

Chapter Three

Chapter 3

Back

...The Holy Spirit
Impressions feel like little
electrical zaps or pin pricks
on and in different parts of
the body...

Index Chapter 3

BACK

- Battle
- Boyfriend
- Canned
- Debt
- Exercise
- False Friend
- Faith
- Fend Off the Sharks
- God Helps
- Heard
- Offend
- Niche
- Play
- Poison
- Situation
- Sponsor/Stay
- Thief
- Trash
- Traveler
- Turn Me Loose
- Understanding
- Vengeance
- Weird

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you.

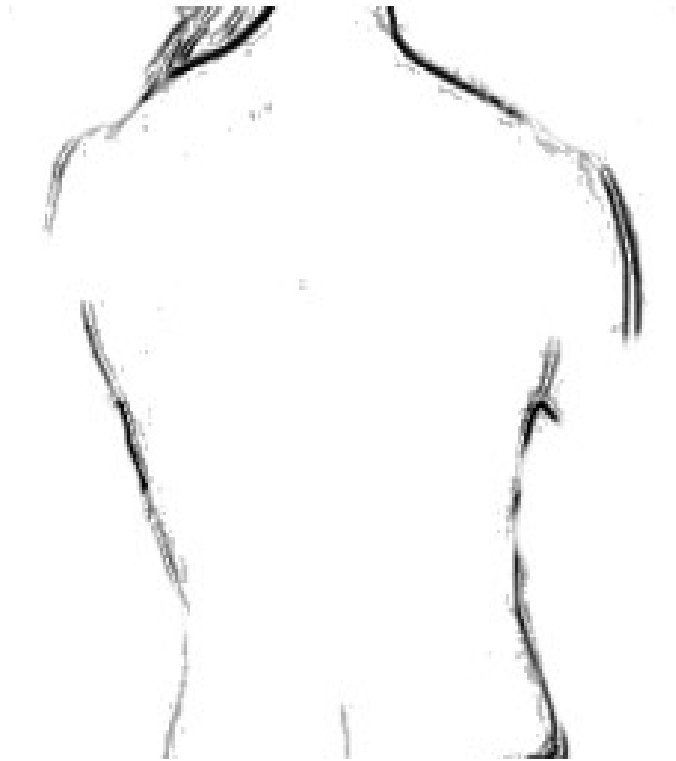
Matthew 6:33.

The Holy Spirit is at work within the lives of people today. Though we may not always know or acknowledge His presence, He is there. He is leading us in the ways He knows are best. He wants to be a part of our everyday life, to help us with decisions and choices, to help us on our path, our journey to His image.

God speaks to His people in many different ways. He may speak to us through everyday circumstances, through dreams, through scriptures, through people, even through the media. His ways are endless. Openness is the key to receiving the myriad of ways the Lord can touch us as individuals. He will meet you where you need to be met, if you just ask Him.

Back

- Holy Spirit impressions on back



Chapter Three

One question that sooner or later comes into our minds is the issue of success. Are Christians meant to have success? Can we be successful when everything is so daunting? Do we copy others? Do we emulate the talents of a select few? Do we succumb to a resignation that there are only a few gifted individuals and that the rest of us really have no purpose or talent at all? Are the rest of us supposed to live a mediocre existence looking afar at the success of "chosen" others? Is this what God really has in mind for us? This issue if not addressed, will bring hearts to great questioning...

In Joshua 1:8 God tells us that His word shall not depart from our mouth and that we are to meditate on it day and night. We are supposed to read, think, memorize, keep it in our thoughts and to continue to ponder the meaning in our minds throughout the course

of every day. We are to hide the word in our heart to keep us safe from going against the good that the Almighty has in store for us.

