

*A Rustling  
in the  
Mulberry Trees*

**This Manual has been compiled with shorthand notes from each publicly taught session of the SHILOH International Training School, April 2025.**

**These notes can help as an aid with the DVD, USB, You Tube or Spreaker sessions or they can be used as a guide to study the topics and verses mentioned.**

**This manual is also invaluable as a teaching aid for you to teach directly from the Scriptures, with the help of these notes. All the sessions from the school are available on You Tube and Spreaker and can be accessed from RMA website.**

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- Making disciples, Matt. 28:18-20,
- Training & equipping workers for the harvest, Matt.9:37–10:40, Lu.10:1-20
- Bringing the church to maturity by fathering sons, Gal.4:10 & 1Cor.4:14-17

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# **A RUSTLING IN THE MULBERRY TREES**

## **Our text - 2 Samuel 5:24**

- David is going to take the land of the Philistines

## **Inquire of YAHWEH**

### **Going back to 2 Samuel 5:19 - David "*inquired of YAHWEH*"**

- YAHWEH gave instructions to David that He would give the Philistines into David's hand.
- It is very important to '*inquire of Yahweh*' and wait for His instructions

### **2 Samuel 5:20** – This was a place of 'break-through'; Literally - Master of breakthroughs

- "***Yahweh has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water***" - Yahweh is the 'Lord of the Breakthrough' – "**Baal Perazim**"
- It is good for us to have memorials where we have had victory
- David honoured God by naming the place after the revelation of God he received there – "Lord of the Breakthrough"

### **2 Samuel 5:23** – Again David "*inquired of YAHWEH*". This time the battle instructions were different; we need to seek God for every situation and get His counsel.

- "***Come upon them in front of the mulberry trees***"
- They were to go in front of the mulberry trees, then wait to hear the sound of marching in the top of the mulberry trees

## **Obey His instructions**

### **2 Samuel 5:24** – "***When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly***"

- Be ready to 'advance quickly' in obedience to YAHWEH
- YAHWEH will '**strike the enemy**' – **the Victory is assured!**

## **PREPARATION FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD TO MANIFEST IN OUR MIDST**

- All of **Chapter five** of 2 Samuel is in preparation for the Ark to be brought to Jerusalem (**Chapter 6**).
- The purpose of David taking on the Philistines was for the ark of the Covenant to be restored to Jerusalem – **it is time to bring up the ark of the Covenant**
- We are in **a time of preparation for the Presence of God to manifest** in the midst

- ❖ This school [April 2025] is in the context of what God is doing in these days. The school in September 2024 saw God bring a release 'a rustling in the tops of the mulberry trees', now in April 2025 we see more clearly.

### **We are in a time of change:**

- change of orientation.
- Enlargement of vision, **Isaiah 54:2-4** – 'enlarge; stretch out; lengthen; strengthen; expand' – all words that speak of enlargement.

### **Isaiah 54:4** – Paul Galligan's word of salvation was "***you will forget the shame of your youth***"

- Do not carry around old sins, you will forget the shame of your youth
- We are coming into a time of maturity, growing out of the sins of our past

### **WE SEE GROWTH IN MANY AREAS** – in **Australia & Internationally**

- Encouraging reports coming out of South Africa; Malawi, even Myanmar [despite civil war and a recent serious earthquake]
- the development of purposeful follow-up in Uganda to establish and strengthen centres throughout the nation
- We are seeing Africans ministering to Africans, Africans reaching Africans
- We have been sending African apostles and a prophet to southern nations in Africa
- The international work is beginning to happen in a new way

### **THE 'RUSTLING' IS HAPPENING**

- Since the Ugandan Camp in late December/January [2024/'25], with the Jackson family attending, and spending four weeks in Uganda and Kenya, **there has been a COALESCENCE** – the joining or merging of elements to form one mass or whole.
- There is a rustling in the mulberry trees.
- We are part of an emerging international company, working together.

### **God is giving us strategies**

- In the Ugandan camp, Paul shared a message on Zoom, from **Acts 19:1-20**, the experience of apostle Paul strategically reaching a whole province.
- **The Lord is speaking to us about strategy;** how can we reach a whole province? It is by believing the strategy revealed in the Word of God
- We are **working more in partnership with the African leaders**
- There is a rustling in the trees, a change in the atmosphere
- There is a release of the charismatic; of God speaking; of on the spot encounters!

### **FOUNDATIONS NEED TO BE LAID**

- In the outworking of the rustling of the trees, we need to have right foundations
- **Hebrews 5:12-14** sets the scene of baby Christians who should have become mature – they should have been able to teach the word but still need milk.

- The foundations (**Hebrews 6:1-2**) are the **fundamental principles of the oracles of God**.
- When foundations are properly laid then the disciple can access the very word of God. There are still many who are not founded in the elementary principles of Christ of **Hebrews 6:1-2**.

### The 'Oracle' of God

- The 'Oracle' in the Old Testament refers to the Holy of Holies, signifying that word which comes to us from the Holy of Holies.
- God said, **"I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two Cherubim", Exodus 25:22.**
- This is the place where God meets with us and speaks with us
- God wants to speak His Word to us.
- The **"oracles of God"** are the Scriptures, and we will only grow in maturity in the Word if the foundations are properly laid.
- It is a faith journey, to hear the pure voice/word of God

### THE FOUNDATIONS ARE BUILDING BLOCKS

- These basic principles are the doorway to knowing God in the Spirit (**John 4:24**).
- **Revelation 4**, a door was opened in heaven and a voice said, **'Come up here'**. This is awesome: when the foundations are properly laid, then we can go on to perfection.
- The foundations are not an end in themselves. The **foundations are given and laid in our lives so that we can go on to perfection/maturity.**
- World-wide we see that the 'church' has not gone on to perfection and the obvious reason why, is that their foundations are not firmly in place (**Heb.5:12-14**).
- The **foundations are building blocks to take us somewhere** – to experience and walk in the glory of God and to hear the pure Word of God
- We are to grow to maturity; not just looking for experiences but learning to walk in the greater measure of God's glory

### BEING BUILT UP INTO GOD

- Let us go on to perfection!
- **the place of the glory**, the **mysteries**, the place of **worship in the Spirit**
- each foundation builds on the one laid to lift us up, until we all come to the place of maturity (**1 Corinthians 2:7**)
- Each foundation laid brings us closer to God; to the revelation of God
- Each experience brings a deeper revelation of the glory

### WE ARE ON A JOURNEY

- We need to understand the journey of the feasts so that we can go on to maturity/perfection
- We are journeying from **Passover** to **Pentecost** to **Tabernacles**

- If we stay at **Passover**, we will never go on to perfection
- Passover = **Repentance, faith and baptisms**
- We need to get to **Pentecost**, this is part of the journey
- Pentecost = **the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit**,
- We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- This is to get us ready to go on further, learning to **live in the power of the resurrection of the dead**
- Then we need to come to the **Feast of Tabernacles**
- Firstly, we hear the trumpet call, [the day of trumpets] calling us up higher – **the resurrection of the dead**
- Then to the Day of Atonement – the final dealing of all sin, **eternal judgement**

### **Do not 'camp' at the earlier feasts**

- The evangelical church stopped at Passover
- The Pentecostal church stopped at Pentecost
- **BUT** we are to come to the Feast of Tabernacles (dwellings)

### **OUR DESTINY IS TO DWELL WITH GOD**

- Our destiny is to live with God and God in us, tabernacled in and with us
- There are many traps on the way to coming to Tabernacles
- This is the pathway to maturity

### **Psalms 84 – a picture of dwelling in God's house**

- The Psalmist had a vision of the Tabernacle, he was not a stranger to the Sanctuary, the altars of God
- **v.3** – God has a **place for each one of us**, there is plenty of room
- **v.4** – in the house of Yahweh there is **continuous praise**; we are to live in the house, and be blessed
- **v.5** – where is your strength? Do you know how to **draw on spiritual strength** within you? Act quickly on the flow of the Holy Spirit
- our **hearts are to be set on pilgrimage**
- **v.6** – the valley of tears (Baca) – the human condition, it is difficult, the valley of human suffering, which began when Adam and Eve disobeyed
- the **apostolic people are a people on pilgrimage**, look for the breakthrough and do not get caught in the same old things
- they go from **"strength to strength"** allowing God's word to give us the victory
- **v.7** - The result is **each one of us coming to appear before God in Zion**

## **HEED THE RUSTLING IN THE MULBERRY TREES**

- We need to recognise what God is doing
- Be those who are willing to **'inquire of YAHWEH'** and **act in obedience** to His word.
- Recognise the need to **have all the foundations** properly laid in our lives.
- **Growing up** into the Head, 'Christ', so that we can receive the very oracles of God.
- It is a time of **'sending out'** – **Matthew 9:35-38, 10:40**

**Luke 10:1-20**

**We need to hear the rustling in the mulberry trees**

**Learn to move quickly, do not wait till tomorrow**

# APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

## Acts 19:1-20 – Taking a Province for Jesus

Ministry life and gospel life can be full of rewards, challenges, wrestling, exposing of false doctrine and false practice, but also of seeing the power of God at work, resulting in growth & the spreading of the gospel.

