Appropriating Truth

Rudi Louw



Appropriating Truth

Abiding in the Revelation of Christ Through Faith's Embrace!

Rudi Louw

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The Holy Scriptures are just that, HOLY.

Statements enclosed in brackets were inserted into Scripture quotations to add emphasis or to clarify the meaning of what is being said in those scriptures. The integrity of God's Word to man was not compromised in any way. Due care and diligence was cautiously exercised to keep the Word of Truth intact.

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The Marvel of the Holy Bible

1. Uninterrupted Theme and Inspired Thought

It took *1,500 years* to compile the Holy Bible, involving *more than 40 different authors*. Yet the theme and inspired thought of Scripture continues *uninterrupted* from author to author, from beginning till end.

2. Absence of Mythical Stories

Compare philosophies and theories about creation in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America and you'll find mythical scenarios: gods feuding and cutting up other gods to form the heavens and the earth, *etc.*

In ancient Greek mythology, the Greeks see Atlas carrying the earth on his shoulders. In India, Hindus believe eight elephants carry the earth on their backs.

But in contrast, Job, the oldest book in the Holy Bible, declares that, *"God suspends the earth on nothing."(Job 26:7)* ***This was said millennia before Isaac Newton discovered the invisible laws of gravity that delicately balance every planet and sun in its individual circuit.***

Contrary to every other ancient attempt to give a creation account, *the Holy Bible pictures the creation of the earth in a very scientific manner.*

For example, in Genesis Chapter One, the continents are lifted from the seas, then vegetation is formed and later animal life, all reproducing *'according to its own kind',* ***thus recognizing the fixed genetic laws.*** In addition, we have the bringing forth of man and woman, *all done by God in a dignified and proper manner, without mythological adornments.*

The balance or remainder of the Holy Bible follows suite.

The narratives are ***true historical documents****, faithfully reflecting society and culture* ***as history and archaeology would discover them thousands of years later. Not only is the Holy Bible historically accurate, it is also reliable when it deals with scientifically provable subjects.***

It was never intended to be a textbook on history, science, mathematics, or medicine. *However, when its writers touch on these subjects,* ***they often state facts that scientific advancement would not reveal, or even consider, until thousands of years later.***

While many have doubted the accuracy of the Holy Bible, time and continued research have consistently demonstrated that the Word of God is better informed than its critics.

3. Intactness

Of all the ancient works of substantial size, *the Holy Bible survives intact, against all odds and expectations.*

Compared with other ancient writings, the Holy Bible has more manuscripts as evidence to support it than any ten pieces of classical literature combined!

The plays of William Shakespeare, for instance, were written about four hundred years ago, after the invention of the printing press. Many of his original writings and words have been lost in numerous sections, *yet the Holy Bible's uncanny preservation has weathered thousands of years of wars, contradictions, persecutions, fires and invasions.*

Through the centuries Jewish scribes have preserved the Holy Bible's Old Covenant text, ***such as no other manuscripts have ever been preserved****.* ***They kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word and paragraph****. They continued from generation to generation to appoint and train special groups of men within their culture* ***whose sole duty it was to preserve and transmit these documents with perfect accuracy and fidelity.***

Who ever bothered to count the letters, syllables, or words of Plato, Aristotle, or Seneca for that matter?

When it comes to the New Testament, the actual number of preserved manuscripts is so great that it becomes overwhelming**.** ***There are more than 5,680 Greek manuscripts, more than 10,000 Latin Vulgate manuscripts and at least 9,300 other versions. Further still, there exists an additional 25,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament.*** **No other document of antiquity even begins to approach such numbers.**

The closest in comparison is Homer's Iliad, with only 643 manuscripts. The first complete work of Homer only dates back to the 13th century.

4. Unmatched Accuracy in Predictive Foretelling **The Holy Bible is unmatched in accuracy in predictive foretelling. No other ancient work succeeds in this, or even begins to attempt it.**

Other books such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon, and parts of the Veda claim divine inspiration; ***but none of these books contain predictive foretelling.***

This one undeniable fact we know for certain: ***While microscopic scrutiny would show up the imperfections, blemishes, and defects of any work of man, it magnifies the beauties and perfection of God. Just as every flower displays in accurate detail the reflection and perfection of beauty, so does the Word of Truth when it is scrutinized.***

Historian Philip Schaff wrote:

" *Without money and weapons, Jesus the Christ conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammad, and Napoleon. Without science and learning, He (Jesus the Christ) shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined. Without the eloquence of schools, He (Jesus the Christ) spoke such words of life as was never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet. Without writing a single line, He (Jesus the Christ) set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise* ***than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times combined****."* (*The Person of Christ,* p33. 1913) **Today, there are literally billions of Bibles in more than 2,000 languages.**

Isn't it about time you find out what it really has to say?

Hey listen, the Holy Bible is all about Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ…

… ***and everything about Jesus Christ is really about YOU!!***

Study Tips:

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14, 16, 18, 19, and 21.

In the light of these Scriptures, it should be obvious that, if you want to study the Holy Bible, *you should study it in the light of Mankind's redemption!*

Feed daily on ***redemption realities*** found in the book of Acts, in Romans Chapters One through Eight, and in Ephesians, Colossians, and Galatians. These realities may also be found in 1 Peter Chapter One, 2 Peter Chapter One, James Chapter 1, as well as in 1 and 2 Corinthians.

Acknowledgment I want to acknowledge and thank one of my mentors in the faith, Francois du Toit, for blessing and impacting me with revelation knowledge.

I borrowed the portion on *"The Marvel of the Holy Bible"* from his website: http://www.MirrorWord.net as students so often feel they have a right to do with things that come from teachers they respect. Just as Galatians 6:6 says: *"Let him who is taught the Word* ***share in all good things*** *with him who teaches."*

To all our dear friends and family, for all the love and support, and to Chase Aderhold and all those who helped me with this project: *THANK YOU!*

Especially to my wife, Carmen For being my companion in life and partner in ministry and for keeping me real by being the one that sometimes has the unpleasant task of confronting me about appropriating God's truth in my own heart and life.

I love and appreciate you so very much!

Foreword Thank you for taking the time to read this book.

Let me start off by saying that *I am totally addicted to my Daddy's love for me.*

I am in love with Jesus Christ, *and that is enough for me!*

The love of God is so much more than a doctrine, a philosophy, or a theory. It is so much more and goes so much deeper than knowledge: *it way surpasses knowledge.*

We are talking heart language here.

I write *to impact people's hearts,* to make them see the mysteries that have been hidden in Father God's heart concerning Christ Jesus, and really *concerning THEM.* I do this so as to arrest their conscience with it, *that I may introduce them to their original design and their true selves,* **presenting them to themselves perfect in Christ Jesus,** *and setting them apart unto Him* ***in love****,* as a chaste virgin.

We are involved with the biggest romance of the ages!

Therefore, this book cannot be read as you would a novel: *casually.* It is not a cleverly devised little myth or fable. **It contains revelation and *truth* about some things you may or may not have considered before.**

It is the TRUTH of God, ultimate TRUTH, and therefore has direct bearing upon YOUR life. **The Word and the Spirit are my witness *to the reality of these things!***

Be like the people of Berea who the Apostle Paul ministered to in Acts 17:11. Open yourself up to study the revelation contained in this book, *to* ***to discover for yourself the reality of these things****.*

Be forewarned, and do not become guilty of the sins of the Pharisees, **or you too will miss out on the depth of fulfillment God Himself, who is LOVE, wants to give <u>YOU</u>**.

Jesus said of the Pharisees and Sadducees that they strain out every little gnat BUT swallow whole camels. What He meant by that is that *some people seem to have it all together when it comes to doctrine and they love to argue.*

It makes them feel important but it is nothing other than EMPTY religious and intellectual pride.

