



Overcoming
Life Controlling Issues

HURTS, HABITS AND HANG-UPS

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OVERCOMING

LIFE-CONTROLLING ISSUES.

A CHRIST-CENTERED APPROACH

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Introduction

If you long for a life free from struggles and filled with greater purpose, you're already in the right place. This desire reflects a God-given yearning for salvation – a transformation from where you are now to a life of glory through union with Christ.

Man's design and functionality is fulfilled with and in God. Without God, we are something else (*another creation*) that's out of God's intention. For us to achieve God's original identity, God gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not live a worthless, deprived, struggling life, but have the life with the character and attributes as that which Father God has. (*John 3:16*)

This is the power of the cross: when we invite Jesus into our lives as Lord and Saviour, His resurrection life transforms us. We are freed from sin's grip and empowered to live as Kings, governing our lives according to His will and helping others do the same.

When we welcome Jesus Christ into our lives, acknowledging Him Lord and saviour, the power of the cross of Christ becomes a reality in our hearts and manifest in our life, to deal with all that nature of missing the mark within ourselves and the things we set out to do (*the nature called sin and its symptoms called sins*), for a perfect life, that of kingship, where we have all areas of our lives under control, are free to do that which we desire according to His will, and can also do the same for others.

Salvation is God's first miracle. It rebirths our spirits, making us new creations in Christ. It enables us to partake of the life of the Saviour and now, we can behold and interact, and walk in God's perfection, guided by His Spirit within us, and fulfil the destiny He has written for us.

To say that we can overcome the world without the life of God in Christ is to lie to ourselves. The world will always come up with ways and methods in its systems to convince that you can handle these struggles and challenges, but it's from this very world systems that these struggles come, and that's how the devil has designed it to be. But the life that fulfils is that which is in God through the anointing of Jesus. This has everything necessary that pertains to our perfection. In this life we know ourselves as the Father God knows us and thus interact with

the world as children of God of a heavenly citizenship. This is what happens when we have faith in Him as Lord and saviour. We ought to welcome Him in the office and anointing that He is, live in fellowship with Him, that is; to allow the revelation of God in Him live His life in us. We Abide in Him as He abides in us, letting Him become our way of life, *therefore, if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

What's a life controlling issue?

This is any negative thought pattern, habit or life situation that you have tried to overcome but seem to be unable to change on your own. It can manifest through hurts, habits or hung ups. It has either already or eventually will cost you family, work, education, friends, and finally God. We have to understand that everyone struggles with something, from simple things like telling lies to grave ones such as addiction, mental health disorders, pornography and more.

While I may not fully comprehend the depth of someone else's life challenges, I can empathize with the pain they cause, having struggled for over ten years with what the doctors diagnosed as acute depression and drug dependency (addiction). This experience taught me to empathise with you, as I understand – or can imagine – the pain of your struggle. I want to work with you and guide you toward a lasting solution, offering the healing, victory and peace I found in Christ Jesus.

THE GIFT OF SALVATION

Salvation is God's ultimate act of love; His plan to rescue us from sin (the broken nature that separates us from Him) and restore us to our true purpose. It's a free gift, received by faith and not earned.

The flesh (sin life) always falls short. It keeps us trapped in cycles of emptiness, addiction, and brokenness, far from the fullness God designed for us. But His answer is the Christ life; an anointed existence where His power replaces our weakness.

This transformation begins at rebirth. The moment we surrender to Jesus, we are spiritually reborn into God's kingdom. Instantly, we're freed from the curse of our fallen nature like generational struggles, destructive habits, and the weight of a world without Him. Through Christ's blood, we're adopted into God's original design, and are no longer defined by the past but His divine lineage.

As we grow in Him, our true identity unfolds. We created to be Kings and priests in His Kingdom, reflecting His nature, His authority, and His glory, day by day. *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.* 1Peter 2:9

Redeemed in Christ.