### Who was Paul?

- Saul/Paul as a young man was holding the coats of the men who were stoning Stephen. He was a persecutor of Christians.
- He had a 'life-transforming' experience **in Acts 9**
- Now he is functioning as an apostle who wrote so much of the New Testament

### He obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit

**Acts 16:6** – the Holy Spirit forbade Paul to go to Asia

- At that time, they were to go to Macedonia
- We need to be led by the Holy Spirit and not just go where we want
- Later in **Acts 19**, we see that Paul is now in Asia, in Ephesus. It was God's will.

### SETTING FOUNDATIONS IN ORDER

#### First check foundations

**Acts 19:1** – now Paul is getting to go to Asia, to Ephesus, this is the right time

- There is a time/season in God, we need to know what season we are in
- Paul arrived in Ephesus and **found some disciples**
- What is a "disciple"? A learner, following a teacher, following the teaching, imitators of the teacher, adherents
- These disciples were not Christians; they had been discipled in John the Baptist's teachings

**v.2** – Paul asked, "***Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?***"

- Paul expected that they should have the Holy Spirit if they had believed
- they had **not heard of the Holy Spirit**

**v.3** – Paul asked them "***Into what then were you baptised?***"

- Paul expected that **if they were baptized into the Lord Jesus, they would have the Holy Spirit and be members of the Body**

**v.4** – Paul is laying the first two foundations of **Repentance & Faith**

- they needed to **repent** and **have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**
- Paul is fixing the foundations in their lives

## Re-baptism into the name of Jesus

**Acts 19:5** – Paul then **baptized** them in the name of the Lord Jesus

- Why did he not baptise them in "***the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit***" (**Matt.28:19**)?
- They had the revelation of the "*name*"
- Father, Son and Holy Spirit are revealed in the name and Person of Jesus
- **Baptism is into Christ**, into His death (**Romans 6:3**)
- becoming a member of His body, "***For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body***" **1 Cor.12:13a**
- Baptism means "immersion" – dying with Christ, buried with Christ, rising with Christ; any other water 'baptism' is not according to the word of God.
- What was happening was a **real baptism** now **based upon real faith** in Jesus the Messiah.
- sometimes there is a need to re-baptise people because their original baptism was religious, ceremonial, denominational and lacked faith and power

## Receive the Holy Spirit

**Acts 19:6** – Paul "***laid hands on them***" and they received the Holy Spirit, "***and they spoke with tongues and prophesied***" - (the revelation of Jesus Christ)

- Paul was **laying the foundations clearly** for these disciples of John the Baptist to become disciples of Jesus Christ
- the apostolic minister is bringing vital correction to these disciples,

Note that prayer and the laying on of hands are two separate things

- prayer is talking to God, dialogue with God
- **laying on of hands is to impart the power of God by the Spirit** – to receive the Holy Spirit, for healing, for commissioning, for blessing

→ These disciples now had the first four foundations laid – **Hebrews 6:1-2**

**Repentance, Faith, Baptism, laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit**

**v.7** – there were about '**12 men in all**' – these may have had wives and children

- Why twelve? To be an apostolic foundation (**Rev.21:14**). This was the foundational number for the church to be established in Ephesus.

## TEACHING THE WORD

**Acts 19:8** – Paul went to the Synagogue [the religious church of the day] meeting now with possibly 60 or 70 people as disciples with him.

- He spoke "***boldly for three months***" about the kingdom of God.
- Paul was **reasoning and persuading**, do not take a backward step, share the truth of the kingdom of God

**v.9** – Paul faced serious opposition from the 'religious' leaders!

- Be aware, being a good disciple can cause problems in the 'church' and bring division.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

**Acts 19:9** – when problems arose, and some were *"hardened and did not believe"*, Paul **withdrew the disciples** and opened a discipleship school.

- he did not leave them at the Synagogue
- Paul opened a teaching centre where he was *"reasoning daily"* with the disciples
- And was able to meet in the houses during the evenings [See **Acts 20:20**]

### **The result of discipleship**

**v.10** – this continued for two years; it was a daily reality in the school of Tyrannus

- The result of the discipleship was *"that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks"*.
- Jews were spread all over the Roman Empire and the Greeks were the Gentile people, who had been affected by the Greek culture established by the Greek Empire beforehand.

Paul remained in Ephesus, but all in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus

- not all believed but all heard
- those who believed and were baptised were saved – **Mark 16:16**
- How did they all hear the word? Disciples were going out from the School of Tyrannus, to take the word around the province.
- Going out and coming back for further training.

### **2 Timothy 2:2 in action!**

- Timothy could have been one of the disciples in the School of Tyrannus.
- We are to pass on that which we have received to faithful ones who will in turn be able to *"teach others also"*.

## **MINISTERING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **The power of the Holy Spirit was manifest**

**Acts 19:11-12** – tremendous power of the Holy Spirit was released,

- unusual miracles happened,
- even handkerchiefs and aprons taken from the body of Paul brought healing and deliverance from evil spirits. We must be led by the Holy Spirit.
- revival is attested to by 'unusual miracles', unusual works of power

### **False practice exposed**

**v.13-14** – there was a category of people called 'exorcists' who used demonic power to cast out demons.

- these exorcists saw what Paul did and tried to imitate Paul by using the name of *"Jesus whom Paul preaches"*
- they were not born again; they did not know Jesus and they did not know His power and authority

- we must know the power of the name of Jesus for ourselves, know the authority for ourselves

**Acts 19:15-16** – the demon said, "***Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?***" The man in whom the demon was "***prevailed against them.***"

- we cannot 'copy others'; we need to know Jesus and His authority for ourselves.
- this is why we need foundations to be laid before we go out

## **REVIVAL HAPPENS**

### **The name of Jesus is magnified**

**Acts 19:17** – what had happened became known by all the city

- they all heard about the power of the name of Jesus
- then **fear came upon everyone** and "***the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified***"
- **Luke 10:19** – the 70 came back rejoicing that "***even the demons are subject to us in Your name***"
- Jesus gave the 70 authority to "***trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will by any means hurt you***".

### **There was repentance from evil practice**

**Acts 19:19** – those who practiced magic came and burnt their books, charms and objects [all their occult items, fetishes etc.]

- This is revival happening!

### **The word of the Lord spread**

**Acts 19:20** – "***So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed***"

- This was the result of the apostolic ministry – the word of the Lord spread everywhere.

## **THE PATTERN OF THE SCHOOL OF TYRANNUS**

- **The apostle teaching daily**
- **Disciples going out into the regions**
- **Disciples coming back for reporting, further training and accountability**
- **Disciples going out again into the regions**
- **All the province/regions hear the word of the Lord!**

# **PHILIP THE EVANGELIST**

## **A Profile of Philip**

### **WHO WAS PHILIP?**

- Not speaking of Philip who was called by Jesus to be an apostle

### **We first meet Philip in Acts 6:5**

- **Acts 6:1-3** shows us that a problem had arisen in a practical area
- The concern was brought to the apostles, who said ***"It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables"***
- The apostles told the brethren to **choose seven men** among them to look after ***"this business"*** - looking after the daily distribution for widows.

### **The qualifications for these men were:**

- a) Good reputation = evidence of a changed life; transformed by Jesus
  - b) Full of the Holy Spirit = functioning in the reality and power of the Holy Spirit
  - c) Filled with wisdom = the gift of wisdom, exercising the wisdom of God
- Philip was one of the men appointed for this work, functioning as a deacon
  - This was an appointed position. He had **'hands laid on'** to be commissioned into this practical ministry to be a 'table waiter' [later called deacons]

## **THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP IN ACTS 8**

### **Persecution resulted in a 'scattering'**

- After Stephen [who was also one of the seven men appointed in **Acts 6**] was stoned (**Acts 7:59**), a great persecution came against the believers.