They know the Scriptures in and out and YET they are still so IGNORANT about ***REAL TRUTH that is only found in LOVE.***

They are still so ignorant and indifferent ***towards the things that REALLY MATTER****.*

They are always arguing over the use of *every little jot and tittle* and over the meaning and interpretation of *every word of Scripture.*

The exact thing they accuse everyone else of doing though, the precise thing they judge everyone else for, *they are actually doing themselves.* That is, **they often completely misinterpret and twist what is being said,** ***making a big deal of insignificant things, while obscuring or weakening God's real truth: the truth of His LOVE.***

They are always majoring on minors **<u>because they do not understand the heart of God</u>**, **and therefore they constantly miss the whole point of the message**.

Paul himself said it so beautifully:

"*… the letter kills but* ***the Spirit BRINGS LIFE****…"*

"*… <u>knowledge puffs up</u>, but* ***LOVE EDIFIES****…"*

I say again:

Allow yourself to get caught up in the revelation I am about to share.

Open yourself up to study the insight contained in this book, *not only with a desire to gain knowledge, but also with anticipation* ***to hear from Father God yourself, to encounter Him through His Word, and to embrace truth in order to know and believe the LOVE God has for <u>you.</u>***

Get so caught up in it ***that you too may receive from Him LOVE'S impartation of LIFE.***

If you take heed to these things and yield yourself fully to it, **it is custom designed and guaranteed to forever alter and enrich your life!**

“Behold, I am laying in Zion
a stone
that will make men stumble, a rock
that will make them fall;”

“...and yet he who believes in Him
will not
be put to shame.”

- Romans 9:33

Prayer It is our privilege and joy, Father, to know Your person and to encounter Your presence.

We thank you that we no longer stand far off, as spectators who are longing for a day that we would be brought nearer, but right now, we may already come with a new, bold confidence upon this new and living way which You Yourself have opened for us, through the torn veil; *the incarnate Word,* … the Word that became more than prophecy, more than philosophy, … the Word that became flesh and not only dwelt amongst us, *but was revealed to be within us!*

And we thank you that that flesh body was torn open **on our behalf**, and that everything that that flesh represented *concerning the Fall and its influence upon us,* faced the wrath of the universe's only supreme Judge. We thank You that You dealt it a death blow in Jesus, ***on our behalf!***

We thank you, Jesus, *that you died in our stead* …**so that we would be translated from death into life!**

So that we might be made the righteousness of God in You, *in that one act of righteousness!*

Thank You that we have our original righteousness restored back unto us, in Christ Jesus, *in that successful work of redemption!*

Thank You, Father, that in His death, *we might be identified!*

And in His sonship *we may enjoy sonship!*

And so, Father, we know You today as our *"Abba,"* as our Daddy, and we adore You for Your love that You have shed abroad in our hearts *and awakened there; Your absolutely overwhelming, awesome love …which makes faith* ***a living reality within us!***

O we thank you Father that *faith works by this love!*

Father, we thank you *for each other,* we thank you that we may extend the love that You have shed abroad and awakened in our hearts, *that we may extend it to one another!*

And together we may all now be embraced in the household of God!

Father, we thank you that as we open the Scriptures, Your very own Spirit opens our understanding and that we perceive and behold wonderful things out of Your

inspired words hidden in those writings of old.

We thank you that Jesus is glorified today in our fellowship together in this book.

Amen

Chapter 1

An End to All Disputes This is book number four in the series: ***Helping the believer to fully appropriate truth!*** There are 6 books in this series:

1. Faith's Vision
2. Faith Inspired Obedience
3. God's Unfailing Integrity
4. Appropriating Truth
5. Multiply what you have in God
6. Faith's fuel

So, in this current book we are still focusing our attention on **helping the believer to fully appropriate truth**.

And if you haven't gotten the other books in this series, *you should really get them and study them,* **because so much is being said and revealed that, *if you can fully grasp these things, you will continue to be blessed for years to come.***

So, just as a quick overview, in the previous book in this series we looked at and focused our attention upon *the practical appropriation of what legally belongs to us in this love-covenant which God made within Himself, between Himself and His original blueprint Son, Jesus.*

We are His offspring, and benefactors of this covenant. *We are benefactors of what legally belongs to us* ***in this love-covenant!***

Isn't it so wonderful to discover that the Bible contains more than mere religious information!

Ha… ha… ha…

It truly is just mind-blowing when you begin to discover that there is more to this book, the Bible, than just an old time history of some Middle Eastern nations that most of us cannot even relate to! And let me tell you it is also so much more than just a recorded history of some great men who supposedly knew God, in ancient times.

Listen, the day that you discover that this book, the Bible, **is but a mere reference <u>to a legal contract</u>** *that existed in the heart of God for all eternity* ***concerning <u>you</u>*** is the day your whole world changes!

Ha… ha… ha…

Hallelujah!

In this book, the Bible, *in that covenant, in that legal contract* ***referred to*** *in the Old Covenant portion,* ***and talked about*** *in the New Testament,* God expressed in vocabulary, in language, ***His heart!***

He defined there *the dream of His heart* ***towards the human race, towards <u>us</u>!***

Listen, God has given such accurate definition of and to His heart dream, in this book, the Bible, that He has articulately employed, every intellectual means necessary *whereby Man could successfully comprehend and communicate the Father's very own integrity and intention.*

And thus, by employing Man's intelligence and communication skills, by employing language, God employed every means necessary *by which Mankind could grasp His faithfulness.*

These things can be fully known; **it is expanded upon in the Scriptures, in the Holy Bible.**

The reason for the Bible, and the very reason for the incarnation of Jesus Christ, *is because of God's desire not to be misunderstood.*

God Himself even entered into an oath, as if He, of all beings, could not be trusted.

You see, if two people decide on some kind of business venture together, they might get very excited about the prospects and the possibility of joining forces and combining their financial resources, and maybe some other resources also, you know: their stuff.

So they would get very excited over the idea of combining their minds and their thoughts and their plans and their dreams. But you see, *there would always remain the risk that one of the two could not be trusted.* And so a higher and greater authority would be employed to add greater integrity and greater weight to their intention.

This is what gave birth to the practice in business and even in marriage, that

people indeed swear by one higher and greater than themselves, such as a lawyer backed by a judge, and a very powerful governmental system, *in order to put an end to all possible dispute,* and thus, they employ every possible means whereby they could add to their sense of security. They would add, therefore, the oath, to bolster their sincerity, *because they desire not to be misunderstood.* And so, at the same time, they also make room, for the possibility that their friend could not perhaps be trusted, and thus they employ a higher and greater authority which they both swear by. And so in this oath, **all disputes are put to an end.**

In the Afrikaans translation it puts it so beautifully. It carries the idea of *putting to an end* ***all back and forth bickering.*** *By employing an oath, people are putting to an end* ***any possible contrary argument.*** *It is the end of* ***all disagreement; the end of all argument!***

So, no matter what could ever happen in the future, to contradict their intention; *their original contract,* it is taken care of already through the oath.

Just so, in God's heart dream, *He has given Himself wholeheartedly and completely to Mankind* ***in covenant integrity!***

God did not just give Himself to us in some kind of reluctant religious way, or in just some kind of inferior, meaningless, religious philosophy!

No. He gave Himself to us, He gave His heart to us; His commitment, *in covenant integrity!*

As if He could not be trusted.

This is so amazing I have to say it again so it can sink in: **He gave Himself to us, His devotion, His care, His whole heart, His everything, *in covenant commitment, in covenant integrity!***

And so, as opposed to the Old Hebrew Covenant which was between God and Man, *in the New Covenant we discover that the second party is now God Himself.* He swore by Himself, by His own being, *incarnate* in a human body!

Being our original blueprint and now also one with the human race in the incarnation, *this Jesus forever became our inseparable representative.*

(In order to better understand this, you need to get my books entitled: *"God's Eternal Purpose", "God's Love for You!"* and *"God's Inheritance in You!" also perhaps, "Offspring of God"*) **Deity took upon Himself humanity to become**

our inseparable surety.