God has brought you back, rescuing you from a life of bondage, sin and darkness and making you an heir in the kingdom of life and light. *(He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14)*

This means, sin and its consequences no longer rules over you. Even if you do stumble, the power of the Cross working in you has already triumphed. Your failures were foreseen, forgiven, and forever washed away by the blood of Jesus. He is *The lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world*, Rev 13:8. No guilt can condemn you, because God's grace is greater than your past as it is written, *If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, for He knows all things, 1John 3:20.* So, *who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather*

who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation...Rom 8:33-35.

You are now a new creation, your old life is gone, and all things have been made new. You no longer live for yourself but Christ, and He lives for you by faith. He is the one who loved you and gave His life for you. *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Gal 2:20*

You now share in the life of Christ. You are a new creation. Your old life, and its consequences are passed away because of your faith in Him, and all things about you have become new. This is your reality; forgiven for past, present and future. You're free, and no longer a slave to sin. You're empowered to live as a king and priest in His kingdom.

You have been redeemed, not by works, but by His finished work. Walk in this Truth.

Justified in Christ.

A justified man is one who despite his flaws, has been declared righteous by God. No sin is held against him. When the enemy condemns you (for he is the accuser of the brethren), remember God sees no sin in you, and His word is final.

Because of your faith in Christ, God declared you righteous even before you saw it in yourself, by placing His divine nature within you, a form of seed that cannot be corrupted. As you grow in Him, this nature keeps flourishing and bearing fruit. A justified man is not without sin but one who understands that sin is not his identity. Christ is. If you do stumble, that does not make you the more a sinner, a failure, or any other label the world or religion tries to impose. This was dealt with 2000 years ago on the cross at Calvary. In Christ Jesus, that mistake holds no power, not even the consequences. Now, let God's love transform you as you stay connected to the revealed Christ, silencing the devil's accusations.

God hasn't just declared you righteous, He is going to show you off as His righteousness. *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we*

might become the righteousness of God in Him, 2Cor 5:21. As Isaiah 1:18 says; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Notice he doesn't erase your past, He makes all things new. He turns your failures into testimonies that bless others, glory to God! And so he says, ' And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose' (Romans 8:28)

Peace with God and unrestricted access into His presence are the effect of your belief in Christ. In His son, God chooses not to hold sin against you. ; *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God Romans 5:1-2. The very life of God lives within you, For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16) You now walk in divine power, confidence and hope, all by His grace.*

Sanctified in Christ

You are being transformed into Christ's image. On you receiving Jesus, you got born again, and God set you apart for His purpose and glory. He made you holy, consecrating you for divine use, and continues to shape you from righteousness to righteousness, from glory to glory. This is His work, His power at work in you. You could never achieve this on your own.

Many people, in their struggle to break free from destructive habits, rely on worldly, only to end up frustrated. Even attempts to involve God often lead to legalism, a hollow religion that misses the heat of the living God. The result? More frustration, even sending one deeper into sin. Why? Because you are relying on worldly, fleshly or human effort to fix something far beyond your power. At best, these methods offer temporary relief, but never true freedom.

God's salvation is received when you fix your eyes on Christ and not on your struggles or failures. Focus on Him. Immerse yourself in His word. As you learn His ways and walk them, you gain an understanding of His wholeness. His image and pattern, sanctifying you, shaping you from glory to glory. Remember God is the potter, you are the clay. It's the potter that has the design because he knows the

purpose of the vessel He is moulding. He says; *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us 2Cor 4:7, And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God 1Corinthians 6:11*

It is Christ that separates you from sin. Your role is simply to yield to what He has already accomplished. He is the one that sanctifies, transforms you and works in you by His Spirit. Not by striving, but by His finished work. So keep beholding. To behold means to fix your gaze intently on Him in everything you do or that which comes your way. Stay rooted in His word, especially the prophetic word said of you. Engage deeply in the body of Christ through communion with the Spirit, fellowship and surrendering yourself for His service. As you do, the saviour becomes clearer in you empowering you to arise over everything and anyone that challenges your freedom, identity and inheritance in Him. *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord 2Cor 3:18.* This is the revelation of the faith that overcomes the world, *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith, who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the son of God, v10-12 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony within himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Reconciled to God in Christ

Your relationship with God has been fully restored. He took you back into Himself. Remember the reason as to why you were in that dark place was because you were alienated; separated from Him. You ceased to be enemies with Him and became a child; welcomed, loved and at peace with Him. Every sin; past, present and future has been forgiven, sealed by the power of Christ sacrifice on the cross. Even your conscience was cleansed! Scripture declares; *how much more shall the*

blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)

God has left nothing undone in His mission to bring you back to Himself. His deepest desire is for you to live in the joyful confidence of a child walking with their Father. Even when circumstances seem to contradict this Truth, remember His word stands forever.