### **In Acts 8:1 *"A great persecution arose against the church ... they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria."***

- Philip was one of the disciples who was 'scattered' due to persecution

### **In Acts 1:8 Jesus had said they were to be His witnesses in 'Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth'**

- **The church had not done this**, so it took 'persecution' to get the disciples to obey Jesus!

### **They went out as trained disciples**

### **Acts 8:4 *"Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word"***

- The ones scattered were already trained disciples and knew what to preach.

### **Acts 8:5 – "Philip went down to the city of Samaria"**

- Samaria was a region and also a city
- Philip went there and **"preached Christ"**
- He was a good disciple and knew what to preach.

### **Miracles, healings and deliverance**

#### **Acts 8:6 – Multitudes "heeded the things spoken by Philip".**

- he was able to preach, heal the sick, deliver people from demons and do mighty signs and wonders
- the power of God was with him, and miracles were taking place.

#### **Acts 8:7 – Deliverance from evil spirits was taking place!**

- The paralysed and the lame were healed!
- There were awesome manifestations of God's power in the midst

#### **Acts 8:8 – the result of Philip's ministry was "great joy in that city"!**

- a whole city was rejoicing due to this awesome ministry
- it seems like Philip was on his own, but he was obedient, and God used him mightily
- it is good to go with two but even if you find yourself on your own, you can do awesome things

### **The Demonic strongman was overcome**

#### **Acts 8:9-11 – there was a demonic strongman that needed to be overcome**

- previously the city had been under the control of this strong man, and this power worked through a man called 'Simon the sorcerer'
- People called him **"the great power of God"**
- he had astonished the city with his sorceries for a long time
- the sorcerer's power was overcome by Philip preaching Christ powerfully
- this is important to see that it was **through his preaching** that the enemy was overcome

### **The people believed the Preaching of Philip**

#### **Acts 8:12 – What did Philip preach?**

##### **1. the things concerning the kingdom of God**

##### **2. the name of Jesus Christ – who He is and the authority of the name**

##### ➤ **The result of this was** both men and women were **convicted by the preaching**, and they were **baptized**

- Philip knew the **next step in laying foundations** was for believers to be baptised
- even the sorcerer was mesmerised by the 'signs and wonders' and he also 'believed and was baptised'; but we see later this was not a genuine repentance (**v.22-24**)

**Baptism is based on the foundation of true repentance and faith toward God.**

## **Word spread to Jerusalem of what was happening in Samaria**

**Acts 8:14** – the apostles in Jerusalem heard about what was happening in Samaria

- Peter and John were sent to Samaria
- **"Who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit" v.15.**
- It seems that Philip did not yet know how to impart the Holy Spirit to the believers, or he did not feel he had the authority

## **The believers had been baptised in the name of the 'Lord Jesus'**

**Acts 8:16** – Philip had not released the Holy Spirit, but he had baptised them **"in the name of the Lord Jesus"**

- Philip knew he was to baptise in the name of the **"Lord Jesus"**
- ❖ **NOTE:** Baptising in the name of the Lord Jesus was fulfilling the command of Jesus in **Matthew 28:19** to baptise **"in the name [singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"**. The 'name' is **Jesus!**

## **The Holy Spirit was imparted**

**Acts 8:17** – Peter and John **"laid hands on them"** to receive the Holy Spirit

- Notice that they **prayed (v.15)**, then **laid hands on** for the impartation (**v.17**)
- there is a difference between prayer and the laying on of hands
- Laying on of hands is for impartation.

## **Foundations had been laid in Samaria**

- ✓ Philip went out preaching, and people believed
- ✓ There was **repentance** and **faith**
- ✓ Demonic strongholds were overcome, healings and miracles were happening
- ✓ Those who believed were **baptised**
- ✓ Then they had hands laid on to **receive the Holy Spirit**

## **Revival was happening in Samaria!**

- Philip had preached and baptised
- Apostles had come and released the Holy Spirit; now the apostles could oversee the work in Samaria, releasing Philip to move on in the work of evangelism.

## **PHILIP OBEYED THE CALL TO GO AND SPEAK TO ONE MAN!**

### **Philip received instructions from the Lord**

**Acts 8:26** – an angel/messenger of the Lord spoke to Philip

- Giving him specific instructions to go to the Gaza road
- Philip was obedient – he left the revival and went where he was directed

### **There was a divine appointment for Philip**

- Be expectant for divine appointments when we are obeying the voice of God

- Philip met **an Ethiopian** eunuch (**Acts 8:27**)
- this man had faith in God according to the Judaistic religion even though being an Ethiopian; he had come to Jerusalem to worship
- through Philip being obedient to meet this man, the gospel could reach Ethiopia and spread throughout northeast Africa!
- never despise what seem to be small things, even reaching one person

### **The Spirit speaks to Philip again**

**Acts 8:28-29** – Philip was again obedient to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to him and went and overtook the chariot

- The Ethiopian man was ***"reading from Isaiah the prophet"***

**Acts 8:30** – Philip overhears him reading the Scriptures

- Philip asks, ***"Do you understand what you are reading?"***

**Acts 8:31** – the man said, ***"How can I, unless someone guides me?"***

- He invites Philip to come up into his chariot with him
- The eunuch had a desire to understand what he was reading.

### **Philip now has the opportunity to give the understanding of the Scriptures**

**Acts 8:35** – Philip was **able to preach Jesus** from the Old Testament Scriptures

- Are you able to find Jesus in the Old Testament?
- Philip was able to bring understanding from the Scriptures concerning Jesus
- Philip preached Jesus to the man

### **The Ethiopian man desired baptism**

**Acts 8:36** – whatever Philip preached caused the Ethiopian man to desire to be baptised

- does your preaching cause this response?
- The man asked, ***"what hinders me from being baptised?"***

### **The criteria for Baptism**

**v.37** – Philip responded that ***"if you believe with all your heart, you may"***

- the man confessed ***"I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God"***
- The Ethiopian man had received a revelation of Jesus!

Again, foundations are being laid; **repentance & faith** [believe in Jesus] then **baptism!**

### **The Spirit of the Lord again at work!**

**Acts 8:39** – Philip was 'caught away' by the Spirit of the Lord

- This was a supernatural happening
- the man went his way rejoicing

**Acts 8:40** – Philip was ***"found in Azotus"*** – from here he continued his evangelistic work.

- he was preaching the gospel in all the cities, ***"till he came to Caesaria"***

## **PHILIP THE EVANGELIST AT CAESARIA - Acts 21:8-10**

- It seemed that Philip settled in Caesaria, married and had a family

### **Acts 21:8** - Paul and his companions entered the house of "***Philip the evangelist***"

- Philip was now called and referred to as an evangelist; a five-fold gift (**Eph.4:11**)
- He did not neglect the ministry call on his life
- Philip was obviously known by Paul, and received '**in his house**' the apostle and his companions

### **Acts 21:9** – Philip had "***four virgin daughters who prophesied***"

- This was the spiritual gift of prophecy (**1Cor.12:10**)
- Philip had been a good father and brought his family up in the Lord
- they would have had meetings in the house

### **Five-fold ministry gifts meeting together**

#### **Acts 21:10** – Paul and his team "***stayed many days***" with Philip

- then a **prophet named Agabus** came to Philip's house
- **Paul the apostle**, who was also a **teacher** (**1 Tim.2:7**)
- **Agabus the prophet** – we first hear of Agabus in **Acts 11:27**
- **Philip the evangelist**, who probably also has a **pastoral gift**, leading a house church
- Philip's four virgin **daughters who prophesied**

**What an awesome house meeting that would have been!**

# Luke 10 – THE STRATEGY

## Labourers sent into the Harvest

- Jesus had many disciples, some were women (**Luke 8:2-3**)
- **Jesus came to show us a pattern of life and works** that we are to follow.
- The church was planted by Jesus, and then by the apostles in the **book of Acts**
- We are to extend the church that is already planted – it belongs to Jesus
- There has been much taught that is false, but we are to teach the truth of the word.
- God wants everyone of us to be involved as one of His disciples.

**Luke 10:1** – Jesus appointed 70 others: ***"The Lord appointed seventy others also and sent them two by two ..."***

- These were ones recognised now for ministry work. They would have been disciplined, trained, equipped.
- Jesus was very intentional about what was happening.
- God wants us to have this heart to be one of those whom Jesus can appoint
- ***"After these things ..."*** these were **ones who were willing to count the cost**. At the end of the previous chapter Jesus had been speaking about the cost of discipleship (**Luke 9:57-62**).