He became the surety of our eternal union with God!

He came and revealed that eternal union, and thus He also then re-established that union.

Jesus, through the incarnation, and then the resurrection, became *the security of our union with God* <u>for all eternity</u>.

Isn’t that wonderful?!

And so, it's in this understanding of God's own love-initiative, it is in the understanding of such an awesome act of love for us, by God Himself, that we approach the Scriptures in our study in this book.

Chapter 2

God's Initiative When we approach the Scriptures, God wants us to understand the heart dream of the Eternal One; *of the eternal, ageless God!*

It is this God who invented and brought forth out of Himself a being **as His companion,** and then placed that being *in a body* which He Himself created and caused *to dwell on this beautiful planet* which was also created by Him.

Listen, in light of this; in the light of Man's true identity, in the light of Man being more than flesh and blood, *in the light of Man being brought forth out of God* **to be His companion and His image and likeness**, we have to approach the Scriptures *with a new mentality.*

As we study in the Scriptures, that Word, the *'Logos'* made flesh, **we begin to discover that God has given Himself to humanity *in absolute covenant integrity, in an oath,* so that He cannot be misunderstood; so that *His intentions with us* cannot be misinterpreted.**

Hebrews Chapter Six says that, *"…**this** **makes it impossible for God to be proved false**."*

"*… so that we, who have fled (to these truths and to Him) for refuge, **might have unwavering confidence!**"*

Hallelujah!

You see, in the light of these things, in the light of God's covenant integrity from His heart towards us, backed by an eternal oath, ***our confidence is not based or built upon our initiative,* but it is based and built upon His initiative!**

Praise God!

Thank you Father!

As we meditate upon His initiative, *that very initiative which He expressed from His heart **in loving us** ...**and loving us first** …while we were still at enmity towards Him …**while we were still in self-destruct mode, so hostile, and in such rebellion in our thinking towards Him, and towards our whole design as His offspring; as His companions, brought forth in His image and likeness to fully***

represent Him ...even while being in that frame of mind, and in our hostile indifferent attitude towards Him, He still took the initiative, in the incarnation and work of redemption, just like He took the initial initiative when He created Man, way back in the beginning, in the garden, <u>in His love for us</u>.

In His love, He took the initiative towards us, in Christ, **from His heart.**

He loved us first!

And as we think upon and ponder, and muse, and meditate <u>upon that truth</u>, *we begin to fall deeply in love with Him!*

...**And so, in that environment our hearts are sealed to become immune to condemnation!**

Hallelujah!

When we discover these things for ourselves, this settled secure covenant commitment of God; this love-covenant He made with us from His heart, ***becomes of such value and worth.*** It becomes such a weightiness within our hearts, such glory within our spirits, that *no contradiction can ever challenge it again!*

No contradiction can ever challenge again what God has secured in His Word, in His "Logos" made flesh!

That is precious news; priceless beyond compare!

We can only study and genuinely embrace and appropriate what God has made available for us and to us in promise and in covenant, *in the light of understanding the difference between two opposing principles.*

The one principle is called; ***works***, *w*hich clearly suggests ***Man's own efforts to obtain***.

And the other is called; ***faith***, which clearly suggests ***God's initiative and His undertaking <u>from the heart</u> on our behalf*** to release us into a faith application of that which we both understand in the Scriptures, and comprehend in His Word, the *"Logos"* made flesh.

If this might seem like heavy language that goes over your head, *I challenge you to pay close attention* and to just hang in there with me. *All of this will become clear as I go along.* And pretty soon you too will find out for yourself, that as you begin to try and express the volume of His working within you, language

becomes too small to contain all the glory and magnitude of that truth and the enormous size of that love. After all, these are ***eternal*** *things* we are talking about …Just try and measure or contain that!

Ha… ha… ha…

No really, I often find that words become too small. There is not enough descriptive meaning in them and they become inadequate to try and express the working of a God who is love personified, and who deals with us in our inner-man, *and seeks to unveil Himself to us.*

And so quite often we begin to search for words, we begin to search for language. We go and we begin to dig into the original language just to try and discover the length, the breath, the height, the depth; *the awesome largeness of His love in His expression of Himself to us.*

And do you know what we discover to be so wonderful?

Even though language might increase in vocabulary, the explanation, the very revelation of His love, *remains as simple as it needs to be for even a child to comprehend it.*

Truly His teaching distills even upon the tender grass like the dew.

So I want you to just keep reading and listen with your heart as you do. Don't allow your mind to become distracted. If you read, maybe, an English word that you've never bothered to discover before, let alone think about the depth of its meaning, just keep reading and allow His teaching in this book to distill upon your heart as the dew. Let Him refresh you with His love, and quicken you in your spirit, and minister to you the life-breath of His Word, of His message, as you read.

Now where was I before I got raptured and carried away to heaven somewhere by that thought? Ha... ha... ha... Oh yes. Now I remember. We are saying to you, me and the Holy Spirit now... ha… ha… ha… that in our search, meaning yours and mine, *to effectively appropriate what now legally and practically belongs to us, we have discovered that it,* ***indeed <u>legally</u> belongs to us****, amen.*

We have discovered that this thick, big book, the Bible, **contains the mere reference to a sacred contract** between the Creator of the entire universe, and this being that came forth out of Him, called Man, ***because of our eternal association with Christ!***

Our lives are hidden with Christ in God, amen!

We are co-heirs with Christ!

We are heirs of God!

Legal heirs, amen, ***not illegitimate heirs, but <u>legal heirs</u>,*** *amen!*

We are all wrapped up together, with Christ, in the bosom of our Father!

And so we not only have a reference to it, written down in Scripture, and accurately displayed in Jesus, *but we have the fine print in the contract:* ***God's very own design impressed within our own being.*** **It's been impressed within our very being!**

We have that fine print within the contract *expressed to us, clear as day,* ***in the person of Jesus Christ.***

O yes, we have **God's design** expressed to us ***in covenant language, in a legal unchanging contract, in an eternal oath, and in an eternal person.***

And now in discovering and seeing these things our desire is to so appropriate these truths, these realities for ourselves in a faith-appropriation, *and to also help you appropriate these things in your understanding, and in your own faith, so that it does not leave any of us lacking in our lives or still frustrated and imprisoned in an effort of our own: An effort which quite frankly does not match the standard of* ***what is revealed*** *in the New Testament Scriptures and in His Word; in Jesus,* ***and is revealed to be in us already!***

So, having said all that, let us get focused now and study the appropriation **of** faith, or **what faith lays a hold of.**

Paul calls it, in Romans 1:5,

"*… the obedience* ***of*** *faith,"* speaking of the fruit of faith.

You see, **our faith *is* our obedience**.

That obedience to believe what is being said begins to bear fruit in our lives. *Faith produces its own fruit, amen!*

And if you haven't perhaps read *"Faith Inspired Obedience!"* and *"God's Unfailing Integrity"* yet, I want to encourage you to get it and read it.

It will help lay a foundation from which to build upon in your study of what is being said in this book and in the remaining books in this series.

Chapter 3

Discovering Him as Our Alpha In discovering Scripture, **we are discovering Him!** We are discovering Him **as our Alpha** …*and **as our Omega**, amen!*

He who began a good work within us; in our creation, and now within our understanding, within our faith, within our hearts, He is not going to give up on us half way and say, *"All right, I have given you a good start. Now you finish it!"*

It reminds me of this joke I heard once about this little boy who got an apple for lunch *but he had no front teeth.*

Being determined to eat the apple still, he went to the teacher and politely asked with a lisp, *"Excuse me sir, can you please give me a kick-ssthtart on this apple?"*

Ha… ha… ha…

Well let me assure you, God has more than a kick-ssthtart in mind for you, amen!

The good news is that the God who invented us and gave birth to us, and initiated our experience with Him, is the same God who stands with you in covenant commitment, to complete your experience of Him, amen.

