

# EQUIP MINISTRY

## DISCOVER YOURSELF

DISCOVER YOURSELF as SPIRIT  
SOUL and BODY

DISCOVER COMPLETE  
FORGIVENESS

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL

DISCOVER YOUR POSITION  
IN CHRIST

DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

# DISCOVER YOURSELF

*As Spirit, Soul and Body (4)*

*Complete Forgiveness (7)*

*Your Potential (11)*

*Your Position in Christ (16)*

*Your Ministry (19)*

*Your Gifts (26)*

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***The reason for writing these notes was to help you to "Discover" yourself as a person.***

***How God made you as a spirit, soul, and body.***

***How He forgave you and placed you in a position where you could live to your full potential so that you can be effective in your ministry and gifts, He gave you.***

***This knowledge will bring fulfilment in your life, and to those you share these truths.***

# **Discover YOURSELF**

## **God made us to enjoy life.**

### **King David once wrote these words in Ps 139 verses 1 to 14**

*"O, Lord, You have searched me and known me.*

*You know my sitting down and my rising up. (Verses 1,2)*

*You have hedged me behind and before,*

*And laid Your hand upon me. (Verse 5)*

*For You formed my inward parts.*

*You covered me in my mother's womb. (Verse 13)*

*I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Verse 14)*

- Your birth may have surprised somebody, but not God.
- He knew you before you were born, and had (and still has) a plan for your life.
- The question is: "Are you a happy person, or not?"
- Did some bad things happen to you?
- You must know that only God can change a "minus" into a "plus"
- Do you understand what I am saying? In other words: It is only God that can take a negative thing and change it to something wonderful in your life.
- Thank God that all things work together for good to them that love God. We read of this in **Rom.8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*

### **But first you must "discover yourself" as a person and also discover the possibilities you have inside of you. You see,**

Remember you are wonderfully made and God has a purpose for you in life.  
Stand up in your spirit-man and start making the difference in other people's lives.

### **Discover yourself as Spirit, Soul and Body.**

This is something you must understand. It will help you to get new direction in life.

You are a spirit being, that has a soul and lives in a body.

### **The spirit of man.**

***A clear scripture in the Bible to show that man is spirit, soul and body is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete and found blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

According to this Scripture, you and I should live a sanctified life before the Lord.

That means a life that is "set apart" for the Lord.

Our lives must be to the Glory of God. That is the reason God created you and me.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE REBORN IN YOUR SPIRIT AND NOT IN YOUR SOUL OR BODY!**

**When God created man He made him out of a material part and a spiritual part.**

The body is the “material part” and the spirit and soul is the “spiritual part”

**This truth is found in Gen.2:7** “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

When one dies the “spiritual part” (spirit and soul) leaves the “material part” (that is the body) And if the spiritual and material parts (spirit, soul and body) can be united again, this person will live again on earth.

To understand the above statement, you must read **1 Kings 17:17-24** where Elijah the prophet prayed for a young son who died.

He prayed these words “O Lord my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him. Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child (not the soul of someone else) came back to him, and he revived.”

Remember: The soul that came back into his body wasn’t his blood, but was his spiritual part that united with his material part.

The Bible speaks of ‘the outer and inner man’ (**2 Cor. 4:16**) The “external and hidden person” (**1 Pet. 3:3,4**) Our “innermost being” (**John 7:38**) and of the “inner good treasure” (**Matt.12:33-35 and Matt.15:18-20**)

This “inner man” or “inner person” of you is the one God wants to have communion with. This is the one part of you that is hungry for God. Once you have discovered this inner man inside of you and know how to worship God with your inner man, you will experience the fullness of joy.

**Jesus said in John 4:24** “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Yes, you can worship God with your body, but God wants you to worship Him with your inner man, your spirit-man.

## **The Soul of Man**

It is not easy to separate the SPIRIT and SOUL from each other.

Still the Bible tells us that there is a difference between the two and thus they can be divided.

**In Heb. 4:12 we read these words** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of **soul** and **spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

A good definition for our soul will be our **intellect**, **emotions** and our **will**.

**Prov. 23:7** “For as he (man) thinks in his heart, so is he”

You and I are what we think. Yes, the “battlefield” is our minds. It is in our minds where the enemy attacks us first.

**We all have a “Philosophy”**

**“Philo” means love and “sophy” means thoughts**

Philosophy is **“love for our thoughts”**

Your thoughts made you what you are today!

Change the way you think, and it will change your whole life!

**That’s why we must think things of above, things that please God.**

**Col.3:2;** “Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth.”

**Rom.12:2;** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **Also read Phil. 4:8**

It has been said that most illnesses are psychosomatic. In other words what we think has an effect on our physical well being.

Fill your mind with the good things of life and your body will enjoy good health. In your soul you will experience emotions such as love and hate; enthusiasm; disappointment, joy and depression. **We have to work on these emotions!**

### **What does the word “enthusiasm” mean?**

It comes from the Greek word: “entheos”

And the word “entheos” is used for God.

I believe the more enthusiasm a person has, the more of God he has in himself.

If you have lost your enthusiasm in life, the Lord can restore it. Allow Him to touch you and enthuse you in your soul.

### **God gave you the ability to create.**

You can even call the things which do not exist as though they were. **(Rom.4:17)**

You have this potential inside of you, because God made you like this.

God did not make us to be like a traffic light. We are not electronically controlled. God made us with our own **will** so that we can make our own decisions.

***Thank God, He gives us choices to make ourselves!***

### **WHAT INFLUENCES MY SOUL?**

**In other words: What influences my INTELLECT, EMOTIONS and WILL?**

(1) What I **SEE (Matt. 6: 22, 23)** Jesus said: “The lamp of the body is the eye.

If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.”

(2) What I **HEAR (Ps. 92:11)** Once a mighty Evangelist said to me: “Dan, I only listen to successors.” That word meant a lot for me through all these years.

(3) What I **SPEAK (Prov. 18:21)** “Death and Life are in the power of the tongue.” Guard your tongue!