## The word 'sent'

- Jesus *'sent'* them – this is the word *'apostello'*, this was an apostolic sending. They were to represent Jesus.

**Sent two by two** – this is a pattern. Where it is possible it is better to go 'two by two'. You go on your own if that is all you can do – God can still use you!

- In **Matthew 18:20** Jesus said, ***"where two or three of you gather in my name, there I am in the midst"***. Jesus is with those who go out two by two.
- Sent ***"before His face"***, face = presence
- They were to prepare the way for Jesus to be revealed in all the places that they were going to.
- God is wanting us to go out into the harvest, into towns, cities, & into every place.

## There is a great harvest

**Luke 10:2** – ***"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest"***.

- Jesus wants to send us out into this harvest. It is large, there is a lot of work to do.
- In **Matthew 13:39** Jesus spoke of the harvest, and said it is the **end of the age**. Harvest is the time of maturity.

- In **Matthew 9:36-38** Jesus was speaking of the '**lost sheep of the house of Israel**'. There is a great harvest among Christendom, among God's people, *the lost sheep*.

### **Jesus is the 'Lord of the Harvest'**

- Pray the "**Lord of the Harvest**" – this is one of His names!
- The harvest belongs to Him; **it is His harvest**.
- He is raising up labourers to "**send out**"
- 'send' in this verse is a different Greek word, 'ekballō', which means to 'eject, cast out, to thrust out'. It is mostly used in 'casting out demons'. It means a strong urging to get out into the harvest.

### **Labourers can mean 'teachers'**

- Labourers = a toiler, figuratively, a teacher
- Those who can teach My people, who can feed My people the right diet.
- Those who can '**feed with knowledge and understanding**' (**Jeremiah 3:15**)
- Jesus wants to send out ones who have been properly disciplined and trained, so they know what to preach and teach.

### **Instructions to those being sent out**

#### **There will be opposition**

**Luke 10:3** – sent out as "**lamb among wolves**". You are representing the Lamb.

- There is going to be opposition. It can be ferocious.
- The opposition can come from men: religious leaders, man's traditions
- It can be demonic opposition
- Jesus told the ones He sent out in **Matthew 10:16** "**be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves**"

#### **Trust Jesus for everything**

**Luke 10:4** – don't worry about your provision

- "**Greet no one along the road**" this is an instruction to stay focused on the task
- (**2 Kings 4:29** – staying focused on what you have been told to do)
- If we know we are doing God's will, we can trust Him to provide all we need

#### **Look for a 'house of peace'**

**Luke 10:5** – '**whatever house you enter**' – note it is a house.

- Jesus is setting a pattern of ministry in the house.
- You can be the 'church' in the house wherever you are (**Acts 2:46; 5:42**)
- **v.6** – don't stay in a place where you are not received. There is no peace there.
- Go where you are received, where there is 'peace'.
- Not even necessarily a Christian house, but a house where you are received.

### **In a house of peace, there will be provision**

**Luke 10:7** – remain in the same house, where you are received.

- Receive the hospitality and don't be demanding.
- **"The labourer is worthy of his wages"**.
- Jesus has promised He will support you. The one who gives spiritual food, can expect to be taken care of materially (**1 Timothy 5:17-18**)

**Luke 10:8** – receive the hospitality where you are living.

- We don't want to cause offence, so that the door remains open.
- Jesus emphasises the importance of being 'received' (**Matthew 10:40**)
- We are to receive and look after the ones God sends us.

### **Spiritual gifts released**

**Luke 10:9** – Heal the sick, say **'the kingdom of God has come near to you'**.

- Healing is a sign that the kingdom of God has come amongst us.
- It is a demonstration of the kingdom of God.
- Healing the sick can open people up to receive the kingdom of God, and it is a major aspect of the 'good news' of the kingdom!

### **There will be those who do not receive**

**Luke 10:10-11** Jesus' instructions were to go and preach **'the kingdom of God'**

- don't waste time where you are not received.
- Let God deal with the people in that place.
- If people do not receive the message preached, Jesus says **"Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you"**.

### **Jesus is the one who is being rejected**

**Luke 10:16** – **"He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."**

- they are not rejecting you; they are rejecting Jesus.
- If they receive you, they are receiving Jesus.

### **The ones sent out 'reported back'**

**Luke 10:17** – the ones sent **"returned with joy"**

- They reported back. They were amazed at the authority they had in Jesus' name.
- They experienced that the Name of Jesus worked and recognised the power of the name! **"Even the demons are subject to us in Your name"**.
- Being accountable and reporting back is an important part of being 'sent'
- In **Acts 14:26** we see that Paul and Barnabas **"reported all that God had done"** to those who sent them.

## **Jesus knew His authority over the devil**

**Luke 10:18** – Jesus said, "***I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven***".

- The authority of Satan over the places to which they had been sent had been removed, so there was authority to do the work of the ministry.
- Jesus knew that when He sent the 70 out with His authority and power, Satan's power was overcome.
- Principalities and powers in the heavenlies are overcome by the workers that are sent by Jesus to represent Him!
- The "***gates of Hades shall not prevail***" against the church that Jesus is building (**Matthew 16:18**)

➤ **Through prayer there is a shift in the heavenlies that brings a manifestation on the earth.**

## **Jesus gave even more authority to the ones He sent**

**Luke 10:19** – when they came back, they were given even more authority, to go out again.

- Jesus gave them authority "***over all the power of the enemy***" and assured them that nothing would "***by any means hurt you***"
- Demonic beings were 'under their feet'
- Jesus affirms this authority in His commission in **Mark 16:17-18**

## **Stay humble!**

**Luke 10:20** "***rejoice because your names are written in heaven***"

- There is a 'Book of Life' where names are written (**Philippians 4:3**) of those who have been "fellow workers"
- Do not look for an 'earthly' reward; what we do in Jesus' Name is eternal (**2 Corinthians 4:18**)
- Paul knew there was a "***crown of righteousness***" awaiting him (**2 Timothy 4:8**)
- Stay humble even as you see great spiritual victories and the kingdom work going forward!

## **Summary:**

- **Sent out two by two – teams going out**
- **Jesus is with the ones sent out**
- **Expect opposition**
- **Trust Jesus for everything**
- **Stay focused on the mission**
- **Stay in the place where you are received**
- **Heal the sick, Preach the kingdom of God**
- **Be accountable**
- **Know and walk in the authority that Jesus has given you**

# CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE

## First mention of the Cornerstone

- **Job 38:4-6** – speaking of creation, YAHWEH questions Job, *"who laid its cornerstone?"*
- This is in the context of creation; **in creation there was a Cornerstone!**
- When God laid the foundations of the earth, there needed to be a Cornerstone laid on that foundation
- God questions Job *"where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... Who determined its measurements?" v.4*
- There are measurements, a line, foundations, a cornerstone
- This is one of the foundational understandings of God, our Creator
- **He needed a Cornerstone**, to tie everything together, to build it all together
- The foundation is fully done when the Cornerstone is laid and fastened to the foundation
- **There must be a cornerstone – this links us to the building of the house of God**

## From Job to Ephesians

**Ephesians 2:19-22** – now speaking spiritually, this is a vision of the church being built

- When we are fastened and linked into the Cornerstone, we are immovable; we are fellow members with the saints.
- The church is the house of God in the New Testament
- *"having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (v.20).*
- We are built on the 'foundation of the apostles and prophets' – these are the foundational ministries to enable the house to be built

## **Who is the Cornerstone?**

- **Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone**
- In this Cornerstone we are being fitted together and *"growing into a holy temple in the Lord" (v.21)*
- There is a Cornerstone! It is **Jesus the Messiah**
- He gives the spiritual authority to the ministries to fulfill their work, to link the church into Christ Jesus, to function as One Body

→ **When the foundation and the Cornerstone are laid then the church can grow and be built**

## **This is the Day**

**Psalm 118:22-24** – *"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone ... this is YAHWEH's doing ... This is the day YAHWEH has made"*

- The next major mention of Cornerstone is in **Psalm 118:22**
- The day is the day when **'the stone the builders rejected became the Chief Cornerstone'**
- YAHWEH has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- This is the day Yahweh has made; we are in the day that Yahweh made, the day when the stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone!
- This Psalm is speaking prophetically – now this 'day' has come
- **The Cornerstone is Jesus Christ Himself**

## **Jesus identifies Himself as the Cornerstone**

- In **Matthew 21:42-44** Jesus **quoted from Psalm 118:22**, showing He was the Cornerstone
- Jesus is taking the kingdom of God away from those who rejected Him and will give it to a nation bearing the fruit of it
- Jesus did not get frustrated, but He warned them
- If you reject the Cornerstone, the kingdom will be taken away from you

**Mark 12:10-11** & **Luke 20:17** also record this quote from **Psalm 118:22**

- There are three clear witnesses of the same incident, same conversation
- **Luke 20:18** goes on to say, *"whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder"*.

