PROTECTION THROUGH JESUS

The Protection Series Book Three

Since you have your armor on and are succeeding through spiritual warfare, Jesus will join you in protecting people who don't have their armor on yet.

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Chapter One

You Can Expect It To Work Like This

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

There are six steps to preparing your heart for Ministerial Spiritual Warfare with Jesus:

1. **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.**

2. **The Author and Perfecter of our faith.**

3. **Who for the joy set before Him.**

4. **Endured the cross.**

5. **Scorning its shame.**

6. **Sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Jesus, prepare my heart for these six steps in ministerial spiritual warfare. Help me be receptive to Your guidance and empowerment into the supernatural realm. Help me see clearly how You want to minister through me. Help me see how Hebrews 12:2 is to be applied to my life and ministry. Show me how You and I will be working together. Teach me what Your part is and what my part is. Prepare me for my part, so I will be ready for Your part.

Eyes On Jesus

1. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus. This isn't just a matter of using Jesus as your example. It isn't just saying that you should see what Jesus did and *pattern* your life after Him. When you fix your eyes on Jesus, you get a lot more out of it than a good historical example. Jesus *is* your ministry. Now that you have made Jesus the Lord of your life, you live but it really isn't you living it (Gal. 2:20). At least that is what is available to you.

Jesus, empower me to fix my eyes on You. As I go about my day, help me live it with my focus on what You want me thinking, feeling, saying, and doing. Set me free from getting my eyes off of You on to the assignment, the project, the issue, or the procedure. Help me be looking through Your eyes, at everything I face, all during my day. Teach me how to concentrate on what You are thinking, feeling, wanting to say, and wanting to do.

Because of the gentleness of God, even though Jesus is living in you and can flow through you in a mighty way, it doesn't *have to* happen. It doesn't *automatically* happen. You have to do what it takes for it to happen. The moment you **fix your eyes on Jesus** is the moment when your dependency shifts from you to Him. He starts to empower you to do the right thing with the people around you, by living and ministering through you. All you have to do, is yield to His wishes and His power. But, you must do it moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue.

Jesus, help me understand that, when I stop getting You and Your ministry flowing through me, it is usually because I stopped doing what it takes to yield to You. I have been distracted and am concentrating on the project, issue, or procedure rather than my eyes fixed on You. I have decided that I can handle it on my own. Or, I am working on something You aren't willing to join me on. Help me yield to Your will, Your power, Your plan, and Your life.

As you face a ministerial assignment, the issue isn't what *you* can do. The question is, what is *Jesus* going to do? As a person, with a serious problem, came to Jesus asking for help, the whole crowd's eyes were on Jesus. Once the person expressed what their need was, everyone started wondering what Jesus was going to do to respond to the request. That is the place you must be. As Jesus starts ministering through you, you must know where to **fix** your eyes.

Jesus, as You use me in supernatural, God-sized ways, to protect and help hurting people, help me keep my eyes fixed on You. Help me not get prideful that You are flowing through me. Help me understand that the reason You are flowing through me is because I am yielding to You. You have set me free from pride and things that would typically destroy me and my relationship with You. You are protecting and meeting needs, because I have acknowledged that it is all You doing these things.

So, if right in front of you is a massive need, all eyes will be on you. Everyone will be wondering what *you* are going to do about it. But, your eyes must not be where everyone else's eyes are. *You* aren't going to be able to do *anything* about it. You must have your eyes *fixed* on Jesus. You must be wondering what *He* is going to do about it. Sure, He is going to be using your body. However, you aren't going to be able to provide the God-sized answer to the need.

Jesus, the big issue is dealing with what the people think and do, as they see You flowing through me. Because they only see me, when You heal, protect, and bless them and others, they will have a tendency to give me the credit. Most will know it is You; but, they will be impressed with the fact that You are doing it through me. Give me great wisdom, honesty, and humility, so I can make sure everyone turns their praise, thanksgiving, and appreciation to You. Protect me from anything that would steal Your glory.

Chapter Three

Get Your Faith From Jesus

2. The author and perfecter of your faith. Jesus is your Author and Perfecter of your faith. Yet, He may not be perfecting your faith. He *can;* but, He won't force it to happen. When you look at all the potential problems of serving others, it can overwhelm your faith. You look at yourself and your resources and you see too many limitations. If you allow Jesus to step into the situation and perfect your faith, He will add the "God factor" to your view of things.

Jesus, it is difficult for me to completely understand how much You honor my God-given free will. Help me start inviting You into every aspect of my life. Help me realize that if I don't, You won't do those things that You want to do in and through me. **1 Th 5:17 (NIV) pray continually.** Let this commandment help me respond and allow You into every thought and every decision. Show me how important it is to this ministry of protecting others through You.

What would happen to the list of potential problems of providing food, clothes, visitation, housing, and nursing; if you added Jesus to the picture? That would change everything. With God, nothing is impossible. This is what Jesus did to His disciples over the period of the Gospels. During their training, their faith buckled under the load of each assignment, case, after case, after case. "Oh, you of little faith," Jesus would say. Over and over again Jesus kept saying things like that to them. Gradually, through constant exposure, Jesus authored and perfected their faith.

Jesus, I open my heart for You to constantly author and perfect my faith. I thank You for authoring it for salvation and justification. Now, I yield to You authoring it for so many other assignments, as You flow through me to protect, heal, and bless the hurting and lost. Teach me how to be constantly fixing my eyes on You, by consulting, requesting, inviting, and believing in You and You alone. Help me *fix,* lock, focus, and stare at You all the time. Help me never take my eyes off of You.

Ultimately, Jesus' disciples fixed their eyes on Him and they finally got their faith perfected. They developed a total perspective of the "God factor." They stopped looking at what they could do and started seeing what Jesus could do through them. From that point on, their life and ministry exploded into the supernatural realm. When Jesus used Peter to heal the handicapped man at the gate beautiful, Peter reveal where he finally fixed his eyes of faith.

Jesus, help me follow Peter's example and be able to express my faith in You. Help me be ready to tell people that You are why I am able to do what I am doing. Give me a constant awareness of why these people need to know that it is You doing these things. Show me how this helps them grow in their faith and dependency on You. Help me not just tell them it was You; help me explain it in such a way that they get trained on how Christianity works. Also, help it show them that You are the living Christ, Who is demonstrating Your life and ministry in front of them.

Acts 3:12,16 (NIV) When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us <u>as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk</u>? Vs. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him <u>that has given this complete healing to him</u>, as you can all see.

Jesus, I can see how Peter not only gave You the praise and glory, he used this healing as an opportunity to help people realize that You did raise from the dead. Since Romans 10:9-10 is going to require that they believe that God raised You from the dead, help me see that they need this training. So, as You do great and mighty things in and through me, help me teach all these people about You, as the living Christ, Who is doing Your ministry through me.

I Hope Jesus Can Do It

Faith isn't hope. You can hope all you want and it won't get the job done on things Jesus has already provided. **Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now <u>faith is</u> being *sure* <u>of what you hope for</u> and *certain* <u>of what you do not see</u>.** You can't be **sure** and **certain,** if it doesn't already exist. You and others aren't getting healed, transformed, blessed, saved, justified, and sanctified from something that doesn't exist until you get it. Jesus created it for you, so you could believe for it and get it.

Jesus, help me see that You are doing things in me and through me that You created through Your death and resurrection. My sins were already forgiven, before I took advantage of that fact. If it hadn't been already true, I couldn't have believed it was true of me. Help me see that protecting through You, is me and the people around me believing what is already true. If I hadn't accepted Your salvation, it wouldn't have benefited me; but, it would have already been available for me.

What *Can* Jesus Do?

The first aspect of faith being perfected is getting to *know* what Jesus *can* do. As Jesus' disciples traveled with Him, they learned a lot about what He was capable of doing. By the end of their journey, during His earthly ministry, they finally realized that He *could* do *anything.* They learned that He was unlimited, as to what He was capable of doing. They also learned that He wouldn't always do what He was asked to do. That is where they learned that He only did good things.

Jesus, because of Your incredible love, knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom, You are the only One Who is qualified to know what good is. You know what will happen from beginning to end of each and every event, provision, and circumstance. As I yield to Your life and ministry, help me put my complete trust in You for how to be protected and how to protect others through You. Help me always see how superior Your mind is over mine.

What *Is Jesus Going* To Do?

Mark 8:11-12 (NIV) The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test Him, they asked Him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it." Jesus is only going to do those things that are good. If someone or some group prays and *asks* for something that wouldn't be good for them or for the people around them, He won't do it.

Jesus, many of my friends prayed for things that weren't good for them. But, they were convinced that it *was* good for them. So, when You didn't give it to them, they were certain You failed them. Help me protect them from this evaluation. Let me help them see how incredibly wise and good You are. Empower me to show them Your character and attitudes. Speak through me, so they can be healed of this lie that is hurting their relationship with You.

The next major aspect of your faith getting perfected is, to *know* what Jesus is *going* to do. This is where a lot of people run into problems with Jesus and His Word. Many want to pick which Scriptures they are going to apply to which situations. Just as the piano keyboard exposes all of its keys to whomever wishes to push its keys, so does the Word of God expose its verses to whomever wishes to read and quote them. But, a musician will usually submit themselves to a composer, by looking at a sheet of music the composer wrote.

