WARNING!

DANGER! DANGER!

Proceed at your own caution!

We will NOT be responsible for ANYTHING that happens from here forward. You have been warned.

We want you to be ABSOLUTELY clear that this is FOR SURE, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT going to hurt A LOT.

You can drive 20 miles an hour and you probably won't get hurt too bad in an accident. If you drive 200 miles an hour and you make a mistake, it's going to get really ugly.

This IS NOT for sissies!

If you have ANY desire in you to slow down, DO IT NOW!
DO NOT GO THIS WAY!! DO NOT take our advice on this stuff!!
It will totally transform your life and things you love will be ripped from you.
Nothing – NOTHING – that you have will be your own any more.
So He can rebuild you His way, God will IMMEDIATELY start yanking chunks out of you. Probably stuff you really liked. The fire will get VERY hot!
If you even so much as TRY to do this in your own power, you're gonna be toast!
ONLY Jesus in you can get you through this.

**Last chance. Get out now! ALL the darkness WILL come for you!
We've seen it over and over. We ARE NOT kidding around!
If you miss a step you could end up on crack or beating your wife or drinking like a fish or in jail. We've seen it happen to good, Jesus-loving people who weren't all the way sold out. God will get you through, but it will hurt even more if you bail out. You BETTER mean it! We're serious.**

We love you very much. We want to see you refined and purified and REALLY dangerous to the enemy, but we want you to be FULLY READY before you pull into the Fast Lane!

**Still here? Great! Now go back and reread the warning again.
We're to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. He's serious.**

OK? Back again? Good. Let's proceed.

So which part of ALL don't you understand?!

Where do you think you have an option to love Him "some"? Remember this old song? Have you really looked at it? How many times have you sung it and not really meant it? I know I did for years!

I Surrender All

by Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1896:

ALL to Jesus, I surrender; **ALL** to Him I freely give; I will **EVER** love and trust Him, In His presence **DAILY** live.

I surrender **ALL**, I surrender **ALL**, **ALL** to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender **ALL**.

ALL to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures **ALL** forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now.

I surrender **ALL**, I surrender **ALL**, **ALL** to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender **ALL**.

ALL to Jesus, I surrender; Make me, Savior, **WHOLLY** Thine; Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.

I surrender **ALL**, I surrender **ALL**, **ALL** to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender **ALL**.

ALL to Jesus, I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee; **FILL** me with Thy love and power; Let Thy blessing fall on me.

I surrender **ALL**, I surrender **ALL**, **ALL** to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender **ALL**.

ALL to Jesus I surrender; **NOW** I feel the sacred flame. O the joy of **FULL** salvation! Glory, glory, to His Name!

I surrender **ALL**, I surrender **ALL**, **ALL** to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender **ALL**.

A whole lot of us have been singing that but really meaning, "I surrender SOME." Or maybe, "I surrender more than that guy over there." There are certainly lots of leaders in the churches that aren't meaning it! Very few people really mean ALL. And yet that is the specific and direct command of God and affirmed three times by Jesus Himself as the most critical commandment of all. More than any doctrinal statement or theological construct or interpretation, we must do THAT. First and foremost in the Christian walk MUST BE a love for God that holds back nothing. Anything less means that you have missed the mark. Can there be any other interpretation? Where does the Bible say, "Invite Jesus into your heart and then do whatever you want."? Where does it say that you can give Him SOME and He won't mind. It says that God is a jealous God (Ex. 25:5, Ex. 34:14, Deut. 4:24; Deut. 5:9; Deut. 6:15; Josh. 24:19; Nahum 1:2; and elsewhere!). In fact, it says the Holy Spirit in us envies intensely when we give ourselves over to the world (James 4:4-5).

This is hard stuff, and not what you may be used to hearing, but I don't see how you can find any other interpretation. We're to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. How much fear and trembling do you have if you go down the aisle at youth camp in 8th grade and accept Jesus into your heart and you're all done? The "Narrow Path" has just GOT to be more narrow than that! In fact, I believe the VAST majority of church goers are not going to heaven at all. I believe we've been lied to for years about what it is that God really expects of us. The New Testament would be VERY short indeed if the path to heaven was as simple as, "Repeat this prayer after me ..." What's the point of all the rest of it, if that's all it takes?

If you're still with me, the rest of this is going to be about helping you identify ANY areas of Body, Soul or Spirit that may yet be unsubmitted to God – and doing whatever is necessary to bring them into full obedience with Christ. Bite down on something, this might hurt a little.

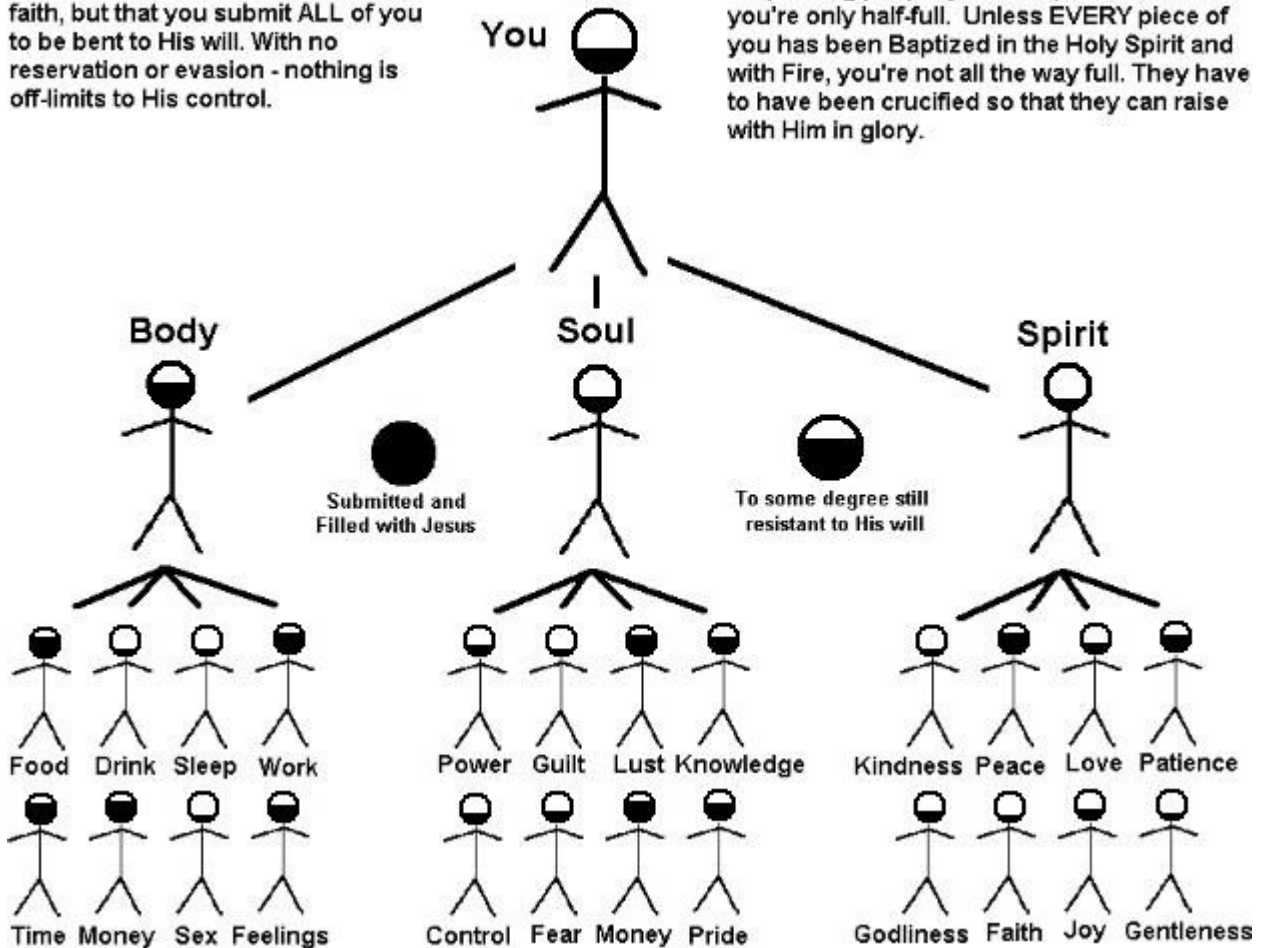
The enemy is going to try everything possible to keep you from walking this out. The darkness DOES NOT want to lose a single inch of ground! So let's pray this first:

Lord, don't let the enemy keep me from this. Don't let the enemy distract me or confuse me. Give me wisdom, Godly wisdom and as much of it as You think I can handle. Speak to me clearly and I'll follow. Please bind up anything in me or around me that would try to mess with me during this time. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

I like pictures, so let's start with this:

Holiness means EVERY piece of you is in obedience with Christ. Not just that you've made a "profession" of faith, but that you submit ALL of you to be bent to His will. With no reservation or evasion - nothing is off-limits to His control.

If there are parts of you that are not submitted, then you ARE NOT "filled" with the Holy Spirit. Stop telling people you're "Spirit-filled" if you're only half-full. Unless EVERY piece of you has been Baptized in the Holy Spirit and with Fire, you're not all the way full. They have to have been crucified so that they can raise with Him in glory.



This is a very simple graphic, not at all meant to be thorough or all-inclusive. Let the Holy Spirit show you all the areas in your life that need addressing. I'm sure He wants to! For now, we're just going to hit a few so you can see how this works. If you're not hearing very well from God on what might be unsubmitted, just ask someone close to you – I'm sure they'll tell you the parts that don't look like Jesus. Spouses are good for that!