God has fully equipped us to partake of everything He has desired for us in the beginning, and now given to us again in Christ Jesus! *And He will bring us into the full understanding and experience of these things.*

He, the author of truth, the author of reality, stands ready to establish a new and greater reality for us!

He stands ready to establish us in His very own reality!

Isn't it wonderful to discover that we need not live any longer with the anxiety of *having begun in the Spirit, but now having to complete this whole thing in the flesh, in ourselves?!*

You see, your own efforts will always keep you limited to yourself, *but faith in His effort, faith in His achievement,* ***releases you into the experience of His abundance and limitlessness in your spirit and life!***

Hallelujah!

Let's start in 1 Corinthians 15:56,

" *The sting of death is Sin…"*

In looking at the word *"death,"* we need to see it defined as everything that robs us from closeness, and separates us in our relationship with God.

" ***Death"* does not mean the extinguishing of Man.** ***You cannot be extinguished!*** **You are a spirit being!** ***You are an eternal being with an eternal destiny!***

The word *"death"* merely speaks of a separation.

And so Paul speaks of this here in 1 Corinthians 15:56 and he says that, " *The sting of death is Sin…"*

" *The sting…"*

In other words, *the thing that causes death: " The thing that causes death is Sin…"*

"*… and the power of Sin is the law."*

You see the Law of Moses comes and it reveals to Man *the power* of his problem.

Because if Sin were a mere matter of wrong thinking and wrong decision, then Man could simply correct it through right thinking and right decision.

But the Law was given to Man, to reveal to Man, that Sin, and its fruit of sin, is a greater problem *than mere wrong conduct.*

You see, sin's problem is rooted in a wrong mindset, that expresses itself in a wrong nature, which is the very thing that drives that sin and wrong conduct.

And so, if God is going to have any lasting impact upon us, if His redemption is going to have any lasting impact upon the human race, *then He is going to have to deal with more than just the cobwebs in life.* He has to deal with the spider *first.*

His redemptive work in your life therefore, must deal with more than just the symptoms.

He must deal with that wrong mindset, that produce a wrong nature! He must deal with that identity crises, with that virus or some sort of parasite, some outside force that has come in and laid a hold of you *and manipulates you and finds its expression in your nature.*

His redemptive work must deal with that very mentality and resulting nature that gives birth to the symptoms.

Now if you study these things in the New Testament, you will find that the Law became the measure of Sin.

We see in Romans Chapter Three how the full spectrum, the full reality of Sin, its total influence and power, its full consequences, were displayed and portrayed in Man's inadequacy to consistently perform up to standard.

Even though his conduct could be considered blameless in the eyes of the Pharisees, he could not remove the deception he had to hide behind in his own heart, when his own eyes would continue to cause him to stumble.

I mean this very faculty called *sight* that was designed by the Creator, became a member in his body that embarrassed him in his personal life.

This was the reality Paul himself **once** lived in. He says so in Romans Chapter Seven.

But as we begin to study and discover in the revelation given to us later by that same Paul, we clearly see that **after he received his spiritual sight he was set free himself.**

As we study these things, we discover in that revelation of the Word of the New Covenant, that **God has so dealt with Sin**, that **its nature, its dominion, its power over the human life, over the human mind and consciousness has been broken.**

But I am not going to get into all that right now. If you want, you can make a thorough study of it in my books *"Resurrection Life Now!", "No Longer Looking for Applause!" "God's Measure Versus Man's Measure", "Reigning in Righteousness", and also "Zoë."*

Now how do we tap in and enter into the liberty and the freedom that this covenant brings and introduces to us?

Paul defines his whole ministry in Romans 1:5 as, *"…bringing about the obedience **of** faith."*

There really are only two kinds of obedience.

The Law would enforce obedience **through reward and punishment**, which means that I will get you to change your behavior, I will get you to change your conduct; it doesn't matter if you're an elephant, a monkey, or a human being. I will eventually succeed in so changing your conduct and behavior ***through the law of reward or punishment*** that I get you to comply and do exactly what I want you to.

...How else are you going to get that parrot to talk or that elephant to perform funny tricks for you?

You see, the problem remains that even though your parrot can say, *"Praise the Lord, hallelujah!"* It is still going to remain a parrot!

The law of reward and punishment cannot affect that little creature's nature.

Oh, **it could change its conduct**… and you can change your parrot into a very religious, devout looking and appearing parrot. *But no amount of reward or punishment could ever successfully change the nature of that creature!*

And so the law served only to reveal the nature of Man's condition, *so that a new anticipation could be born in the heart of Man: **the anticipation of again being restored to original innocence**,* the anticipation of being able to live a life beyond the frustrating limits of yesterday's effort.

I could successfully achieve my highest dream as a sportsman today *and then just as successfully spoil it again tomorrow.* **Revealing that there is no consistency in my own effort and my own ability.** There's no permanent consistency in my own excellence or skill.

And so God's faith comes, in the gospel, in Jesus, in the incarnation, and work of redemption, and replaces all that and becomes my fuel. *It now energizes me with a new ability which I am tapping into through hearing with faith.*

In Galatians Chapter Three Paul talks about, *"He who works mightily within you…"*

How does He do it?

How does the power of God work?

How do I get the things of God to work on my behalf?

Paul continues there and he asks,

" *Does He do it, I mean, do these things work through the hearing of the Law, through the works of the law, through my own religious diligence that will eventually so twist God's arm that God cannot but bless me?"*

"*… or does it work through hearing with faith?"*

Paul states,

"*… **it works through hearing with faith!"***

He says,

"*… **in the same way** as Abraham's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness, **our faith is reckoned to us as righteousness!"***

Abraham discovered the approval of the Creator*, through faith in His word.*

You see, the motivation under the Law is confined to punishment or reward, *and it's a motivation that is ruled by a consciousness of lack,* **but faith is the opposite of a consciousness of lack.**

While my life, my conduct, my dream in life is motivated by the Law, ***I will be ruled by a consciousness of lack.***

And what does that produce?

Man's biggest enemy …it's called **guilt!**

And **guilt will imprison me to a sense of inferiority, to a sense of permanent inadequacy** *and then cause me to have to achieve beyond yesterday,* to have to so impress someone, even if it is only my mother, but at least some positive applause will continue to feed my hunger for applause, because as I have said before, *we have been designed for applause.*

Listen, God did not have another hippo, or lion, or monkey, or pet in mind when He made you!

God had in mind, in Man, in YOU, a being that would reflect His own brilliance!

He had in mind a being that He would not feel embarrassed about or

ashamed of, *but a being of praise and applause and beauty.*

But Sin marred that reflection of the image of the Creator in Man, *and so Man was left in a void of seeking to again restore to himself what he lost.*

And in his effort, in his desperate longing for applause and recognition, he became a master at being a phony and a hypocrite. Having to so perform, so impress, that he eventually created a standard of so called *"wisdom"* that God had to come and expose for its own corruption.

That standard is called *worldly wisdom* and *noble birth.*

And the world would say, *"Tell me something about this person."*

And so we get these forms, you know, especially if you want to attend an institution of learning, a so called: *'higher institute of learning,'* like a university or even a Bible School or Seminary …and so you get these forms, and we have to have at least three close references or more, and they now have to fill out and answer questions like: *'Is this person an alcohol user, cigarette smoker …were they involved in a divorce? In your own words, tell us about this person. We'd like to know more about their past.*

Why?

Because, you see, *we now have to formulate an opinion about this person …* ***based upon someone else's opinion of this person's past!***

That's exactly why God had to come in Christ and expose the corruption of worldly standards, by literally taking the despised and rejected, those of low esteem, those of no esteem, *and elevating them in the redemptive work of Jesus.*

And in Christ Jesus He restored us all to Himself, ***so that there remains no basis for any confidence in the flesh!***

Paul says, *"What becomes of our boasting?"*

"… ***it's excluded!****"*

Oh, what a disappointment, Paul, after we worked so hard and put so much effort into it, you're saying, it no longer counts, it is excluded?!