Sin doesn't disqualify you from His love. He said; *For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*, Luke 19:10. Whatever the hurt, habit or hang-up, in Christ Jesus, doesn't stop God from calling you His own. If an earthly father doesn't disown his child for not taking out the trash, how much more will your perfect Heavenly Father whose love is infinitely greater, reject you when you need Him. So, you run to Christ, not from Him. He delights when you depend on Him. This kind of dependence is the relationship He designed. Now if you pull away, who else shall save you? *Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might*. Eph 6:10. And here's the glorious truth: *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit*. 2Cor 3:17-18. In His presence, every chain of oppression breaks. You're free to be fully yourself; His Child. This *spirit you have received is not one of bondage again to fear, but the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, 'Abba Father!'* Romans 8:15. The Spirit Himself reassures your heart; You belong.

Cling to the witness of Christ. This testimony will always speak of love, belonging, mercy, of a Father comforting His child. It's the voice of healing, the whisper of restoration, the eternal proof that you are home.

Zoe (Eternal Life)

Through your union with Christ, your life now carries the divine nature; expressing God's very character, qualities and attributes. What isn't found in Him has no place in you. No hurts, no destructive habits, no tormenting thoughts, no addiction, no sickness no poverty; no expression of death or its shadows to be found in you. He says; *If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in*

you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies. Romans 8:11. Your part is to stay rooted in Christ and let His grace flow through you.

True faith means recognising and embracing those God sends your way. Those that carry Christ's testimony, for they manifest the heavenly life that you've been called to; for *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy* rev 19:10. In other words, that when you behold the person sent to you whether for a season or otherwise, you can recognise the nature of Jesus in them, even as he works through them. These have taken up on an identity of Christ and are functioning as such.

The faith life isn't just a concept; it's a living expression; a person. He is the one that you have received. You take up on this image that you have received. You derive your entire life being from Him. He is your identity, healing, might, provision, companion, comfort, protector and all in all. Every visible change in you springs from relationship with Him. As you live in fellowship with Him, His Spirit within you orchestrates this eternal life; God's love, peace, joy, and righteousness flowing through every area of your existence. He secures your inheritance ensuring God's will unfolds in your life.

Put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established, put your trust in His prophets and succeed. 2chr 20:20. If you desire to advance from your current level of life to another, there has to be a prophetic aspect of Christ revealed to you in someone for you to behold and change. His prophetic grace doesn't just improve you; it transforms you a thousand fold, launching you into a continuum of glory. This is the power, where He reshapes your identity and empowers you to walk in it, manifesting the very essence of the age to come.

RELATIONSHIPS IN CHRIST

And the Lord God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.* Gen 2:18. In these words, we see God's tender care for

you. His fatherly concern for your wellbeing and comfort. Though surrounded by a world of angels and other wonders of the spiritual realm, He knew you needed someone of your own nature, equal to you in rank in the hierarchy of creation. He created you and so understands you better than you understand yourself. So in His wisdom, He graciously provides companionship for you of His very Spirit through Christ. I can compare the Spirit of Christ to this companion that scripture talks about when He said; *I will make a helper suitable for you; one who understands you better than anyone in this world, one who is closest to you than any other in this world. This is the help meet in the spirit, who manifests himself in Christ Jesus. No one does life successfully without help; someone to look to, someone through whom divine grace flows.*

Scripture compares the relationship you now have with Christ to a marriage relationship. It says; Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God, wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord, *For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is himself its saviour. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it, that he may sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he may present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish, so ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church, for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones* Eph 5:22-33.