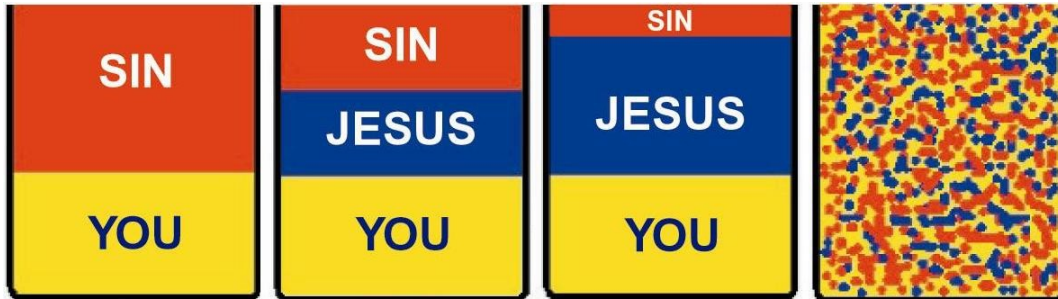
If we had lots of people in the churches with the gift of discernment of spirits, you could go to one of them and ask them what's messing with you and they could just tell you and help get it off. If you know somebody like that, by all means, get them in on this. But don't take ANYBODY'S word for anything. Check everything with God. Even if you can't normally hear God very well, I'm just SURE He wants to talk to you about THIS stuff! So you should be expecting that, as it relates to areas of your life that are unsubmitted, you're going to hear Him really well.

I suspect He's been waiting so long for you to ask Him what the problem is that as soon as you ask you're going to get LOTS of feedback. It may not be an audible thing, but somebody or some situation or a cloud or a little kid or a song on the radio or SOMETHING is going to be used to get through to you and show you the problem. Just EXPECT an answer and listen for it. And when He tells you what the problem is – REPENT! Turn from it and don't go back.

Body

We are all jars of clay, vessels to hold His glory, cups of one sort or another. We are humble earthen vessels that are flawed and cracked in many ways and yet He pours His glory into us. We become the temple of His Spirit and He lives in us! Isn't that cool!!

Anyway, it's important first to understand that the Word commands us repeatedly to "be filled with the Spirit" and in the tense it uses it means "to be being filled" - a constant in-filling, a constant effort to keep our cups topped off. (The graphics here are from the full article "Fill My Cup, Lord." on the website – FellowshipOfTheMartyrs.com)



There are basically these options:

- You have NO JESUS.
- You have some JESUS and lots of SIN.
- You have more JESUS and a little SIN.
- You're all shook up by the World and "life" and can't figure out what's what.
- You're washed clean, but there's too much YOU.
- JESUS has killed off lots of YOU so He can increase and YOU can decrease.
- You've been a good steward, so He gave you a bigger cup and lots more JESUS.

And it's not a one-time thing. He's our Daily Bread, so you can move from one to the other fairly fluidly, even in the midst of one day. It's not a one-time thing just cause you went down the aisle and got "filled with the Spirit" one day. If you're not constantly STAYING FULL then you're going to drain off - or get lukewarm and stale. Over and over we're commanded to be full and to stay full – or to "be being filled".* And there's no point at which you shouldn't be striving for a bigger cup. We need Him in increasing measure every day to keep from being ineffective and unproductive (II Peter 1:8). You get a bigger cup by pouring yourself out on those in need, then getting refilled again.

* (Acts 2:4 *And they were all **filled** with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* Ephesians 3:19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled** with all the fulness of God.* Colossians 1:9 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard [it], do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be **filled** with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;* Ephesians 5:8 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be **filled** with the Spirit;* Philippians 1:11 *Being **filled** with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.* For more on this, read the book, "Rain Down NOW, Lord!" available free on the website.)

The Greek word used repeatedly for “filled” is “pleroo” (Strong's #4137). Here is Strong's definition of it:

- 1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full
 - a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally
 - 1) I abound, I am liberally supplied
- 2) to render full, i.e. to complete
 - a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim
 - b) to consummate: a number
 - 1) to make complete in every particular, to render perfect
 - 2) to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out, (some undertaking)
 - c) to carry into effect, bring to realisation, realise
 - 1) of matters of duty: to perform, execute
 - 2) of sayings, promises, prophecies, to bring to pass, ratify, accomplish
 - 3) to fulfil, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfilment

(Thayer's Lexicon also has a lot to say. Do a search for “filled” on www.BlueLetterBible.com and see.)

The point is, Jesus wants us FULL and He knows that only HE can do it. We're all going to be full of SOMETHING. If our bodies are the temple of God and He lives in us, do you really want Him sharing space with that icky stuff? Shouldn't you be purified and cleansed of all unrighteousness so that He can reign supreme? It says “the prayers of a righteous man availeth much” - so I guess the prayers of a kind-of righteous man availeth practically nothing. Why is HE going to listen to YOU when you ask for something, when YOU won't listen to HIM about getting the red stuff out (and the stinky yellow stuff)? Proverbs 25:26 says: “*Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.*” That sounds to me like a cup that should be clean, but isn't.

Areas of direct disobedience or unresolved pain result in a draining off of that with which we are filled. Sometimes we have a really hard time keeping our cup full because we have a big crack in our cup caused by an unforgiveness or a bitterness or a fundamental character flaw, and so we drain out almost as soon as we get filled. Sometimes we can't ever get all the way full because of the goo we refuse to clean out that's taking up too much space in our cup. Really entrenched red stuff keeps us from being able to be filled to capacity. Sometimes there are physical oppressions and sicknesses that have resulted from spiritual problems. These, too, need addressing through the power of Jesus. More on all that later.

So, as it relates to the Body, let's start with this:

- Is God telling you to do something with FOOD other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?
- Is God telling you to do something with DRINK other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?
- Is God telling you to do something with WORK other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?
- Is God telling you to do something with MONEY other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?
- Is God telling you to do something with SEX other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?
- Is God telling you to do something with TIME other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?
- Is God telling you to do something with your TONGUE other than what you're doing? If yes, why won't you obey?

Get the idea? Odds are pretty good that if the Holy Spirit is convicting you of something and you're not obeying, it's because you've given the enemy room in your heart or because your own soulish nature just wants to rebel. Either way, it's not really giving ALL and you need to do something about it. Stop thinking that He's just going to overlook it and cut you some slack. He REALLY doesn't like being in there with that stuff and He's a really big God. More fear of the Lord would be good. You might want to pray for that. Crying is good, too.

If the Holy Spirit is NOT convicting you of any of that stuff, then either you are not listening and you've got a giant pride problem blocking your hearing OR the Holy Spirit has already beaten you into submission on all those levels. I've met both kinds. Just in case, now would be a good time to pray sincerely and ask the Lord to show you ANYTHING that displeases Him or any area of rebellion as it relates to your Body.

Ok, OK!! You caught me, so what do I do about it?

Well, the first thing is to tell God you're really sorry. That would be good. He's been waiting a long time to hear that. And if you've been saying it before but then going back like a dog to his own vomit, then He's probably not going to take your apology very seriously until you start sticking by your commitments to Him.

If you've tried to turn away from stuff and haven't been able to, it's probably because you're doing too much of the fighting in your own power - because you've tried to force obedience with the YOU in your cup. That just puts more and more pressure on you and more and more guilt when you fall. Jesus lives inside of you and HE is not addicted to cigarettes or donuts or porn or work or anything. He has faced down every failing of Man and beaten it. If you will get out of the way and let HIM fight your battles, it will be much easier. Much. We'll cover that more later since it applies to all three of these components.

You need to be clear that SIN means missing the mark. Whether it's murder or disbelief, it's sin and it keeps you from walking in the FULLNESS of Christ. You will not reach your maximum potential in Him if you remain unsubmitted in some areas – ANY areas. Jesus said, if you LOVE Him, you will OBEY Him. If you're not obeying Him 100%, then you must not love Him 100%. And 90% isn't going to cut it! He wants ALL – and ALL means ALL.

Soul

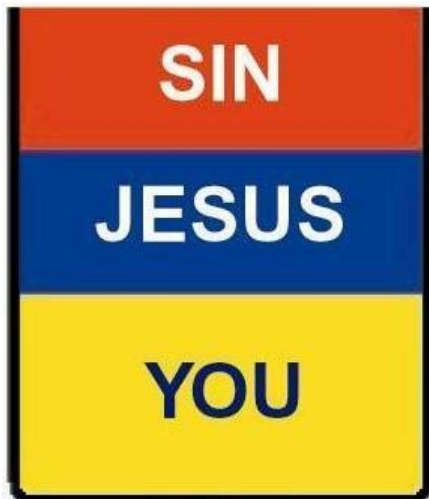
Let's try this same process again:

Is God telling you to do something with ANGER other than what you are doing? If yes, why won't you obey?

What about Guilt, Lust, Control, Fear, Money, Pride, Jealousy, Lying, Disbelief, Self-pity, Power, Bitterness, Unforgiveness, Gluttony, Idolatry, Rebellion or others? Got any of those?

Simplified substantially, the soul is the mind - our emotions, our mental state, our rationalizations and reactions internally to the world around us. It is what makes us distinctly us. This, too, needs to be brought fully into submission with God.

In a sense, you could see it like this:



Body is where Sin manifests into the physical realm.

Our "God-shaped void" is empty until filled with His Spirit. Then He can stand in the gap and take over as you get out of the way.

Soul/Mind is where Sin begins and gets invited in. Can still be Sin even if it doesn't manifest, just by "dwelling." Our fallen nature always tries to open doors to Sin.

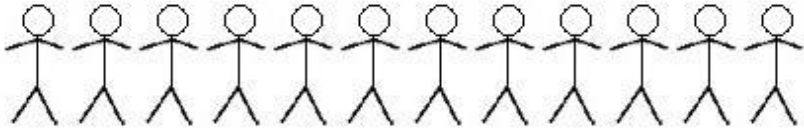
The yellow stuff is our soulish nature and it's not that much better than the red stuff. In fact, the Blood of Jesus washes away all of our sins in an instant when we ask for forgiveness, but if we don't fill the gap with Jesus (and keep it full), the badness will just jump back into the vacuum. It's our yellow stuff that invited all the red stuff! The Blood of Jesus is sufficient to heal us, but it's not the same process as with the red stuff. The Word says we're to crucify pieces of us so that Christ in us can live. We're to carry our cross daily. Well, that's about denying ourselves pleasures that might be red stuff, but it's also about watching chunks of Self die so Christ can increase and YOU can decrease. And I can tell you from LOTS of experience with this - getting the red stuff out is A LOT easier than getting all the yellow stuff out that displeases Him! One is about behavior and the other is about our nature. Habits are far easier to change than character. Beating the yellow stuff into submission is the crucifying ourselves part.

No physical trial you will ever go through - not climbing Mount Everest in winter, not sawing your own arm off with a pocket knife, not doing a marathon on your knees - will EVER be as hard as getting your tongue and your mind

beaten into submission. THAT is the great battle in our lives and the difficulty is evidenced by how really rare it is to find someone that has accomplished any substantial measure of success in that! In fact, I'm convinced the only way to do it effectively is to let Jesus do it. We can fake it for awhile in our own power, but all we've done is suppress it. Only Jesus can terminate it once and for all.