Yes brother, yes my precious sister, you've got it!

Whether you're the biggest muscle-man in town, or the smartest, most intelligent brain-box on campus; whether you're the wealthiest financial guru in the city, or

the most gorgeous girl in line for the next Miss America, or Miss World title, or major modeling opportunity, ***God is not impressed!***

God has never been impressed with all that, *because He sees a potential reflection in you,* ***that can only be measured by His original design of you.***

Listen, God has greater confidence in His design of you, than in the so called strength or weakness of your flesh, or of your past, ruled by a wrong mindset and a sinful nature.

God has greater confidence in the legal integrity, the legal reality of His eternal purpose, ***than any temporal interruption to His design!***

A motivation ruled by the Law*, is a motivation ruled by* ***a consciousness of lack,*** always conscious of, *'I'm not there yet.'*

'There may be some golden daybreak when I might get there, but right now brother, wow, if you guys only knew all that I am dealing with!'

And so this sin-consciousness captures me, *and captivates my full attention, and binds me up, and I have to continue to impress and perform,* both in my fellowship with the brethren, and in my devotional life: *Basically in everything I do.*

I have to continually try and seek some kind of response from Deity, *because I constantly remain unsure of myself.*

BUT Paul speaks of a new force, that releases a new kind of energy in Man.

Chapter 4

A New Force at Work in Us In Colossians Chapter One, there in the last few verses, Paul talks of an energy that is mightily inspired within him. **It is an energy which takes him beyond disappointment,** even though in ministry he might sometimes be confronted with a very critical, negative attitude, in his fellow Man, or with another disappointing experience. BUT, he says, *there is an infusion of spirit-energy, an unhindered inspiration, **that far exceeds all that.***

And so he says, *"**My ambition is to present every individual already complete in Christ, standing in the full excellence of His workmanship, and by that revelation to bring them to maturity in Him.**"*

This is why I believe that it is of the utmost importance for us to study and discover this truth of **faith-inspired obedience – *the obedience of faith.***

We must discover faith: **the faith of God revealed in the gospel.** *It must become our faith.* It is the only way to fully appropriate the truth that the Word, the gospel made flesh in Jesus, has revealed, and which is recorded and still available there in the Scriptures, for us to discover.

In one of Paul's letters, he commends the people for their good testimony. But he says to them that, *"I want you to go beyond having a good testimony only when I am present with you."*

" *I want you to have and hold that good testimony: Not only when I am with you, but much more even when I am absent from you."*

" *Much more when I am absent I desire to see, and to hear about a consistency in your life and faith."*

He says, *"We are no longer involved in hypocrisy or in eye service, we are no longer Man-pleasers, we are no longer trying to perform before one another to see who can look the most mature, or the most intellectual, with the most common sense, or the most Pentecostal, or the most spiritual, or the most pious, or the most religious.*

No! Hey listen, brethren, we have discovered a standing in Him, in His approval

of us, that liberates us to become the mirror …to exhibit the exact image of our Maker, of our Father, of our Daddy God, who is love …to simply be the expressed image of His nature!"

Jesus said in Matthew 5:19 and 20 that,

" *Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Pharisees, you've got a problem."*

The obedience of faith does not mean that God has now simply just lowered the standard that the Law presents *in order to accommodate our fallen state.*

No. The obedience of faith means that instead of relaxing even the least of the Law*, we now fulfill it to the fullest extent that it could possibly be lived and fulfilled.*

...And we're able to do this because, you see, *we tap into a power that takes us far beyond our own weak efforts in the flesh to keep and uphold some external Law.*

Let me tell you something: the alpha, the very beginning of God's working within us, ignites and begins to happen when we have our first encounter with, the word of faith, the gospel of our salvation.

In the faith of God revealed, in the truth of God revealed in the gospel, we tap in to a reservoir, an inexhaustible resource of Divine inspiration, which now mightily energizes us from within.

You see; the Law was but a shadow, pointing to something greater, to a greater reality, to the fact that the image and likeness of God, the Divine nature is inscribed upon our inner-consciousness, because it is already engraved upon our inner-man; it's the very identity of our spirit.

In the beginning of 1 Thessalonians Chapter One, Paul refers to that initial encounter with God in the word of truth; in the gospel, and then to the ever increasing impact of the testimony of the saints, because of that encounter with God, *spreading beyond their region, reaching even to the uttermost parts of the earth!*

And then he shows us the secret of how that could possibly happen. He says there in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, "… *and we also thank God constantly for this: that when you* ***received*** *the Word of God (the gospel) which you heard from us, you embraced it. Not as the word of men, but you welcomed it; you* ***received*** *it*

*and **accepted** it as it really is, as it is in truth, the Word of God, which now also mightily works within those who believe it!"*

Those two words *"**received**"* and *"**accepted**"* used in this verse are two different words in the Greek.

The one is the word *'**lanbano**'* which means: **to cease, to catch, to assume, to put on, to make a right or successful assumption, to perceive, to conceive, to take as a man who takes a wife to himself, to give reception to.**

And then the word *'**degomi**'* is the second word used there, which means: **to take into one's hands, or to take into one's home or into one's heart, to receive into, to retain, to contain, to acquire a deep accurate knowledge of, to grant access to, to receive kindly, to welcome, to receive in hospitality, to entertain, to bear patiently with, to approve, to embrace, to agree fully with.**

So Paul uses these two beautiful big Greek words to say, *"Listen you guys: you know what? There is a beginning to everything in your lives. And if you want that thing to continue, **simply engage afresh with that very thing every morning of your life!** Stick to that which was the 'alpha' of your experience."*

*" What was the 'alpha' of your experience in the faith? You heard a word which we brought to you, and you know what you did with it? You took it beyond its natural value. You received it beyond its philosophical value, even beyond its religious, doctrinal, or theological value. **You received it and embraced it for what it really is: the truth; the Word of God!"***

And the King James adds, *"**Which mightily works within you!**"*

What is it that is in that Word? What is invested in that Word?

The omnipotence of God, the supernatural, the very power of God!

Listen, God has exalted His Word above His name! He has placed His Word, His gospel, in a place of authority even above His name, to confirm His name, to confirm His love!

Hallelujah!

You see if He is *'Jehovah Shalom,'* **the God of tranquility, *the God that releases my mind from anxiety ...then His truth, His Word guarantees my escape!***

His Word guarantees the effect that that liberty that it produces within you

brings to you!

He has truly exalted His Word **above** His name.

Paul says, *"I thank God that as you heard the word which we brought to you, you embraced it. You did all these wonderful things that we just looked at with that Word, and* ***it is now mightily at work within you, energizing you from within!****"*

" *So now your obedience is no longer limited to a guilt effort, to obligation and duty, to a guilt trip, to 'I owe you something' or 'I owe it to you', or 'oh brother, you know, I have been such a bad person, and I am really going to become a good person now: I'm just going to start to pray harder, and I am going to give it all I've got. I'm going to start studying harder, and fast more often, and longer, and go to church as often as I possibly can.'"*

And after a while, you see, I become disappointed at my own efforts again.

But the Word, the truth of the gospel, releases a fire in my heart. ***It releases and inspires my spirit with God's own initiative, with God's own energy!***

When God created seed, whether it's pumpkin or peach, He designed that seed with enough energy imprinted into that little computer memory bank, that computerized programmed little vehicle of a seed, **to release life after its own kind!**

You will never find a pumpkin seed having to borrow life from another kind of seed.

There is enough life which God destined for that seed *hidden within it* to produce a full harvest, a mature harvest.

And in the same way, God has built into His vehicle; He has built into His voice, into His Word, into His gospel, *enough truth, enough faith energy, enough love;* ***every measure of spirit energy and ability;*** **of wisdom, and knowledge, and truth and understanding, every measure of love and life,** ***that you and I could ever need in this life*** to enable us to walk worthy of the One who called us by His grace *to His own excellence and glory.*

Chapter 5

No Longer Outsiders, But Family

You see, if the enemy could snare us into one thing, he would do this very thing: he would seek to bring a distance between the effect of the Word in our hearts, and our own efforts, so that if we become conscious of some lack in our lives, and we begin to employ our own efforts again. This is hypocrisy when measured in God's standard, because it's an attempt to add to what we lack in our own lives.