When we observe all that is written in scripture, when we make every effort at His perfect obedience, then we will help to make our way prosperous with good success. If we on the other hand try to do things our own way, our efforts usually end up as nothing with no real results. If we try to do something that is not what the Almighty has in store for us, then no matter how hard we effort, things just will not enjoy the outcome we had hoped for. We can try and try to do something and ask God to bless it but if your experience has nothing but difficulties and setbacks, maybe you should take a second look at what you're trying to achieve. Are you trying to please yourself? Are you looking for the approval of others? Are you truly from the inside of yourself attempting to lay hold of the gift that is inside in order to help and bless other people? If you are trying to do something for your own opportunity, you may be experiencing failure or less than expected results. You are created in a very specific way and you are wired for a specific purpose and function in the world

and in the body of Christ. For example, we cannot all be full voiced singers. Yes, we are to make a joyful noise but that does not mean we all have the destiny of an "American Idol." Where would the preachers be or where would the missionaries be? Where would the bankers and lawyers and farmers and mothers and teachers be? We need to focus in on the Living Word because that is our only real hope and if allowed, can produce real life inside of each of us regular folk.

So many times we just focus in on ourselves and try, try, try in a human way with all of our human effort to do better, better, better because that's what everyone tells us to do. This can lead to exhaustion and pure frustration. Sometimes those around us will try to give us a word of encouragement by pointing to the fact that others before us efforted long and hard before they received their break-throughs. But I believe these individuals knew their truth and they were on their path not only for themselves but all human kind. Most of us really do not know our purpose or our real strengths or our truths, but are just regular people trying to do something with our lives in a positive way. It is easy however to get off track...and to look at how we can get ahead and how we can get noticed and how we can stand out.

Here on earth, all the viable methods of communication would make you think that indeed being better than everyone else, being prettier, being stronger, being younger, being sexier, being smarter, being more talented and having everyone look up to you is the way to go.

Let's think about this for a minute. Who do you actually remember in your life? Who has had a lasting impact on your life and personality? More than likely it was someone in your everyday circumstances that was just a regular person. Yes a celebrity may inspire from time to time but are they really able to help you to live a better and more fulfilling life? Can you recall the name of the latest gold medalist in Track and field? Do you know the name of the girl on the mascara commercial? Have you spoken with her? Is she your friend? Is she your confidant? Probably not. But no doubt you will remember the name of a favorite teacher or pastor or someone who really influenced your life in a personal way. Why then do we chase phantoms and illusions of grandeur with all the torment and anxiety it brings? How is this helping or making the world a better place?

Isn't it simply adding to the selfishness and the hurt and disappointment already rampant in the world?

How can we avoid the entrapments of despair and let down? How can we enjoy personal success? We cannot weigh what we do and compare ourselves to others. We really have to do an about face. Our old attitudes and ways actually have to be killed and only God almighty can enable us to do that. Immersion in the Word of God by the Holy Spirit is the key to our wisdom, truth, and freedom. We need to be educated. And I do not mean the kind of education that one finds in a school system. That type of education is good but it is not complete. It is only a starting point for success. Yes we need to learn to read and write but we need to connect our reading and writing with the source. One has to connect to God in an extremely deep and intimate fashion in order to achieve the success in purpose for each of us. Eye has not seen nor ear heard all that is in mind for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. 1 Corinthians 2:9.

How can God the maker of all things approve us and that which we try to accomplish? Aren't we just petty insignificants that are constantly trying to do some stumble something until finally old

age and exhaustion take over? No, God has success in mind for each one of His children. The Holy Spirit is our great enabler. He will not

however allow you to steal His glory for your own aggrandizement. He will ensure all things are secret until the time is right for you - your mind, your will, and your emotions to come forth and to bless others. The Holy Spirit is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. Hebrews 4:12. He is the one who will allow you the ability to divide the truth at many different levels. Someone may understand a certain truth at a beginning level but on a more evolved insight and maturity level the same truth may mean something much more. We are to be workmen that are not ashamed. Can you imagine being a plumber with drippy faucets and crooked pipes? Can you imagine being a professional painter with drips and spotty brush strokes throughout your work? We are to be practiced and master craftsmen. How then can we be successful without comparing and trying to be better than the next guy? It is sad to say, but America has a sickness. All you have to do is watch the various evening shows and you will see the worldly and hurtful false dreams held up and ridiculed by the many. I would hate to be

the person that is up there thinking they have some great talent and then the audience laughs and boos them off the stage.

How horrible. The overwhelming and staggering hurt and disappointment these people must experience is unfathomable. This type of entertainment reminds me of the same spirit the Romans displayed when they threw people to the lions and the crowds loved it. Yeah, the crowds might love it, but what about the participants? Yikes. I believe God has a better way for all of us...