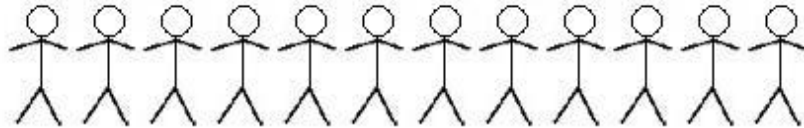
In fact, it's not possible to walk in holiness at all without the Holy Spirit doing it. You can't use the yellow stuff to beat down the yellow stuff. That just won't work. Jesus is our righteousness and He alone is worthy and holy and capable of making us like Him. We can't get to be like Jesus in our own power. We have to be clothed in Christ, we have to run into Him who is our strong tower. We have to be dead so that Christ in us can live. And not just a little dead either - ALL of those component pieces have to die. Maybe this will help you figure out which is which.

Component Pieces of YOU - Which is Which?



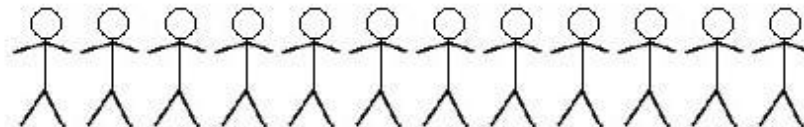
**Fully Dead
and Submitted**

List: _____



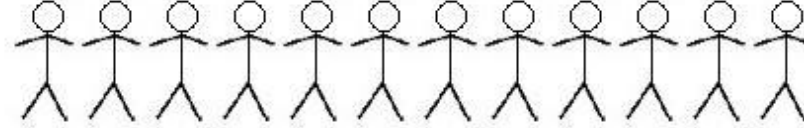
**Partially Dead
But Dying Quickly**

List: _____



**Partially Dead
But Stubborn**

List: _____



**Unwilling To Die
Even A Little**

List: _____

He doesn't want to purge you of ALL the yellow stuff, that would eliminate you completely and He kind of likes parts of you. Once I asked Him what parts of me He wanted to keep and He said, "Basically everything from before about six years old." Just the faith like a child parts. That thing in David that made him fearlessly go out to face Goliath because he just KNEW His Dad was bigger and tougher than THAT guy's Dad!

There's a lot more to be said, but you'll need to pray through this yourself and ask God to show you very clearly all the areas in which you are partially or completely unsubmitted. I know it's a prayer He wants you to pray, so I KNOW He will answer it and show you stuff. Then it's up to you to lay it down.

I find that this kind of prayer helps a lot and gets nearly instant results - if you have the guts to pray it:
(If you forgot, go back and read the Warning first!)

Dear Lord, I'm really sorry for all the sin that I should have never let in. I'm sorry for all the old stuff that I've let take root and boss me around. Please purge me of all unrighteousness right now through the power of Your Blood. I stand in faith, knowing that Your Blood is sufficient to cleanse me of all unrighteousness. Please show me ANY area of my life that displeases You – anything that stands in the way between us and keeps me from being able to walk in the fullness of all that you have for me. Whatever it is, I don't care how much I like it, I don't care how long it's been there, I don't care how much it hurts, it's got to go RIGHT NOW in the Name of Jesus. So Lord, rip it, tear it, burn it, shred it, crucify it – whatever it takes. If I won't lay it down, rip it from my grasp. I don't care how much it hurts, I trust You. Do whatever it takes, but do it RIGHT NOW. I won't flinch and I won't try to hop out of Your refining fire when it comes. Dial the heat up. I'm going to stand. Give me the strength to stand. Please hold my hand. I'm going to really need You. Thanks, Lord. You're the best Dad ever and I trust You. Please burn it all off and don't stop no matter how much I whine. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Hear me – your growth in Christ is directly proportional to your willingness to seek out and embrace His refining fire. When He is pounding on you and life seems horrible, if you will go to Him and find out what He's trying to teach you, embrace it, learn from it and thank Him for it - then maybe you can move on. If you whine and complain and keep asking Him to turn down the flames because it's too hot, it shows a lack of trust that He knows what He's doing and it just slows down the whole process. How long is it going to take to cook a turkey in an oven set at 50 degrees? How long if it's set at 450? That's the difference between Christians in China and India and those in America. We have our ovens set at 50 degrees and they have their's on full blast. Persecution dials up the heat really fast – and results in explosive growth in Christ (and a sifting of those who mean it and those who don't).

So don't be such a sissy. Jump in the fire and learn to like it. Is He God or isn't He? Will He protect you or won't He? Are His promises good or aren't they? Buck up, ya big weenie. Go kill some yellow stuff.

Spirit

OK, so we got the red stuff out (for today) and we begged Him to kill the yellow stuff. So you probably have a void in the top of your cup now. What are you going to do? If you leave it like that the enemy, who ranges to and fro like a hungry lion, will try to jump in there right away and mess with you again. You've got to get your cup full of Jesus and keep it that way. And not just full to 100%, full to overflowing – up and over, mounded up on top.

So do you know how? Well, you can read your Bible. You can listen to worship music. You can pray. You can just spend time at the feet of Jesus before the throne of God. Whatever is the best way you have found to drink in Jesus. But be careful that you're not DOING to get filled. That just means that you're trying to get more blue stuff by engaging the yellow stuff. That's a long uphill battle and can border on legalism. What it ends up doing is inviting in the red stuff again in the form of guilt, condemnation, self-righteousness, pride or some other nasty thing.

Maybe there's a better way. What does the Word of God say about this?

John 7:38 says: *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' "*

John 4:10 says: *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

Rev. 7:17 says: *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

Here's a couple of Old Testament reference so you know God doesn't change:

Jeremiah 17:13: O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, [and] they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

Jeremiah 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

In that last one we see that they committed two evils, they didn't drink of the living waters and they had containers with cracks in them. (A cistern is just a really big cup.) In fact, they made their own cisterns to store up water because they didn't trust in God's unending supply from the fountain. And the result was they had neither – AND they made God mad!

It sure seems to me like those fountains of living water are the Holy Spirit. It says Jesus is the "Fountain in the House of David" (Zech 13:1) The Holy Spirit is that blue stuff that fills us and displaces all the other stuff. It would be great if He would just shove everything out of the way, but for some reason we're involved and we have to participate in the process – or at least be willing and ask Him to do it.

This being true (I hope you agree), then we don't need to DO anything to fill our cup. We just have to believe that Jesus wants our cup full, that He promised that springs of living water would flow up from INSIDE of us and then just turn on the tap. We just need to ask Him to fill us in whatever way HE wants to fill us and teach us how to keep it that way. Remember; trust the Lord your God with ALL your heart, lean NOT on your OWN understanding, but in ALL your ways acknowledge HIM and HE will direct your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)

I think our job as a church is to find those who are poor in spirit – those whose cups are running low – and share with them. Pour ourselves out into them so that they can be filled. Not with our yellow stuff! God forbid! But from the abundance of the riches that have been given to us that we would share – of or wealth, of our physical energy/strength/time AND of the fountain of living water that is inside of us.

Haven't you ever been around somebody that, just being in the same room with them or getting a hug, made your spirit feel full? I bet they had a cup that was overflowing – or they deliberately and selflessly poured themselves out on you. They may not have known that's what they were doing or been able to explain it that way, they just knew that they had Joy and Peace and that you needed some, so they shared.

The Lord gave me a vision once of how the church should operate and it looks a pyramid of champagne glasses at a wedding where they pour in the top one and as it overflows, the glass below gets filled and overflows and so it continues all the way down. Those who have the biggest cup of Jesus should be constantly pouring themselves out onto others and teaching them how to keep it going.

Shouldn't church be a filling station? How often do you go and leave feeling just as empty as when you got there? Some churches are really great filling stations and you can leave FULL of Jesus – but you can't make it past Monday afternoon without running out again. That's because we think we have to go to a building to get our cups full. The Word of God doesn't say anything like that. The Word of God says rivers of living water will flow up from INSIDE of US. We have an endless supply! And WE are supposed to be the filling station for those that don't know how to tap into it. It's not about the building or the pastor or nice music that gets us in the mood – every Christian has access to the river of God! Isn't that COOL!! So, stick a straw in and suck! Better yet, just dive in.

Below we're going to talk more about all the things you can be filled with, why you need to help fill others and how to get full and make sure you stay full. I know this may sound weird, but it's all in the Bible. No question about it. We're supposed to perceive things in the spirit, not with our natural mind. This is NOT the "real" world – this is not our home. We are spiritual beings and we need to get a lot more familiar with what's happening in the spirit. That's where the war is and that's where our hope comes from.

*1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually** discerned.*

Romans 8:6 - For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Communications – Hotline to Headquarters

So, we got the red stuff out, we're getting more yellow stuff out, we learned how to get more blue stuff, now what? Well, now it's time to get your filters unclogged so you can hear God really well and HE can direct ALL your paths. This works better as a question and answer thing. Ready?

First, what exactly are we talking about? Does God really speak to people today?

Yes. In a whole bunch of ways from a gentle nudge, to instruction through the Word, to using other people and circumstances to speak to you, to sending dreams and visions (or angels) – and/or even conversing directly with you.

You can hear God and converse with Him?! You're kidding, right?

Not kidding. You can absolutely talk to God and He'll talk back. There are millions of people all over the world that rely on God for constant daily instruction on all sorts of things. But, there's a difference between hearing God audibly (with your natural ears, outside of your own head) and hearing the inner "still, small voice". It's pretty rare for God to speak to people audibly (like thunder), but there are plenty of folks out there that say they've heard Him – and the evidence is that once they did, it changed them forever! Many of the house churches in China are under such persecution that they can't set a regular time for meeting or even tell each other when the meeting will be – they all just pray independently and God Himself sets the time and place and tells each to be there. I've experienced that kind of coordination myself and hear Him speak to me all the time. This is totally for real and the birthright of every believer!

Wait ... people hear the God of the Universe tell them stuff? Like what tie to wear and whether to turn left or right? What job to take? What to have for dinner? Not just big stuff?

Sure. The Bible says, "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." (Prov. 3:5-6) What do you think "ALL your ways" means? And how is He going to direct you if you can't hear Him?