### **The Body of man**

Our BODIES are important to God. **The Bible says in Rom. 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present **your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

**Paul writes in 1 Cor. 6:19,20** “Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

### **We are the MASTERPIECE of God’s creation!**

We are so unique, and did you know, within us God built in healing?

***Thank God for what is written in Ps.139:14? “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”***

# **Discover: COMPLETE FORGIVENESS**

***Read 1 John 1: 1-10 until the truth of this wonderful chapter brings light into your heart***

**John writes this letter not to the world, but to the church.**

Look at how often he speaks of "WE" e.g. **v. 6** "If WE say that WE have fellowship with Him..." **v. 7** "But if WE walk in the light, as He is in the light, WE have fellowship with ONE ANOTHER"

The word "WE" or "US" occurs 25 times in these 10 verses! Thus, we can be sure that here the Bible is talking to Christians.

The only way to receive forgiveness of sins is by confessing your sins!

Therefore we need to rediscover the power of confession.

We should be able to apologise to God and to man whenever we do wrong!

It was when **Daniel** confessed his sin and those of his people that God answered him. (**Daniel 9: 4-16; 19: 22**)

**If you want an answer to your prayers, then you must be able and willing to confess all sin in your life.**

When **Isaiah** confessed, the live coal from God's altar touched his mouth and his guilt was taken away. (**Isaiah 6: 5-7**) And remember, he was already a prophet!

**Many people want God's fire from God's altar, without making their lives right with God by confessing their sins. If you want to overcome you must confess.**

## **IF YOU WANT COMPLETE FORGIVENESS THERE ARE THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD DO:**

**FIRSTLY: You must get forgiveness from the Lord for YOUR SINS.**

Someone asks: How can I receive forgiveness for my sins?

The answer is by asking Jesus to forgive you and to cleanse you with His blood.

**1 John 1: 7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, ***and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses from all sin.***"

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If blood does not reach a certain part of our body, that part will die.

If Jesus' blood does not flow through your life, you will die spiritually. And the only way to get His blood to cleanse your soul and mind is to confess your sins with all of your heart.

## **SECONDLY: Forgive YOURSELF**

As the devil accused **Joshua the high priest** before God (**Zech.3: 1 to 5**) so the devil accuses us before God. **Revelation 12: 10**: “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven. Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”

Never help the devil in his dirty work by accusing others as well as yourself!

**REMEMBER: All sins that are honestly confessed are forgiven and forgotten by God.**

### **Colossians 2:13, 14 (The Living Bible)**

“He forgave all your sins, and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of His commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ’s cross.”

### **Psalms 103: 12**

“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us.”

**Where is East and where is West?** No one can determine a specific place.

In other words, He separates our sins from us so that we can never meet up with them again.

### **Isaiah 44: 22**

“I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”

Mist is something that prevents you from being able to see where you’re going. When God has forgiven us, he takes this “mist” out of our way so that we can see God’s way and walk in it.

### **Micah 7:19**

“You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. “

It literally means that God feels sorry for us, tramples on our sins, and throws them into the deep sea.

### **Jeremiah 31:34**

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

If God doesn’t remember them, you and I mustn’t remember them either.

If God Himself can forget, He can also help you to forget.

But how can you forget if you keep that letter to use against someone, or the negative notes in that book, or even that conversation on tape? Destroy all those things so that you truly can forget.

**You ask: “What must I do if the old wrong thoughts come back?”**

**Colossians 3: 1, 2**

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” Fill your mind with the good things in life.

**QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN AGAIN?**

**1 John 2: 1; “My little children, these things I write you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”**

As Christians we should not sin. But if you sin you can once again go to Jesus for forgiveness. His grace is more than enough. Believe this.

**THIS BRINGS US TO THE THIRD MATTER CONCERNING FORGIVENESS, NAMELY: FORGIVE ALSO YOUR FELLOW MAN.**

**To really be forgiven you need:**

- (1) Forgiveness from God
- (2) You need to forgive yourself
- (3) But it is also important to forgive others

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray as follows:

**Luke 11: 4** “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us “  
(We also read this in Matthew 6: 12)

**Did you know that many people cannot move “mountains” of problems because they cannot forgive?**

**Mark 11: 23, 24 is a wonderful scripture.** But just to “BELIEVE” and to “TALK TO” your mountain is not enough. **We must also read the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> verses:**  
“And when you stand praying, (in front of your problem that's your mountain) forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses “

**The Living Bible translates Mark.11:25 as follow:**

“but when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too.”

**What happens if I forgive?**

I unlock the spiritual door of the person I forgive and I release myself.

**And if I don't forgive?**

Then I am given over to the “torturers” according to Matthew 18: 15 to 35

If I do not want to forgive the Bible says I will be thrown into a spiritual prison, and I will stay there until I paid what it takes to get free before the Lord. **(Matt.5:23-26)**

**REMEMBER:** The MAIN REASON why I forgive others is not because they deserve it, but because I want to be free. **Luke 6: 37**

## **EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE THAT WERE HEALED BECAUSE THEY FORGAVE**

### **A lady that was chronically sick for 40 years:**

While on leave in Uvongo on the South Coast of South Africa my wife and I met a Christian woman who was previously in our church. As believers together we each decided to draw "Manna cards." (That is a little box with cards that have bible scripture written on them) This woman was amazed when she selected Colossians 3: 13 for the second time in one week. It read: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." While others drank coffee I sat next to her and asked her if she realised that the Lord wanted to speak to her from Colossians 3: 13. She confirmed it. My following question was: "but you are chronically sick aren't you?" The answer was that for 40 years she had been sick with various ailments. I asked her immediately "but is it not possible that there are people that you need to forgive" the answer was: "Yes, for 40 years!"

I felt a strong urge to encourage her to make right with these people as soon as possible. I found out that she did so during the following week! Six months later I attended her funeral. The most beautiful testimony was from her children and friends: "She was a difficult, sick person for the past 40 years, but for the last six months she was an angel on two legs and healthy as well!" She could have been like that for 40 years.

### **A woman who had bitterness for 12 years got growths in her throat.**

In May 1981 she went to a service in Johannesburg. Before the preacher prayed for sick people he sent them to the prayer room to get right with God and to forgive others. Then he prayed for them. That evening she went home with her husband having been fully healed in her body and set free in her spirit.