The Word is inspired. It is breathed by the breath of God. God's Word is living and it will produce life in us if we allow it. One cannot be a hearer only. We actually have to put into practice what we hear and read. The Word of God is profitable for doctrine along with many other guideposts. It is the handbook for how we should live our life. Really there are only two basic laws that we should adhere to. We need to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all of our soul and all of our strength and to love others as we love ourselves. If we all just followed those two commands, we would be able to attain a peaceable and profitable life in all regards. It is no easy matter to love God with your whole heart and soul. Our soul is our

mind - what we think. It is staggering to realize but we are commanded to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. In just a few moments think of how

many thoughts you can come up with. God wants our mind to be stayed on Him. Our thoughts if left to themselves can produce hell itself and turmoil beyond imagination. Therefore, we are to keep our mind on Him. This is no easy task. Everything we do should be with the understanding that God is directly present and watching and witnessing every motive and intent behind every choice and action that we make. If you plant a carrot seed you cannot expect a harvest of tomatoes. Whatever it is that you want in or out of life, you need to sow the positive seed for that particular harvest. Every choice and action we make has direct energy consequences. That is just how this world is set up. We cannot change this. God is not waiting to strike you dead if you sin. Your own sin given the season to ripen will produce its own seeds and fruit of void and atrophy.

Scripture is not only valuable for doctrine, it holds worth for reproof and correction. For instance, you may be on a certain path. And if a certain scripture begins to take root in your heart, you

may indeed turn back or just quit doing whatever it is that you have been doing because you believe God has spoken to you a better way. To have the ability and capacity to be instructed is a gift indeed. We are

told to become like children. This does not mean that we need to shrink up and become infantile in our thinking; rather we are to foster the capacity to be receptive to correction and reproof, to be able to hear wise words and not get angry but to heed their message and begin to practice them. We are to be equipped to every good work. But we are not to operate in strife and dead works and busyness. And this only happens when God's word is engrafted in our hearts and its energy begins to produce new life in us.

A person becomes successful when they can truly rest in God's planned goodness for their life. When you do not have to be anybody special or anything special in the eyes of other people, but you do know with a great understanding that you are indeed special to God and that you are a great and wondrous creation in His eyes, you are truly blessed and wealthy. Before we came out of our mother's belly He knew us and sanctified us to be prophets to all the

nations. Who or what are the nations? They are simply the everyday people we encounter in our life and the authorities around us.

The Bible speaks often of prophets. The word "prophet" carries unique intrigue bringing us to the question of what exactly is a

prophet? We all as born again Christians have the kingdom of God within us. The Bible is the living word and as such each of us contain that living word inside. So when the Bible speaks of the five-fold office of apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist, and teacher, we each hold a part of all offices within our deepest self. And while we may not all be able to receive and grasp these offices from the Holy Ghost as super natural geniuses like the Apostle Paul or the Prophet Isaiah, we all have a part of each office inside. Joel 2:28 tells us that it shall come to pass afterward, that the Lord will pour out of His spirit upon all flesh, and sons and daughters shall prophesy, old men shall dream dreams, and young men shall see visions. In Acts 2:17 the same words of the Lord are reiterated by the Apostle Paul in the New Testament. We are all meant to prophesy.

And just as everyone is not a master of all things in the natural realm, so too we are not all masters of the five fold office. But in our

daily life we all do many different types of work and so too in the spirit realm we operate under many different hats and umbrellas as the spirit dictates. We as Christians in the spirit realm work as foundation layers, speakers of truth, helpers of others, tellers of the good news of God's

salvation for all mankind, and daily teach of these truths to all we meet in one way or another.

The office of prophet is still active today. We must remember that a prophet according to scripture dreams dreams, sees visions, follows God's promptings and nudgings and speaks the truth no matter whether it be for good or bad according to the Word of God. If a prophet does not speak the truth he is not a prophet. A prophet is not a fortune-teller, though a prophet can receive dreams and visions of the future. A prophet is not a medium, though people operating in the Holy Spirit can raise the dead. A prophet does not gaze into a crystal ball. A prophet gazes into the word of God.