For love to operate in your life, you ought to let it flow from the source. Christ is the source, submission is the posture that lets it flow. But it's never true love until it has the corresponding actions to it. His love for you is marked by his death on the cross. He took the curse of sin and death that has been upon you so that you can live a glorious life. And for as long as you are with and in him, this truth is empowered to operate in your life. Every moment of fellowship with him, enjoins you to him, through his word, and his spirit, making you a living member of Himself.

Isaiah 61:10, speaks of the care the Lord has for you; *For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

Isaiah 62:5 *And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you.*

Revelation 19:7 *Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. You are the bride. Christ is the lamb.*

Communion with the Holy Spirit

One of the profound effects of worship is that it stirs up the Spirit of Christ within you. This Spirit, known as the Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Comforter, or Counsellor is the fulfilment of the Father's promise. He is the divine presence called alongside to provide assistance, relief, comfort, encouragement, fulfilling Jesus' saying of; *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, John 14:16*

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you. John 14:26 The Holy Spirit not only instructs you but also reminds you of everything God has declared over you through the good news of Christ.

But when the Comforter is come whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me John 15:26, Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is made real to you. It's by the Holy Spirit that He grants you access to His heart, character, power, and all heavenly resources, and the wisdom to employ them in your day to day. By His spirit, He bestows gifts upon you, incorporates you a member of his body the church, and appoints you to a place of authority where you rule and reign in Kingdom.

The Spirit of Christ is the very essence of Christ. To have Him is to have the saviour with you.

You are a member of the body of Christ.

Every person in your life plays a role in shaping your journey, but the ultimate responsibility for how you respond remains yours. That's why it's crucial to discern each relationship through the and by the Spirit of Christ and interact with them in wisdom. Some people are divine connections placed by God to uplift you, yet others may be placed by the enemy to distract you from recovery and advancement. Remember he came to steal, kill and destroy. Scripture warns, *Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals* 1Cor 15:33. Discerning their influence determines how to engage with them.

Even in our best states, we still need one another. Through the Holy Spirit, we are united as one body in Christ, regardless of tribe, race, background, etc. A body isn't made of just one part but many individually distinct parts. *If the foot said, because I'm not the hand, I don't belong, would it cease to be part of the body? If the ear said, because I'm not the eye, I'm unnecessary, would it stop being essential? If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? If the body was entirely an ear, how would it smell?*

In our best state in this world we have need of one another's help for we are members one of another through the Holy Spirit. This is regardless of tribe, colour, race, etc. One body. *For the body does not consist of one limb or organ but of many. If the foot should say, because I am not the hand, I am not a part of the body, is it therefore not of the body? If the ear should say, because I am not the eye, I am not a part of the body, would it be therefore not a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an hearing, where would be the sense of smell? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired, if they were all one member, where would the body be? And the eye is not able to say to the hand, I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you....So that there should be no division or discord or lack of adaptation of the parts of the body to each other, but the members all alike should have a mutual interest in and care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the parts share the suffering; if one member is honoured, all the members share in the enjoyment of it. Now you*

collectively are Christ's body and individually you are members of it, each part severally and distinct, each with his own place and function 1Cor 12:14-27.

Your being different doesn't mean you don't belong, in fact it's the very reason you belong. Your uniqueness and wonderful state in Christ has a facet of God to manifest to his body and to the world. He compares you to the ear, and the other person to the eye, and another the hand, and as each member finds expression in Christ, all the other members benefit.

Together, we are Christ's body, each of us distinct, with unique roles. We must gladly give and receive help, trusting God to meet our every need through Christ.

Jesus promised His Spirit would *glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore, I said He will take from mine and reveal it to you* John 16:14-15. This means if Christ lives in you, His Spirit will unveil all that belongs to him; including the relationships you need to walk in victory, and always remember that you too are God's answer, a manifestation of Christ's grace in someone else's life. This is the journey of your new life from glory to glory.