### **I was teaching in a Bible School in Kiev on Forgiveness.**

Anna, a Russian lady, told me how her father wanted her to come and live with him and his new wife and kids in Moscow. She had three children of her own and was living with her mom in Kiev. When she turned this down her father had a stroke and died eleven days later in a hospital. For more than seven years she could not forgive herself because of what happened to her father. But when she heard this message on "Complete Forgiveness" she was set altogether free!

### **How many times must I forgive?**

The Bible says: **Matthew 18: 21, 22 it's 70 x 7**  
**Luke 17: 3, 4 says up to 7 times a day.**

## **GET COMPLETE FORGIVENESS**

- ❑ **Ask God to forgive you.**
- ❑ **Forgive yourself (Go and speak to yourself in the mirror and release yourself)**
- ❑ **Forgive your spouse.**
- ❑ **Forgive your parents.**
- ❑ **Forgive your teachers and lecturers.**
- ❑ **Forgive that person that defrauded you.**

Discover COMPLETE FORGIVENESS and live a life of overflowing joy.

# **Discover YOUR POTENTIAL**

**Genesis 1:26,27** *"Then God said. 'Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'" (Also read v. 28)*

## **This is one of the most important portions of the Bible.**

According to this statement from God's Word we have the potential to RULE and be a WINNER. Also to live a FRUITFUL LIFE and REPRODUCE!

### **What do we mean when we talk of potential?**

Dormant ability (that is ability that is inactive) It is also reserved power.

Yes in you there is power you have never dreamed of being inside of you.

We also have untapped strength and hidden talent. You are wonderfully made of God.

**Potential is everything that you can be but haven't become!**

**Potential is everything that you can do but haven't done yet!**

**Potential is how far you can reach, but haven't touched yet!**

**Potential is what you can reach, but haven't achieved yet!**

**Potential is ability that is not exposed yet!**

IMPOSSIBLE THINGS CAN BE MADE POSSIBLE.

Mark 9 v. 23 "all things are possible to him who believes"

## **Potential is latent (sleeping) power!**

WE HAVE POWER TO BIND AND LOOSE. According to the words of Jesus in **Matthew 18 v.18** "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." This has to do with **forbidding or permitting**.

If someone has a demon, we as believers can command the demon to leave that person, as Paul did in **Acts.16:18**. Thank God we have the authority in Jesus' Name to **forbid** the enemy and to even cast demons out as it is written in:

**Mark 16:17** "In My Name they (those that believe) will cast out demons"

**You don't need to be an Evangelist to cast out demons.**

**You must only have faith in the Name of Jesus Christ!**

**Potential is not to rest on what you have reached in life!**

One of the most serious hindrances to our potential is the word "success".

**Never be self-satisfied with the last goal that you have reached.**

## **GOD MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING IN US WHEN HE CALLED US.**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 1 v. 26-29**

There are more than 6 billion people on the earth. Nevertheless each is unique with their own set of fingerprints. You are therefore original and very precious.

- God looked at Gideon and saw something that was definitely different from what he saw in himself. (Read judges 6 v. 12 to 16)
- God looked at Adam and saw mankind.
- God looked at Jacob (the traitor) and saw our Messiah.
- God looked at a young shepherd boy, David, and saw an anointed king.

### **There are three groups of people these days:**

- The few that make things happen.
- The few that watch things happen.
- The majority of people who have no idea what are happening.

### **Have you decided to make a difference in your environment?**

**Success is not measured in the light of what others have achieved but rather by whether I've given my best.**

### **In our graveyards the following lie buried:**

- **Dreams** that never became a reality.
- **Songs** that was never written or sung.
- **Books** that were never printed.
- **Paintings** that never saw the light.
- **Discoveries** that would make life easier.
- **Plans** that never got further than the drawing board.

### **Yes, great potential buried under the earth!!**

When I was a chaplain in the prisons, I cried when I saw people with potential who were deprived of their freedom.

### **Ask yourself the following:**

Who am I?

Why am I here?

What is the potential that is in me?

What am I able to do?

With what measure must I measure myself?

Who sets the standards?

What can I do to increase my abilities?

What are my limitations?

### **Think of a sculptor**

When a sculptor is busy with a piece of art, he does not see what he envisaged before he started.

He walked past a plantation – old stumps lying around – He asked the owner what he's going to do with them. "Nothing" was the answer. He asked for one and took it home. He took it with a smile and began to work on it with his chisels. When the sun came up the next morning we saw the sculptor fast asleep next to his handiwork. Next to him there was a beautiful bird, which had been set free from the old stump! He placed it in his front garden. And who do you think wanted to buy it? None other than the owner of the plantation!

### **Think of what happened to Abraham Lincoln.**

He lost his job in 1832; He was voted in the executive council in 1834; He lost his wife in 1836; He had a nervous breakdown in 1838; He was defeated as chief whip of the executive council in 1838; He was defeated in his nomination for Congress in 1843; Abraham Lincoln was chosen for Congress in 1846. He was defeated as member of the Senate in 1854; He was defeated in his nomination as vice president of the USA in 1856; He was again defeated for the Senate in 1858; BUT HE WAS FINALLY CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE USA IN 1860!

### **Matthew 25: 14 to 30 (The story of the talents)**

*This tells us that God has given each of us talents or abilities. Some more, some less, but everyone has received. Some doubled their talents.*

*Others didn't work with them but rather buried them. No wonder that they lost even the little that they had.*

**USE THE TALENTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.**

**Someone said it like this: "Failure is not the absence of success. Failure is the neglect of trying."**

### **The source of all potential**

***Do not look at creation to find out who you are! Because the purpose of something is only in the mind of the one that made it. Find out therefore why God made you.***

The key in understanding life is in the source of life – not in life itself.

You will never discover your purpose on the earth if you use another person to measure yourself.

***If I look at you I see what you have reached, and I realise that your potential is far more than what you are now!***

### **You are what God says you are!**

A 60 year-old man sat before me – psychologists said he was a psychopath.