Jesus, help me allow You, the Composer of the Bible, to tell me which Scriptures to use, what "keys" or Scriptures to combine with them, how hard to hit them, and how long to hold them down. Help me see that sometimes, my application of Scripture is similar to a child banging on a piano keyboard. Help me be led in Your Spirit, so I can apply the Bible to every situation in a Spirit led way. Give me those Scriptures that You want applied to each situation I face.

2 Pet 1:20-21 (NIV) Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Just like the Bible was written under the authority of the Holy Spirit. You will get supernatural results from using those Scriptures that the Holy Spirit leads you into using.

Eph 6:17 (NIV) Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Jesus, help me not just use Scriptures the Holy Spirit gives me, empower me to use them with great spiritual skill, talent, experience, maturity, and ability. Help me be a great and powerful warrior through You. Help me have the right Scriptures and use them in the right way. And, let me do it with total submission to You, the Composer of the Bible.

The Word of God, the Bible, didn't originate with humans, wasn't given meaning by humans, and it isn't to be applied by humans. It is the sword of the Holy Spirit. He controls its use. A lot of people have been stabbed by the Word of God, as it was being wielded by humans. You don't have the ability to properly combine faith and the Word of God together and thereby accomplish the work of God. The Word of God says it and you believe it. However, how that is applied to each situation must be decided by God. You, faith, and the Word of God must remain under the control of Jesus.

Jesus, help me realize that I am still under training. I have a lot to learn before I am ready for the incredible assignments in eternity. Help me be an alert, focused, and dedicated student. Help me see that the more I learn and grow now, the more opportunities I will have in eternity. Show me how important it is for me to be yielded, humble, and **poor in spirit,** as you work with me. Empower me to devote everything I am to becoming everything You want me to be.

Once you submit your life and ministry to the control of Jesus, He will start confiding in you. He will let you know what, when, where, how, and many times why He is going to do something. When He tells you He wants you to go do or say something, He will produce faith in you for accomplishing the task. At that moment you will not only know that He *can* do it, you will know that He is *going* to do it, because He just told you to go do it.

Jesus, help me understand that all I have to believe is that You can do those things in the Bible. Then help me understand that, when You give me an assignment, You will give me the faith to believe that You will do it or have done it. Help me understand that, in the spirit realm, it is already done. Teach and train me to take faith-action on the basis of the assignment. Help me see that You speak to me in faith and power. When I get an assignment from You, You give me everything I need to fulfill it.

Chapter Four

Be Motivated By The Prize

3. Who for the joy set before Him. This is *how* Jesus went to the cross. Can you see how much better it is for you to face all your problems and all the problems of those you are helping with joy? Jesus had a procedure for facing major challenges, such as allowing Himself to be hanged on a cross. You face major challenges when you allow yourself to get involved in people's problems. If you follow Jesus' procedure, you will take your eyes off of what it is going to cost you.

> Jesus, help me start applying your system for facing the problems that I am helping people with. Let Your joy fill my heart, so I can go into all challenges with the power of joy. Let the fruit of the Spirit flow through my heart and out through my life. Empower me to resist all other emotions. Let the fruit of the Spirit resist all the emotions that Satan tries to talk me into letting him put in my heart. Help me realize that the fruit of the Spirit are supernaturally powerful to defeat all other types of emotions.

By taking your eyes off of what helping others is going to cost you, you will start considering the joy that God has set before you. Here is how the Bible says it through Paul. **Rom 8:18 (NIV) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.** This Scripture is telling you to do a comparison. If you work with Jesus, in this ministry, what will you receive from Him for it? What is the joy that He has set before you?

> Jesus, help me keep my eyes on the joy that God has set before me. Help me yield to it, so I will be properly motivated to be obedient. In addition to all the things I have already received, help me understand that I will experience the power and presence of God flowing in and through me. Help me yield to the joy of being actively involved with You. Let my mind stay lock in on all the blessings, miracles, healings, and breakthroughs You have already done for me. Let my thoughts inspire my heart to be filled with joy.

Your Generation Need's Jesus' Ministry Too

As you saw in John 14:12, Jesus wants to do His ministry through you. He wants your generation to have the same opportunities to experience Him as the generation did when He was doing His earthly ministry. Jesus didn't go to the right hand of the Father, so He could quit His ministry. He went to the Father, so He could do greater works in and through you. But, as He does, you will run into opposition that will try to stop you from helping hurting people. That is where joy come in to empower you to keep moving forward.

Jesus, my body, Satan, and the world don't want me helping and protecting hurting people. They will be working against me trying to create enough pain, resistance, and difficulty, so I won't keep doing it. Help me see how important this joy is. Teach me how to yield to it and the rest of the aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Let it dominate my emotions with great power to keep facing it all. Also, let it empower me to be able to help with people's problems with great joy flowing in me and out of me to them.

Some have thought that Jesus, in John 14:12, meant "greater works" in the sense that more people were going to be doing more work. But, that is not what Jesus said. Jesus said: "*He* will do even greater things than these." This "**he**" is singular. One person, **"he"** will do even greater things than these. How? By Jesus doing the second phase of His ministry through you. Since He is the risen Christ, He has purchased salvation for every person. He won't just be healing physical bodies. He will be transforming people's spiritual lives.

Jesus, Your earthly ministry made **greater things** possible. Your heavenly ministry is going to take these possibilities and turn them into realities. Teach me that this is the "greater things" ministry You are going to be doing through each individual person. Help me realize that the only way **greater things** are going to be happening is, You are doing the **greater things** in and through me to all those who want You and Your provisions.

Once you experience Jesus doing His ministry in and through you, you get the joy that has been set before you. That is all the reward you should ever need. What an honor and a thrill to have Jesus doing His great ministry through you. There is no sacrifice great enough to be worth comparing to having Jesus do His ministry through you. However, that isn't all you get. God will be blessing you throughout eternity for opening up your life to Jesus' ministry.

Jesus, help me live my life with the knowledge and joy that comes through helping those people You assign me to help. Let me be so filled with appreciation, praise, and thankfulness, that I am powerfully motivated by You. Fill my heart with the fruit of the Spirit, so it will flow over those I am protecting and helping. Let my emotions be so filled with the fruit of the Spirit, that people want what I have. Let me be like a city that is lit up and sitting on a hill, so that it can't be hid.

This Takes The Pressure Off Of You

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. Since it is Jesus ministering in and through you, you won't have to try to do it. He won't do it without you. But, He *will* do it through you. He will see to it that you have a complete and active part in every aspect of it. That lets you get involved in the world's greatest ministry.

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this so that *My joy* may be in you and that *your joy* may be complete. Jesus, teach me that joy is my indicator, as to what kind of thought I am having. If I am feeling pressure on *me*, then I won't feel joy. If my faith is in You empowering me and working through my thoughts and feelings, I will feel joy. Help me understand that every thought that generates joy is a good indication that it is from You and the Bible.

There is no ministry greater than Jesus working in and through you. There is no greater experience than having Jesus' ministry moving through you into the lives and hearts of the needy. That is what happened to the disciples. Jesus' ministry took them into Preventative Spiritual Growth and then He went to the Father. From there the Holy Spirit brought Jesus' ministry right inside them. When they refused to take credit for all that was happening through them, they weren't being modest. They were being honest. They *really* didn't do it. Jesus did it.

Jesus, help me understand humility. Help me realize that humility is, in fact, honesty. When You do something that helps me grow in my attitudes and character, the only reason my behavior is better is because of what You did. I am a nicer person because of Your work in me. When people brag on me for what I did or said, that was good, help me see that I am being honest, when I explain how it happened. Show me how to use my life to bring glory to You for what You want to do in those around me.

Acts 3:12-15 (NIV) When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own *power* or *godliness* we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus. You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned Him before Pilate, though he had decided to let Him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. You are witnesses of this.

Jesus, give me this type of ability to help people know it is You, Who are working through me to do the supernatural, God-sized things that are flowing through me. Help me use these moments, as teaching and ministering times, where I not only let people know it is You doing the work, but, I also help them understand how Christianity works. Teach me and train me on how to lead people into a greater knowledge of Who You are and what the Bible is all about.

Acts 3:16 (NIV) By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name <u>and the faith that comes through Him</u> that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. People will give the credit to those use in the healing, miracle, or transformation. It takes you explaining it all to them, so they turn to Jesus for those things they need. When you are being benevolent, they can see it as you just being a nice person.

Jesus, even if I considered myself a nice person before I came to You, help me understand that I had ulterior motives, where I wanted people to be nice back. There were other times where I was nice, so they would give me something I wanted from them. Help me see that You have transformed me, and that I need to let people know that it was You Who helped me become that person, who sincerely cares about them.

Mat 13:44 (NIV) "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Jesus, help me see that this is why I should consider it worth it to make sacrifices and start serving people. If I can trade my time, intellect, money, and effort for an opportunity for You to do Your ministry through me, show me that I have made an awesome trade. I have things I currently think I can't give up. I have things I consider vital aspects of my life. However, when You show me what You have to offer, I will sell all I have and buy that field.