WORSHIP

Anything act that draws us closer to God through Christ Jesus is an act of worship. At its core, worship aims at transforming us into the likeness of Christ, to reflect His nature, walk in His blessings, and carry His favour. It's a surrender of ourselves to the saviour so that His life flows through us. When people encounter you, they should see Jesus the priest, the King, the saviour, the good shepherd, the kinsman redeemer. Because of your worship, you have become the living expression of Him, walking in divine authority and dominion.

It takes on many forms; prayer, fellowship with Him and with believers, scripture meditation and confession, praise and worship music, holy communion, listening to ministrations, sacrificial giving, all with one goal; that he may be revealed in us so we may become as He is.

As a believer, have this that *God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship him in Spirit and in Truth.* John 4:24. True worship requires the Spirit of Christ. He is the presence of the prophetic living Son of God in your heart, and enables you participate in the God head .He represents and unveils the Truth of God the Father, and reveals your identity in Him, so that the Father is manifested in the Son in the natural realm. He is the word made manifest, that dwells among us, who makes Jesus relevant to us on our day.

Every act of worship aligns with the reality *the word became flesh and dwelt among us* John 1:14. Without this foundation, the connection to Tuth is lost, and the ultimate purpose of worship being transformed in His image remains unfulfilled.

Fellowship: The sacred bond of believers

Fellowship represents the profound unity and shared spiritual life that binds believers together. Scripture reminds us; *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it* 1Cor 12:27 this divine connection allows for Christ's nature, His spiritual attributes and character to flow amongst us. As we engage in fellowship, our spirits align in the truth of the good news of Christ, sanctifying us from a life of sin. *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son, purifies us from all sin* 1John 1:7

Fellowship does more than unite us with other believers, it deepens our connection with the Father and His Son. *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ 1John 1:3. It's a vital means to spiritual growth, a tangible expression of Christ's love and unity.* It is such a sacred bond of believers that Jesus prayed this prayer John 17:19-23 *Sanctify them in thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou has sent me in the world, even so have I sent them into the world. And for their sake I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word, that they may all be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* It offers us a taste of a heavenly life, one that overcomes the world and reflects the glory of the age to come. It's your responsibility to receive of God's goodness, His love, service and nourishment that he's provided in Christ.

The Joy of Serving the Lord

Serving God isn't about adding more weight to your burdens, it's about trading your heavy chains for His light and easy yoke; *For my yoke is easy and my burden light* Mathew 11:30. When you surrender your life to Him, you begin to experience true freedom, peace, and the radiant life of Christ that carries the fragrance of eternity.

True Service is transformative. It's your whole hearted devotion, obedience and participation in God's grand story. This goes beyond religious rituals. Or good deeds. It's about letting Christ live through you, aligning every part of your being with His perfect will. The Lord says; *whoever should want to become great among you, shall be your servant. And whoever of you should want to become first, shall be servant of all. For even the son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.* Mathew 10:43-45. Herein is a beautiful paradox; if you desire a life of heavenly significance, become a servant to all.

In Christ, your past no longer defines you. Service becomes the proving ground where you discover the full measure of your redemption. Those old limitations and lies lose their grip as you step into your true identity. Just as priest Zachariah

encountered God's miraculous promise while serving in the temple (*Luke 1:5-25*) your faithful service becomes the context for divine encounters.

As you serve, your perspective shifts to become Christ like. Life stops being about your struggles and starts being about God's purpose and will for you. Your problems shrink while your heart expands with compassion.

You will discover that you are not fighting alone, that first, you have the power of the holy spirit who lives within you *but if the Spirit of him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you* Romans 8:11. Secondly, that you have a community of believers as a support system. These understand your struggles and can offer support and encouragement. Together you form a network of love, care, and accountability that will help you stay on the path to freedom.

Ultimately Christian service isn't measured so much by what you do, but by who you are becoming, and that's that you are being transformed into Christ's likeness.

The Transformative Power of Sacrifice

Sacrifice is the sacred act of surrendering what is precious to you; your resources, time and comfort, as an offering of faith to Christ. This holy exchange empowered by His Spirit, transforms you into His likeness.