I wrote this whole series of books on this matter of properly accurately appropriating the truth of the gospel, so that we can take a thorough look at this in its full implication and weight, in our private devotional life. *I am talking about our personal embrace of the truth of the gospel within our hearts and lives.*

We also need to discover the implication of these things, in our appropriation of the truth of the gospel, to its full extent, in our fellowship, and in our evangelism methods and strategies.

We need to grasp that we are announcing to the world that their trespasses have been forgiven! That God does not count their trespasses against them! That is the accurate content of the gospel!

His appeal to them through us now is <u>His love</u>! He has reconciled them in Christ! He canceled the bond which stood against them with its legal demands! That is the gospel!

He has destroyed the poison of death called Sin, in His own body there on that cross! ***He has destroyed their guilt! He has blotted out that handwriting against them in the blood of Christ on that cross! That is what the gospel is all about!***

And now it is only their hearing with faith; their full embrace of these things, <u>as reality</u>, that qualifies them to fully enter into His provision.

Their comprehension, their grasping of these <u>realities</u>, their believing of it, releases them, to embrace Him!

Hallelujah!

Ephesians 3:14-15 says (And I am reading to you from the Ruach Translation), " *The awesomeness of these redemption realities compels me into urgent prayer as I bow my knees before the Father on your behalf.* ***His Fatherhood legally extends His name to every family both in the heavenlies and here upon the earth****."*

Some people are so confused about what grace represents that they accuse us of saying that we no longer preach or need Jesus to be a mediator. They even go as far as accusing us of saying that we no longer need to pray in the name of Jesus! *But none of those false assumptions and accusations is true. That is not what we teach.*

We know full well that no man comes to the Father, *but through Him!*

And the fact that He has given us His name means infinitely more than just religiously using His name at the end of our prayers.

What I mean is that I, as a son, wouldn't come to my dad and say to him, "*Dad can I just quickly speak to you in the name of Louw please?"*

Ha… ha… ha…

No. Listen, He takes it for granted that I carry his name. By birth his name was extended to me.

Glory! Thank you Father!

But you see we have become so religious in our respective understanding of what the name of Jesus means.

Listen man, it's not wrong to pray in His name. It's not even wrong to end your prayers with, IN THE NAME OF JESUS. I still daily pray in His name! So don't get legalistic and dogmatic, *even if you now think you have a more enlightened understanding than me.* Don't look at someone funny and think, *'Man, you don't know what I know, you don't know THIS revelation yet. If only you knew OUR revelation: we don't pray ignorantly like that, like you, anymore.'*

Hey listen, I understand grace and teach it fully *and I still pray like that!* It is good to keep praying in the name of Jesus!

But I want everyone to enlarge their understanding of what it means *to be included in the name of Jesus.*

It means that everything that the household of Deity has to offer the human

race *is extended to you on legal, valid terms!*

You are no longer an outsider, a sojourner, or a foreigner! *You are a family member of God, a valid member of His household!*

And do you know how strongly God confirms what I just said? **His very own Holy Spirit cries out within your own spirit, *"Abba – Father; Daddy God!"***

Not, *"Abba Father, in the Name of Jesus…"* no, just *"Abba Father,"* **because the Father Himself loves you!**

Listen, in the incarnation, in Christ, the Father Himself *made a personal appearance!*

" *God was personally present in Christ when He reconciled the world to Himself!"*

" *God so very much loved the world that He gave…"*

" *God demonstrated His own love towards us in this: that even while we were yet sinners, Christ came and He died for us!"*

Hey, don't worry: Jesus is not nervous when you become intimate with the Father! **He and the Father are one!**

Jesus doesn't feel jealous over your relationship with the Father! **He died for that very thing!**

He gave His very life so you and the Father can have that relationship restored between you!

So don't get religious on us grace preachers, alright? Hang in there and just listen, okay? Just keep reading and open your heart and your mind so that you don't miss out!

God is introducing and restoring powerful revelation to the Church today, so don't shut us down, okay? **Don't rob yourself of the increase and depth of intimacy God wants to bring into your life!**

Open your heart and mind!

Don't get distracted if what we say contradicts what you have heard and sounds wrong when you first hear it.

Just stay open and ask God to show you if what we are saying lines up with the truth of the Scriptures, *not your favorite doctrine,* amen. Ask Him and He will

show you.

Hey man, listen, ha... ha... ha... your Bible is right. You're right. I'm right. This new Mirror Bible is right: we're all right, okay?

Tell yourself ***we're alright, it's going to be just fine!***

Ha... ha... ha...

It reminds me of a joke I heard once.

A philosopher, I don't remember exactly who it was supposed to be, but this guy said something like this, *" You know, the whole world's wrong. Only ye and me are right …and even ye are a little bit queer!"*

Ha… ha… ha…

If I was to start sharing details with you, you would be amazed. We have been accused of preaching the greatest heresies and many other things. We have been shot down and disregarded and ignored, and you name it, we have been accused of it.

But in the realm of eternal reality, and in the light of the truth of the gospel clearly revealed in Scripture; in Paul's writings and the rest of the apostle's writings, *in the light of that gospel,* we are right.

And those who falsely accuse us, just because they haven't heard these things before, and just because out of fear they prefer to cling to their old wrong doctrine and teachings, *have no clue what they are talking about!*

I wonder when men and women of God, supposed leaders in the body of Christ, are going to wake up, grow up, *and start listening to the witness of their own hearts,* **instead of allowing themselves to get caught up in the latest gossip and in the ignorance and mob mentality of their friends and peers?**

I apologize if it sounds like I am on a tirade and coming across too strong, as if trying to defend myself. I really am not. *My concern is that many have closed their ears* ***and are getting robbed from understanding the gospel more fully.***

I want to make the point again: **The whole reason for Jesus' death was to restore an intimacy and quality of relationship and fellowship with God the Father which the sin of Adam robbed Man of.**

Listen, Jesus has restored to you and me the very same freedom that He Himself enjoys with His Father!

He has restored to us the very same access, the very same blamelessness.

And that is why we worship Him as our one and only mediator!

We worship Him as the One who loved us enough to take our place, and who in our place was condemned by men and despised and rejected. We worship Him as the way, as the life, as the truth! We worship Him as the clearest unveiling of truth, the clearest unveiling of who God really is, the God who is love, the clearest unveiling of the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

He came to make Love Himself known in His fullness, and He also revealed our origin in Him; our sonship.

Our authentic original design was on display there in Him!

He was and is the exact representation, the very image and likeness of the invisible God on display: the very God who is love, and *in whose image and likeness we are made!*

And therefore we proclaim boldly that no one comes to the Father, to an accurate intimate relationship with the Father, but through Him!

Hallelujah!

So please don't fall into the same trap as Israel, as the Jews, as the religious world in the days when the Word became flesh and dwelt among them. They had become so familiar, or so they thought, with the prophetic word and with the Scriptures, *that they never really understood or drew any real benefit from the revelation of the incarnation.*

Just like their ancestors, a people of promise, who died in the wilderness: a people who had a legal and powerful covenant with God, but they died outside of that covenant, ***outside of obtaining what that covenant made available to them.***

They were so familiar ***with their religious doctrine, with the promise, with their prophetic doctrine of the promise,*** that they died in the wilderness, ***outside of possessing that land of promise.***

Let us not also get stuck living in some prophetic future mode, ***and miss out on entering in and enjoying reality now as God has revealed it, and given it to us in Jesus!***

Chapter 6

Ceasing Our Labors to Enter Rest!