But my pastor said God doesn't talk to people like that!

Hmmm. Well, God used to talk to people all the time in the Bible. Wonder when He stopped? Did He say He was going to stop? Isn't He the same yesterday, today and forever? If anything, once the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, there were LOTS more people talking to God directly! Never mind the MILLIONS of people all over the world who you have to conclude are thoroughly and certifiably nuts – including many of the most effective leaders of the church. In order to sustain that argument you have all kinds of logic problems.

Consider this;

IF God used to talk to people but doesn't now, **THEN** we must not need to hear from Him anymore. Can that be? By all measures we're worse off than ever. If there is a war between Good and Evil, we're losing pretty badly right now and really desperately need to be getting commands directly from Headquarters, not from flawed man-made sources and tradition-soaked interpretations of Scripture!

IF there is a battle between Good and Evil, **THEN** who would benefit most if the people on the "Good" side were told they couldn't ACTUALLY talk to their Commander in Chief? Now, you know the Evil side is absolutely clear to EVERYONE that if you try to talk to THEIR leadership you WILL get an answer REAL fast! Even Christians are afraid to mess with Ouija boards and call on the names of demons because somewhere inside they believe something VERY real will show up almost instantly. But at the same time, the forces of darkness want us to buy that OUR God is mute! Doesn't that sound like something the snake would say in the Garden? Despite hundreds of examples in the Bible that He is available and accessible all the time, we have too often bought the lie that God is unwilling or unable to actually talk to His children. It's a lie from the pit and we've bought into it for too long.

IF we receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved, **THEN** 1/3 of the Godhead is living INSIDE of us all the time! (1 John 4:13-17) But He doesn't have anything to say?! He's not interested in our daily activities? God's not big enough to know what we should have for lunch? He knows the hairs on our head and monitors our every coming and going, but has no opinion about it or desire to give us advice? What kind of Father is that?! **IF** we're dead and it's Christ in us that lives, **THEN** shouldn't HE be running the show? (Romans 7:4-6)

The most common argument I hear is that when the Bible was done being written then "that which was perfect has come and that which was in part was done away" (1 Corin. 13:10) so we don't need to talk to God anymore.

The argument is that I Corinthians 12 talks about tongues and prophecy and then chapter 13 tells about the way it SHOULD be when the perfect is come so you should do away with all that. But they don't seem to notice that then chapter 14 starts with Paul urging them to seek the gift of prophecy! Said another way, I think "when that which is perfect is come" refers to Jesus returning, NOT the Bible being completed.

IF the Bible is what's being referred to there, **THEN** why hasn't knowledge ceased? **IF** it's the "perfect" thing mentioned there, **THEN** nothing could stand against it. **IF** the Bible is perfect, **THEN** could somebody tell me which version is flawless? And **IF** none of them are because we don't have the original manuscripts anymore, **THEN** something DID stand against it! **IF** the perfect is come, **THEN** why do we have 37,000 denominations and we seem to be losing the battle with the darkness? There are just big giant logic problems with that argument – not to mention the personal experience of millions of reasonable, Jesus-lovers all over the world.

But my pastor says even HE doesn't hear God conversationally like that!

Ok, well, you see, Matthew 18:18 says that, "what you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and what you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." It goes on to say that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by the Father in heaven. (v. 19) So, could it be that we have whole groups of Christians that have agreed that God doesn't talk to people? And if they were convinced of that, don't those verses say that God will honor it? So maybe the problem is that if you're convinced God WON'T talk to you that way, He probably won't. And who would you blame? The pastor? Probably not – in fairness, we gotta lay it at the feet of the Snake and the generations of tradition that have been built up to keep us from being truly "Spirit-led".

There could also be other problems that would keep a person from hearing God. One possibility is that you're on the wrong team - even if you think you're not. You know it's possible to make up your own "Jesus" and you'll get a response from that one about as good as if you were praying to a stick of wood. Another is that you have unrepented sin that stands between you and God – and God has convicted you of it so many times that He's just given up trying to talk to you about it.

Oh, and by the way, you're going to have to get over that thing about the pastor being more "holy" than you. This is a one-on-one relationship with Jesus you're supposed to have. You can't do it by proxy through the guy that gets paid to hear God (especially if he admits he's NOT hearing God!). We are ALL the Church. We are EACH temples that hold God's Spirit. Any one of us that are adopted sons of God have the ability to petition the Throne directly and seek His face. God loves each – in fact, He's especially fond of those that come to Him with faith like little children. Sometimes pastors have a hard time with that. (I don't think there are "Faith like a Child" classes in seminary.)

This is just crazy! How could this be true and I never knew it before? Wouldn't somebody have told me?

Well, I think you underestimate the damage the enemy has done and how long he's been plotting this. The vast majority of the church in the West doesn't live the "normal" Christian life. That is, Biblically speaking, we're to be full of power and might, we're to be free of the bondage of sin, we're to NOT conform to the world, we're to be dead to ourselves, we're to be ONE Body and loving and serving each other with all our heart. That's just a few. Can you see how far away from that we actually are as a "church"? We're not even CLOSE! There MUST be something missing. Somebody left something out! It has to be this – God Himself is supposed to be directing you and you're supposed to be listening and OBEYING. Now ... who would benefit most from us leaving that little piece out? Yep, the guy in the black hat.

Now, what do you think a close encounter conversationally with the God of the Universe might do to a person? Trust me, it would change everything. It would show them the power of the relationship they have as adopted sons, they would lose all fear, they would sacrifice anything to keep hearing Him, they would obey and walk in HIS ways, they would know (really KNOW) that God Himself lives IN them and they would want more of Him, they would do the things on HIS heart – like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, saving the lost. They would be in awe of His holiness and seek to please Him out of reverence and honor, not out of legalism or church requirements.

So, **IF** this is a war between Good and Evil, **THEN** wouldn't our most immediate and urgent need be to get people to where they can hear clear, timely, reliable commands from Headquarters? If you have a guy in Basic Training that refuses to listen to the Drill Sergeant and does his own thing, wouldn't you want to leave him at home? He's just going to get himself killed when the enemy starts shooting and leadership says 'DUCK!' and he can't or won't hear them! He's no good to anybody. Maybe he could be a supply clerk – but he really shouldn't be on the front lines. He should stay home and send his money to the folks on the front lines that hear God really well and obey ALL the time, no matter what the cost.

But we have the Bible. God's Word is what we are to use to direct our paths!

OK, sure. Not got anything bad to say about the Word! Everything God tells us to do will line up with His own Word. But no matter how well you know the Bible, it can't accommodate for every possible situation and what you should do. There's lots of stuff not covered in there – like which of these two jobs God wants me to take. And there's stuff in there that men have been arguing about for centuries without ever getting agreement. Lots of wasted time trying to figure out how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. (By the way, which side benefits most when God's people fight over stupid stuff? You getting the hang of this yet?)

Think of it like this. You're in the Army and they give you a Manual. All kinds of stuff is covered in there – what to wear, how to salute, how the weapons work, how to survive in a battle, what to eat in the forest, how the chain of command works, even what the enemy is like and how to resist them – there's even stuff in there about what the enemy WILL DO one day, whether they like it or not! It's a REALLY good Manual – in fact, it's inspired by God! It covers an amazing array of stuff and could probably handle most any situation. So would the Drill Sargent ask you to read it, maybe even memorize it – and then send you into battle with nothing BUT that? Are you going to be able to know what to do when the bullets start flying? What about group strategy and deployment of forces and anticipating enemy movements? Is the Manual going to accommodate for every possible scenario on a rapidly changing battlefield? Are you sure you're interpreting it right? Is there time in the foxhole to be arguing with other soldiers that are reading it differently? What if some idiot published like TWENTY different translations and paraphrases of the Manual?! Then what?! Are you REALLY sure you have the right version? Isn't there a chain of command? Isn't there somebody in charge calling the shots that's supposed to tell you what to do next? Aren't you supposed to be listening and OBEYING? Want to go into battle without the Manual? No. Want to rely on it alone when you have other resources available? No. Want to take an order from somebody that goes against the Manual? No. When the bullets start flying, do you want to hear personally and directly from Headquarters so that you can know that help is coming and know what to do? You betcha!

We need a radio to headquarters that works really good, with no static on the line and no enemy transmission sneaking in. If you insist that you don't want to hear God, I still love you, but I'm not going to the front lines with you. When the bullets start flying and the God you can't hear says, "DUCK!" – you're going to be the first casualty. And then we're going to have to stop everything and call your family and carry you out and dig a hole ...

I don't know. This is kind of scary. What if I hear wrong? What if it's the enemy messing with me? Maybe this is all in your mind.

Wow! That's a whole mess of stuff. Let's try this one at a time.

Maybe it's all in your mind.

Well, it's not just me. There's hundreds of millions like me that hear God. In fact, most of the growth in the Church worldwide is because of those people. The "mainline" denominations are shrinking. It's the Spirit-led revolutionaries that are exploding into new territories and pushing back the darkness. The growth in this arm of the Church went from about ZERO in 1900 to about 500 MILLION people in 2000. God is pouring out His Spirit and people are listening to His voice.

OK, let's try it from the opposite direction. It all sunk in for me one day when it struck me that satan never creates anything – he just makes weak copies of whatever God is doing. He's a liar and a deceiver and a fake. So ... while it may seem far-fetched, most folks (even Christians) will admit that evil is a real force in the world and the supernatural is real. (The Bible verifies repeatedly that witches and mediums and sorcery are real, by the way ... and that you're headed for hell if mess with them. – Deut 18:10-12, Col. 5:20) The enemy has psychics and mediums and astral-projection and Ouija boards and demons and zombies and spells and curses.

So where's OUR stuff?! If this is a war, why does only one side get cool weapons? Was my church leaving out important stuff that I needed for warfare? Because in the first century they had amazing weapons and defenses available to them. They had the Holy Spirit telling them stuff they wouldn't have known (Acts 5:1-11), they had people hearing from God (Acts 13:2), they had people writing stuff as God dictated (Rev.), they were caught up in the Spirit to heaven (2 Corin. 12:2-4), they had dreams and visions (Acts 10:9-23), they saw angels (Acts 12), they saw Jesus Himself (Acts 9:1-22), they cast out demons (Acts 16:16-18), they were bitten by deadly snakes and didn't die (Acts 28:1-10), they spoke in other languages of men and of angels (Acts 2, 1 Corin. 12 & more), they healed people (Acts 5:15), they prayed and miracles happened (Acts 5:12, Acts 12) – even teleportation (or as I prefer "theoportation" - Acts 8:39) and they raised the dead (Acts 9:32-42)! They even had people who were against them drop dead (Acts 5:1-11) or go blind (Acts 13:6-12) – on command! And that's just ONE reference for each! There are lots more!