Chapter Five

Be Empowered To Suffer

4. Endured the cross. Step four is introducing you into a vital aspect of preparing your heart for Ministerial Spiritual Warfare. **Luke 9:23 (NIV) Then He said to them all: "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up *his cross daily* and follow Me.** Your body has been brought into spiritual worship. **Rom 12:1 (NIV) ...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.** Even though your body didn't want to, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you put it into God's service of spiritual worship.

Jesus, You took me from the Romans chapter seven life, where my body was **making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members,** to now being able to start protecting others from their body, the devil, and the world. Thank You for doing such great things in me. You have taken me incredibly far from who I was to who I am now. Help me be able to do the same for others, as I protect them and lead them into a wonderful relationship with You.

The way you offered your body as a living sacrifice was, you started taking it to church and small groups, bowing its knees in prayer, making it pick up, read and study the Bible, study and pray over these materials, start to share your miracles, blessings, healings, breakthroughs, and do many other spiritual activities. That enabled you to get the spiritual food and exercise you needed to become **strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (Eph 6:10).**

Jesus, I thank You for teaching and empowering me to present my body as a living sacrifice and take up my cross and follow You. Thank You for having all these provisions in place, so I can go where other Christians are meeting, have a whole Bible ready for me to get, have direct access to my heavenly Father, have all these materials ready to feed me the mature food I need, and to empower me to share my wonderful miracles, blessings, healings, breakthroughs with others. Now, You are helping me protect those who can't protect themselves.

Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

Faith

Jesus' ministry is waiting to work through you in mighty power. People are waiting to be helped by Jesus. You are wanting to do Jesus' protection ministry. What is holding you up? Ephesians 6:10 gives you permission and carries the power to move you into that mighty, powerful ministry of Jesus. If you believe that this Scripture has the right to empower you, you can go out and do what you have been empowered to do. All you have to do is take up your cross and follow Jesus into full ministerial effort.

Jesus, speak Your faith into me through Ephesians 6:10. When, through it, You say, **"be strong,"** help me see that it is the same as when You spoke light into existence. Empower me to know that I am now **strong in** You, **the Lord, and in** Your **mighty power.** Help me confess with my mouth that I am **strong in** You, **the Lord, and in** Your **mighty power.** And, help me believe in my heart that I am **strong in** You, **the Lord, and in** Your **mighty power.**

Sacrifice

Mat 16:24-25 (NIV) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "<u>If anyone would come after Me</u>, he *must* deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me *will* find it." Coming after Jesus will require time, effort, and resources. There are time-consumers in your life that need to be eliminated. You will need to replace them with time with Jesus and those He wants you to protect.

Jesus, help me make the sacrifices that will make me available to You and Your assignments. All those things that can be traded for time with You and Your plans for my day, help me make the trade. All those things I am making investments in that should be invested in Your projects, help me take those resources and put them where You want them to go. All the energy expended that causes me to be exhausted at the end of the day, help me evaluate them and see where I could expend that energy on Your will for my day.

This doesn't sound like fun; but, it is. The cross only deals with the body. You are a spirit being. You don't want to just save your physical life. You need to increase your spiritual life. Your body is temporary. Your spirit will live forever. You are a child of God! Your body may complain; but, in the past, it was willing to exhaust itself on worldly pastimes. So, it is going to have to exhaust itself on eternally beneficial things now.

Jesus, help me not be fooled by my body. Just because it doesn't like spiritual things doesn't mean I will let it set the standard. Help me, as a spiritual being, decide where it will go, what it will do, how long it will do it, when it will do it, and how it will do it. Let the excitement of my spirit dominate the emotions of my heart. Help me not listen to my body. Help me focus on what my spirit likes. Let the fruit of the Spirit flow in and through my heart, so I can force my body to expend itself on Your things.

FOCUS

1 Cor 15:42-43 (NIV) So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

It is important for you to show your friends what is going to happen in their future. If they don't know what they are working toward, then they will find it hard to focus on eternity.

Jesus, help me be excited about eternity. Help me spend time thinking about the great and wonderful things that are heading my way. Show me how to compare what I have now with what I am striving toward. **Phil 3:13-14 (NIV) Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: <u>Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead</u>, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

John 3:6 (NIV) Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You got your body and temporary life from your earthly father. It isn't something you need to care that much about. Your heavenly Father is the parent of your eternal spirit and eternal life. Just use your earthly body to help you excel in heavenly things. Now is the time for you to be pressing **on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called** you **heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

Jesus, it is so easy to get distracted with the issues of this life. I often address anything that comes my way. If there is an event that needs my attention, that is where I put my resources, time, and effort. Help me take a different approach to life. Help me prioritize my life based on a schedule. Help me not let life direct me; help me direct life through the Holy Spirit. Show me how to flow in the Spirit, rather than just flowing in the stream of what life sends my way.

1 Cor 15:51-52 (NIV) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, <u>and we will be changed</u>. You are protecting people who are locked into this world and the things of this world. They may have very little awareness of what is going to happen to them in eternity. A part of your protection is to protect them from ignorance about eternity.

Jesus, help me understand that my friends need to be informed about their future. They have spent a lot of time learning how to be a human. But, many aren't being taught how to be a human that is preparing for eternal life. They are spending a lot of time learning how to invest in this human life. Help me guide them into investing in eternal life. Show me how to protect them from waiting for eternity before they learn about eternity. Help me show them that now is when they do their preparations for eternity.

1 Cor 15:53-54 (NIV) For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." Your friends are investing in the perishable, if they don't include Jesus in their day. Part of your protection is to help me learn how to talk to Jesus all day long.

Jesus, teach me that there is a way of doing the same things but with different spiritual results. Show me how to help my friends not make all that many changes in their normal life, but with eternal benefits. Help me show them that, if they just do these things to benefit themselves, they will get no eternal results. But, if they start doing it in such a way that it brings win/win results, then they have allowed You to influence the way they live that day. You have ways of turning normal human activities into eternal rewards.

Chapter Six

Do What Jesus Did

5. Scorning its shame. The cross of Jesus that He **scorned its shame,** isn't a popular subject. However, it is a vital issue. But, Jews and Gentiles (those who aren't Jews) both have real problems with it. **1 Cor 1:23 (NIV) But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.** The cross that Jesus carried was the ultimate in persecution. When you are willing to be ridiculed, lied against, and abused, so you can protect someone, that is you **scorning its shame.**

Jesus, help me understand how to scorn the shame of the cross you are asking me to bear. Help me not be discouraged, damaged, redirected, blocked off, or hindered. Help me not allow persecution to make me feel ashamed of Christianity, the Bible, or You. Help me feel scorn for anything that tries to hamper me from getting to those You want me to protect.

When you are persecuted, talked about, made fun of, rejected, or attacked, you can feel shame. People can think you are crazy, when you talk to them about Jesus. People can accuse you of being a fanatic, when you talk to them about spiritual growth. This can be a hard cross to bear. You want to be liked and accepted. You want people to be your friends and maintain a relationship with you.

Jesus, help me not try to justify myself or You. Help me not feel like I am on the explanation side of the equation. Help me not be defensive, apologetic, timid, or feel inferior. Help me be bold, confident in You, filled with faith, and feeling scorn for all the lies, misinformation, and deception that those who are resisting me spew out.

When you tell a person Jesus died on a cross for their sins, there are times when you can feel their doubts about you and your message. When you talk to new or untrained Christians about their need to keep moving forward in their spiritual growth, you can see them struggle with making time to meet with you. It is difficult for people to see the need for giving much time to the things of God. The pressures of life are obvious; God's eternal Kingdom seems way off into the future. They don't see all the things Jesus does for them *now*.

Jesus, help me understand all the purposes of the cross. Help me be able to explain to my friends what it does in their earthly life. Help me show them that the struggles they are having with their relationships, finances, emotions, physical issues, and spiritual problems is because they don't fully understand what Your cross did for them. Help me explain to them that those things that cause them to think, feel, say, and do things that damage people are handled through the power of the cross.

Look At Things The Way They Really Are

Making The Cross Relevant

Jesus moved past this shame, persecution, and complete rejection of people not understanding the purpose of the cross. He went ahead and took up His cross and died in our place. How did Jesus handle this? He scorned the shame. In other words, He took issue with it. That is how you must feel about how people treat you, when you present the gospel to them. Was the cross a defeat or a victory? Satan thought he had defeated Jesus on the cross. The cross was the worst mistake Satan ever made. It gave Jesus the victory over the one who controlled death.

Heb 2:14 (NIV) Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil. Jesus, help me show my friend that they are going to have to face death with You or without You. As they face the unknown, as they fear various diseases and deadly circumstances, they need to be greeted by You. They need to have You take them by the hand and lead them into their eternal inheritance.

Scorning the shame of the cross isn't just a different way of looking at it. It is the difference between Truth and a lie. When Jesus scorned the shame of the cross, He looked at the cross in Truth. He didn't feel ashamed of what He was doing. He didn't accept the shame that was associated with it. He was dying in your place. He hadn't committed any crimes. You did. He was doing an awesome, godly thing. Your friends need to see that their life is able to be transformed into a whole new wonderful thing because of the cross.