Ephesians 3:15 says,

" *His Fatherhood legally extends His name to every family, both in the heavenlies and here upon the earth"*

Verse 16,

" *My request to the Father…"*

Paul writes this epistle and prays this prayer from the urgency of his spirit, urgently appealing to this church, to this group of people, and really to the Church at large, and to the whole Gentile world, *to discover the wealth of their redemption.*

And so he says in verse 16,

" *My request to the Father is this: that He may give you, according to the rich measure of His opinion of you…*

(...*according to the rich measure of His glory,* of His *'**Doxa**',* of His opinion of you – the word *'glory'* in this context literally means, *'opinion'*.) " *My request to the Father is this: that He may give you, **according to the rich measure of His opinion of you** to be strengthened and become mighty through the power of His Spirit in the inner-man."*

Now verse 17 says,

" *So that you will become rooted and firmly established **in the love-plan of God, drawing your nourishment from His love revelation** and finding your strength and your stability in that."*

" *Faith brings **a consciousness** of Christ's residence in your heart."*

What is the hope of glory?

His indwelling!

Colossians 2:6 says,

" *As we have received Christ Jesus through our hearing with faith, so we now walk* ***conscious of our union with Him!****"*

It is that very consciousness *that supplies us with the working of God in our inner-man. It supplies us with that energy which He mightily inspires within us!*

It is absolutely vital for us to discover the principle of entering into **His** rest, where we cease from our own labors.

How do I strive to enter into his rest, Rudi? How do I reconcile these two concepts of striving and resting, without contradicting myself in my own theology?

This has truly confused so many sincere believers because one Sunday the preacher is a faith preacher and the next he is a works preacher.

The one Sunday everyone is encouraged, because, o hallelujah, it is a faith appropriation.

But the next Sunday, oh woe is me, brother, you better be diligent in your conduct.

… And absolutely frustrated individuals are the only result of that kind of ministry!

But I thank God that He doesn't get frustrated with us. His level of persistence and faithfulness exceeds His disappointment with us sometimes. He will prevail against our blindness and ignorance and hardness of heart. ***He is stubborn in His love!***

Hallelujah!

He who began a good work will perfect that work! He will perfect it on the same basis; ***on the basis of His own initiative.***

He will perfect it upon no other premise, no other basis, and no other law than **the law of His own faith:** ***the law of His own initiative!***

Praise God, **He is not going to give up on His design of you, and for you!**

Another translation of Ephesians 3:17 reads, " *This is the urgency of my desire: that your capacity to accommodate the indwelling Christ will be greatly enlarged, through the working of His power in your inner-man.* ***The wealth of His glory (or His opinion) measures His ability at work within you!****"*

What is **the measure of God's ability** at work within me?

It's according to my faith, amen.

What is the measure of God's working within me?

Is it the goose bumps I get?

Hallelujah for the goose bumps. I love the goose bumps, *but I don't build my faith on goose bumps!*

I will not allow my faith to be altered or affected *based upon whether I have the goose bumps or not!*

What is the measure of His favor?

I mean how do I measure that?

By conduct? Or by faith?

What's the measure of His attitude towards me?

I mean, what guarantees God's consistency, His consistent involvement in my life?

What guarantees God's blessings?

My conduct? Or my faith?

What guarantee do I have that God is not going to give up on me tomorrow?

… *That maybe tomorrow God is also going to have just another manic Monday and wake up in a bad mood and just suddenly decide, "Listen I've had enough. Enough is enough, angels, that's it. I'm just going to cut this guy off. I never want any of you mentioning his name before Me ever again!*

What's the guarantee that that won't happen?

What's my guarantee?

The measure of the wealth of His eternal opinion of me is my guarantee!

How do I measure His opinion?

How do I measure *the wealth of it?*

How do I measure the wealth of His dream concerning me, ***that dream of which I am the fulfillment of?***

Looking into the face of Jesus! ***That's how I measure that wealth!***

Looking into the face of Jesus! ***Looking into that blameless innocence! Looking into the eyes of a lover! Looking into the eyes of favor! Seeing in His eyes the heart-dream of God extended to the human race!***

*...**Seeing the heart of God on display there!***

Paul says that I am looking <u>at Him</u> ***as in a mirror!***

And while <u>looking at Him</u> *and the wealth of His favorable opinion of me on display,* **I am transformed!**

While <u>looking at Him</u> **I am transformed** ***into the same likeness!***

Because I discover myself there!

I discover the truth of who I really am in God's opinion ***there!***

I discover that I am loved and that I am indeed God's offspring!

I am transformed because I discover my true self ***there,*** **my God designed self!**

While <u>looking at Him</u> **I am transformed into the same likeness** ***from glory to glory!***

His glory becoming my glory!

His exact expression of the glory; of the opinion of God, of our one and only true Father, ***becoming my expression too!***

Hallelujah!

Thank you Jesus!

Jesus is the One **making visible** ***the invisible!***

His majesty becomes my mirror!

His glory becomes my glory!

It is so wonderful to discover that I no longer need to stare at the Law: ***I no longer have to stare and wonder in confusion at a mirror reflecting the insufficiency of my own effort.***

I am now beholding, I'm gazing, upon a mirror that reflects brightly the

glory of God in the face of Christ: ***In the face of a man.***

We have <u>this treasure</u> **in earthen vessels.**

"*… **according to the wealth of His opinion of you!**"*

Isn't that just awesome? Hallelujah!

It's that very wealth that releases a working within you, which takes you beyond your own effort!

So we might as well relax **and yield to a new law; the law of faith, the law of righteousness by faith.**

Paul bears witness to the zealous religious efforts of his own nation in Romans 10:1. He says, " *I bear them witness that they do have a zeal; a fiery inspiration for God,* ***but it's not enlightened****."*

Listen: it's merely a zeal inspired by a guilt-consciousness, a sense of inadequacy, a sense of lack. And tomorrow I am going to beat and buffet myself more, and I am going to really work at it harder. I'm going to really get there: I'll show the world I'll get there! But they're left with having to admit at the end of the arduous race, at the end of the struggle: *"O wretched man that I am, the very thing the Law educated me to do and to try and be, I found my own heart contradicting."*

Let's read on there in Ephesians Chapter Three.

In the light of this working within you, verse 18 says, "… *then you will take full possession, together with all the saints of the limitless dimension of His love. You will comprehend the breadth and the length and the height and the depth, and intimately know the love of Christ,* ***which exceeds every limit of sense-governed knowledge****."*

You see, because there is this knowledge which I obtain through my five senses (smell, touch, taste, hearing and sight - It is my contact with my natural environment, through my five senses), and I live my life by this sense-governed knowledge, *together with everyone else …having to behave up to this person's standard, and up to that one's opinion.*

But Paul says that this revelation *of* ***His*** *approval, and of* ***His*** *love,* **gives Him energy to live within me,** *beyond every limit!*

" ***It is within the scope of this unveiling*** *that the fullness of God will flood your*

life," he goes on to say there in Ephesians.

Verse 20 says,

" *His super-abundant ability to do within us* ***by His love****, far beyond what we ask Him to do, or even thought that He would do,* ***is the very power that now energizes us from within****."*

(Do you see how ridiculously restricted we were in our religious concepts of Him?) " ***The wealth of His opinion of us, and of His very achievement in Christ, becomes the reservoir of strength and energy within us!****"*

Paul says in Verse 21, " *His glory is now manifested in both* ***the Church*** *…and in Christ Jesus"*

("*His glory is now manifested in* ***the Church,*** in the '***ekklesia***': the ones called out of this natural mindset, out of the sense-knowledge ruled mindset of this world, **by seeing their true identity revealed and restored there in Christ and in the work of redemption!**) " ***His glory is now manifested, both in them, the Church, and in Christ Jesus, as an eternal trophy throughout all generations.****"*

Listen, what God is now able to do in us, ***through insight into these things,*** **what God is now able to manifest within His Church,** ***is not in any way inferior to what He was able to manifest and communicate through Christ!***

If we understand this as the basis of God's working within us, *as the energy that He inspires within us,* we will never again feel the need to go back to our own works. We will never again be snared into our own works mentality again, into employing our own efforts *to add to what God has achieved in Christ!*

In the remaining books in this series, I am going to do my best to teach the practical application of this in the light of this truth.