I looked at him and saw a winner. I said to him what I thought of him and with tears he gave his life to Christ.

Please read the following scriptures in your Bible **2 Corinthians 5 v. 17 to 21**

**Rom. 8 v. 1; Judges 6:12; John 10:10;**

**John 7 v. 38** (Jesus said) "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

*He that is in us is great and powerful like a river of living waters!*

*Think of Peter – He was "Simon" which meant: "weak; ungovernable; and like a leaf" But God changed him to be "a rock".*

**Accept yourself, because if you feel good about yourself you will feel good about other people.**

### **We must have goals**

*Many plan their meals for the following week, but have no plans for their lives.*

*Stop and make an adjustment to the direction for your life. Begin immediately and plan for the following six months, 12 months, and even two years. What do you want to be? Make a note of it and monitor it to see how you progress. Let your goals for life inspire others too.*

*You know Philippians 4 v. 13. "I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens** me." The word **strengthens** in Greek means: "Christ who continues to infuse inner strength into me". (Amplified Bible)*

*Dr Myles Munroe says: "the people who change the world are people who take the word impossible out of their dictionaries. Whenever God gives you a responsibility, he also gives you the ability to meet that responsibility."*

### **Stay connected to your origin**

POTENTIAL IS CONNECTED TO ORIGIN. (Gen.1:26-28)

**Plants lose their life if they are taken out of the ground. Fish lose their life if they are taken out of water. PEOPLE LOSE TRUE LIFE IF THEY ARE NOT CONNECTED TO GOD.**

**Your relationship with God is not optional, but essential for life.**

We are people because we have received God's Spirit. (Genesis 2 v. 7)

**A person is a spirit, has a soul (this consists of, amongst other things his thoughts) and lives in a body.** Therefore 2 Corinthians 4 v. 16 is so amazing. This is also one of the reasons why handicapped people can succeed in life.

**"Therefore we do not lose heart (give up hope) Even though our outward man (our bodies) is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16)**

### **You must work out your own potential**

**Philippians 2 : 12 – 13** "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (YES, GOD WANTS TO ENJOY YOU)

### **Work gives birth to your potential**

**Stop dreaming and do what is in your heart.**

**Eccl. 9 v. 10** “everything that your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

*If you want to see your potential born (and grow) there is one thing you must do and that is to “work out that which God has worked in you. “*

*The first thing that God said to Adam after He made him was: “Work “  
(Genesis 2 v. 15)*

*Work is not a curse or a sin. Genesis 3 v. 19 must not be incorrectly understood.*

Fantasies are dreams without work. It is a vision without a mission. Solomon said: “he that works his own land will prosper, but he that chases fantasies will grow poor “

Success has got nothing to do with your environment, but with that which is within you.

### **Think correctly**

**Everyone has a philosophy.** “philo” means “to love”. “sophy” means “thoughts”. In other words, to love your own thoughts.

Greek philosophers still rule the world because what they thought has been written in books. Someone said: Books are “frozen thoughts”

### **We are the sum total of what we have thought of until now.**

**Proverbs 23 v. 7** “For as he (man) thinks in his heart, so is he”

**Therefore we must constantly fill our hearts with everything that is good.**

**Colossians 3 v. 2** “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

In **Philippians 4 v. 8** the Apostle Paul wrote that we must think on things that are just, pure, lovely and praiseworthy.

**Solomon says in Proverbs 4 v. 23:”Above all else, guard your heart, (affections) for it is the wellspring of life.”**

**The Good News Bible:** “Be careful how you think, because your life is shaped by your thoughts”

# **Discover YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST**

**2 Cor.5:17-21** is one part in the Bible that tells us what our position is in Christ.

In verse 17 Paul writes these words: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Strong's (2537) explains this word "**new**" and says the Greek word used is "kairos" Meaning: "unused, fresh, novel" It also means that its new in regard to form or quality, rather than new in reference to time. **Praise the Lord, we are new creatures !**

Christians are always told what they should be like.

Many Christians don't know their position in Christ.

**In The Living Bible 2 Cor.5:17 reads as follows:** "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun." In Greek "new creation" means "a new human race that did not exist before"

That is why you are unique. There was no one like you before and there will never be one like you again.

Did you know that the words "IN CHRIST" and "IN HIM" we find 134 times in the Bible?

## ***WE MUST WORK "OUT" WHAT GOD WORKED "IN" OUR LIVES***

**Phil.2:12,13** "Work **out** your own salvation (work on the salvation God has started in your life) with fear and trembling. For it is God who works **in** you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

## **ONE OF THE BEST STUDIES IN THE BIBLE TO DISCOVER YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST IS THE FIRST CHAPTER OF EPHESIANS.**

**Ephesians is a wonderful book. We can divide it into three parts:**

- Chapter 1: My POSITION in Christ
- Chapters 2 to 6:9: My WALK in Christ
- Chapter 6:10-24: My WEAPONS in Christ

**Eph. 1:3** ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ."***

- Salvation is a blessing
- Healing is a blessing
- The Holy Spirit is a blessing
- Financial prosperity is a blessing

## THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM IN DEUT. 28:1-14

You will see that material blessings are included. Through Christ the blessing of Abraham became mine ! Gal.3:13,14

Jesus said in Matt.6:33 "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all **these things** shall be added to you."

**WHAT THINGS?** Matt.6:31,32 talks about what we **eat, drink, and wear**.

**Eph. 1:4** *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."*

**In 1 Pet.2:9 Peter wrote:** *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."*

**AMPLIFIED BIBLE SAYS:** *" He actually picked us out for Himself as His own."*

**Eph. 1:7** *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*

THANK GOD, WE ARE FORGIVEN THROUGH THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS!

**1 John. 1:7,9** *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

**Eph. 1:11** *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance"*

**THANK GOD WE ARE HEIRS IN CHRIST.**

What does it mean to inherit? It is when we receive from a will things we never worked for. We become an heir when the person that made a will dies and our name is found written in it as a beneficiary. (one who is left a legacy under someone's will)

JESUS LEFT US HIS TESTAMENT AND IT CAME IN FORCE THE MOMENT HE DIED. (Heb.9:17)

JESUS AROSE AND BECAME ALSO THE EXECUTOR OF HIS OWN TESTAMENT.