Jesus, as my friends decide whether or not they want to be professing, demonstrative Christians in front of all their friends, help me provide them with the type of protection that gives them boldness. Let me help them be willing to do what You did, when You were crucified out where everyone could see. You were being exposed to a punishment that was only done to the worst of criminals. Help me show them what kind of attitude You had for them, so they can be willing to stand up for You without embarrassment.

Even though the cross was extremely painful, it wasn't for Jesus' shame. There was the way all His disciples looked at it. They saw it as the end of Jesus life on earth. There was the way the society looked at it. They saw someone getting what they deserved. There was the way Satan looked at it. He saw it as putting an end to Jesus' influence on earth. But, there was a way Jesus looked at it. He saw it as the way to help people live a victorious life here and then spend eternity in God's eternal Kingdom with Him.

Jesus, help me see that it is the way I and my friends look at the cross. Help us see it as the most powerful weapon ever used on the kingdom of evil. Help us see how things work in the spirit realm, so we can understand the principles that regulate us as spirit beings.

Jesus, help me show my friends that, since they are children of God, they will soon be living in a realm where the rules, systems, and methods will be totally different. Help me show them they need to be learning how to function in the spirit realm, so they will be ready to live there.

You and your friends will be surrounded by people, who don't understand the cross, the Bible, Jesus, or Christianity. When you talk to them about spiritual things, it's like you are speaking a foreign language. But, you are helping them learn things that are vital to their future. And, they have experienced this before. They have gone into classes to learn things that were totally new to them. However, they went into that strange class with hope and positive expectations that the class was going to teach them something that was going to make their life better.

Jesus, as I protect my friends from being ashamed of You, the Bible, Christianity, and the cross, help me show them the importance of presenting the benefits. Let me show them that a person isn't going to want to learn new and different things unless they see the reason. Help me lead them into taking all Your blessings, miracles, healings, and breakthroughs in their lives and share them with their friends. Then, when their friends are interested in getting these things, that is the moment they start leading them into a relationship with You.

Since you and your friends are going to have to pass through Satan's people in order to get to those who want Jesus, you have to scorn the shame of the persecution. You aren't losing. You are winning. Satan and his people's opinions have nothing to do with who you are. Because you are pushing through them, people are being set free from the control of sin and the devil. The only people who matter are those who will come to Jesus. Those who are resisting, because they don't want to accept Him *and* they don't want anyone else too either, don't matter.

Luke 9:26 (NIV) If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of Him when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Jesus, help me protect my friends from being ashamed of You. Help me explain to them that this is a major issue in their relationship with You. Help me give them Biblical reasons to scorn the persecution of Satan's people. And, help me show them how to be patient with those who don't know what the benefits are by coming to You.

You can see what those who are resisting think. You can feel the shame they are trying to put on you. But, you must not allow them to discourage, intimidate, damage, or stop you from moving forward toward those who want Jesus. Scorning the shame they are trying to put on you, is a process where you see Truth rather than a lie. They are the ones who should be ashamed. You are bringing eternal salvation to the lost. You don't feel shame for doing that. You are teaching people how to live in victory and power. That's nothing to be ashamed of.

Eph 6:10-11 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Jesus, help my friends and I not just know these truths. Put them in the reality of our hearts. Take the things we know and believe and make them real to our hearts, so we can live with great conviction. Help me provide the type of protection for them that brings the reality of Your truths to their heart and their message to others.

Always Consider Who It Is That Is Persecuting You

1 Cor 1:18 (NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness <u>to those who are perishing</u>, but <u>to you who are being saved</u> it is the power of God. Those who are perishing are the ones who are having a problem with the message of the cross. You, your friends, and those who are being or are going to be saved see it from a very different perspective. Where you sometimes suffer is at the point where you allow other people's opinions to influence your emotions. You can see they are extremely opposed to what you are saying.

Jesus, help me protect my friends from listening **to those who are perishing.** Help me show them how to identify those **who are being saved.** Let me teach them that those **who are being saved** will *eventually* see their message as **the power of God.** Let me help them be patient with those **who are being saved.** They may argue, misunderstand, refuse to do what it takes to be saved, and need a lot more information. But, help them be able to see the difference between them and **those who are perishing.**

As you are dealing with the objections of those **who are being saved** and the persecutions of **those who are perishing,** you don't change your mind about what you are saying. You just feel pressure to stop saying it. As you get on the internet, watch TV and movies, listen to the radio, and read worldly literature, that is when Satan informs you of how **those who are perishing** feel about your message. This satanic concept is being expressed all around you.

Jesus, these forms of media are all telling my friends and I how much they dislike, disdain, hate, despise, and consider stupid all things related to Christianity. The more we expose ourselves to the flood of these attitudes, the more we fail to **scorn the shame.** Help us always keep in mind that the message of the cross is the power of God. Help me protect my friends from those things that keep them from **scorning the shame** of the attitudes of the world. Show us that if we do, Your mighty power-ministry will flow through us.

Jesus, teach me that, when I and my friends stop exposing ourselves to the lies of the devil, we will discover it is well worth it. We will see lives of those we were persecuted for, be wonderfully transformed and blessed. We will see that all those who come to You were more than worth all the resistance, abuse, and persecution. Them getting to spend eternity with You, because we **scorned the shame** of **those who are perishing,** was worth it all.

Chapter Seven

Sit Inside Jesus In A Heavenly Position

6. Sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. God is incredibly generous. If you are having a hard time sharing your earthly things with others, you are struggling with understanding God's incredible generosity. Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the throne of God. What does that have to do with you? Everything! Jesus isn't sitting there just for His own benefit. He didn't and isn't doing anything just for His own benefit. Jesus already *had* everything.

> Jesus, help me understand that You are only doing these things to benefit me and those who want You. Help me see that, until we come to the realization of Your generosity, we are going to misunderstand a lot about God. Help me realize this and help my friends understand it, so we can open our hearts to all Your provisions. But, help me explain to my friends that You won't give them any of these things, if they don't ask for them. Help me protect them by showing them that asking is their way of inviting You into these areas of their needs.

Your Friends Need Wisdom And Revelation

Paul prayed a prayer for his friends that was very powerful. As a part of his investment and protection for them, he realized they didn't know how to pray for many of the things they needed. So, he prayed this prayer for them, so they would be empowered to get those things they desperately needed. Let Jesus help you understand the power of this prayer for you to pray for yourself and for all your Christian friends. Let Jesus give you faith that He is hearing and answering this prayer in you and in them.

> Jesus, help me see that prayers like this were prayed by Paul for his friends. Show me that he realized they needed him to pray prayers that they weren't mature enough to pray for themselves. Help me understand that this prayer brought the revelations and wisdom of the Holy Spirit into his friend's hearts and minds, so they could comprehend the more advanced truths of Your Word. Remind me to **keep asking** for these things, so they and I will have spiritual abilities that are receptive to greater and greater revelation and wisdom.

Eph 1:17 (NIV) I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you <u>the Spirit of wisdom and revelation</u>, *so that* you may know Him better. This was Paul's goal for those people he was protecting and training. Let this be your goal for those people you are protecting and training. It is a prayer that all Christians need to be praying for one another. You need the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so you can start understanding God better. Without it you will miss a lot, when it comes to God's supplies and provisions for doing His ministry in and through you.

1. Jesus, help my friends and I understand that we have You ready to do Your ministry in and through us.

2. Help us understand that we have the Word's permission to do it.

3. Reveal to us that we have Your power and presence living in us.

4. Show us that we have the power and presence of Holy Spirit living in us.

5. Teach us that we have the power of the Word resident in us.

6. Make it clear to us that everything is in place except our cooperation.

Without the power of this prayer in Ephesians 1:17 flowing through you and your friends with wisdom and revelation, when He tries to do something, you will resist, misunderstand, mishandle, or fail to cooperate. This prayer creates special abilities in your heart and mind that open them up, so they can comprehend the great things of God. Since the great things of God have to be asked for by the individual that needs them, then they must know what to ask for. This prayer empowers you to understand what you need.

Jesus, help me realize that without the power of this prayer, in Ephesians 1:17, my friends and I will lack the Spirit's wisdom and revelation, and will constantly be bungling our part of the job. Help us see that in order for us to understand what it is You are trying to get us to yield to, we need the wisdom and revelations that this prayer asks for. And, we need to keep asking for more and more wisdom and revelation. Help us see that we will never have too much of these things, so we can keep learning and growing.

You Need The Eyes Of Your Heart Enlightened

Eph 1:18 (NIV) I pray <u>also</u> that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened *in order that* you may know <u>the hope</u> to which He has called you, <u>the riches</u> of His glorious inheritance in the saints. You must have your eyes opened. Your heart must be enlightened with this information. If you don't know the **hope** to which He has called you, you are not going to have the joy set before you like Jesus did. You can't scorn the shame of the persecutions coming against you.

Jesus, without the **hope** of Your eternal Kingdom being prepared for my friends and I, we won't have enough motivating information and revelation to inspire us with the **joy set before** us; we won't be able to **score the shame** of the persecution coming against us. Help us know what we are fighting for. Show us that we are fighting for **the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.**

You Need To Be Able To See His Power For You

Eph 1:19a (NIV) I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...His incomparably great power <u>for us who *believe*</u>. You must have **the eyes of your heart enlightened** and opened to His great power that is beyond anything that any and all rule, authority, power, and dominion can handle.