## **The Cornerstone and the Foundation are linked**

**Isaiah 28:16** – *"Behold I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation"* - God is doing this!

### **Aspects of the Stone:**

- This Stone is a 'tried stone' – it will not easily fall over
- A precious Cornerstone – it is very valuable
- A sure Foundation – it is reliable

## **There is only one Foundation 'Rock'**

- the foundation 'rock' is the revelation of who Jesus is.
- Jesus said *"on this 'rock' I will build My church"* **Matthew 16:18**
- Peter had received the revelation that Jesus was *"the Christ, the Son of the living God"* **Matthew 16:16**.

## **1 Corinthians 3:10-11**

- Jesus Christ is the foundation Stone – *"no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"* (v.11)
- Paul was a wise master builder, he knew how to build the house of God

- The foundation must be laid; there is no other foundation

→ **Jesus Christ Himself is the fulfilment: He is the foundation and the cornerstone**

### **Peter speaks of the Cornerstone**

#### **1 Peter 2:4-9 – "Coming to Him as to a living stone"**

- We are to come to Him – Jesus, the Living Stone
- He was rejected by men, chosen by God, and precious.
- In **1 Peter 2:6-7** Peter is quoting from the Old Testament [**Isaiah 28:16 & Psalm 118:22**], confirming that Jesus, the Living Stone, is the Chief Cornerstone on which the house is built
- A spiritual house is being built, and we are all "**living stones**" being built together into this 'spiritual house' (**1 Pet.2:5**)

### **Many will reject the Cornerstone**

- To this day many reject the Cornerstone and build on certain traditions and other experiences
- We are to build on and into the Cornerstone
- Peter also quotes from **Psalm 118:22** in **1 Peter 2:8**, saying that the disobedient are the builders who reject the Stone that has become the Chief Cornerstone
- We cannot build on tradition, gifts or personalities – we must build on and into the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ.

### **The world cannot provide a Cornerstone**

#### **Jeremiah 51:26 "They shall not take from you a stone for a corner, nor a stone for a foundation"**

- This is addressing Babylon: confusion, the world system
- The cornerstone and the foundation can never be found anywhere in the world
- It is leading a whole generation astray when the cornerstone is taken out of Babylon
- You are on dangerous ground when you try to take a foundation or a cornerstone out of the world

### **Word meaning of 'corner'**

- **'corner'** – in the Old Testament [SC #6438] Hebrew – *'pinnah'*
- It means: *an angle*, by implication – *a pinnacle*, the highest point  
*a chieftain*  
*a bulwark*  
*a corner* [referred to many times]  
*towers*
- **Judges 20:2** [KJV] speaks of the "**chief** of all the people" [NKJV says 'leaders']

- **'corner'** – the New Testament [SC #204] Greek – *'akrogoniaios'*
- It means *belonging to the extreme corner*; we are to be closely related to the extreme Corner; we are to be built into Him.
- Jesus Christ Himself is the **"chief corner [stone]" Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6**

### **Jesus is the Foundation and the Cornerstone**

**Acts 4:10-12** – Peter is preaching to the rulers and elders (v.8)

- He proclaims that ***"by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead"*** this man has been healed.
- **v.11** he then quotes from **Ps.118:22**, ***"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone'"***
- Peter is showing that **it is Jesus who is the fulfilment of this prophetic word.**

**We need to take care that our life is built on the cornerstone  
and on the right foundation**

# THE WITNESSING CHURCH

## MILITANT

→ As we go out from this training time **we need to be listening for the rustling in the mulberry trees.**

### **Belonging to the 'extreme corner'**

- In the previous session on the 'Cornerstone', we learnt that a meaning of the word '**corner**' in the New Testament is ***belonging to the extreme corner.***
- What would it look like to be extreme Christians?
- If we took Jesus seriously; if we were seeking Him constantly and doing what He said, what would that look like?
- What if there were a bunch of Christians who belonged to the extreme corner?
- What would we be releasing everywhere?

### **A Vision**

- I see a land where it becomes normal to talk about Jesus everywhere: in the street, in the marketplace, whatever place we go.
- Can we begin to believe for a nation where it becomes normal to talk about Jesus?
- Can we begin to 'see' an Australia where it becomes normal to pray for people; where prayer becomes something that flows out of our lives?
- Where this kind of lifestyle becomes normal everyday life, where there are a people truly being ***salt and light*** in every place (**Matt.5:13-16**)

### **We are to be a separated people**

- **1 Peter 2:9** speaks of a '***holy nation***'. We are a nation of people, separated unto God.
- **God wanted a nation from the beginning:** He raised up Jacob, who became Israel, who had 12 sons.
- Then as slaves in Egypt, they were delivered by Moses, by the blood of the Lamb and by going through the water of the Red Sea, then **they became a nation.**
- They were given the '**law**', which showed them how to live; showed them how to love God and love each other; showed them how to consider one another.

### **In the New Covenant**

- Jesus came and raised up 12 spiritual sons, the 12 apostles
- He came as the deliverer, the Lamb of God (**John 1:29**) so we could come out of the world and be set free.

- We were baptised in water so that we could be cut off from the world, and come out into a new life receiving the teaching, the law, in our hearts by the Holy Spirit being given to us
- We were **saved to become a holy nation in the earth (1Pet.2:9)**.
- We are called a holy nation, the people of God, who are to be the dwelling place of God, the church, in the earth (**Eph.2:21-22**).
- The people are to be a dwelling place for God in the Spirit, springing up everywhere
- We are being built together by the five-fold ministry gifts equipping/perfecting and adjusting the saints in the body (**Eph.4:11-16**)

### **We are to be part of the new thing that God is doing**

- There is a whole new city that is coming down from heaven (**Rev.21:2**).
- We are part of a new community, a new society, a new world, 'the world to come' (**Heb.2:5**)
- A people who enjoy being with each other and know the joy of the Lord; a people who love each other.
- In every place where you are, you probably don't realise the influence you have as you model and bring the life of heaven on the earth: the peace you live in; the righteousness and the joy you express in the Holy Spirit (**Rom.14:17**)

### **Jesus came to raise a whole new nation**

- God told the Israelites that 'if you obey My voice ... then you will be a Holy Nation' (**Ex.19:5-6**).
- Jesus raised up twelve to be the foundation of this fulfillment of what was always in God's heart. Jesus raised up twelve 'sons', the apostles
- Then after Jesus ascended, those twelve were in the upper room with the 120 and the Holy Spirit came (**Acts 1:13 & 2:1-4**).

### **The beginnings of a new covenant people**

- **Acts 2:42** – after the 3000 received the word and were baptised, they ***"continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers"***.
- **This is what the holy nation looks like** - a new community, living according to a new way, a living doctrine, a new lifestyle
- **Acts 2:42-47** – God was manifesting in the midst of them.
- They became a holy community that was different. They lived a different lifestyle, and the Lord was adding ***"to the church daily those who were being saved"***.
- This is what the new covenant people look like: They loved each other, voluntarily sold possessions to help each other, ate in each other's homes, praised God together!

### **We are to be this witnessing church militant**

- Not just preaching on the streets but offering to help your neighbour; offering practical help to others.

- Witnessing is not always 'trying to say' something about Jesus.
- You don't have to push anything. Jesus didn't do that.
- We are to be the witnessing church, going out to affect people's lives around us, diffusing the fragrance of His knowledge in every place (**2 Cor.2:14**).

→ **Discipleship is all about learning how to live in this new nation.**

- Going out bearing the fruit of the kingdom.
- The kingdom is 'given to a nation who will bear the fruit of it' (**Matt.21:43**); the "**holy nation**" is the nation that will bear the fruit of the kingdom
- There is a new wave of witness to be released out of this school [April 2025].
- Discipleship is learning a new way, learning how to live as this holy nation, this new community and society.