Jesus declared, *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* Mathew 5:3. When we acknowledge our spiritual poverty and depend completely on his abundance, we gain access to heavenly realities. Your struggles may have drained you, but recognising Christ's sufficiency, you qualify for both the 'poor' and 'blessed' category simultaneously.

Sacrifice becomes worship that unlocks Christ's multifaceted nature in your life as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. It releases kingdom resources; divine wisdom, angelic assistance, and the support of Christ body with which every join supplies accordingly. Apostle Paul's reaction to this was; *But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant*

aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God, and my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:18

When the widow of zarapeth was struggling with lack and was about to eat her last together with her son in preparation for death, the Prophet Elijah asks her to give some bread. This was her last bread. Today this would be termed as abuse! But the widow recognised the word of the prophet; *Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. V16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah 1Ki 17:18-16.* You probably are there and have done all you can to beat whatever condition you are struggling with but failed. You have given up hope, and have let the reigns of death take charge. You have visited doctors of all types, have consulted with different worldly avenues of help, but failed. You've now given up, and maybe contemplating death like this widow. The Lord tells you, not yet. There's hope. Give of yourself in the form of a sacrifice

Cornelius is another example in scripture of one that recognised his poverty and the need for God's sufficiency. He is described as a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. And because of this scripture says, *He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius, and when he looked onto him, he was afraid, and said, what is it Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before the God. Acts 10 1-48.* That's how Cornelius and his household became the first converts among the gentiles.

Another example of sacrificial giving is the widow and her mites. *And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, verily I say you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living*

Mark 12:41 – 44. Many people that do things for the Lord out of their abundance, as much as that is acceptable, The Lord recognises your sacrifices because they are with all you have, and you probably may or may not have much, but the spiritual weight of your sacrifice matter to him, cause that's what connects and impacts on Him. The weight of the sacrifice. Scripture says, the fear or reverence you have of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The wisdom to posture accordingly and act within knowledge and understanding to connect with the heart of Christ for a glorious outcome in regard your situation.

I can go on about the numerous examples where men of old used sacrifice as an act of faith in worship to bring about their desired outcome; from Abel, Noah, Abraham sacrificing his only son; Jacob in Bethel and El-Bethel for protection and provision, David in establishing his kingship, Solomon and the wisdom to rule, to the lord Jesus in redeeming you, which we covered in the first section, they built trust in God and his saving grace and overcame the world of their time, manifesting the results they desired of the promises of His through this act of sacrificial giving, and it has never lost its catalytic power to the effect that men in the new testament like Dorcas, Cornelius and others employed it in their forms of worship.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy one is understanding Prov 9:10. This holy reverence positions you to connect to Christ's heart and release His glory into your situation. Your sacrifice, whatever its form, becomes the bridge between your need and God's abundant provision.

THE ANOINTING

He says; *Verily verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am the bread of life. V50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from*

heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread which I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. V53 Verily verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living father has sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever John 6:47-58.

If you hunger for life as God intended, a life marked by the qualities and character of heaven, look to Christ Jesus. Only he can satisfy. He is the Word of God made flesh, the substance and the perfect pattern for the life you were meant to live. If you long to know what God sees in you, fix your gaze on Jesus. He is the mirror of your true self, His word, His actions, His very life is a message that deeply resonates within you as your very identity.

It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. His word and His spirit are not two separate entities, neither are they separate from Him. His word is the verbalisation of His Spirit. His Spirit is His very substance. John 6:60. Scripture says of him as, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not John 1:1-5 v6 14 And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. In His message; in his word, lies the divine blueprint that shapes you into His likeness. To walk in this glory of your identity, He first calls you to recognise Him as the true bread from heaven. Bread sustains. We eat to be nourished, to grow and thrive. What you consume, and how you consume it, determines who you become. Feast on the living bread from heaven, and you will be transformed into a heavenly being, filled with eternal life.

The life you live in Christ is called Zoë, a divine life that evokes praise, a life so radiant it reshapes perceptions. Those who thought they knew you are left in awe, for your very presence alters their understanding of human experience. This life transforms your identity and redefines how you function in the world.