Now, the argument is that all that ended when the Bible was done being written – but it didn't end for the other team, so how come just all OUR cool stuff got taken away? Wouldn't it have really benefited the enemy a LOT to spread that story that we were powerless around for a couple thousand years? Do you see? This is no kind of way to fight a war! There MUST be stuff we've been leaving out! The enemy has us twisted up into a thousand pieces (37,000+ denominations to be specific) and we can't STAND because we're not ONE Body. Because of all the arguing over stupid stuff – which we would NEVER have done if we had all been hearing the voice of God personally and reliably and walking in the Gifts!

This is kind of scary.

No kidding! It's the biggest thing ever in your life! That the God of the Universe wants to be intimately involved in everything you do and say and eat and wear and think. That's massively scary! And yet, we can never have peace and joy and victory until we have relationship with Jesus and are led by His Holy Spirit. You see, under our own power, we just screw everything up. There has never been any strategy of Man that has led to anything good in the long run. Oh, it might work for a little while, but you get enough sinful people involved in it, add money, mix in a little satan – and it's toast. Or worse, you get Communism or Fascism or something, and millions of people die. There are just two options – if it's of Man it will fail and if it's of God nothing can stand against it. (Acts 5:38-39) Since the institutional "church" in America is failing, somebody other than God must be in charge. See a logic problem there?

Anyway, yes, it's scary. But what a payoff!! To walk in holiness because God Himself is fighting off the temptations and snares of the enemy, to hear Him all the time and get direction on anything and everything, to know that He is completely and totally in charge at all times in every situation. How are you going to find peace WITHOUT hearing from God? How is what you have NOW working for you?

And hearing His voice is not even a GIFT of the Spirit! It's just an automatic for every believer! We haven't even talked about prophecy and discernment of spirits and knowledge and wisdom and tongues and healing and all the other gifts God gives His children! Trust me, the payoff is amazing, but it's going to cost you everything – but everything you THINK you have isn't yours anyway, so who cares!

What if I hear wrong? What if the enemy is messing with me?

Well sure, that can happen. He's certainly going to try to confuse and frustrate you. We are specifically instructed, "do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God (1 John 4:1). That MUST mean that other spirits are potentially messing with us, and since there is no indication that THIS ended when the Bible was completed, then there must still be demons putting thoughts into our heads. And if there are still demons putting thoughts into our heads, then we must still have a need to test and see if they are from God. And if they're NOT from God, then we resist them and they flee. But it must also mean that one of the possibilities is that the spirit we're hearing IS from God! (Again, proving the point that God still speaks to us despite I Corin. 13:10.)

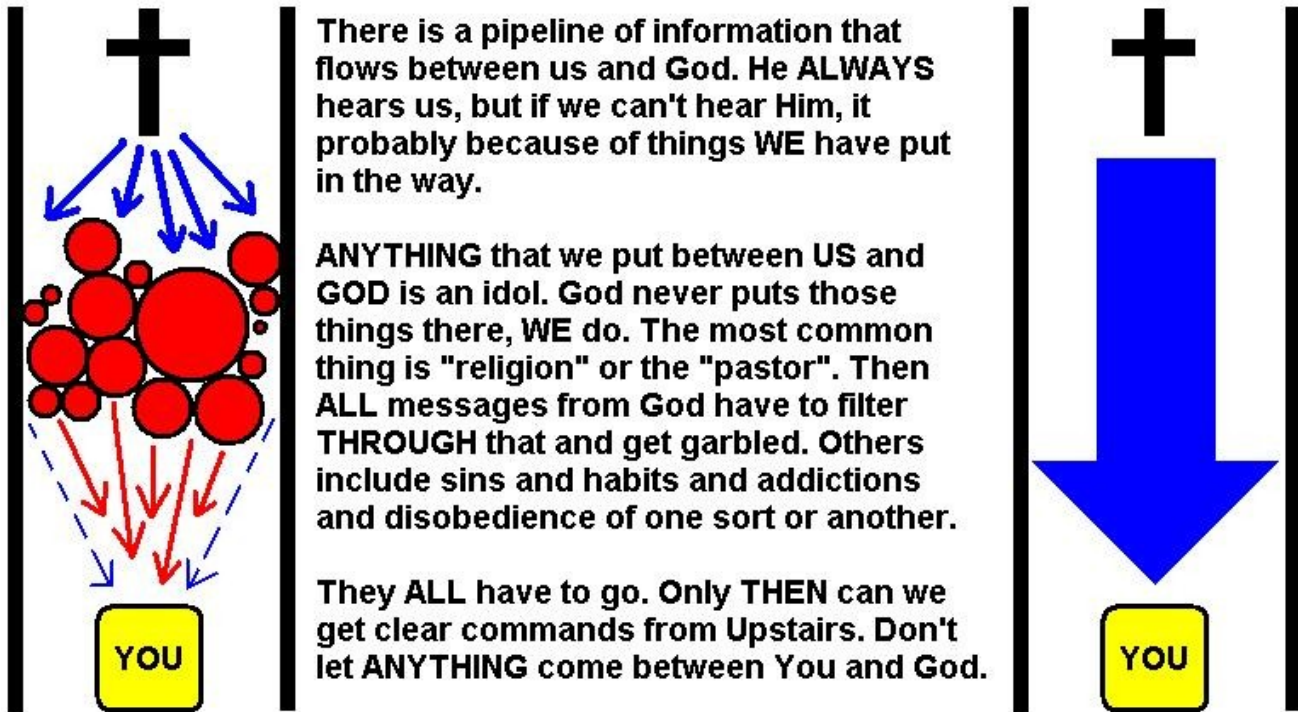
You see 1 John 4 goes on in verses 2 and 3 to lay out how you can know what it is that is talking to you and from where it comes, "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

When we get a thought in our head we have to figure out who it is. There are only three choices: You, God or the enemy. Sometimes other people tell us stuff, but they're still playing to one of the three. We're to bring every thought into obedience with Christ (and the Word). That means our own thoughts that are out of line AND the ones inserted by the enemy. I find that, sadly, the enemy and I sound a lot alike. The red stuff and the yellow stuff aren't really that different after all. I apply this filter to everything, "If I follow through with this thought that just came into my head, who is glorified most – God, satan or me?" If it's anything other than God, even if it's me, I rebuke in the Name of Jesus. And if it WAS me, I ask the Lord to hunt down whatever in me wanted to suggest something that wouldn't glorify Him – and kill it.

Could you screw it up? Sure. Particularly if the voices are VERY sneaky. Which they will be because demons are smarter than us and know the human condition very well after all these years of torturing and twisting us. Without God fighting for you, you haven't got a chance. You have to be constantly on guard, constantly armored-up and expecting anything from any direction. But His arm is long and His shields are mighty. He will always get you through if you are sincerely seeking Him and trying to walk in holiness.

OK. I'm getting that it's possible, but I'm going to have to hear Him for myself. I'm willing to try. What do we do?

Great! Yeah, don't take my word for it, seek Him yourself. Well the first thing is to ask the Lord to show you anything that stands in the way between you and Him. It's like this;



The point of the church coming together should be so that we can crucify pieces of ourselves so that Christ in us can live. Said another way, it's to help each other identify the things that stand between us and Jesus – and pluck them out. We should all be working together to help unclog our pipelines. But that's not what's happening at all.

The most common thing we put in the way is our belief that God won't talk to us. That's got to go! If you don't think He's a Living God and active and able to speak and desiring relationship with you, then you're going to have to lay that down.

One of the other possibilities is that you're worshiping the WRONG Jesus. Paul said that would happen, that someone would come preaching another Jesus and people would accept it. It's very simple; if you make up your own Jesus, don't expect an answer when you pray! Prosperity-Jesus, Emergency-Only-Jesus, Not-Quite-As-Good-As-The-Virgin-Mary-Jesus, and a zillion others are all MADE UP. If you make your own god from scratch, expect about as much response as if you were praying to a stick. Those are NOT Bible Jesus - who doesn't like to be toyed with and put in a box.

Other things in the way are a reliance on someone else for your holiness or connection to God (Pastor, wife, mother, etc.). That's got to stop. This is a ONE-on-ONE relationship with Jesus. Nobody is going to do it for you. Other pipeline blockages include addiction, pride, selfishness, bitterness, anger, laziness, fear and so many others that keep us from experiencing the fullness that is IN Christ.

Ask the Lord to show you what is in the way and He is faithful to ALWAYS do that if you'll listen. Ask some other folks to pray with you if possible and just pray in agreement that the Lord will make Himself very clear to you about what to do next.

Just pray and believe. He'll come and help unclog you. Believe that He wants to talk to you and start conversing with Him. Find someone to be accountable with that knows God really well and make sure you don't act on anything that sounds fishy without verifying it with the Word of God. Now, not with doctrine of Man, mind you – with the Word of God.

And One Other Thing:

One of the best ways that I have found and one of the things you see in the “Dialogues” is that I learned that satan can't read your thoughts, so if you ask lots of follow up questions and then wait and get out of the way – if you don't get answers or get squirrely answers, it wasn't God. It's not enough to obey generally, if you love Him, you'll obey Him specifically and exactly. I say that obedience isn't just jumping when He says jump. You jump when He tells you, how He tells you, how high He tells you and you stay in the air until He says to come down! That's radical obedience. Don't just obey generally – seek to obey exactly. And for that you need more specifics.

It's like this, just assume that the urge to do something or the thought in your head is from God and then ask lots of questions. It says that the steps of a righteous man are ordered before him. It says that He directs our paths. Just assume that He is a lot more involved than you might have suspected and treat the voice in your head as if it's Him (not you or the enemy). I'm not saying not to test the spirits! Please don't hear that. I'm saying that this is ONE way to test them that is a little upside down, but I know it works for me (and lots of others!).