A prophet according to scripture is someone who hears from God, and as Christians hopefully we all hear from God. A prophet speaks God's words out loud over their circumstances. A prophet is

someone who practices the presence of God in their every coming and going. A prophet is someone who has allowed and opened their heart to the Holy Spirit's giftings and divine enablements of faith, helps, governments, miracles, healings, wisdom, knowledge, and discerning of spirits in order to help humanity come to a better understanding

not only of faith in God but of making into themselves a better person through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. A prophet may also be used as a vessel ready to punish disobedience when the prophet's own obedience to the spirit is perfect and complete.

The gifts of the Spirit are given severally as the Holy Ghost wills. Not all gifts are in operation at all times. Some prophets may only have one or some gifts. Other prophets may have more. A prophet has simply allowed these gifts to flow freely in their life. They have learned to accept the kingdom of God as a little child. A prophet's faith has triumphed over doubt and all things become possible at that point as they maintain obedience to God's perfect will.

A prophet is someone who practices divine enablement, the sensing of God's presence, a sensing of His promptings in and on all

things and activities appointed both day and night. As a prophet one can call things into being that aren't and things that aren't as though they were by a deep and intimate connection and relationship with the divine, by thinking right and correct thoughts and by spiritually planting the right and living seeds for the harvest one wants and relying solely on God's providence and Rhema word for the situation at hand.

If you want peace, then be peaceful to others. Don't stir up strife. If you want love, don't practice hate and bickering and nagging. If you want joy, don't dwell on sad things. If you want kindness in your life, be kind; don't turn a blind eye to someone that needs a special touch. If you want goodness, then be good. Don't be a bad person with ill thoughts of doom and gloom. If you want people and God to be gentle to you, be gentle to others. Don't criticize and condemn.

When you can truly separate yourself from the thoughts and ideals of the world and let God minister to your soul, then His spirit can infuse you with everything you need for great use. It is a paradox. When you try to hang onto your life as scripture says, you

will lose it. But when you let go, God can use you. Eye has not seen nor ear heard all that God has prepared for those that love Him and are called according to His purpose. 1 Corinthians 2:9. There is no easy path to this juncture. God is faithful and He will never allow you to be tempted above what you are able. God knows everything you are capable of and what you are not. When you trust Him, you will ride the wings of the wind but only at the point when you are in line with his will for your life.

We are to keep the gift of God inside us stirred up as this is yet another facet of success according to God. God has not given us fear or timidity. His spirit is dynamite, the force of creation. And the same dynamite that created the world and sky and heavens and all the animals on a thousand hills resides within us. Wow. It is almost as easy as clicking your heels together three times and you are in Kansas. God's ways are not hard. It is just that on this fallen earth, His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. Isaiah 55:9. It is our purpose here to retrain our hearts to feel His guidance in our everyday life. If there is fear, it needs to be rebuked, if there is timidity, get rid of the demon by speaking God's words of strength

over the situation. On this earth we are not to be powerless peons, we are to walk in God's wisdom and His holiness. We are to practice His ways and when we practice these things we will have the fruit of a sound mind which is a direct result of intimacy in God's spirit.

What is success? Success is when the word of God has infused us so fully that we are vessels of His light. The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. It divides asunder soul and spirit. And joint and marrow and is a discerner of the

thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12. It can actually pull apart what we are thinking from what God's thoughts are on a matter. God will freely give us wisdom if we ask. And there is no thing on earth as great as having divine wisdom in any given situation.

So how can we begin the path of success? One actually needs to redefine success. Success is not great money or fame, though that can accompany success. It is a knowing that we do not have to do a thing to merit God's favor. We are loved for who we are. It is a deep knowing and understanding that we simply are.

To not be pulled by the world's sway for fame and fortune, God tells us to come to Him with our ears wide open because the life of our soul is at stake. Our journey here is about connection. We begin as a soul, someone with a mind, will, emotions, and a body. Our process down here is a basic salvation from our selves. To learn that we are dependent on God and that it is He who makes us and not we ourselves. We can rest in that we have an everlasting covenant for His unfailing love and mercy. God asks us to step into this realm of faith just as many others before us have. David, the little shepherd boy and

king of Israel proved God's power by conquering foreign nations. What are the foreign nations we deal with on a daily basis and how does this apply to us? The nations simply are all the people and authorities around us. God tells us that as we trust in Him for everything we will also command the nations and they will come running to obey just as they did king David.