**Eph. 1:13,14** *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*

WE ARE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS GIVES US PROTECTION AND AUTHORITY.

**AMPLIFIED BIBLE (Eph. 1:14)** “The Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance – The first fruit, the pledge and foretaste. The down payment on our heritage.”

STAND IN THE POSITION GOD HAS PUT YOU.

*“For greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4*

### **STUDY EPHESIANS 1:20-23**

- *Jesus is the Head of the Body (His Church)*
- *We are His body*
- *Everything that has “a name” is under our feet!*

# **Discover YOUR MINISTRY**

**All over the world God is restoring MINISTRIES in His church.**  
**God wants to use every member.**

## **I BELIEVE THAT EVERY SAVED CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO A MINISTRY**

### **(1) MINISTRY BRINGS FULFILLMENT IN OUR LIVES**

**Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:5**

*“Do the work of an Evangelist, fulfil your ministry”*

THE CHURCH IS FULL OF UNFULFILLED CHRISTIANS  
 IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE WE FIND INFULFILLED PEOPLE  
**A Bank manager that wanted to be a farmer !**  
**A Teacher that wanted to be a motor mechanic !**

### **(2) THE MAIN REASON FOR MINISTRIES**

- ❑ IS NOT TO GIVE YOU A “TITLE”
- ❑ TO SERVE OTHERS!

**1 Pet.4:10** *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another”*  
**THERE ARE TOO MANY “MAKE ME” CHRISTIANS! (like a swing)**

### **(3) YOU DO NOT HAVE SUCCESS IN YOUR MINISTRY BECAUSE:**

- (a) You lost your anointing (Ex.40:15 *“You shall anoint them, that they may minister to me as Priests. For their anointing shall surely be an everlasting Priesthood.”*)  
 (Even Jesus needed it: Luke 4:18 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me Because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel.”*)
- (b) It may be that God wants you to move on to a NEW MINISTRY
- (c) We have become too “Specialised” in Ministry  
 The needy we send to the Welfare Committee  
 The Sick we refer to those with “The Healing Ministry”  
 The seeking soul and broken one we refer to the trained Counsellor.

**In 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6** Paul talks of “**gifts**” “**ministries**” and “**activities**”

- If I should ask you what “**gift**” God has given you, you may answer me “**the gift of healing**”
- And if I should ask you what “**ministry**” you fulfil in the church, you may answer me “**I love to pray for the sick**”
- Therefore the gift God has given you will be a ministry and your ministry will be a gift to the church.

**1 Corinthians 12:18** *“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body (the church) just as He pleased.”*

- God decided on my function the day I was added to His church.
- I have to discover my place in the body of Christ and once I've found it, this will give me fulfilment.

### **What does the Bible say about “the body of Christ”?**

The “Body of Christ is not a church denomination or a church building, but it’s all those washed in the blood of the Lamb! **1 Cor. 12:27 Eph. 1:22,23**

### **How do we become part of the body of Christ?**

**1 Corinthians 12: 13** “for by one Spirit are we baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and all have been made to drink into one Spirit.”

When you are reborn, you become part of the body of Christ and associate yourself with Christ and believers. It is obvious that one cannot “join” the true church of God.

### **The members in the body need one another.**

**1 Corinthians 12: 12 and 26.** Which part of your own body can you say that you don't need? (You need even your little toes) You lose your balance without them! This was the strength of the first church. We read about it in **Acts 4: 32.**

**No member is unimportant.** If one in the congregation suffers, then everyone must suffer, because Galatians 6:2 says; “bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”. But listen to this: And if one is glad, we all must be glad!

**We must see who is:** Lonely, grieved, burdened with sin, ill, in temporary need. And then do something about it.

### **Christ wants to introduce a healthy body, His church to the Father.**

**Ephesians 5: 27** “that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”.

### **Communication in the church is very important**

*The body of Christ sometimes experiences pain due to the lack of communication. Do you know that a wound in the body only seals because the red and white blood cells fight together against any virus that attacks the body.*

### **THANK GOD FOR THE “FIVE-FOLD” MINISTRY GOD GAVE Eph. 4:11**

**Eph. 4:11** “And He Himself gave (always remember that it is God that gives) some to be apostles, some prophets, some teachers, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers.”

### **Use your five fingers to understand the “Five-fold” Ministry.**

**APOSTLE** Is as your thumb that can touch all fingers and hold them together

**PROPHET** Your pointing finger that can point to the past and future

**EVANGELIST** As your longest finger that reaches out to the lost (Acts 1:8)

**PASTOR** As the ring finger (He is married to the flock – he cares for)

**TEACHER** As your little finger (Brings balance by sound teaching)

Whatever Ministry God gave you must help others to find theirs and you must equip them to be more effective for God.

## **ACCORDING TO EPH. 4:12 GOD GAVE MINISTRIES TO “EQUIP” HIS PEOPLE FOR THEIR WORK IN THE CHURCH.**

**The Living Bible says:** "why is it that He gives us the special abilities to do certain things best? It is so that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity."

- **WHAT SHOULD MY MINISTRY DO FOR ME?**  
**Verses 13-15 answers this question**
- **WHAT SHOULD MINISTRIES DO FOR THE CHURCH?**  
**Verse 16 says that ministries will give “growth” “unity” and “love”**

**Let's read it:** *“...the whole body (the church) is joined together by what every joint (member) supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share (fulfilling their ministry) causes **growth** of the body (the church) for the **edifying** (unity) of itself in **love**.”*

### **Other translations on this Scripture:**

**The Living Bible:** *"under His direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way, helps the other parts so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love".*

**The Amplified Bible:** *"for because of Him the whole body "(the church in all its various parts closely) joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with each part (with power adapted to its need) is working properly (in all its functions) grow to full maturity, building itself up in love".*

## **LET US DISCUSS THE DIFFERENT MINISTRIES**

### **1. Apostles:**

Dake's Bible translation says that an apostle is: "a delegate, one sent out with the full power of attorney".