## **The Word of Yahweh needs to be Spoken**

### **The mighty Angel with the Little Book**

**Revelation 10:1-3** speaks of an awesome angel!

- 'angel' = *messenger*, could be heavenly or earthly. We need to look in the context.

**v.1** - the Angel came "***down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head; his face was like the sun***".

- When Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration His face '**shone like the sun**' – **Matt.17:2**
- The Rainbow is seen around the Throne – **Rev.4:3** – and is a sign of the covenant promises of God – **Gen.9:13** – this Angel comes with the authority and covenant promises of God!

**Revelation 10:2** - The messenger had a "***little book***" in his hand. "***And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land***".

- This is a picture of all authority and dominion – over the sea and the dry land.
- This Messenger has total authority over the earth and sea – "***All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth***" **Matt.28:18**.

### **A voice like a lion roaring**

- **Rev.10:3** – this 'angel' had a voice like a '**lion roaring**' [**Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Rev.5:5**].
- The word of Yahweh being spoken is like a lion when he roars – **Hosea 11:10** – Yahweh roars like a lion!
- The God of glory thunders (**Psalm 29:3**)

### **John eats the little book**

- **Revelation 10:8** - John is instructed to "***Go and take the little book***" from the angel.

- The angel instructs John **"Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth" Rev.10:9**
- The word will taste good, but it will make your stomach bitter.
- When we receive the pure word, it is wonderful, life giving, holy, good, and tastes so sweet.
- But when you receive the pure word, you also begin to see how much we have missed what God intended.
- We see man's traditions and how they have strangled God's people. We see religious teachings and practices and how they have leavened the church, weakening and blinding people from the truth and it becomes **bitter in the stomach**

### **What do you do with the word you have received?**

- **Revelation 10:11, "you must prophesy"**
- The word now needs to be spoken out.
- Prophecy in the New Testament is about making known the mystery of Christ to all nations – the **testimony of Jesus – Rev.19:10**
- God is raising up a people who will speak the word of God boldly.
- Prophecy **"about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings"**. There will be ones raised up to speak the word to leaders of nations.

### **We are to be a militant people, boldly proclaiming the word**

- We are a powerful people because of who our God is.
- God is raising us up as a militant people to be His witnesses.
- It will be normal to speak the name of Jesus in public places. The things of God will be spoken of openly.
- There will be leaders who will respond and call their nation to prayer.

### **We are to know what the word of God says**

**Revelation 11:1** – when the word of God gets in you, you begin to 'measure':

#### ➤ **The 'temple'**

- Temple = house of God; God needs people who will be ready to measure the temple.
- Be willing to 'measure' what is preached - **'does it line up with the word of God'?**
- Prophecy means to 'speak the word of God'.
- The Temple of God in the New Testament is the people of God (**1Cor.3:16, 2Cor.6:16**)
- We are coming to the measure to the stature of the fullness of Christ (**Eph.4:13**)
- When you **eat the little book**, you begin to measure the temple of God, and you see what it is truly meant to be!

#### ➤ **The altar**

- The communion table is an altar that is being restored to us
- The Lord's Table is likened to the altar of burnt offering in the Old Testament where the priests were able to eat of the sacrifices – **1 Cor.10:18-21**

- We have an altar in the New Testament – The Table of the Lord, where we are able to eat, as a holy priesthood, of the sacrifice of Jesus – His body and blood
- This is the altar that God is restoring and is to be measured today.

➤ **Those who worship**

- Who are the ones leading the worship? What is true worship?
- We are to worship in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).
- Worship is not to be entertainment, nor adulation of worship leaders, nor focused on the 'band up the front'!
- Worship is not about performance; it is about connecting with Jesus.
- In worship we are to experience the Throne of God, the Most Holy Place, the realm of His glory.

**Be filled with the Holy Spirit**

- We are not to stay in the outer court; we are to be filled with the Spirit and enter in.
- There will be hardship, but when we are in the Spirit we can even rejoice, and know God is with us.
- **'Nothing shall by any means will harm us'** (**Luke 10:19**).
- When we are persecuted for Jesus' sake, we can give thanks. We have been counted worthy to suffer for Him – **Acts 5:41**

**God will empower those who speak out His word**

- **Revelation 11:3** – the mighty angel will give power to His two witnesses: ***"I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy"*** - it is still the Angel that speaks these words, calling them ***my witnesses***
- Jesus promised power to be His witnesses, ***"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"*** (**Acts 1:8**) – we have power to bear witness to Jesus in the most trying of circumstances
- Witnesses are the ones who will prophesy – speak out the word boldly.
- We are those witnesses! We are the witnessing church militant!

**Receive the Holy Spirit afresh and become this  
witnessing church militant**

# A New Creation – Identifying with Christ

## Having been born again, we now have a New Nature

- We are actually part of God's family.
- We are now of the nature of God!
- We are not 'adopted' into God's family – it is not that God simply accepts us into His family as an outsider coming in. This can bring insecurity or fear, but we are 'born of God', being 'born of the Spirit' and God in reality is our Father – **John 1:12-13, 3:5**
- Now we are of the very nature of God – He is our Father, we have His divine nature in us, His DNA, we are of Him – **2 Peter 1:3-4**

## Christ died for all

- **2 Corinthians 5:14** "*if One died for all, then all died*" – this is our judgement about how the world is now.
- When Jesus died on the cross, all died.
- He didn't just die Himself, but with the cumulative body of people in Him – the race of 'Adam' died in Christ, Adam was judged in Christ!
- Everyone is somebody that Jesus died for – do you accept this or reject it?
- When people accept this reality, they can become a new creation.
- We can now identify with Christ as a new creation.

## We are now living in a different realm

- **2 Cor.5:15** "*those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again*".
  - we need to have our focus on living for Him and for others
  - If we are living selfishly, for ourselves, then the fruit of the 'wrong tree' is there.
  - We have a greater purpose now
  - **2 Cor.5:16** – "*from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh*". We are living in a different realm now. We are no longer in Adam; we are in Christ!
- Adam represents **natural birth**, born of water; flesh is flesh (**John 3:6**) – the man of dust who became a living being – **1Corinthians 15:45**
- Christ represents **spiritual birth**; we are now born of Christ – He is a life-giving Spirit – **1Corinthians 15:45**

## The nature of Christ is now in us!

- We saw Christ in the flesh as coming from the lineage of Judah, a Jew
- But the **very nature of Christ is God Himself** – He is the eternally blessed God, (**Romans 9:5**).
- Before Christ Jesus became a man, He eternally existed in the form of God (**Philippians 2:6**)
- **We are to be in Christ**, not looking at externals, the outward appearance; not looking at the flesh, the race, the gender, the social status – for we are all one in Christ Jesus (**Galatians 3:28**)
- We are to see everyone after Christ. The nature of Christ is the nature of God. There is a whole new group of people in the earth!

**The new creation is the 'divine nature'; the very nature of God in us.**

## In Christ we are a 'New Creation'

- **2 Cor.5:17** "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation*" - that is who we are! "*Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*".
- Christ is the only true foundation (**1 Cor.3:11**). We need the revelation of who He is, and we need to be built on that foundation. This is the new creation.
- We are to leave our culture, our father's house, our family, whatever our background is (**Gen.12:1**).
- Adam is no longer our father. The second Adam, Jesus, who is the Lord from heaven, is the father of a whole new creation of people – **1Corinthians 15:47**
- **God breathed** into Adam, and **he became a living being** (**Gen.2:7**).
- **Jesus breathed** into His disciples after the resurrection, and they **became new creations** (**John 21:21**).
- We need to know we are a new creation, not just a patch up of the old.
- Everything has become new. We are a new people
- Being a new creation is an individual experience, but it is also a corporate experience

## We have been brought near by the blood - Ephesians 2:11-13

- **v.11** – this is what we once were. God is not concerned by the 'externals', He is concerned about what is inside of us. We are no longer to see things after the flesh
- **v.12** – "*at that time you were without Christ*"
  1. We were **aliens** – foreigners from the commonwealth of Israel,
  2. We were **strangers** – from the covenants of promise
  3. Having **no hope**, of resurrection or eternal life
  4. **without God** in the world, we were lost.