How you may ask can things like this be so, for it certainly is not because of our own power or virtue. It is so simply because God has glorified us in the Holy Ghost. He will glorify us when we glorify Him. How do you glorify Him? By staying connected to Him

and listening to His promptings. God promises that in our life, where thorns grew fir trees will and where briars grew, the myrtle trees will sprout. Think of all the desert places and areas where everything seems void and barren. When you begin to follow the promptings of God, your desert will turn to an oasis. You cannot ever hope to do this by yourself. Even if you could succeed arrows and venom are everywhere to shoot you down without His divine enablement. Just look at all the various tabloid people and the trouble and excruciations they get into because they have not connected their everyday life with the one who gives life.

This miracle of desert to oasis, of water to wine will be seen by everyone who knows you. It is an everlasting sign on this earth of power and love to you.

We need to pray and study God's Word. We need to think about it, ponder it and practice it. We need to speak it out loud. Much energy is carried with every word we speak. All that is created is made from substance we cannot see. Yet it is very real. Just like the wind. You feel it but you can't see it. That is the way it is with everything in the spirit realm. It is first something unseen, and

then it is seen, the same principle of the seed in the earth, or a baby in the womb.

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to get honest with yourself. Ask the Almighty to help you discover what inside of you would really excite and please you. It may be something you never thought you could do. It may be something you think is too much. It may be something you admire in others but never thought you could do yourself. But often, God's plan is to use that very thing to bring you to where He wants you to be as a person. This would be a place where you would have to put forth your full effort and then on top of that you would have to connect with God for Him

to give you the divine enablement to complete the task that is absolutely thrilling to you. You are no secret to God. He made you the way He did on purpose.

Protection

There are often time periods in our life when we feel and believe we need God's protection. The actual matter is that we need God's protection all the time every minute of every day. The question then arises, how do we obtain God's protection when everything around seems so out of control and filled with the unexpected and danger? We are told to dwell in the secret place of the most high. Psalm 91:. What is the secret place? The secret place is wherever and whenever we meet in private in the car, closet, in the woods, on a walk, anywhere we can be alone to talk with and try to discover what His mind on a matter is.

Have you ever been so afraid your knees felt like they would buckle underneath you or your stomach so knotted it felt like nothing would stay in or down? God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1.

He is a fortress. We have to trust this is a part of our journey. He will not fail us nor forsake us. When we are so down or discouraged that we feel we cannot go one step further, He will send just the right word, just the right person, just the right occurrence at exactly the moment when you need it most when you fully place your trust in Him.

He will protect us from the things which lurk in the shadow of snares like hatred and anger and strife and gossip and backbiting. When you fall into a trap of abuse or double mindedness or poison of lust, or insecurity, all of these dark issues will be a snare and will hold you back to keep you from being at peace with yourself and God and your fellow man.

This earth is actually quite an exciting place depending how you can look at it. We really have quite a role when you begin to understand that this really is a place where we battle and slay the dragons of moral issues which come against our mind, our will, and our emotions. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood - but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world. Ephesians 6:12. You may think you're dealing with people, and in a sense you are, but everyone is a shell, a container where the soul

and spirit hidden reside. That is why it is so important that we do not judge. We do not see how God sees and his thoughts and ways are not necessarily our ways (Isaiah 55:9) but all humanity has chosen their masters. The energy consequence of any decision if not made in

the wisdom God has can be thorns and prickles to your life's contentment. We all reap what we sow. That is immutable.

When we begin to really connect with the Almighty and His promptings, we are protected on the basis of not only His love but our choice. We are protected from pestilence. What is pestilence? Pestilence is disease. Disease is Dis - ease. Not being at ease. Remember everything that is seen was first created by the unseen. Diseases of pestilence are first diseases in the mind, will, and emotions that have not been dealt with. God wants to protect our minds by keeping us connected. We are not to dwell on the dark side, hating people and talking behind their backs and being full of strife. This type of lifestyle produces death not only in the soul but the physical body as well. You must do what is true for you. You must connect with God for only God knows what it is that will truly bring you on a daily basis to the salvation and peace which He has for you.