**2 Corinthians 12: 12:** "truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."

Paul proved he could persist even though they would stone him in Lystra (**Acts 14**) Read of his persistence in **2 Cor. 11: 24 to 28**.

Signs, wonders and powerful deeds are plentiful in Paul's life -- think of What happened in **Acts 19: 11 to 12**. That is why Paul qualified as an apostle.

### **2. Prophets:**

You prophesy when you speak a word given by God. I believe that God wants us to speak life into the dry bones in the church Just as Ezekiel did in Ezek.37

The Greek word for "prophecy" means "prediction of the future" but also "a gift from God to bring forth the hidden truths" -- Baxter analytical Greek lexicon.

In **Acts 11: 28** we find an example of what the prophet is:

"And then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a famine throughout all the world which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar". Also read Acts 21: 8-13)

- a We must do our best to prophesy. 1 Corinthians 14: 1, 31:39
- b The unbeliever will be convicted. 1 Corinthians 14: 24, 25
- c The congregation will be **edified, exhorted** (encouraged) and **comforted**. 1 Corinthians 14: 3
- d How does prophecy work in the congregation? 1 Corinthians. 14: 29

### **How do you think you can Prophecy?**

#### **3. Evangelist:**

Thank God for the full-time Evangelist. But anyone that declares the Gospel of Christ through witnessing and preaching is busy fulfilling the ministry of an Evangelist. ***You see, it is a ministry and not a title!***

The altar worker and follow-up worker are also doing this ministry. We should teach our members how to be effective in these ministries.

I pray that God will call you to win the lost to Him because the harvest field is more than ripe! **Revelation 14: 14, 15.**

#### **4. Shepherds:**

The pastor's work to tend to the flock as a shepherd is very important, but this is not only the work of the pastor, but also that of the elders and cell leaders. I believe that an elder and cell leader should be able to teach God's word and to pray for the needs of the people.

Peter writes in **1 Peter 5: 1 to 3**: "the elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and witness of the sufferings of Christ and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."

Paul says to the elders in Ephesus (**Acts 20: 28**):

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood."

If God has called you as a shepherd to tend to His flock you should prepare yourself to be used of God! The need in God's flock is very big. God needs shepherds. We can't just plant seed; we should also take care of the "plants" (new souls in Christ) and give them water. **(1 Cor. 3: 7)**

## 5. Teachers:

The church desperately needs this ministry.

According to **Matthew 28: 19** we make disciples, and baptize them, but we should also teach them.

Cell leaders, Elders and Sunday school teachers, should be able to teach the Word.

We should teach our people to observe what Christ told us to do. If God has called you into this ministry, you should really **equip yourself** as a teacher of God's word.

Joyce Meyer once said to Reinhardt Bonkke: "You catch them and I will clean them" It is wonderful to see new souls being saved, but we should teach them God's ways!

## 6. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (as 'n Ministry)

In **1 Cor.12: 28-30** Paul talks about power, the inspiration to preach, those who do miracles, the gift of healing and those who speak in languages they have never learnt. These are all gifts of the Holy Spirit and it is clear that they are given to serve the body of Christ.

**2 Timothy 1: 6,7** says we must "stir up" these gifts in our lives and be of service in the congregation. Do this so that you can be used by God.

**1 Cor. 14:26 to 39** tells us how some of these gifts can work in our church services.

## 7. Helpers/Helps:

***The following are classified under the ministry of helpers:***

- The music ministry (to help us worship God)
- Altar workers (to lead sinners to Christ in our services)
- The follow-up workers (visiting the new converts at home)
- Hospital work (praying for the sick).

## 8. Governments (Administration)

Anyone in the church who has an administrative work to do is a gift of God to His church.

**Church office, such as:** Secretary; treasurer; sound and computer; tapes; videos; book room; to greet the people; to be an usher; cleaning the church; any maintenance work; transport of members etc.

The LIVING BIBLE sums it up and makes it very clear in **Romans 12: 6 to 8**:

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to **prophecy**, then prophecy whenever you can -- as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of **serving others**, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, do a good job of teaching. If you are a **preacher** see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. **If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it.** If God has given you **administrative ability** and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. **Those who offer comfort** to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer."

**Now you must answer the following question:**

**What is my function or ministry in the body of Christ?**

Every church should have a Ministry questionnaire, where every member can have the choice to decide where in the church they want to be involved.

After they completed this form they must be used as soon as possible.

**Some may need training first.**

## **Discover YOUR GIFTS**

**There are many gifts, but only 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Cor.12:1-11**

There is so much ignorance these days about God's gifts. That's why Paul wrote these words in **1 Cor. 12:1** "now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant"

**If there was ever a time that the Church needed God's Holy Spirit, it is today. We must desire for the Spirit to come on us just as He came as a dove on Jesus when He was baptised in the Jordan River.**

**It is striking to notice that the Holy Spirit is compared to a dove.**

We read in Luke 3 v. 22: "and the Holy Spirit descended on Him (Jesus) in bodily form like a dove."

**Why is the Holy Spirit compared to a dove?**

1. **A dove is very sensitive.** Therefore we can grieve the Holy Spirit -- Ephesians 4 v. 30. The Amplified Bible expresses it as follows "and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, do not offend, or vex (tease) or sadden Him" Ephesians 4 v. 25 to 29 tells us what grieves the Spirit.
2. **A dove has a fixed direction.** Think of carrier pigeons and how they find their way back home. The Holy Spirit will always give you direction! Believe that for those in your family who have lost their spiritual direction.
3. **A dove has no gall bladder!** There is thus no bitterness in God! The Greek word for bitterness, namely "pikros" **means to cut or to stab.** If someone tends to cut and stab others with their mouth there is definitely bitterness in their hearts.
4. **A dove has perfect balance in its wings.** And did you know that the dove has equal numbers of flight feathers in each wing.  
The Holy Spirit therefore brings a perfect balance between gifts and fruits in the Church.

**Think also of the High Priest's clothing that he wore. We read of it in Exodus 28:31 to 35**

At the bottom of the cloak there were bells and pomegranates alternating with one another. The bells that made a noise represent the gifts and the pomegranates represent fruits. If you seek the **gifts**, you must surely also seek the **fruit**.