Eph 1:19b-21 (NIV) That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, <u>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion</u>, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Jesus, help my friends and I keep in mind that You won't do anything we can't believe for. So, show us thatg we must get **the eyes of** our **heart...enlightened in order that** we **may *know.*** Teach us that once our faith from You reaches the place where we **know,** it has entered into our hearts and has become a part of our belief system. It is no longer a struggle, as we have temporary moments of doubt and not being sure. It is a supernatural experience that is powerful, invincible, and unshakable.

Believe It In Your Heart
And Confess It With Your Mouth

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "<u>The word is near you</u>; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming. Jesus' **incomparably great power** is waiting at the end of your finger tips and at the end of your lips. It is waiting for you to yield in faith through your *heart*. The same needs exist now that existed when He was walking this earth. He loves these people just as much as He loved those during His earthly ministry.

Jesus, help me realize that You want to do the same wonderful things for the people that are living now like You did for the people, when You were ministering on earth. However, help me understand that You have one major problem. Your body, that You were working out of, was totally cooperative with You. Now You are having to try to do Your ministry through my body and the bodies of all the other Christians in the world. Help me see what this major problem is that You are having to deal with.

Jesus is often trying to minister through a body
that is out of His control.

Frequently, you are trying to run your body, while Jesus is trying to minister to the needy through it. The only way you are going to get on the same page with Jesus is to understand how this all works by receiving **wisdom and revelation,** and, by you having **the eyes of your heart enlightened.** If you and your friends don't start praying Ephesians 1:17 for each other, then you won't have enough insight into what Jesus is trying to do, so you can cooperate with Him.

You Need To See How Great This Power Is

Eph 1:19b-20 (NIV) That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms. These verses are still talking about you needing your eyes opened. They are still explaining Jesus' **incomparably great power for you who believe.** It is being explained to you that this is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. And, it is the same power that seated Him at God's right hand.

Jesus, since You are living in me and are wanting to do Your ministry through me, help me see why You are making it clear to me what Your power is all about. Since I am a human that has been extremely limited all my life, help me realize what You are capable of doing in and through me. Since I have a God-given free will, help me accept the fact that You won't do anything in or through me without my cooperation. Show me that much of what is holding You up from doing these great things is my cooperation.

The fact that Jesus has all this power is all wonderful for Him. What does that do for you and your friends? This, once again, is talking about God's generosity. Jesus and the Father didn't and aren't doing anything just for their Own sakes. These Scriptures are trying to get you to a place where you will cooperate with Jesus' ministry. He has power and He has a very dynamic position. When He starts moving in and through you, this is what He is going to be using. You must understand it and believe in Him Who is using it. You will block off His ministerial power if you don't believe.

Jesus, help me start thinking on a God-sized level. Help me allow You to be God in and through me. Set me free from all the limited human thinking that I have thought all the days of my life. Elevate my thought processes to a supernatural level, that is able to totally cooperate with the God of the universe. Help me see that the needs of the people, I am to protect, require Your kind of power and abilities. When I come into their lives, help me be totally yield to You, so You can work miracles in them.

You Need To See The Person, The Position, And The Power

Eph 1:19b-21 (NIV) That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, <u>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come</u>.

This is Who He is. This Scripture is saying that Jesus is this person, He has this position, and He has this power. He is the One Who is trying to minister through you.

John 14:12 (NIV) I tell you the truth, *anyone who has faith in Me* will do what I have been doing. He will do *even greater* things than these, because I am going to the Father. Jesus, help me understand that You went to the Father, so the Holy Spirit would come. The Holy Spirit came, so He could live inside me. The Holy Spirit is living inside me, so You can do Your ministry through me and all the rest of the Christians on this planet. This makes it possible for You to expand Your ministry exponentially.

Eph 1:21-23 (NIV) [God] seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, *which is His body*, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way.

Jesus, You aren't trying to do something that is my size. You are trying to work through me with a ministry that is Your size. This may be too much for my human brain; but, You are the **head over everything for the church, *which is Your body*,** and that body is **the fullness of** You **Who fill everything in every way**. I am a member in that Body that You are the head of. Help me respond to You, as my head, so my body will respond, as Your body.

While seated at the right hand of God, Jesus is going to minister through you and set every person free who will receive His ministry. How? Through God's **incomparably great power for you who believe.** Is it just those who believe in salvation? That is part of it. Another part of your faith must be in line with the fact that this **incomparably great power** is **for you who believe.** You must believe this truth too. Jesus *can't* do anything through you, if you cannot believe.

2 Cor 12:9 (NIV) But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, *so that* Christ's power may rest on me. Jesus, help me realize that I can frequently have a very limited belief of what You *will* do through me. Because of my weaknesses, shortcomings, failures, and inadequacies, I can fail to believe You will do supernatural things through me. Help me understand and believe this Scripture.

Chapter Eight

You Raised Me Up Where?

Eph 2:4-7 (NIV) But *because of His great love for us*, God, Who is *rich in mercy*, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. And God *raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him* in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, *in order that* in the coming ages He might show the *incomparable riches of His grace*, expressed in *His kindness to us in* Christ Jesus.

Jesus, show me God has prepared me for this great ministry. Not only did He save me, He positioned me with You in heavenly places, so I would be usable for Your ministry through me. Help me read and believe every part of these verses. Help me see that it isn't because of me; it is because of God's great love for me and those I am assigned to protect. He is wanting to use me in a mighty way, because He is **rich in mercy** for me and for those around me.

But *because of His great love for us*, God, Who is *rich in mercy:* Many people read this passage, as if it is going to take place in the future. But, that isn't what is being said here. **God *raised* us up with Christ.** That is past tense. **And *seated* us with Him.** This is also past tense. You are currently seated with God in the heavenly realms *in* Christ Jesus. It didn't say that God is *going to raise* you up.

Jesus, make it clear to me that I must believe that God raised me and seated me **in the heavenly realms in** You, my **Christ Jesus,** for a reason. Help me see that this isn't just an issue of salvation or justification. It is an issue of Your ministry in and through me. The reason you saved me, justified me, and are sanctifying me through spiritual growth, is because You want to minister to the hurting, needy people through me. Help me see that You have been taking me through these Scriptures, so I could see what kind of a ministry You want to do in and through me.

God *raised* you up with Christ and *seated* you with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **in order that in the coming ages He might show the *incomparable riches of His grace*, expressed in *His kindness to us in* Christ Jesus.** This puts you into a position, where you not only have the life of Christ, but, the ministry of Christ. You too are seated **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion** because you are *in* Christ Jesus.

Jesus, teach me what it means for me to be **in** You. Help me see that where You are, since I am in You, is where I am. Then help me see why I am **raised...up with** You **and seated...with** You **in the heavenly realms in** You. Show me that this is much bigger than me only being saved, justified, and sanctified. Help me realize that this is about You flowing through me into the lives of those You assign me to lead to You and to protect.

This positions you in a place of power where you can be directly used *by* Jesus *for* His ministry. You weren't raised to this spectacular position, so you can be great. You were raised, so you can be used by Jesus to do His great work through you. Later this position will allow you to rule and reign with Him. But, now it is so you can be a part of the second phase of Jesus' ministry. You and your friends can make it possible for Jesus to minister through all of you simultaneously.

Jesus, I thank You for making all of this clear to me. I thank You for saving, justifying, and sanctifying me, so I could be raised and seated with You in a great position of power. If You hadn't been working on my attitudes and character, You wouldn't be able to use me there. I would be there; but, I would not be able to be used by You while there. Thank You for getting me ready to lead people to You and then protect them until they get their armor on.

He Is Ready *And* You Are Ready

Eph 1:22 (NIV) And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over *everything* for the church. "God placed" expresses a finished work. It is all under Jesus' feet; and, He is Head over everything **for the Church.** He is, right now, Head of or over the Church. But, this isn't what the Holy Spirit is focusing on here. The reason it is all under His feet and He is the **Head over everything,** is so He can do what He wants to do through His Church.

Jesus, help me see myself as a functioning member of Your body. Help me understand what You being the head of Your Body is all about. You are doing the thinking, the assigning, the strategizing, and the initiating of the actions of me a member in Your body. Help me have good nerve connections to You, my head. Help me have a good response time, good spiritual dexterity, good hand-to-eye coordination, and great skill. As my head, help me be the best body part I can be, so You can accomplish those things You want to get accomplished.

Jesus is ready to do an incredible work in and through you. The Holy Spirit has been training you and purifying you, so you can be ready for Him to use you. Jesus' first work is described in the Gospels. The Holy Spirit is using the Gospels to prepare you for His second work. You are ready to do Ministerial Spiritual Warfare that consists exclusively of Jesus doing His second work in every person's life on the planet. Your personal body has been prepared for this second work. Your spirit has been made ready to obey His every desire and move.

Jesus, You have raised me **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion in** You. Help me understand that all this makes me a powerful body member for Your work. We, the Church, are now ready to be Your earthly body. I, a member of that Church, am now ready to be a part of your plans, goals, strategies, and works. Help me find my place in Your Church, as a special member of Your Body. Show me my unique place and spiritual design, so I can join You and the other members of Your body and fit in.