For example, this exchange happens INSIDE your head (NOT out loud where the enemy will hear):

Spontaneous thought pops in: **I need to call my Mom.**

Your response:

Assume it's the Holy Spirit prompting you and get details. Be polite.

Oh! Thanks, Lord. I will. Do you want me to call her right now?

... pause ... (wait and listen)

No.

OK! Thanks for that, Lord! When do you want me to call my Mom?

... pause ... (wait and listen)

2:00pm today

OK. Thanks for that Lord. Do you want me to call her on her cell phone or at home?

... pause ... (wait and listen)

Call her at your brother's house.

HUH?! What is she doing there? That's hours away. I'm sure she's home.

... pause ... (wait and listen)

Nope. Call her at 2:00pm at your brother's house.

Wow. OK, Lord. I'll do it. Thanks, Lord. I love You.

I love you, too.

Then you step out on faith, call your brother at 2:00pm, find out that Mom is there and you give God all the glory – and your faith grows and grows! OR she's not there and you use it as a way to troubleshoot your hearing method and NOT as a way to disprove that God speaks to people. You don't get discouraged, you accept it as a training lesson and move on and ask Him to explain to you what went wrong. Maybe you colored or added to it, maybe you were out of order in some way, maybe you've got a Red Dragon, maybe you didn't ask what day to call, etc.

He WILL do surprising stuff like this so that you know it's Him. He absolutely will. When folks implement this one little thing, it often STUNS them! God is VERY creative and He will find a way to do little (or big) things that prove to you that He is there and He is directing your paths. Just wait and listen and don't add to it yourself.

You see, the enemy can implant a thought, and they might even be able to anticipate a response or two from you – like chess moves. But they can't really read your thoughts and follow along with a sequence of follow up questions. Particularly if you throw off the timing by praising and and worshiping in between or setting the whole thing to one side until the enemy least expects it.

If you acknowledge the voice as external and ask follow-up questions and don't get any answers, or get really useless answers, than it wasn't God. If the voice suggests you do something that doesn't bring glory to God, then it was either you or the enemy. Both of you want a dozen donuts at midnight. But if Jesus isn't glorified by you eating a dozen donuts at midnight, then rebuke it and refuse to obey it – whether it was YOU or the enemy!

Often when I'm fasting I will hear a voice that says I'm finished. Usually it will be different that when the Lord told me earlier that I was to be finished fasting (like 7pm instead of midnight). The enemy wants me to disobey God and to not be fasting in time for whatever trial is coming. If I ask a question right away when I first hear that thought (“Lord, is that really you?”), I will get an answer that sounds like God answering my thoughts (“Yep. It's me. You're done fasting. It's OK.”). But ... if I set it off to the side, do something else for awhile and then a few minutes later, out of the blue, ask the Lord (in my head) if I'm done fasting, I'll hear a more reliable answer –

usually that it wasn't Him. Don't let the enemy dictate the timing or rush you into action. The Lord will always allow you enough time to confirm it's Him or to be sure it's His voice. Remember that the enemy can implant a thought AND can implant a follow-up or two. But if you throw off the timing, ask a really odd follow-up, praise and worship a little before asking anything at all, it will throw the enemy off and it's likely that the implanted follow-up will talk over you or not answer your question at all. Then it gets easier to understand the difference between the voices that are coming at you. The Lord is highly motivated to teach you how this works. Just listen to Him.

People think that if you're hearing voices you're crazy. What they don't understand is that the enemy will put an "I" in front and convince you that it's you. So, I guarantee you that we're ALL hearing voices, we just think it's us. For example, "I'm scared that I might have cancer." Was that you or the enemy? It sure wasn't God, He didn't give us a spirit of fear! And if it's a spirit of fear, it's not US either – so it's external and it's designed to kill, steal and destroy your life or your quality of life (or your witness as Christians). That person just heard a voice in their head that wasn't them, but because the enemy works covertly and puts an "I'm" in front, we accept it as our own.

There's a lot of stuff that I've learned and there's not nearly room for all of it, but I will add this one other thing. Be VERY careful about dates and times. If the Lord says, "soon" or "tomorrow" that could mean just about anything. If He says "Wednesday the 27th of June, 2007" now that's something. But don't bet the farm on "tomorrow" meaning OUR tomorrow. A day is as a thousand years to those who are outside of time, so be very cautious about those kinds of predictions. Ask for specifics and if you can't get any out of Him, then He probably doesn't want you to have that information. He will always give you enough information to obey His directive, but not necessarily as much as you'd like. Keep in mind, too, that He doesn't necessarily honor the Gregorian calendar ("this year") and that the Hebrew method of calculating days means they end at sundown ("today"). He keeps His options open. He can be true and you still be wrong. It's the interpretation or the question or the hearer that is flawed, never His voice.

Recently a brother and I were driving across country and the van was having trouble. The Lord had instructed us to go to a particular town and it was still a couple of hours away. Do we fix the van? Nope, we drive it until the transmission is totally fried. Then we spend two nights in the desert. Can we call for help? No. The Lord says, "Will you walk?" Yes, Lord. We trust Him for everything and ask no help from any man – not even sticking our thumbs out. And when we've walked as far as we can (four or five miles dragging suitcases down the highway), He sends someone to pick us up and drive us toward the destination, but too far East. Then we walk some more until we're pooped, then someone else picks us up and drops us directly on the doorstep of the place we were going. God had said that morning that we would be at our destination before the end of that day and we were, before sundown even. He is always faithful and true. You may not get there the way you expected, but He will always get you there. Don't stop just because it doesn't look the way you thought it would (or should).

Along the way, we grew in our faith, we met some great folks, we got to bless some people and pray for them and we did get where He wanted us at just the right moment. And we got some exercise!

I pray that this journey you're on will be just as much of an adventure for you.

If you want to hear Him better, pray something like this:

Lord, I'm sorry I ever put you in a box. I'm sorry I limited You in any way. I'm sorry that I haven't been hearing you as well as I should and I acknowledge that I clogged up my pipeline with stuff. Please, Lord, whatever it takes, scrub it all out of there with the Blood of Jesus. I just want You, Jesus. You direct my paths and organize my days. You tell me what You want and I'll do it. Help me hear You better. Help make me dangerous to the enemy. Increase the Jesus in me, even if it hurts. I love you, Lord. You be in charge now. Amen.

If you really, REALLY want to go fast and you trust God all the way, then pray something like this: (But go read the Warning again!!)

Dear Lord Jesus, I trust You. I know You'll get me through. I want to be fully equipped, fully armored, fully broken and fully willing to do your perfect will. Whatever in me that is resisting You – kill it with prejudice. Lord, there is a monster inside of me and it's me. Hunt it down and kill it and hang its head on the wall of my heart so I'll never forget what I was. Put all the weight on. Load me up. Whatever it takes, I trust You. I'm ready now, Lord. Dial the refining fire up REALLY high and let's get this over with. Do it right now! I know this prayer is inside Your will, so I know You are going to answer it. Just please don't ever leave me. In the mighty name of my Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Appendix A

John 10:2-5

2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

John 10:27

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Hebrews 3

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' "

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. 15 As has just been said:

*"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion."*

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Deuteronomy 18:16

According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

1 Kings 19:11-13

11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. 13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

Isaiah 30:20-21

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: 21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Acts 22:7-8

7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Appendix B

You Can Be Filled With Good Stuff:

The Lord - Psalm 16:5; 1 Cor 10:21
 Fullness of God - Eph 3:19
 Spirit of God - Exod 31:3; Exod. 35:31; Eph 5:18
 Glory of the Lord - Num 14:21
 Holy Ghost - Luke 1:15; 1:41; 1:67; Luke 4:1; Acts 2:4; Acts 4:8; Acts 4:31; Acts 6:3; Acts 7:55; Acts 9:17; Acts 11:24; Acts 13:9
 Goodness of the Lord - Psalm 33:5
 Blessing of the Lord - Deut 33:23
 Fear of the Lord - Luke 5:26
 All Knowledge - Rom 15:14
 Knowledge of the Lord - Isaiah 11:9
 Power by the spirit of the Lord and judgement - Micah 3:8
 Knowledge of the glory of God - Hab 2:14
 Knowledge of His will, wisdom and spiritual understanding - Col. 1:19
 Spirit of Wisdom - Exod. 28:3; 35:35; Deut. 34:9
 Wisdom & understanding - I Kings 7:14
 Wisdom and grace - Luke 2:40
 Wisdom and beauty - Ezek. 28:12
 Judgement and righteousness - Isa. 33:5
 Light - Matt. 6:22 (Luke 11:34-36)
 Grace and truth - John 1:14
 Faith and power - Acts 6:8
 Salvation - Psalm 116:13
 Righteousness - Matt. 5:6
 Fruits of Righteousness - Phil 1:11
 Comfort - 2 Cor 7:4
 Consolation - Jerem. 16:7
 Joy - John 15:11; John 16:24; Acts 2:28; 2 Tim. 1:4
 Mercy - Psalm 119:64
 Mercy and good fruits - James 3:17
 Blessing - 1 Cor 10:16
 Good - Psalm 104:28
 Good things - Luke 1:53
 Good things - Job 22:18
 Good works and almsdeeds - Acts 9:36
 Goodness and all knowledge - Rom 15:14
 Praise and honour - Psalm 71:8
 Laughter and singing - Psalm 126:2
 Precious and pleasant riches - Prov. 24:4
 Horses, chariots, might men of war - Ezek. 39:20
 Wonder and amazement - Acts 3:10
 Trembling (to enemies) - Zech 12:2
 Full of days - Job 42:17
 Children - Psalm 127:5

Need Clean Cup:

Matt 23:25; Luke 11:39; Prov. 25:4; Isaiah 66:20; 2 Tim 2:21; Hebrews 9:21

Need Pliable Cup:

Matt. 9:17 (Mar 2:22, Luke 5:37)

Need FULL Cup:

Matt 25:4; Ruth 1:21

Chosen/Special Vessel:

Acts 9:15; Romans 9:21; I Thes. 4:4; 2 Tim 2:20

Hated Vessels:

Rom 9:22

Things that are NEVER Full:

Hell and destruction - Prov. 27:20
 The Sea - Ecc. 1:7

Or You Can Be Filled With Bad Stuff:

With sin - Jerem. 51:5
 Evil and madness - Ecc 9:3
 Confusion - Job 10:15; Acts 19:29
 Heaviness - Psalm 69:20; Phil 2:26
 Travail and vexation of spirit - Ecc 4:6
 Tossings to and fro - Job 7:4
 Drunkenness and/or nakedness - Lam. 4:21; Jerem. 12:12
 Drunkenness, Sorrow, astonishment and desolation - Ez 23:33
 Violence - Ezek. 8:17
 Satan, lies - Acts 5:3
 Devils - 1 Corin 10:21
 Abominations and filthiness - Ezra 9:11
 Abominations, filthiness of fornication - Rev. 17:4
 Adultery, cannot cease from sin, beguiling, covetous practices, cursed children - 2 Peter 2:14
 Bitterness - Lam. 3:15
 Sorrow - John 16:6
 Envy, contradicting, blaspheming - Acts 13:45
 Unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful - Rom 1:29-31
 Wickedness - Lev. 19:29
 Blood of innocents - Jer. 19:4
 Hands full of blood - Isaiah 1:15
 Bloody crimes and violence - Ezek 7:23
 Blood and perverseness - Ezek. 9:9
 Trouble - Job 14:1; Psalm 88:3
 Sin of youth - Job 20:11
 Cursing, deceit, fraud, mischief and vanity - Psalm 10:7
 Mischief - Prov. 12:21; Psalm 26:10
 Subtilty and mischief - Acts 13:10
 Deceit - Jerem 5:27
 Violence, lies and deceit - Micah 6:12
 Lies, robbery, blood - Nahum 3:1
 Extortion and excess - Matt. 23:25
 Hypocrisy and iniquity - Matt. 23:28
 Cursing and bitterness - Rom 3:14
 Cruelty - Psalm 74:20
 Strife - Prov. 17:1
 Darkness - Matt 6:23; Luke 11:34; Rev. 16:10
 No pleasure - Hosea 8:8
 Their own devices / His own ways - Prov. 3:10; Prov. 14:4
 Dead men's bones and uncleanness - Matt 23:27
 Wrath - Esther 3:5; Luke 4:28; Acts 19:28;
 Wrath of God - Rev. 15:1; Rev. 15:7; Rev. 16:19
 Fury of the Lord - Isaiah 51:20; Jerem 6:11
 Fury - Dan 3:19; Jerem. 25:15
 Snare, fire and brimstone, tempest - Psalm 11:6
 Trembling - Isaiah 51:17, Is. 51:22,
 Indignation - Esther 5:9; Jerem. 15:17; Acts 5:17; Rev. 14:10
 Judgement - Isaiah 1:21
 Reproach - Lam 3:30
 Scorn and derision - Psalm 123:4; Ezek. 23:22
 Shame - Hab. 2:16
 Contempt - Psalm 123:3
 Plagues - Rev. 21:9
 Madness - Jerem 51:7; Luke 6:11

Appendix C

Cup Troubleshooting

Let's talk more about this cup thing.

There are two ways that I know of to get your cup completely filled up with God. There is the daily walking in obedience and seeking and prayerful living that just pushes out the Sin a little at a time and creates habits of effectiveness and faithfulness. One day you look up and you've achieved sanctification (holiness, no red stuff). Or there is the experience that the first Christians had at Pentecost - the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It's kind of like if you have a swimming pool in your backyard you want to fill, you can stick a garden hose in it and let the water run until it's full - or you can call the forestry service and have one of those giant helicopters that dump water on forest fires just flood the whole block and fill your pool in one burst. Far be it from me to tell someone that however much God they got in them they did it the wrong way! I have dear, dear friends that did it both ways and both are as full of God as anyone I know. I have had Pentecostals describe the first method as "old school" and unnecessary since the Azusa Revival and the "awakening" in 1900. Even delegitimize it as a method to build that relationship with God. (Mostly they say we don't have time for that.) But that makes no sense to me at all. It may not be the fastest, but it sure seems more lasting and less likely to be taken for granted. To build a habit of daily struggle and faithfulness rather than to rely on one "burst" seems perfectly reasonable.

If you're not into church linguistics, one of the terms you'll hear used a lot is "Spirit-filled". What most folks want you to think it means is that their cup is totally full of God. What they REALLY most likely mean is that at some point in their life they had a dramatic experience in which the Holy Spirit came on them and something happened. Most probably what they really, REALLY mean is just that they speak in tongues. I've had folks ask me if I was Spirit-filled and I (and they) know darn well that what they really want to know is if I speak in tongues - NOT if I'm walking in holiness and am completely filled with nothing BUT the Holy Spirit. It seems that for many people, we've put the emphasis on the Gifts, not the relationship.

You see, what I think has happened with a LOT of people is that they were in churches that put a lot of emphasis on the spiritual gifts that can come when your cup is filled (especially tongues) and so they seek that experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit just FOR that. That is, they're not laying everything down and seeking sanctification and willing to do whatever it takes to live victoriously and conquer sin consistently and fearing an awesome God - they just want to speak in tongues like everybody else at their church. So they seek God and they ask to be filled and they either don't (because God sees right through wrong motives) or else they do get a burst, but not enough to really push out all the sin. Their cup's level rises enough for that gift but they can't maintain it because they're not committed to keeping the sin out consistently. They didn't get training on cup management, they just had an urgency for a manifestation of some sort. Since what God gives are GIFTS, He will let a person keep them even later the level in their cup drops to dangerously low. That's how we end up with some revivalists and others who can heal people and yet are complete selfish stinkers.

There are plenty of people that I've met that describe themselves as "Spirit-filled" - and I'd rather spend time in a bathtub with a wolverine than hang out with them. Whatever they once had is LONG gone! Our lives are FLUID and dynamic, in constant motion and flux. Like the dilation of the iris of your eye, we are tuned to the world around us and it affects us in all kinds of good and bad ways. That's why Cup Management is so important.

We should never worship the creation instead of the Creator. We should never seek after experiences or feelings or manifestations. That's just NOT going to get your cup filled up all the way because it's comes from a selfish or prideful motive that is inherently sinful. You just can't pray for the Sin to be poured out and be sanctified so that you'll be cool or because you covet what someone else has or because you want to show them up. See the problem? Sin is motivating the removal of sin. A house divided can't stand. Doesn't work. God sees right through that. He may give you manifestations, but it's just going to wreck you if you keep walking down that path.

We should seek ONLY that Jesus fill us completely and do His work through us, that we should decrease so that He can increase. We should seek OBEDIENCE - pure and complete. The other stuff is just side-effects of that. Signs and wonders will FOLLOW – they will trail behind, not lead the way.

Appendix D

Doug's Personal Experience with the Holy Spirit

(Written Jan. 25, 2005 – edited Jan, 18, 2007)

I had been praying and aching for several months to see the Holy Spirit come in power and do something. I had read Acts over and over and we were having a Bible Study time on Sunday nights at my furniture shop with the folks I respected the most. What I was really hoping for was that book of Acts, Pentecost, tongues of fire stuff – but had no idea what I was doing. TWICE in my life (before November of 2004) had I ever even been in a room with someone speaking in tongues - and one of those was at a concert with like 2500 other people. They didn't teach me anything about this in the Baptist church except to be skeptical and suspect it's made up - or worse, that it's from the enemy. (Even now, I'm still hyper-sensitive to it and it's appropriate use. Which is a good thing.)

Round about November of 2004, Andrew (Strom) and I met and had lunch and he liked a lot of what I had been saying about the problems in the church. He asked me if I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit and I said, "Huh?" We talked about it for awhile and he encouraged me to read up and pray on it. A couple days later I went down to his Sunday evening meeting he was having and he asked if I would like to speak - which, of course, I did. It had a good impact, although it was kind of like preaching to the choir since his crowd is already sort of outside of the standard "church" streams.

The following Tuesday (11/23/04), Andrew was having a prayer meeting at the home of one of the folks in his group and suggested I come and they would pray for me to receive "the Blessing" - that is, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They were all his family and a few other folks he trusted a lot. (I've learned not to let just ANYBODY lay hands on me without being armored up really good!) I was fully primed by the time it rolled around. We had a meal and talked for awhile and then we prayed a little and then they were going to pray on me. They wanted me to sit in a chair in the middle of the room and I said, "Heck, no! I'm kneeling. No way I'm going to sit there all comfy before God." So, about four or five of them are praying on me in tongues pretty loud. It was hard to concentrate, but I just decided that they were nice folks, so I didn't care how they wanted to pray as long as they were sincere and they helped me get what I came for.

Since I was a kid, I never prayed for anything but wisdom. It's just a math problem to me. Solomon was the smartest guy ever, that's what Solomon prayed for, that must make it the wisest thing to ask for. It's always at the top of the list of Gifts in I Corinthians and elsewhere. Why pray for tongues? It's at the bottom of the list!? Just my business instinct I guess. Go for the good stuff.

Anyway, so they prayed on me for about 30-40 minutes (I think) as I begged for the Holy Spirit and promised to do right if He would bless me. I promised God that if He would empower me, I was willing to give up anything and endure anything. I just wanted to be the most dangerous person on the planet to the cause of evil. I wanted to sniff it out and rip out it's heart with my teeth. I wanted to be God's pit bull. I wanted wisdom, I wanted a high vantage point, to see through the eyes of Jesus. To know what people needed to hear to convict them, to burn away all the impurities and see just the pure kernel of the essence of what we should be doing to please Him.

I begged Him to shine a light on anything in my heart that was in the way and I would scrub it out. Together, He and I just went through one thing after another. I have plenty of sins - maybe not big ones as the world judges them – but there was plenty of darkness in my heart for which to repent. I had to drop some angers at old bosses or girl friends or others. At one point, He said, "You're pretty good with the orphans, but you're lacking with the widows since you haven't gone to see your grandmother in the hospital." So I promised on the spot that I would go see her before the week was up and make it all right. That seemed to satisfy him. I kept getting a warm fuzzy feeling like this was my time and He was going to answer my prayers, but then it stalled out. About then, I think Andrew and them were getting tired (they have to lean over, because I refused the chair!) and he asks me if there is anything in the way or if there is a history of Masonry in my family. I said, "No," and we just all agreed to pray that the Lord would shine a light on what was the problem. Nearly as soon as we started praying again, the Holy Spirit reminded me that there wasn't any Masonry, but I had been in a fraternity in college that required that you take an oath of secrecy on God. Even though when I was an initiate I hadn't said the oath at the time, later on I was the ritualist and administered it to others. I instantly repented of it and renounced it and stepped away from that. That was the last thing in the way.