The noise that the bells made while the priest moved continuously was an indication that he was alive. Congregations where the gifts are not "audible" may be suffering from spiritual death.

Let us decide to choose life by stirring up the gifts that are in us.

**1 Timothy 4 v. 14 and 2 Timothy 1v. 6**

**You “stir up” your gift by doing the following:**

- Pray about your gift
- Increase your knowledge about your gift.
- Make yourself available for God to use you in your gift

**WRITE the gifts (1 COR. 12) opposite the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) and then you will see that there is a perfect balance between GIFTS AND FRUIT**

#### **THE GIFTS**

The word of wisdom

A word of knowledge

Faith

Healing

Working of miracles

Prophecy

Discernment of spirits

Tongues.

Interpretation of tongues

#### **THE FRUIT**

Love (Speak in love)

Joy (Knowledge from God brings joy)

Peace (Real faith in God will bring peace)

Patience (Pray for the sick with patience)

Kindness (Work gentle with people)

Goodness (edify, exhort and comfort)

Faithfulness

Gentleness. (Don't shout it out)

Self-control (1 Cor. 14:32 “and the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets”)

#### **WHY DID GOD GIVE GIFTS TO HIS CHURCH?**

***Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others.***

**1 PET.4:10** “AS EVERY MAN HATH RECEIVED THE GIFT, EVEN SO MINISTER THE SAME ONE TO ANOTHER”

**The Living Bible: (1Pet. 4:10)**

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other”

## **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

### **1. A Word of Wisdom**

This is not natural wisdom because there are even unbelievers who do not have the Holy Spirit but are gifted with natural wisdom. The gift of a **Word of Wisdom** is something that can only be given by the Holy Spirit to a person. Whilst natural wisdom has facts to its disposal the gift of the word of wisdom relies on a direct revelation from God.

How often has the gift of a Word of Wisdom helped a child of God when he had no answer to a difficult question!

***Is there some way in which we can test godly wisdom? Definitely, namely with James 3:17*** "but the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Always test a word that anybody gives you "in the name of the Lord" with this scripture.

Examples where this gift has worked are found in **1 Kings 3:16-28** and **Acts 27:21-25**.

### **2. A Word of Knowledge**

It is a gift of a **Word of Knowledge** and as in the first gift it only works when it is spoken.

In other words if it has been received but the one who received it does not make it known, this gift has not functioned as it should.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING! Therefore He can reveal to His children what is hidden.

***NOTE: Often a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom work together.***

For example by the Word of Knowledge John could know the situation and the condition of the seven churches of Asia and by the Word of Wisdom he could give them counsel. (See Revelation 2 and 3)

**The purpose for a Word of Knowledge:**

- It warns the child of God against his enemies. 2 Kings 6 v. 8 to 12
- It helps a child of God to know precisely what God wants from him.  
In Acts 9 v. 11 and 12 God reveals to his child Ananias something that he didn't know, namely the place where Paul was and even what he was doing.

- A word of knowledge helps in prevailing prayer. Often a word of knowledge has saved God's children from certain defeat because others have prayed for them after God revealed things to them through this gift.

**I want to mention my personal experience of this on a Thursday morning years ago.**

I was busy praying and at about 11 o'clock a vision appeared where I saw two men (one was a friend of mine by the name of Chris) in a boat in the sea in great danger! For half an hour I prayed desperately for them until God's peace came over me. That afternoon Chris told me personally how they were in danger (at about 11 o'clock) and how their engine wouldn't work.

Waves were already breaking over them when suddenly like an invisible hand someone pushed their boat into the river mouth and they reached the bank safely!

What would have happened if I had been disobedient to this revelation from God? I thank God for this miracle.

**A word of knowledge reveals things in people's lives.**

- i) Through this gift Nathan the prophet helped David to confess his sins before God.

I saw the value of this gift when the Lord showed me the sins of a worship leader while he was leading the worship. When I spoke to him personally, he was initially annoyed but later in brokenness confessed his sin and was fully restored in his spiritual life. Thank God for the Word of Knowledge.

- ii) This gift is also in the church to keep it pure! Read of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-10 Look what happened to them !

**A Word of Knowledge is also used by God to show His children what awaits them. (Acts 21:10-11)**

### **3. The Gift of Faith**

We all have faith. (Romans 12 v. 3) It is impossible to please God without faith. (Hebrews 11 v. 6)

But normal faith is different from a Gift of Faith!

Examples of the gift of faith are:

Elijah prayed that it would not rain for three and a half years!

Paul was bitten by an adder on the island of Malta. By the gift of faith he shook the snake off into the fire. (Acts 28 v. 5; Mark 16 v. 18)

Jesus cursed the fig tree and then turned around and walked away. The following day His disciples saw that it had withered. (Mk 11:12-24)

#### 4. Gifts of Healing:

##### 1 Corinthians 12 v. 9

As Paul encouraged Timothy, I also want to encourage you with 1 Timothy 4 v. 14 and 15: "do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them so that everyone may see your progress."

##### **Why do we put emphasis on the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit?**

We do it because God gave these gifts to the Church so that we can serve each other with them. Ministry should not only come from the pulpit.

The Bible speaks of "GIFTS" (plural) OF HEALING. Possibly there is one gift for every type and kind of sickness

REMEMBER: Jesus wants his Church to do works even greater than those He did! (John 14 v. 12)

##### **The purpose of this gift:**

- Firstly to glorify God (Acts 3 v. 1 to 9)
- To destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10 v. 38; Luke 13 v. 10 to 17)
- To confirm the Gospel (Mark 16 v. 20; Acts 8 v. 5 to 7)
- To draw people to the Gospel

Through the ages God has used the gift of healing to convict people and to save them. May this gift be revived in the church so that Jesus can be exalted as the Great Physician.