Listen, it is so wonderful to discover that **He is indeed the Alpha of His own word and of His own work.**

Chapter 7

Faith is the Key!

Let's just quickly go to Romans nine and ten, and we will close with that.

Paul in Romans 9:30 talks about the fact that the Gentiles, those who had no claim to the promise through natural birth, and who did not pursue righteousness, *have attained it* by faith.

And then he goes on to say that Israel, who pursued righteousness did not succeed in obtaining righteousness under the Law, their own inconsistency keeping them out, because they based righteousness on the law.

He says, *"…they did not succeed in fulfilling the Law."*

Romans 9:32,

" *Why? Because they did not pursue it through faith."*

What did they not pursue through faith?

God's approval, God's recognition.

How then did they pursue God's recognition?

Through their own works and their own conduct.

Paul says,

"*… they did not pursue it through faith, but as if it were based on works."*

He says,

" *They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,"*

"*… just as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall;"*

"*… and yet he who believes in Him will not be put to shame."*

Why will it offend Man?

Because Man rejected Him!

I mean, you know, that's not really our kind of a stone, not the kind we expected and wanted.

" *Lord, who will believe our report,"* says Isaiah in Isaiah 53:1.

I mean He looks and seems so insignificant in His appearance, He's not the type of macho man we had in mind! And then He dies on a cross and He becomes a curse: what a failure, what a disappointment to our expectation!

We could have crowned Him as our new king just on the basis of His supernatural powers and His works of miracles, but then He goes and dies on us, hanging there on that cross so weak and so helpless!

"*… a stumbling stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make men fall…"*

What is that rock?

Righteousness by faith!

That's Jesus; righteousness by faith. That's Jesus; that's what He's all about!

And the Scriptures says,

"*… and he who believes in him will not be put to shame."*

" *As many as received Him…"* - John 1:12

" *He came to His own…"* - Verse 11

… but His own rejected Him!

"*… **but as many as received Him**..."*

How do I receive Him?

Through faith, through embracing the truth revealed in Jesus, through embracing the work of redemption, through embracing that truth, as reality, through embracing Him!

I receive Him through simply seeing and agreeing and embracing what is revealed and accomplished there in Him, in the whole incarnation, and work of redemption!

"*… **he who believes in Him will not be ashamed**…"*

We will not be <u>ashamed</u>.

Then Romans 10:1 says,

" *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them* (that's for the Jews, the religious folk; the legalistic, Law-of-works-bound religious folk) *is that they may be saved."*

How are they rescued?

Through hearing with faith!

" *I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God,* ***but it is not enlightened****."*

Verse 3,

" *For being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not yield (or submit) to God's righteousness."*

Now we need to understand what it means to yield to God's righteousness, in appropriating what God has made available to us in this covenant.

Verse 17 of Romans 10 says,

"*…* ***faith comes*** *by hearing…"*

Hearing what?

Hearing the word; hearing the gospel.

Faith comes by listening to the truth of the gospel *and embracing it.*

Faith comes by hearing and agreeing with the *'Logos'* revealed in Jesus, *hearing that revelation of Christ!*

Romans 10:4 go on to say,

" ***For Christ is the end of the Law****,"*

" *...****so that every single one who has faith may be justified.****"*

*...****Every single one!***

Through the hearing with faith.

Father, we treasure the working of Your Word within us as our greatest wealth!

And so, Father, we would say to You that, abiding in Your Word is greater to us than even a number one priority!

It has truly become to us **our only priority** in life: a genuine addiction, a perfectly good addiction, an ecstasy!

… continuing through faith, in Your Word, … through the washing of that water of your Word, … continuing in Your Word and having Your Word continue in us, **is our only priority** and an ecstasy to us!

We thank you for the knowledge of the truth which brings liberty!

… and I thank you, Father, that through my books, and through the Scriptures expounded on in these books, *and through the hearing of faith*, men and women are released from every evidence of darkness in their life!

Thank you that You have indeed extended to every individual reading these books, to those who have an ear to hear, You have extended Your Word, the "Logos," Christ Himself, the Christ-life! You have extended in Your Word, and thus in these words, **the absoluteness of Your favor, and of Your total unequivocal forgiveness, and of Your redemption and reconciliation,** … *so that we may respond through faith and embrace the word with joy!*

Hallelujah!

Thank you Jesus!

We thank you that when the light comes *darkness goes!*

If you are reading this, and you are conscious of any lack in your life, of any lack in your health, of any lack in your spirit-fellowship with God, any blockage in your own mental understanding of the word, any lack that would possibly intimidate the design of the Creator in your life, I want you to expose your heart and life to the sunlight of His word.

Embrace the truth of the gospel and allow Him to dispel that darkness!

Let your spirit-man come alive **fully!**

Let faith come alive fully within you!

Let Him inspire a new energy within you!

That energy of faith. If you let it have its perfect work, it will release the very faith of God within you! ***It will release the very ability of God within you!***

Beholding Him in His fullness, face to face in His full beauty, ***you are***

transformed!

So, as you have heard these things and are hearing these things, **embrace the word fully,** it is my plea to you! Embrace it in your bosom, for it is truly worthy of all acceptance! I say again: **Embrace it fully and let Jesus Christ become the revelation which your heart yearns for, amen.**

In closing, I urge you to get yourself a copy of *The Mirror Bible.* It is the best translation of the Scriptures from the original Greek that I have ever read, and it's available online at: www.Amazon.com and several other book sellers.

If you want me or someone from of our team to come to where you are, *anywhere in the world,* and give a talk or teach you and some of your friends *about the gospel message and these redemption realities,* simply contact us on www.LivingWordIntl.com …or you can always find me on Facebook.

If your life has changed as a result of reading this book, *please write to me and let me know.*

I would love to share in your joy *so that my joy in writing this book may be full!*

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard

(**with our spiritual ears**), which we have seen

(**with our spiritual eyes**), which we have looked upon (**beheld, focused our attention upon**), and which our hands have also handled (**which we have also experienced**), concerning the Word of life, we declare to you,

<u>that you also</u> may have this fellowship <u>with us</u>; and <u>truly</u> <u>our fellowship is with the Father</u> <u>and with His Son Jesus Christ</u>.

And these things we write to you **that your joy may be full!**”

1 John 1:1-4

About the Author



Rudi & Carmen Louw together oversee: Living Word International.

They also travel and minister both locally and internationally.

Rudi was born and raised in the country of South Africa, while Carmen grew up in Cortland, New York.

They function in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-21) and flow strongly with the Holy Spirit and His anointing to teach, preach, prophesy, heal, and whatever is needed to touch people's lives with the reality of God's love and power.

God has given them keen insight into what He has to say to mankind in the work of redemption concerning the revelation and restoration of humanity's true identity.

Therefore they emphasize THE GOSPEL, IN CHRIST REALITIES, the GRACE of God, the WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, *and all such eternal truths essential to salvation and living the CHRIST-LIFE.*

They have been granted this wisdom and revelation into the knowledge of God by the resurrected Spirit of Jesus Christ, *to establish and strengthen believers in*

the faith of God, and to activate them in ministering to others.

Not only are people set free from the poison and bondage of sin, condemnation and all kinds of intimidation, (upheld, strengthened and reinforced by age old religious ideas born out of ignorance) **but many are brought into a closer more intimate relationship with Father God, as Daddy**, through accurate teaching and unveiling of the gospel message, prophetic words, healings and miracles.

Rudi & Carmen are closely knitted together with many other effective Christians, church fellowships, and groups of believers who share the same revelation and passion **to impart the truth of the gospel to others, *so as to impact and transform the world we live in with the LOVE and POWER of God.***