Your qualities are not of this age but of the age to come, the era of the messiah's reign on earth. It is a life of overwhelming beauty and divine satisfaction, a continuous flow of God's nature surging through you, striking a perfect harmony between you and the Father. This makes you a fulfilment of scripture; *You have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come* Hebrews 6:5.

To accept Christ as your daily bread is to let Him nourish you by allowing Him to live through you, just as He lived in complete surrender to the Father. He desires that you draw your very existence from Him. When you yield to Him, what some may term as submission, His life in you becomes as a sweet harmonious melody of spirit and body, evident to all who see you. To the world, you appear favoured, blessed, anointed; a life so marked by His glory that your legacy is not your own, but God's.

The Yoke is broken by the Anointing

When Prophet Samuel anointed Saul, he told him; *v6 And the spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.* And it came to pass, when all that knew him before time saw that, behold he prophesied among the prophets, they were astonished, *then the people said one to another, what is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul among the prophets? And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?* 1Samuel 10:6, 11-12.

The yoke of limitation and mediocrity over Saul was broken by the anointing of Prophet Samuel, to the effect that he was empowered to operate supernaturally through the gift of prophecy.

It is said; *And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.* Isaiah 10:27.

The anointing is God's divine empowerment. It opens blind eyes, breaks chains of bondage. It delivers people from every burden and all forms of captivity. This power flows into our lives as we unite ourselves with Christ, submitting to His will. There ought to be a recognition of an authority; someone who has gone ahead of you in this Christ life and has matured enough to replicate that which is bestowed upon him in another.

The anointing is also imparted, meaning it often come through those who have gone ahead of us in faith, who carry spiritual authority. A good example is this scripture, *Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord* James 4:14. Here the elder, as spiritual authorities extend Christ's anointing through prayer and anointing with oil. And he goes on to say v16, their prayer of faith shall save you, and the Lord shall raise you up, and if sin is the cause of your condition, whether by choice or otherwise, it shall be forgiven you.

We see this same power at work in Acts 3, when Peter and John encounter a man lame from birth. Every day, he was carried to the temple gate to beg. But when he asked Peter and John for money, Peter responded; *Silver and gold have I none: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.* Instantly, the man's feet and ankles were strengthened. He leaped up, walked, and praised God, leaving everyone in awe.

Perhaps you're not progressing, or worse, you seem to be regressing. It doesn't matter to God if your situation is your fault or just 'life happening'. When the anointing of Jesus shows up, it's your time for deliverance. Like the lame man, those who knew you before will be amazed at what God does in your life.

When Jesus' disciples asked about a blind man, *Who sinned, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?* Jesus responded, *Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God may be displayed in him* John 9:3

No matter what the doctors, judges, or other world systems have told you, their explanations are limited. They operate from a fallen perspective. But in God's kingdom, His power overrules every natural limitation.

God raises saviours.

And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's. Obadiah 1:21

Throughout history, whenever God has intervened to deliver His people, He has raised up a saviour, a foreshadowing of Christ in human form. Christ Himself is the *lamb slain from the foundation of the world* Rev 13:8. Nothing exists apart from Him, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, rulers or authorities, Col 1:16. For this reason, there's nothing that you can ever face that is above the authority of Christ.

From Abraham, Isaac, Israel, Moses, Joshua, the judges, King David, Prophet Elijah, each was a vessel of God's redemptive plan, an expression of Christ in their time. However, in the fullness of time, God sent His only begotten Son Jesus the Christ; the anointed one. What makes Him unique is that in Him, *all the fullness of the Godhead dwells*, Col 2:9. Perhaps to put some perspective to this, imagine the father and creator of all things with all His resources dwelling in this man Jesus. And this man dying for your sake to redeem you from all your hurts, habits and hang-ups. If indeed He is your saviour, there is nothing he cannot save you from that's out of his reach. Whoever believes in Him *Shall not perish but have everlasting life* John 3:16. Your new life is marked by the very nature, power and glory of heaven in Christ. There's nothing that can defeat Him, neither is there any worldly pursuit, money, relationships, fame, or success that can fill the void meant to be filled by Him. Only Jesus is the author and sustainer of this supernatural reality.