##### **This is why He came to this world (Isaiah 53:5)**

Signs and wonders will make the church overflow again! Gladly this gift is available to all children of God. (John 14 v. 12; Mark 16 v. 18)

#### 5. Working of Miracles

- Natural laws are changed when this Gift works (2 Kings 6:1 to 7)
- Demons are driven out by this Gift (Matt 17:20 Acts 16:16-18)
- By this Gift Jesus changed water into wine. He multiplied the fish and bread for the crowd. God wants to do even greater miracles through us
- By this Gift Ananias and Sapphira died because they lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5 v. 1 to 10)
- The dead are raised by the working of miracles  
Tabitha(Dorcas) Acts 9:30-42; Eutychus Acts 20:7-12

Mel Tari writes in his book "Like a Mighty Wind" of the revival in Indonesia that they walked around a dead person singing and praying. This man was dead for three days. After singing their eighth chorus, the man stood up alive and well! This took place by the working of miracles! Through this miracle 21,000 people came to repentance in this town.

- Read also in Acts 13 v. 6 to 12. By the gift of miracles Paul commanded that Elymas become blind because he opposed the work of God.

## 6. Prophecy

We find in 1 Corinthians 14 v. 29 to 32 how the gift of prophecy should work in the local church. Many people have asked: what is this gift?

***Some say that it is preaching. No, it is not normal preaching, although a preacher can sometimes prophesy while he is busy preaching! Others confuse this gift with the gift of a word of knowledge.***

An example in the Bible: Acts 11 v. 28: "and one of them (prophets.. See v. 27) by the name of Agabus stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

You will therefore notice that the gift of prophecy is mainly there to reveal future things.

### **The Greek word for "prophecy" is:**

Prediction of future events (Baxter analytical Greek lexicon). He describes it also as a gift of God to reveal hidden truth!

### **Paul shows us the following:**

- a. That we must desire to prophesy. 1 Corinthians 14: 31 and 39.
- b. Unbelievers will be convicted by this. 1 Corinthians 14: 24 and 25
- c. Through prophecy the congregation is strengthened encouraged and comforted. 1 Corinthians 14 v. 3;  
A prophetic word is there to build and not to cut into pieces.

### **1 Corinthians 14 v. 29. Prophecy can be judged.**

Thus prophecy may never take the place of God's word.

Because even prophecy will one day pass away, but God's Word will never pass away. (1 Cor. 13 v. 8; 1 Peter 1 v. 25.)

**We must always be sure that it is God that speaks, so that we Do not get to the point where Israel was in Ezekiel 13: 1 to 9.**

**Question:** Do you want to see your congregation experience revival? Then you must speak as Ezekiel did over the dry bones! (Ezekiel 37)

## 7. Discernment of spirits

Note: It is not discerning people but spirits. It is not reading people's minds. It is not about people, but about spirits. And we do not need a supernatural gift to see people's faults.

We realise that we deal with spirits in the air.

Ephesians 6 v. 12 "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

- Fear can be a spirit! (2 Timothy 1 v. 7)
- Lies are a spirit! (1 Kings 22 v. 19 to 23; 2 Thessalonians 2: 9 to 12)
- Uncleanliness is a spirit! (Luke 4 v. 33 to 35; Acts 5 v. 16; Mark 5 v. 2; Luke 9 v. 42).
- Sickness can also be a spirit! (Luke 13 v. 11 to 16)  
The most sickness is not a "spirit"
- Deafness and dumbness can also be a spirit. (Luke 11:14; Mark 9:25)
- Rebellion is a spirit. (1 Samuel 15 v. 23)

This gift discerns the spirits, and by the gift of miracles the evil spirits are cast out. We find an example in Acts 16 v. 16 to 18.  
Here both gifts worked.

## 8. Different kinds of tongues

There is a difference between speaking in tongues as a sign that I'm baptised with the Holy Spirit and the gift of different kinds of tongues.

***But why tongues... What value do strange tongues have?***

1 Corinthians 14 v. 2: "for anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit" Therefore it is so wonderful to pray in a strange tongue.

Even the devil does not understand what you pray

1 Corinthians 14 v. 4: "he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself"

1 Corinthians 14 v. 14 "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful" As your mind has the ability to express itself in understandable words the spirit has the ability to express himself in unknown tongues when I pray in a strange tongue

When we say that our minds are unfruitful we mean that we are aware of ourselves but that the tongue is not produced by the mind.

There is actually another reason why God's Spirit gives tongues and we find this in **1 Cor.14:22**. It is not necessarily the case that the person who speaks in tongues must interpret it. Do not translate **1 Cor. 14:13** like that. Because according to v. 28 of the same chapter there can also be another interpreter. If there is no interpreter then he that speaks in tongues to the congregation must be quiet and speak to God (v. 28)

## 9. Interpretation of tongues

This is not the natural ability to understand unknown languages and to explain them, but in a supernatural way the Holy Spirit gives the interpretation of a strange tongue that is spoken. This interpretation can be revealed IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SOMEONE IN THE CONGREGATION FOR EXAMPLE:

- a. **By a vision:** While someone is speaking in tongues the person himself or someone else can receive a revelation by means of a vision of the interpretation of the tongue.
- b. **By the revelation of the thoughts** expressed in the strange tongue, and then conveying them in understandable words.
- c. **Sometimes someone, moved by the Spirit, can have an urge to speak** to the congregation in understandable words while the other person is speaking in tongues. Therefore he doesn't see a vision and thoughts are not revealed to him.

**NOTE:** The interpretation doesn't have to be exactly as long as the tongue. It is not a word-by-word translation! It is an interpretation!

### Can interpretation be in the form of a prayer to God?

We can answer by saying that it is possible, but if God wants to speak to the congregation it will not be in the form of a prayer -- because prayer is always directed towards God

### AND NOW:

**These 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to the church of Jesus Christ to glorify His Name. Would it not be wonderful if these gifts were present in every congregation?**

LET US PRAY THEREFORE, SO THAT THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE A MINISTRY TO HIS CHURCH.

### **DID YOU KNOW: GOD WANTS TO USE YOU!**

**1 Timothy 4 v. 14 “Do not neglect the gift that is in you ...”**

I believe that God's gifts are stirred up by the laying on of hands may you experience this

This is what Paul wrote to Timothy, the young pastor.

**2 Timothy 1 v. 6 and 7 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.”**