Wow, This Is A Big Body!

Eph 1:22-23 (NIV) And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way.

Which is His body, <u>the fullness of Him</u> Who fills everything in every way: With your body and every other Christian's body, that forms the complete body of Jesus. As part of His body, you are His arms, legs, and mouth to express His love and power to His people. If you yield your body and life to His wishes, you become a fully functioning part of His body. Just like you learned how to train your body to do more and more things, that is what Jesus is doing with you right now.

> Jesus, help me to become a skilled, talented, experienced, trained, and mature member of Your body. Help me learn how to let You express Your wishes and fulfill Your intentions in me. Help me receive a clear message of what it is You are trying to get me to do. Then take those areas where I am unskilled, lack talent, have little experience, and inadequate training and work me in those areas, so I can get better. Help me be willing to spend plenty of time where I need the most training and practice.

Jesus wants to use every person to do what He desires to do in and through them. He will be simultaneously doing all kinds of thing in all Christians who will yield to His life and ministry. With all these bodies, of all these Christians, moving in unity and unison, the complete work of Christ will be fulfilled in all the world. The gospel will be preached to every person in all the world, the needs of the needy will be met, and disciples or trainees will be trained, empowered, and directed in all nations.

> Jesus, help me understand how I fit in with others. Show me how to find those You want me to join in their ministries. Teach me how to blend my ministry with those whose ministries are different from mine. Help me see how to work together with others, while working on some of the same people but in different ways. Help me know when to introduce people to other ministers, who are better able to address their needs and problems. Help me be willing to work with those who need those skills You have put in me.

Mat 28:19 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is your assignment; but, it is your general assignment. How you contribute to this general assignment is dependent of help Jesus trains and equips you. You will have special interests, identify with certain Scriptures more than others, notice special needs in people, and be able to do certain spiritual things better than others. This will shape you into the minister Jesus wants you to be.

Mark 16:15 (NIV) He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Jesus, help me accept this as my assignment; but, help me see where and how You want me to get engaged. Show me what You have planned for my life, so I don't try to fit in, in an area that You didn't design me for. Help me use the *knock key* and knock on the doors of opportunity to minister where the hearts have been prepared for the ministry You want me to do.

Chapter Nine

I Said All That To Say This

What does all this mean? How are you going to get Jesus' ministry flowing freely in and through you? Let Jesus take you over the steps in an abbreviated fashion, so you can see the big picture. He wants to help you make this a normal part of your lifestyle. It is the way He and you develop a faith relationship that is founded on His faith. **James 1:6-7 (NIV) But when he asks, <u>he must believe and not doubt</u>, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <u>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord</u>.**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus: Your attention and dependency is focused on Jesus, Who is going to do His ministry in and through you. When your eyes are **fixed** on Jesus, His faith flows in you like a river. You compare your circumstances, problems, and your friend's issues with the knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, love, and power of Jesus. It empowers you to believe that nothing is impossible for Him. He *will* make those situations work out for good.

Jesus, help me look at my day through Your eyes. Help me see all my assignments, projects, duties, and issues based on what I can do together with You. Help me protect my friends based on what You are capable of. Help me never view a situation apart from faith in what I know You will do. Before You help me believe that You are going to empower me to do something, help me have a solid faith in Your love and trustworthiness. Let that faith be the foundation for all other faith You give me.

The Author and Perfecter of your faith: With the "Jesus-factor" in your faith, you start seeing what you can do by means of His power rather than your limitations. Instead of looking at circumstances, problems, and your friend's issues and comparing them with what *you* can do, the solutions *you* can come up with, and what is possible using the world's solutions, Jesus authors or speaks faith in your heart that makes you know it will work out for you and your friend's good. Then Jesus perfects it by working miracles in you and your friend's lives.

Jesus, help me be able to face some of the most difficult, challenging, and tempting things, while knowing that You are in charge of them all. Help me protect my friends, while being sure that You are working their situations together for their good. Set me free from all worry, fear, anxiety, and depression. Help me open my heart to Your faith, so You can author it and then perfect it. Build it into a massive faith that never doubts You or what You are going to do. Let me stay calm, sure, positive, and settled in You and Your provisions.

Who for the joy set before Him: Your joy and motivating power comes through knowing that you are going to be personally involved in the supernatural ministry of Jesus. You will allow Him to show you how awesome that experience is going to be. And as you yield to it, you start praising and worshiping Him for using you in such a mighty way. You may be used to happiness that is based on how good things are going on in your life. But, when challenging, life-threatening, career-destroying, and relationship-damaging things happen--happiness leaves you.

Jesus, help me face challenging, life-threating, career-destroying, and relationship-damaging things with joy. Help me yield to it, because it stays with them no matter what is happening. Help me see that, as I face wrong, bad, and evil things with joy, I have emotions that are encouraging, assuring, supportive, and empowering. Fear, anxiety, depression, or worry can't survive in the environment of joy. Show me that joy will always be inspiring me to have faith in You no matter what.

Endured the cross: James 1:2-3 (NIV) Consider it *pure joy*, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <u>because you *know*</u> that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. While looking at the joy of Jesus doing His ministry in and through you, you will spend your time, using Jesus' intellectual training, the money He provided, and the effort He empowered you with, for working with Him. You will work with Him on spiritual growth, enduring sufferings that come through His ministry, and expend every moment for His purposes.

Jesus, teach me I am going to have difficult situations come my way no matter what. So, I choose to face them with You. Help me be willing to have difficult situations because I am working with You rather than because I am living a sinful life. Help me see that, in this world, I am going to have trouble. Everyone, whether they are a Christian or not, have big things to overcome. Help me take up my cross and follow You, so I will have that kind of trouble.

Scorning its shame: This is you allowing Jesus do His ministry in and through you, even though you can see there are people who think your sharing Jesus with people is the wrong thing and resist being trained in spiritual growth themselves. You will have people disagree with you, say bad things about you, reject you, and mistreat you, whether you are a Christian or not. In regular life, if you don't **scorn the shame,** you will fail in business, marriage, friendships, and life in general. So, consider it better to have to **scorn the shame** for Jesus.

Jesus, help me make the choice to go through the issues of life because I am joining You to protect my friends. Help me **scorn the shame** of all people think, say, and do against me. Let their resistance be my evidence that I am doing the right thing. Since these things happened to You and all Your disciples, help me wear these resistive things as badges of faithfulness. Help me not do anything that is wrong, so as to get this resistance. But, help me do everything that is needed, even though I know it will cause resistance.

And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God: You can see that **God raised** you **up with Christ and seated** you **with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,** so you would be able to join Him in supernatural ministry. This is empowering you to believe in God-sized things being done in and through you. You had to be seated with Jesus in heavenly realms, or you wouldn't have the God-sized relationship you need to have Jesus' power flow through you.

Jesus, help me see where God seated me. Help me understand why He put me there. Help me yield to the position I have been seated in. Help me not think I deserve being seated there. But, instead, help me be thankful, appreciative, and cooperative, so You can flow through this position to use me in a powerful and dynamic way. Open my eyes, so I can see how generous and gracious God is to allow me to be seated with You in the heavenly realm. Let me, as a child of God, learn how to protect my friends because of the position I am in, through You.

Okay, I'm Ready To Love My Neighbor

Now back to loving your neighbor as yourself. You are all set up for spending eternity with God because of salvation. Jesus is glad you are going to make it into eternity with Him. However, He is concerned about those who aren't ready. Due to the fact that He is going to be working through you, His concern must be your concern. As a matter of fact all His concerns will have to be approved by you, before He will manifest His ministry through you. Always keep this in mind; if you don't, things can often get confusing for you.

Jesus, help me see that these studies and prayers are moving me forward in You in a powerful way. However, help me understand that, if I don't want to do God-sized things, or don't believe for God-sized things, then You will be held back in ministering protection for my friends. Help me keep Hebrews 12:2 always in the back of my mind, as I allow You to flow through me. Show me that this is the criteria for allowing You to do God-sized things in and through me.

The reason why God tells you to **love your neighbor as yourself** is because of your will. He tells you to do it and you decide whether or not you will let that happen. God's power and God's permission for you to be used in Jesus' ministry are already resident in your life. What they are waiting on is your permission. Here's how it looks.

What Does This Protection Ministry Look Like?

Luke 10:30-34 (NIV) In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, <u>he took pity on him</u>. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him." This is the protection ministry; it's you doing things for others they can't do for themselves. But, it isn't meeting any need; it's helping people in impossible situations. It is bringing the knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, love, and power of Jesus to them.

Jesus, help me see the important elements of this parable. Help me see that I don't have to have a title, a position, or a special ministry for it. Help me be looking for situations where You and I can do for certain people, things <u>they can't do for themselves.</u> Help me have the time, the resources, the attitudes and character, and the wisdom for being able to meet needs that can take supernatural miracles to meet. Help me allow You to be God in and through me to the lives of those around me.