When Jesus ascended on high, *He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men* Eph 4:8 *But what does He ascended mean unless He first descended into the deepest depths of human suffering, even into the grave itself?* There's no place too dark, no bondage too strong, that He cannot reach you. He went lower than your

lowest despair, *disarming the rulers and authorities* that once held you captive Col 2:15

When you were *dead in trespass and sins* Eph 2:1, Christ made you alive with Him. He *wiped out the handwriting of requirement that was against us... nailing it to the cross* Col 2:14. Every accusation, every record of guilt, every condemning voice, he silenced them all.

His body on the cross was the final document of your debt paid in full. By his death, He took the punishment you deserved, erasing every stain of shame, guilt, and painful memory. Then, in triumphant victory, He *made a public spectacle of the enemy, triumphing over them* Col 2:15

No matter how deep your failure, how strong the chains of sin, or how relentless the accusations, Christ has already won. He stripped the powers of darkness of their authority, and now, through faith in Him, you stand redeemed, restored, and victorious. This is not just a message, its your reality in the spirit, in Christ. Believe it, receive it, and walk in the freedom He died to give you.

Discipleship – The path to Christlike Transformation

The One who descended into the depths is the same who ascended far above all heavens, filling all things with His presence, *And he has given gifts to His church, apostles* (sent ones, His commissioned representatives), *prophets* (those who receive and declare divine revelation), *evangelists* (bearers of the good news), *pastors* (shepherds of His flock), and teachers (instructors in truth), Eph 4:10-11.

These leaders, empowered by the same Spirit that fully dwelt in Christ, are entrusted with equipping believers, guiding them into maturity, healing brokenness, and shaping them into the image of Christ. Their calling is to labour until Christ is fully formed in you, *Galatians 4:19*. By submitting to their guidance, you gain the wisdom, understanding and spiritual authority necessary for true transformation.

The most effective way to grow is under the mentorship of those who have already walked the path of victory. To them God has granted the office and spiritual authority to fully represent him.

Do not write yourself off because of from discipleship thinking you are not good enough. We all qualify as children of God to be under the fatherhood, or mentorship or spiritual authority of Christ. Even Jesus had those he disciple; ordinary women and men with flaws and struggles just like you, or worse. Peter was impulsive, fearful, and prone to doubt, yet he became a bold apostle. James and John had fiery tempers (called sons of thunder) yet they grew into pillars of the faith. Mary Magdalene was ounce tormented by demons, yet she became a devoted follower and witness of Christ's resurrection. Simon the zealot had extremist tendencies, yet he was transformed into a messenger of peace. When the religious leaders saw Peter and John's boldness, they were astonished, recognising that these unlearned and ignorant men had been with Jesus *Acts 4:13*. Their transformation was undeniable.

The same power that worked through the apostles is available today. Consider Paul, through whom God performed extra ordinary miracles, even handkerchiefs that touched his body brought healing and deliverance *Acts 19:11-12*. This demonstrates what the anointing can do in your life.

God doesn't just want to heal you, He wants to make you a living testimony, one whose very presence shifts perspectives and glorifies Him. Through discipleship, His power reshapes your struggles into a story of victory, proving that those who have been with Jesus are never the same.

Will you submit to His process? Will you learn from those He has placed in your life? The journey of discipleship is the path to becoming just like Him.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I believe that you are the son of God because you died for my sins and that God has raised you from the dead for my salvation. By faith I open the door of my life and my heart to receive you as my saviour and my Lord.

I ask you to come into my life, forgive me of my sins, and save my soul. I turn over my life to you as both my Lord and my saviour. In Jesus' name. Amen.

After saying this prayer confess your salvation to those around you and believe in your heart that you are now saved. You belong to Jesus. He says in His word; *If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved* Rom 10:9-10.

Remember, in Him you are a new creature. A new identity and empowerment to overcome the world and its systems and live like Him. Now let him guide you to a fellowship where you can grow into the person he desires you to be in Him. Glory to God.