How can we experience God's protection and peace? We are not to be afraid. Just as God was with Moses so he promises to be with us. He will strengthen us He will help us and hold us with the

right hand of His righteousness. Terror can be anything that torments the soul - the mind, will, and emotions. Terror could be terrible thoughts that keep repeating or imaginations that you worry could come true, but are simply imaginings. Terror could be the thought of your home be foreclosed or your car being repossessed. Terror could be most anything that scares us that we really can't control.

We all need salvation from real and or imagined terrors. God holds us. He goes before us and is our rear guard. He tells every demon in hell and round about that they cannot touch God's anointed - you and me nor do us any harm. God will, if we allow change every fiber, molecule, and cell from a sniveling and timid coward to a brave and courageous and strong being right here on earth. It is not necessary that we wait until the hereafter to bring the kingdom of God within us to an outward fruition. The kingdom of God is within each of us now if we are born again and it is our job here to begin experiencing its fullness now.

We are not to walk in constant defeat and sadness. We are not to be beat up by the devil.

God promises that He will go before us and He will loose the loins of kings. Isaiah 45:1. God never expects us to go where He has not told us. Nor to do things we cannot or are not gifted to do. He always will go before and clear the way. It is our job to follow Him. When we do, the power of the creative force cannot be held back. God Himself will open the two leaved gates and the gates shall not be shut. What are the gates? I believe they are the eyes and also opportunities and the removal of obstacles for a clear and safe path. He will make crooked places straight and break in pieces the gates of brass and cut in sunder the bars of iron. Isaiah 45:2. Where we encounter curves and turns, God will enable you to smooth navigation. If there is debris in your way He will cause the wind to blow it from your path. He will give us the treasures of darkness and the hidden riches of the secret places. Isaiah 45:3. It is in that secret place where no one else can enter that God will give you the desires of your heart. You will do great and mighty things. But they are the tasks which God gives you. Not the tasks you dream up for yourself.

How will you know when it is of God or when it is of yourself? I believe supernatural occurrences will take place when

something is of God. Things you could never produce on your own will present themselves just as naturally as an everyday happening. You will not effort. It will just be a clear sign or gift or other directive.

We are not to be afraid of arrows that fly by day. Psalm 91:5,6. What are arrows? Are arrows others talking about us? Are arrows accidents? Are arrows losing a job? Are arrows things to bring us down? Actually, all of these things, rather the avoidance of these things through proactive prayer can help us learn to strengthen our spirits. This earth is our training ground. We are made higher than the angels. Just for a little while down here we have to learn to walk in balance in earthly bodies. To walk as God would have us, we learn how to speak out God's protection before we begin anything. God grants favor from men, protection from accidents, and blessings, and expansions and enlargements of grace as well as protection from evil but we must ask Him. We must speak the word out over any situation. The sun will not smite you by day or the moon by night. He will preserve us from all evil...

Does this mean we can live any old way and that God will protect just because? The answer is no. We have to be in the process of connection and trying to listen to His promptings. He meets us when we meet Him. He will preserve. We are protected when we go out and when we come in.

Tithing is also a method of getting God's attention. It is commanded. But is it hard to do. After all, we are already taxed at over 33 percent in the secular world. The Old Testament prophet Malachi 3:10 & 11 tells us to bring all the tithes into the storehouse and to prove God herewith if He will not open us the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing that we cannot have room enough to receive it. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and He owns you and me. He owns our job and our life. So we are told to prove God. We are told to test Him. So why not bring the 10% that is commanded. First of all you are blessing God then you are blessing people and in turn receive favor and protection on yourself. It's a win-win situation. God says He will open the windows of heaven for you if you do this. God promises to rebuke the devourer for our sake and that the devourer will not be allowed to touch the fruit of our vine. God says to test Him. He in turn protects us and grants us favor

as we step out by trusting that a tithe contains energy and power for healing and favor and mercy and protection.