Just then, Andrew suggested that maybe I should stand up. When I did, the vision started. I prayed for wisdom and to see through the eyes of Jesus. To me that's just a higher vantage point - where you can see more of the Big Picture. Both the love and the anger, the judgement and the mercy. I had prayed to take on any task, no matter the cost. So what He showed me was as much wisdom and responsibility as I could handle without passing out. I distinctly remember a sense from Him that I didn't really know how big a thing I had asked for, but He was going to show me as much as I could handle anyway. He was glad that I asked, but almost grinning because He knew what it would do to me! Fatherly love like when your nine year old son wants to build his own Formula One race car or something.

So for about ten minutes or so (maybe more), God ran this through my head. It was as if I was in outer space looking down on the globe. On the right side is a reel of faces going by. All children, all different colors. The vast majority are crying or hurting or sick or dying. It was like fast forwarding a DVD, they whip by real fast and then it stops long enough to see a few, then they whip along again. On the left side of the globe is the outline of America and a nasty, inky blackness covering it with tendrils spreading out all over the world. I knew that this was the sin of the church - selfishness, apostasy, greed, pride, denominationalism, waste, fraud, prosperity gospel, etc. that was spreading out from America and reaching all over the world. The reel of pictures of kids was running full speed. The Lord said, "You wanted to see through my eyes, I'm going to show you ALL of it." He knows that I have a heart for kids (as He does) and that's the way He sees us anyway, so that's how He showed it to me - as innocents hurt, killed, maimed, abused, impoverished, starving because of the nasty blackness coming out of America. It was clear to me that these weren't little kids, these were God's children of all ages. And He made it clear I was seeing ALL of them. I mean ALL of them. I honestly believe that all six billion plus spun by. Maybe more, maybe it was all of them EVER. I can't even comprehend it. But He made it clear that they were dying because of US and what WE have done maliciously, or selfishly neglected to do to push back the darkness. I had a horrible pain in my chest and ached and groaned instantly.

Andrew's middle girl, Kirsten (who was about 11), was praying hard on my right and without really knowing I'd done it, I grabbed ahold of her and hugged her to me and just stroked her head and cried big huge sobs. Out loud I kept begging God to stay His judgement and apologizing for what we'd done to the children. I just felt so much pain in my chest and I was groaning and crying and just kept watching and saying out loud, "Oh, the children! What we've done to the children! Please help us save them, Lord. I'm SO sorry." (Or some derivative or combination thereof.) And I REALLY, REALLY needed Kirsten at that moment as a real live kid I could pet and hug and cry over. (She and I are bonded in a way I can't really explain. She just let me pet her head and drip on her and kept right on praying for me. What a good sport!) This went on for a long time (to me) and then finally faded with Him saying, "YOU'RE responsible for them. You said you would, so now it's on YOU." I asked the Lord, "What do you mean?!" He said, "You wanted to be the most dangerous person on the planet, you wanted to see through the eyes of Jesus, I showed you everybody, now you're responsible." I said, "Lord, you're telling lots of other people they're responsible, too, right? It's not just me?" He said, "It doesn't matter, you said you were willing, so now GO!" I got it then (and still do) that somehow I personally have a responsibility to reach them all with the Gospel and turn this thing around. (Still trying to figure out how that's fair -- or possible!)

After it was over, I was still in a lot of pain in my chest. We sat back in the circle and I was groaning and wincing in pain. They asked me what I had seen and I tried to tell them, but it was hard to breathe and every time I'd close my eyes I'd get a glimpse of it again and it would hurt. Like an ice pick in my chest. The folks there wanted to reassure me that it was OK that I hadn't spoken in tongues right away - which I found myself HIGHLY irritated about since that's not why I was there. I said, "Hey. I got what I came for and then some! I will never be the same. I asked for wisdom and to see the big picture and that's what I got." There was a kind of quiet pressure that the tongues part was REALLY important, but they could see clearly that something big had happened and I was still sitting there wincing and groaning and twitching in pain every so often. Mostly I was too distracted processing it to have been bothered, but it was an important lesson about the subconscious pressure that can be put on the experience without even realizing it. They all seemed to NEED tongues to happen at that moment, but then every single one of them went around and told about how when they started speaking in tongues it was some time after their Baptism with the Holy Spirit, some of them a LOT later. I didn't comment much at the time, but I thought it interesting that they all felt it SHOULD happen a certain way, but none of THEM had it happen to them that way. I didn't particularly want tongues, so it didn't much matter.

At last Andrew made the most sense when he explained it mathematically (without meaning to). He explained that tongues is a way to let the Spirit help relieve you of a burden so heavy that words won't work anymore and that I would probably need it sooner or later if the pressure was high. THAT made sense, because I knew what I was carrying! So at that point, I started to see that it was coming and I was going to need it.

Anyway, we said goodbye and I got in my van to drive home, still wincing from the pain and moaning and groaning with the weight of what I'd seen. For several days, every time I closed my eyes I would see it again and wince and ache and moan. For a couple of days after, I had this amazing love for everybody. I would go about my day just wanting to hug on people and pinch their cheeks because I just KNEW how much Jesus loved them! I knew they were one of the children that had whipped by in my vision. I went into Wal-Mart and everyone was SOOO beautiful!

Things started to change instantly. I couldn't play video games anymore. I couldn't watch TV. I couldn't curse. I couldn't survive without at least a couple of hours of praying a day. The Bible was opened up for me and I saw things and connections that I've never heard ANYBODY say before. I couldn't go anywhere without my Bible and I spent every extra minute in it. Sin repulsed me. I've surely spoken out of turn or pridefully or not considered someone's feelings or misprioritized my time or been irritated - but was instantly aware of it and repentant. I had a hard time getting any work done because I wanted to talk about God all the time - to anybody - and when I did, they were convicted. I got physically pained if a dirty spam email popped up before I could delete it. I couldn't even think about anything intimate with anyone other than my wife. Can't even consider it or picture it. Gone is the fighting at home over stupid stuff, lots more love all the time even though it's a hard walk and there's still disagreement. One night He woke me up at 2am and said to pray for my wife. Comfy in bed with her on my arm, warm blankets, eyes closed - I prayed until 6:30am without a break or dozing off or anything. Just like on auto-pilot, but not asleep. Which is nuts cause I'll fall asleep typing sometimes and bash my head on the keyboard. Much less, comfy in bed with my eyes closed!

Plus I'm fasting now. Never know when or for how long, but I shouldn't be able to fast even a half a day with the hypoglycemia I had. Now I get up in the morning and go to the fridge and ask the Lord if I get to eat today. Sometimes He says yes and sometimes no. If I can physically GET the food in my mouth, I'm not fasting. It's not even a decision anymore. In the last two months He has had me fasting several times for 24 hours or less, once for almost three days and once for almost four days. Just water. No cravings, no pain, no headaches or dizziness or weakness. Usually ends with some big event for which I need to be fully concentrated or clean. Then I can get food in my mouth again. I actually look forward to fasting because I know I'm being obedient and I know it's going to end with something that will glorify Him. Plus it's evidence of a supernatural protection over me, because I should not medically be able to fast at all. *{Update: Since this was written the fasting changed to mostly without even water, 1-7 days at a time, on average 3 or 4 days a week without water for over two years now. That's just God! Lost over 70 pounds in the first six months. Stabilized now and feel great!}*

The following three weeks (after 11/23) held a constant conversational closeness with the Holy Spirit and some AMAZING prayer time where He laid out more of what is coming and made promises to me of weapons I would have in order to fight the battles ahead (including the gift of healing and discernment/deliverance of evil spirits and other stuff). In that time I got to participate in two good friends getting full of the Spirit - one dear friend at another of Andrew's meetings (who started singing in tongues right on the spot!) and one by myself at the furniture store with her. Also gave some really hard specific prophetic words individually to some people that changed them. Also in that time, God sent this missionary family from Canada to Liberty, Missouri to donate their time at my for-profit furniture store and help grow me and intercede for me!

During the last 12 weeks, I have been through four or five major philosophical directional frameworks, tested and rejected bunches of theories and ideas, started two or three new websites, tempered my anger at the church and now refocusing and finally finding the pure central kernel of what God wants. Just now finding a voice that He can live with and God can use without creating more trouble for myself by distracting from Him. The LAST thing I want to do is say something that will create an obstacle or keep someone from seeing the One True God.

Anyway, so that's where I am at the moment. Who knows what next month will look like!

UPDATE: (3/2006)

That was as of 1/25/2005. The "Apology to the World" was written in February, 2005. The business started to flip upside down in March and April resulting in a migration of people leaving the business that were Christians, but couldn't live on faith quite THAT much. We started having prayer meetings in the store, as the Lord directed. Then the Lord led us to start accepting donations of food and toys and clothes and furniture and other things at the furniture store and caring for the poor - which has mushroomed into something amazing. The Church of Liberty website went up in June, 2005. Things got REALLY freaky in October, 2005. Now they're just completely off the charts!

People come to a furniture store to get healing and deliverance and groceries and prayer - or just a hug. More people keep showing up to help. Now we have authors and poets and musicians and artists telling us God gave them something and He told them to give it to ME so we could get it to the world! Miracles happen every day around here. It's just not uncommon at all for a customer to come in and find two or three people on their faces crying. Praise God! I could have never imagined a wilder adventure!

Pray to be dangerous to satan. Pray to get everything out of the way between you and God. Pray that He would bust out of the box you put Him in and reveal Himself in whatever way He thinks best. Stop telling Him what He can and can't do. Let Him talk to you and He'll direct your paths in EVERY way. And I GUARANTEE you that He'll make sure that you stop conforming to the world!

MORE UPDATES: (1/2007)

In July of 2006, God dramatically closed the furniture store and said to walk away. As of October 2006 God said to hit the road, so I've been traveling all over the country praying and meeting folks and breaking things in the spirit. Sometimes alone, sometimes with a brother traveling along. Sometimes picking up hitch hikers! God is lighting up people all over and I get to watch! He's restoring the Body and bring connectivity and harmony back. Maybe you don't see it yet, but I do! It's coming. The New Song is being played! Praise God and it's just in time.