A man, laying on the side of the road half dead, isn't someone trying to trick you. He isn't just doing this, so as to cheat you out of your money. He isn't pretending to have a need, so he won't have to work. A man, who is half dead, is a man with a real need. It was obvious to all who passed by, that this naked man, who was laying there beaten within an inch of his life, needed them to stop and help. What Jesus was doing was removing all excuses. Anyone who didn't stop and help this man had a heart problem.

Jesus, help me not be confused here; help me understand that all desperate needs won't be as obvious as this one in the beginning. With emotional, financial, relational, physical, and spiritual needs, I may have to develop some kind of relationship with them before I can see it. Help me know what kind of questions, what kind of sensitivity, and what kind of love I will have to have in order to see a need that the person can't solve by themselves. Protect me from dishonest people; but, protect me from missing an assignment.

Jesus is the answer to mankind's needs. You know that, because He has done many wonderful things in your life. But, like the priest and the Levite, you can get involved in a Christianity and ministry that is focused on the wrong things. If you study your Bible, because you're supposed to or just because you want *your* life improved, you moved from love to duty or selfishness.

Jesus, show me what turned these people into heartless people. Show me the path they took, so I will stay focused on what You are teaching in this parable. Let Your heart be my heart; let Your love be my love; let Your faith be my faith; and, let Your purpose be my purpose. Teach me how to have a Christianity and ministry that is relevant, loving, and protective. Show me things from Your perspectives, so I won't get in the condition of these two religious people.

Steps Into Religion

- The priest had a lot of Bible knowledge.
- He originally knew what God was asking him to do. But, he started accepting other things.
- He was a busy man. He was busy doing things that weren't going to last for eternity.
- He was doing things that *he thought* were pleasing to God. Rather than following God's directions, he started listening to human, religious principles.
- He was busy following a program that a lot of other religious leaders were following. Rather than checking everything with the Bible, he went with the typical religious system.
- He didn't have time for God's work; he was busy with what he *thought* was God's work.

Steps Into Jesus' Protection Ministry

- Jesus, give me a lot of Bible knowledge that has the Holy Spirit's interpretation for it.
- Help me always know what You are asking me to do. Help me not start accepting other things to do.
- Help me be a busy person. But, help me be busy doing things that will last for eternity.
- Help me not be doing things *I think* are pleasing to God. Help me always be following Your directions rather than listening to human, religious principles.
- Help me not just be busy following a program that a lot of other religious leaders were following. Help me always be checking everything with the Bible.
- Help me have time for God's work, because I am only busy with what You, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible are telling me *are* God's work.

Jesus was saying that all their busyness was missing God's plan for their life. When the real ministry presented itself, the priest failed to do the ministry. Ultimately the priest and the Levite missed an opportunity to be used by God, even though they thought they were doing the work of God. Why did that happen? Because they were running their lives and ministry rather than letting Jesus run it. They were working *for* God rather than working *with* Jesus.

Jesus, help me not be deciding what You want me to do. You decide what You want me to join You in and then do it through me. Teach me how to follow Your lead. Teach me how to hear Your voice. Teach me how to stay inside Your plan. And, teach me how to obey Your Word. Help me understand that no matter how long I have been studying the Bible, working in Your ministry, and seeing how You do things, help me always just listen to what You want me to do next and then allow You to do it through me.

Chapter Ten

Be Ready At A Moment's Notice

Where does all this obvious-needs situation take you? If you ever see a person naked and half dead, you will know what to do, right? Jesus is trying to teach you more than that. What Jesus is doing is, training you how to be ready to minister to the obvious needs. He is going to respond to a lot of obvious needs. All you have to do, is be ready to respond at a moment's notice. Are you ready? Probably not. You can see the obvious needs. You even see the obvious need that Jesus wants you to be involved in. But, do you have the time, resources, or abilities?

Jesus, I see obvious needs all the time. However, which ones do You want me addressing? Help me not just see an obvious need and assume what You want me to do. Also, help me not see an obvious need and assume You don't want me addressing it. Help me see these needs and check with You for what You want me to do. Help me always be at the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things, to the right people, so I get Your right results.

You can feel sympathy for those who have obvious needs. The question is, will you walk over and help? Something has to happen in your heart before you will do that. The priest and the Levite were already otherwise engaged. They probably didn't have an appointment book or appointment device like you have. But, their schedule was full. Their day was planned. They probably didn't have a minute to spare. When this happens to you, it leaves you with no room for Jesus' ministry.

Jesus, help me keep my schedule flexible, as much as is possible. Help me not fill my day with so many things that You can't have an unexpected need interrupt my day. Help me see that Peter's day was interrupted, when You showed him the man at the gate beautiful. Your days were constantly being interrupted, as You went about fulfilling the will of our heavenly Father. Help me start living a day that is interruptible. Help me flow in Your Spirit in such a way that I am ready, at a moment's notice, to change the course of my day.

For Jesus to minister through you, you must be available. If your body is someplace else, if your mouth is saying something else, if your schedule is already set with other things, if you are putting your resources in things He isn't in favor of, He isn't going to be able to do His ministry through you. The Jesus life and the Jesus ministry has to do with Jesus. Jesus' body, mouth, schedule, and resources were always where His heavenly Father wanted them to be.

Jesus, this is a major paradigm shift for me. I have a lot of issues that must be addressed, so I can help those *You* want me to protect. I have been fitting You in to my life, where I felt I had time for You. I worked You into my schedule rather than working my schedule with You. Help me be transformed, so I can see how my life would be much better, if I followed You. Help me understand what You were training Your disciples, as they followed You each day.

There are four issues that have to be committed to Jesus: your time, your location, your resources, and your effort. Let Him show You these four issues, so you can see how you will have to start listening to His direction. He will let you look at them again in a more specific way later. But, in general, here is what the Bible, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are asking you to do:

Eph 5:15 (NIV) Be very careful, then, <u>how you live</u>--not as unwise but as wise. Jesus, show me how to **be very careful.** Help me see that it isn't through human effort. This is me getting involved in effort that is empowered by You, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible. Help me **be very careful...how** I **live** by applying The Three Keys To All Of Christianity to my life. Help me see how to do it **not as unwise but as wise,** by applying the *ask key* and doing what James 1:5 says: **If any of you lacks wisdom, he should *ask* God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it *will* be given to him (NIV).**

Eph 5:16 (NIV) Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Jesus, help me make **the most of every opportunity** by having time for You to show me what You want me doing. Help me make **the most of every opportunity** by me being at the right location that You want me being at. Help me make **the most of every opportunity** by me using my resources where You want them used.

Eph 5:17 (NIV) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand <u>what the Lord's will is</u>. Jesus, help me stop seeing life like the world sees it. Help me with my eternal priorities. Help me trust You with my finances, my responsibilities, my physical needs, and my worldly cares. Help me reevaluate what is important. Help me reevaluate how to go about living a life with a physical body, human relationships, and all kinds of human needs. Show me how to transition into Your life, so I won't **be foolish, but understand what** You, my **Lord's will is.**

Time, Location, Resources, and Effort

Prov 3:5-6 (AKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Time is a non-recoverable commodity. Once it goes by, it is gone. God has given you a certain amount of it. When it is gone, you have to leave the planet. As to location, your body is only able to be in one place at a time. To be able to do Jesus' ministry you have to let Him have your time and direct your paths. With resources, God is only going to give you as many as you need for yourself and those He wants you to share them with.

Jesus, help me to **trust in the LORD with all** my **heart and lean not on** my **own understanding; in all** my **ways** help me always to **acknowledge Him, and He shall direct** my **paths (Prov 3:5-6 AKJV).** This training is challenging a lot of what I typically do with my days. Help me **trust in** You **with all** my **heart and lean not on** my **own understanding,** as it relates to how to go about living my life with You in control.

Concerning energy, your body only has so much it can expend before it has to be rejuvenated. If it is all used up by the time you are about to give some time to Jesus, you will have a hard to being willing to go do it. If it is already pretty much used up, even if you go do some things with Jesus, you won't be giving Him your best. If you decide to give Jesus the first part of your day, then the rest of it will be very limited. So, the answer is, be serving Jesus, as you go about your day. Ask Him to help you take care of all issues of life and spirituality through His wisdom.

Jesus, help me see that those things You want done must be a normal part of my life. Help me not segment it, so I won't get the life the priest and the Levite got. Give me the life of the good Samaritan, where I go about my day seeing and meeting an obvious need the person cannot meet themselves. Help me see that the needs will be out in normal life where the people are. Show me how You went about Your day doing the physical and the spiritual together.

Jesus' ministry, through your life, takes care of all time, location, resource, and effort issues. He never wasted a minute. He was where He was supposed to be, when He was supposed to be there. He was always giving the right resources to the right people. The Holy Spirit is teaching you how to do this, how to receive Jesus' thoughts, and how to respond to them instantly. The mind of Jesus is available to you already. It is just a matter of you opening your mind to His mind.

1 Cor 2:16 (NIV) For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. Jesus, help me see that this supernatural change, that needs to take place in my schedule, plans, goals, physical needs, and life in general, has to be solved by Your mind. Help me be open, through faith, that You will gently and brilliantly start transitioning my normal life by guiding me. Help me be ready to respond to Your ideas and leadership, as You teach me how to live this type of daily life.