- **BUT** now we have Christ! **"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ"** Eph.2:13.
- we are now a member of the commonwealth of Israel – we have been brought near; we are now part of the Israel of God (**Galatians 6:16**).
- we are now partakers of the promise [the promise to Abraham – **Galatians 3:29**], we are part of the Seed of Abraham.
- we are now a new creation people.
- In the new creation we have a hope: the hope of Glory coming forth; Christ in us (**Colossians 1:27**)
- We now have God – when we have Christ, we have God, both the Father and the Son (**2John 9**)

### **There is now 'One new Man' – Ephesians 2:14-16**

- **"He Himself is our peace"** (v.14)
- Jesus abolished in His flesh the enmity and created in Himself **'one new man'** (v.15). There is one new man, it is in Christ
- When you were **born again** – **Jesus came into you** (**2 Corinthians 13:5**).
- When you were **baptised** – **you came into Christ** (**Romans 6:3-5**).
- *'He is in me, and I am in Him'*
- There is One Corporate New Man, the Body of Christ, a whole new creation!

### **What happened at our Baptism?**

**Romans 6:3-6** speaks of what happens in baptism.

- When Christ died, that was our burial
- We died with Him, [in Him **Ephesians 1:4**]
- When we get baptised, we are buried with Him, die with Him, and we are also raised with Him (**Rom.6:4**)
- **Rom.6:6 - we are united with Him** [planted together with Him] in his death, burial, and resurrection.
- We are to fully identify with Christ – the nature of Adam died in Christ
- We were chosen in Christ from the foundation of the world (**Ephesians 1:4**); we were in Him
- We were in Christ on the Cross, and we agree with this when we are baptised into Christ
- We are transferred out of Adam and into Christ

### **This is the key to walking in victory**

- We are to identify with Christ to walk in the new creation.
- The old man of sin has been dealt with
- When you do the wrong thing, and realise how sinful you are, you can now identify with another, with Christ.
- It is not my obedience which justifies me, **it is the obedience of Christ that has brought me justification, sanctification and glorification!**
- Now we can reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ! **Romans 5:17**

**→ His obedience has become our obedience**

**→ His righteousness has become our righteousness**

**→ His life is our life**

**→ His faith is our faith**

# THE SPIRITUAL MAN

## Spirit, soul and body

***"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" 1Thess.5:23.***

To become the mature spiritual sons of God that He has intended us to be, we need to understand the nature of our creation. This verse in **1 Thessalonians** presents the human person to be tripartite, that is, made up of three distinguishable parts: the **spirit**, the **soul** and the **body**. Most people are unaware of the nature of our creation and traditional Christian religion has taught that man is composed of body, that which is seen, and soul, the invisible part of man, which lives forever. A Christian funeral always acknowledges that we are burying the body, and that the soul has departed.

**The failure to distinguish between soul and spirit will inhibit our spiritual growth and we will fail to grow to maturity. We need to distinguish between spirit and soul in order to grow in Christ.**

## Dividing between soul and spirit

Man as a living soul is a complex being. As we learn from **1 Thessalonians**, man has a spirit and a soul, and lives in a body. However there needs to come a distinguishing between the soul and the spirit. **Hebrews 4:12** tells us that the only thing that can bring this division between soul and spirit is the word of God. ***"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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*** The word of God ministers to and affects every part of us, even bringing healing to the physical joints and marrow, meaning that the word of God can pierce our bodies, removing sickness and disease.

But more importantly, **the word of God brings a division between the soul and spirit**. When we understand that we have a spirit given to us by God at creation, that we have a soul, and that we live in a body, then we can begin to grow into the spiritual man that God has ordained. It is only the word of God that enables us to function as a spiritual man and escape from the snare of being a carnal man, that is, acting like a natural man only affected by the natural world.

## The song of Mary

***"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour"*** **Lu.1:46-47**. Out of her soul Mary praised the Lord, acclaiming and proclaiming what He had done. She magnified the Lord out of her soul. But Mary said that her spirit was rejoicing

in God. Because Mary was able to respond to the angel messenger and received by faith the *rhema* word of God concerning the conception of Jesus, her spirit was quickened and she experienced spiritual rejoicing. This then overflowed into her soul, enabling her to magnify the Lord. There are two clear functions taking place: the quickening of the spirit by God, and the positive response in Mary's soul.

This demonstrates to us the acute need to hear God and respond to God in our spirit, and then for the soul to be submissive to the spirit and to also respond positively. When the soul is feeling discouraged and sad, it is very difficult to hear God in your spirit.

We need to learn to encourage ourselves in the Lord and two reliable ways are:

- **speaking in tongues in prayer** to God, because tongues is an operation of the human spirit and if we give ourselves to praying and singing in tongues, we will soon be communing with God again (**1Cor.14:2-4 & 14**).
- **reading the Bible in a focused way**. If you read a few verses or even a few chapters, sooner or later the word will break through in your spirit man and you will begin to feel differently in your soul.

We need to turn to God when our soul is troubled. When our soul is overcome in any way, we should turn to God and practice the reliable Christian disciplines that God has given us, exercising faith as we do so.

## **THE CREATION OF MAN**

Let us go back to creation to understand more fully the creation of man as a living being. ***"And YAHWEH God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [living soul]"*** **Genesis 2:7**. God literally breathed life into the clay figure He had made of the dust of the earth. When the Spirit of the Eternal God interacted with the physical creation, something wonderful and amazing happened: a human person was created. This person was created from the dust of the earth, by the breath of God interacting with that dust. And this wonder continues to this day: when the Spirit of God interacts with a natural person, there is a new birth, and the natural person becomes a child of God.

### **Fallen man must be born again**

Before we are born again, the Scripture says, we ***"were dead in trespasses and sins"*** (**Eph.2:1**). Jesus said that to see the kingdom of God we must be ***"born again"*** (**Jn.3:3**). He went on to say, ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"*** **Jn.3:5-6**. Being born of the water refers to natural birth - Jesus interprets this for us: that which is born of water refers to the flesh birth. Being born of the Spirit is being born again of the Spirit of God, the second birth. To know God and His kingdom, one must be born of the spirit. Otherwise we only have religion, which is not of the spirit.

## **Spirit of God, spirit of man**

***"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" Romans 8:16.*** This verse refers to the Spirit of God and it refers to the human spirit within us. The human spirit is the deepest part of us. We can only know the things of God through our spirit. When we are born again, our spirit, which is always part of us, is born again. It is not the soul that is born again, but it is the spirit of man that is born again. This can only happen when the soul accepts the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and chooses to receive Him. The living presence of God comes into the spirit part of us. From that time on we can adequately receive from the Spirit of God through our human spirit all that we need to grow, and develop in Christ, eventually becoming that mature spiritual man. God recaptures our spirit man so that we can submit our souls to our spirit man, who is connected with the Spirit of God.

## **THE SOUL**

In the Scriptures, the soul refers to

- **the whole human person**, a living being, the unique person that each one is. Soul refers to the individual; it refers to the individual personality and we are all different.
- the soul refers to that **part of the human person which is separate to the spirit of man** and the body of man. Man altogether is composed of body, soul and spirit. We can say: 'I am a soul; I have a spirit; and I live in a body'.

The function of the soul as part of the whole human person is to draw from the spirit, which is the innermost part of the person. This is how God designed us: for the soul to receive spiritual direction from God. Then the person walks in this direction. The soul exercises the body to come into line with the spiritual direction. It is in the realm of the soul that we struggle, as the soul is tempted to follow the fleshly desires, rather than being led by the spirit.

## **World conscious - body**

It is through our five physical senses that we become world conscious. Babies primarily function in the sense realm. If they are hungry they cry; if they are uncomfortable, they cry, and most of the rest of the time they sleep. Our body makes us world conscious, and we can only interpret that world through our five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.

Paul says ***"The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned" 1Cor.2:14.*** The natural man is only concerned about what his soul receives from the sense realm.

## **Self conscious - soul**

It is through our intellect [thinking ability], and our emotions [feelings] that we become aware of ourselves. This is the realm of the soul that makes us self-conscious. The soul also has the faculty of choice, making decisions. In summary we say that **the soul is made up of the mind, the will and the emotions.**

As we grow up in life, the soul is meant to govern the body, not remaining a baby and only reacting to the five senses. This cannot happen unless the person has been born again of the spirit. Even people who become highly educated and understand much about psychology and social sciences, can never really understand life, because the soul is not meant to be the source of life, but rather the spirit of man is the source of life. The soul is never meant to exist independently of God.

### **God conscious - spirit**

It is through our spirit that we become God conscious. The human person before being born again, still of course has a spirit and can pick up some spiritual things. Furthermore all witchcraft and occult involvement is activated by the human spirit discerning things in the invisible spiritual realm. Please note that Paul lists witchcraft [sorcery] as a work of the flesh (**Gal.5:20**).

God Himself can only be known when the person comes to Christ and is born again. As we have already said, this is an operation of God's Spirit. This is how we become God conscious. The God conscious spirit is then meant to influence the soul, and the soul in turn exercises and governs the body. If we can come to this understanding and submit ourselves to walking in the spirit, with God's Spirit inhabiting our spirit, then life will make sense and we will grow to maturity.

### **GROWING TO MATURITY**

There is a growth process in becoming a spiritual man. In writing to the Hebrews the writer said, ***"You have come to need milk and not solid food"*** (**Heb.5:12**). The Hebrews had remained as babes; they were ***"unskilled in the word of righteousness"*** (**v.13**). They had not grown to ***"full age [maturity]"***; they were unable to discern ***"good and evil"***; they had not exercised their senses (**v.14**). What 'senses' are referred to here? Answer: the spiritual senses. Why had they been unable to exercise their spiritual senses? They had lacked the knowledge of the word of God. They had not become teachers! (**v.12**); they had remained as babes.

### **The natural body**

***"There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body"*** **1Cor.15:44b**. We are first a natural body, but we are to become a spiritual body (**v.46**). We were created like the first man, ***"of the earth"*** but we have been redeemed to grow into the spiritual man who ***"is the Lord from heaven"*** (**v.47**). Adam was created ***"a living being [soul]. The last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving spirit"*** (**v.45**). We are not being restored to be like Adam, before he fell; we are to be ***"conformed to the image of His Son"*** (**Romans 8:29**); we are to ***"bear the image of the heavenly Man"*** (**1Cor.15:49**). This is the spiritual growth that God has ordained for each one of us: from the earthly to the heavenly; from the natural to the spiritual.

## The will - volition

***"If you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts"*** (Heb.3:7-8; 3:15, 4:7). We have to exercise our will to hear from God. **We choose** to hear from God and we choose to obey God.

The will is a very important part of the human soul. God gave man 'free will'. God made man with the ability to choose, to make decisions. Many in the modern world are overly concerned with how we think and how we feel. Sometimes judges and magistrates are soft on people who commit serious crime because they were suffering from depression or some other malady of the soul. The acute role of the will seems to have been forgotten. Every action is based on a choice. No matter how depressed or negative we may be feeling, God has given us the faculty of will, enabling us to make choices in our soul and of course the right choice is to turn to God.

In **Psalm 103:1-3**, David demonstrates for us the power of the will. He is commanding his soul to ***"Bless the LORD"***. David says that he is able to do this because he remembers all of God's benefits and God's forgiveness and healing. David is making a decision in his soul to bless the LORD.

## THE HUMAN SPIRIT

The spirit is the innermost part of a person. The Bible clearly teaches that we are made up of spirit, soul and body. Unfortunately, most are not aware of this and are not taught concerning the reality and the ability of the human spirit. Paul says, ***"For what man knows the things of a man, except the spirit of the man which is in him"*** (1Cor.2:11a). This means that through my spirit I can watch over my soul; I can see everything that my soul is thinking, feeling and deciding, and as I become more mature, I can decide to exercise my spirit more and more and bring my soul into alignment with the spirit.

***"The spirit of a man is the lamp of YAHWEH, searching all the inner depths of his heart"*** Prov.20:27. It is through the spirit of man that God works in us.

Through my spirit I can be aware of my soul dreaming. Sometimes God uses dreams to speak to us spiritually. It is only through the spirit that we can understand dreams that come from the Spirit of God.

Even before we are born again, we can discern things through the spirit. For example, a young child can know that something is evil because it is a spiritual discernment.

Paul said that he served ***"with my spirit in the gospel of His Son"*** (Rom.1:9). Jesus said that God is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth (Jn.4:23-24). Religious worship is a form of godliness without power (2Tim.3:5).

We can say that the spirit has three major faculties, even as the soul has three major faculties. **In the soul is the mind, the will and the emotions.** These three faculties of the soul correlate with the major faculties [functions] of the spirit. **The faculties of the spirit are the conscience, intuition, and communion.**

## The conscience

Every human person is born with a conscience. It is part of the spirit nature of man. The person who is not born again can still hear the conscience within him, warning him concerning right and wrong. If we remain outside of Christ and habitually disobey our conscience, it will become seared and ineffective (**1Timothy 4:2**).

The **conscience in the spirit correlates with the will in the soul**. If we hear our conscience, then we will be able to make right decisions. This is very important: we need to practice discerning right and wrong and our conscience will guide us. Remember the mature spiritual man is able to discern good and evil (**Heb.5:14**). Paul says that the conscience bears witness in the hearts of those who do not have the law of God. He is talking about unsaved people (**Romans 2:12-16**).

## Intuition

This is the ability of your spirit to know things of a spiritual nature. Intuition does not come through learning; it does not come through education. Intuition is a direct sensing, knowing in your spirit. It is the ability to hear from God. **Intuition is the spiritual faculty that correlates with our intellect - the ability to know things**. This is a very important faculty that God has given us and yet most Christians are not even aware of the nature of the spirit that God has put within them. Your spirit hears intuitively from God! Your spirit knows things. An illiterate man can know things through his spirit and confuse the wise of this world.

The food of the spirit in terms of intuition is the word of God. God reveals things through His Spirit to our spirit, even **"the deep things of God"** (**1Cor.2:10**).

## Communion

This is the ability to abide in God; it is the ability to worship (**Jn.4:23**), experiencing His presence. This **spiritual faculty correlates with the faculty of the soul that expresses emotions** and feelings.

The spirit of God bears witness in our spirit (**Rom.8:16**). Jesus said that we are to abide in Him (**Jn.15:4-5**). There will be much fruit if we learn to abide in our spirits with the Lord.

## We are the temple of God

The Bible says that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in us (**1Cor.3:16**). **In the Temple of God** in the Old Testament, based on what God had previously prescribed for the Tabernacle, **there were three parts**: the **outer court**, the **Holy place** and the **Holy of Holies**. If we are the temple of God and we can see that **our body is represented by the Outer court**, that **the soul is represented by the Holy place**, and that **the spirit is represented by the Holy of Holies**, then we can see that there is an order that has to be restored in our lives. As stated earlier, when we begin life as a natural baby, we are really only world conscious. The body consciousness is as the Outer court.

The **soul being represented by the Holy place** is the next place of human development and we do our best to educate children and to help them be successful in life. However, this has become more and more difficult in the modern world and depression and all sorts of psychiatric problems have multiplied greatly.

We have not realised that the soul cannot exist without **the proper division of soul from spirit and this can only happen through the word of God.**

We have not realised that **the spirit in us is meant to be as the Holy of Holies, the place where God dwells.** As we are restored, we discover this awesome spiritual life within us. We can truly become spiritual men and women, the sons of the living God.

# Some notes on understanding the Holy Spirit gift of Prophecy

## Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit

- **1 Corinthians 12:4** *"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit"*
- **v.7** *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all"* – the gifts manifest God, and His presence in the midst.
- Gifts are given for the edification of us all; the gifts demonstrate the power of God

## Desire the gift of 'prophecy'

- **1 Corinthians 14:1** *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy"*.
- Love is to be the way all the gifts are ministered
- But we are to 'desire' prophecy.
- 'Desire' is to be zealous for, pursue ardently, desire intensely.
- We can 'go after' any of the gifts in this way.

## The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy

### **1 Corinthians 14:3** – Prophecy brings:

1. Edification – builds up, brings encouragement
2. Exhortation – giving a positive direction; strengthen the person to do something.
3. Comfort – to console, come along side someone

## Prophecy is a sign of God's presence in the midst

- **1 Corinthians 14:24-25** – prophecy can convince an unbeliever that God is in the midst.
- Prophecy can 'reveal the secrets of the heart'
- The result: *"He will worship God and report that God is truly among you"*

## Prophecy does not 'condemn'

- Prophecy reveals the heart of the Father. The foundation of the word brought should always be love.
- The word given should not bring condemnation,
- The word of prophecy comes to build up a person.
- The word of prophecy can confirm what God has already told the person

### **Prophecy is not functioning in a 'familiar spirit'**

- A '*familiar spirit*' is a spirit that can give a person a sense of 'knowing' something.
- It can be passed on within the family.
- A person with a 'familiar spirit' can think they are 'prophesying' when they speak, but it often makes people fear something, brings foreboding, or causes anxiety.

→ **A Warning:** be careful of how you receive a word that someone gives; be discerning. Words have power, God wants us to be strong enough to not come under something that is of a negative nature.