Let Jesus' Thoughts And Wishes Become Your Thoughts And Wishes

1 Cor 2:16 (NIV) "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But <u>we have the mind of Christ</u>. At salvation Jesus made His mind available to your mind. That is what caused you to start **wanting** to do the right things and **hating** doing the wrong things (Rom 7:15). As you started going through the various aspects of spiritual growth (sanctification), you began *doing* right things. That would have never been possible without the mind of Christ.

Jesus, Your mind has already empowered me to start doing things I couldn't do before. Your mind gave me the wisdom to approach life in many very different ways. I learned how to yield to Your Word, so I could be empowered by it speaking those truths into my behavior. I found myself living a different life of doing right, good, and righteousness to myself, other people, and God's plan. Help me remember those miracles, so they assist me in believing You will help me with this life of You directing my schedule, plans, and decisions for the day.

The only reason you understand all these spiritual principles, is because of the power of Jesus' mind influencing your mind. As you start listening to those things you have been trained to listen to, you will know the difference between Jesus' thoughts and wishes and the other sources that had been coming your way. As you know and recognize His thoughts and are ready to respond to His will, this will bring you to the place where you can start looking at Jesus doing His ministry through you. All that is needed now, is for you to start yielding to the mind of Jesus.

Jesus, get me ready for conflicts between my typical life and a life directed by You. Protect me from fear of losing a job, disappointing people, failing to get my needs met, or considered a fanatic. Get me ready for such conflicts, so I have complete trust in You. When a conflict of time, effort, resources, or location comes up, help me turn to You for wisdom and clarification, as to what You want me to do.

If you don't yield to the mind of Christ, you will constantly be at the wrong place, at the wrong time, doing and saying the wrong things, to the wrong person. You have already done an extensive study concerning the fact that Jesus only did what the Father told Him to do. In other words, Jesus gave His time, location, resources, and efforts over to the Father's control. The only way that was possible was for Jesus to be constantly aware of what the Father wanted. This was a natural way of life for Jesus.

Jesus, help me see that if I am at the wrong place, at the wrong time, doing and saying the wrong things, to the wrong person, that will automatically create conflicts in my life. You will be wanting me to do something and I will be in the wrong place at the time. Help me see that the fear of being embarrassed, losing a job, or damaging a relationship by doing what You want me to do, will put me in the wrong place, at the wrong time, doing and saying the wrong things, to the wrong person. That will create conflicts that didn't need to be created.

Up until now, this hasn't been a natural way of life for you. Jesus is having to start you off gradually. He is introducing you into hearing from Him in steps. As you learn to hear from Him, you will then be able to devote your ministry to what He wants. The first message you received from Him taught you what His voice sounded like. This was a message that gave you His assurance of salvation. From that point, He has been directing you away from wrong, bad, and evil. And, He has been directing you into right, good, and righteousness.

Jesus, help me see that You have already been directing me. Most of it was directing me away for sin issues into righteousness issues. But now, You are wanting to direct me into things that are ministerial issues. Help me take the things that I have learned about You and Your directions, and receive faith that You will use the same gradual procedures for making this change in my life. If I make a mistake, help it never be on purpose. If I make a mistake accidently, help me repent, ask You to forgive me, ask You to help me never do it again, and then ask You to empower me to go make it right with the person I neglected.

Chapter Eleven

God Is Talking To You

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Learning to hear Jesus' voice, is a vital part of Christianity and ministry. You won't have a choice of who is running your life, if you can only hear the voice of your body, the devil, and the world. But, that wasn't even true back before you were born again. **John 16:8 (NIV) When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.** The Holy Spirit has been talking to you most of your life through your conscience.

Jesus, help me see that I face the same problem that I faced, before I was born again. Just like the Holy Spirit only made me feel guilty about doing wrong things but didn't try to force me, that is my relationship with You now. If I don't want to help someone You want me to help, I will know what You want me to do. But, You won't force me to do it. Help me see that it wasn't until I started praying and asking You for salvation that You helped me. So, empower me to ask for Your help, when I don't want to protect someone.

You *Know* You Are God's Child

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. How did this voice of truth manifest itself in your life? You experienced an assurance, a knowing, and a peace added and established in your belief system. Sure, Satan tried to convince you otherwise; but, the Holy Spirit's assurance was stronger. From this God-given knowledge and emotion, you still know you are one of God's children. How? The Holy Spirit made it clear to your heart.

1 John 4:4 (NIV) You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, *because* the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. Jesus, help me understand that, as You give me assignments, it will be a knowing. The knowing lets me become aware of the fact that I have an assignment. When Satan tries to confuse me and tries to keep me from protecting someone, help me know You will give me the power to do it anyway. Your will always speaks faith and power into me to do the assignment.

Now let Jesus help you identify another line of communication that has been being spoken into your heart. The next series of communications that started coming to you was still dealing with what was right and what was wrong. But, it was about how to live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit is still speaking to your conscience; but, not so you would know you needed a Savior. He is now speaking to you to let you know you need Jesus to be your Lord. Now that He is your Savior, you need to allow Him to be the Lord of your life.

God Changes Your Desires To *Want* The Right Things

Rom 7:16 (NIV) And if I do what I do not *want* to do, I agree that the law is good. Previously, the Holy Spirit's convicting power, in your conscience, kept you from enjoying sin. If He hadn't, you would still be sinning and wondering why it wasn't meeting your needs. But, salvation and justification introduced you into a new purpose for the Holy Spirit speaking to your conscience. He is showing you that human effort and world training won't work in Christianity or in ministry.

Jesus, I thank You for Your Holy Spirit continuing to speak to me. All these experiences with me being able to hear His voice have trained me for my future ministry. I know what it feels like for Him to help me **want** to do the right things and **hate** doing the wrong things (Rom 7:15). Help me concentrate on what all of that sounds like and feels like, so I will better know Your voice, when You are giving me an assignment to protect someone. Help me also know it, so I will know when You *aren't* assigning me to protect someone.

You *Know* What God *Wants*

Rom 7:22 (NIV) For in my inner being I delight in (have an intense *want* for) **God's law.** The mind of Jesus started talking to your mind and bringing your mind into agreement with God's law. How has that been manifesting itself in your life? It manifests as a knowing; it makes you positive it is true; and it empowers you to be convinced. In your inner being, you *know* when God does or doesn't like what you do or don't do.

Jesus, show me that whether I follow that knowing or not depends on obedience. I know what that voice sounds like and feels like; but, do I **want** to do what You are asking me to do? If I find myself not wanting to do it, help me not just refuse to do it. Help me bring it to You and let You empower me to get the desire. Help me keep praying and asking for You to change my mind, so I can be obedient to You no matter what. Let me go against the fears, misinformation, and lies of Satan, my body, and the world.

1 John 2:27 (NIV) As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, <u>and you do not need anyone to teach you</u>. But <u>as His anointing teaches you about all things</u> and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in Him. Jesus makes people teachers; and, you can't get these truths without them. But, it is vital that you not think you are being taught by the teacher. Jesus uses the teacher for you to get the revelation; but, *He* is taking what you hear and making it real to you.

When you read your Bible, your inner being agrees with what it says. That is Holy Spirit interpreting what the meaning is. Then the mind of Christ talks to the mind of your inner being and helps you **delight in God's law.** The fact is, your inner being is receiving a lot of information from Jesus' mind. When you hear a sermon, read a good Christian book, read and pray over these materials, listen to good Christian music, pray and God talks to you, and get revelations during your day, that is the mind of Jesus giving you all that truth.

Jesus, teach me that when truths come to me from various sources, it isn't the sources that cause me to get benefit from them. Help me see that I only understand and get meaning from them through You and the Holy Spirit taking the words from these sources and making them real to me. Help me realize that I must expose myself to these sources; but, the actual reality and transformation from those truths are being spoken into me by You and the Holy Spirit.

You Have Been Hearing God For A Long Time

1. Even before you were a Christian, you knew what God wanted you to do and not do: **John 16:8 (NIV) When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.**

2. When you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you knew you were born again, because the Holy Spirit told you so: **Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**

3. After you became a new Christian and was trying to live it with human effort and world training, you knew what God wanted you to do and not do: **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For <u>what I want to do</u> I do not do, but *what I hate* I do.**

4. Then, as you grew and started understanding Biblical truths, you knew what God wanted you to do and not do: **John 16:13 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.**

5. Since Jesus wants you to only go to those that your heavenly Father has drawn to Him, you know what He wants you to do and not do: **John 6:44 (NIV) No one can come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. Mat 7:6 (NIV) Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.**

Jesus, help me realize that You have been training me to hear Your voice for most of my life. Help me not doubt the fact that the Holy Spirit is speaking to my conscience, to my mind, and to my heart. Help me understand that I do have to distinguish between Your voice through the Holy Spirit and my body, the devil, and the world. However, show me that I have been learning how to distinguish the difference even before I was born again. I know what is right and wrong; I know what is good and bad; and, I know what is righteous and evil.

From the first day you became old enough to be responsible for right and wrong, you started hearing from God. From the first day you received the assurance that you had become a child of God, you, in your inner being, started knowing and wanting the kind of life Jesus wanted you to live. From that day on you received a continuous flow of what Jesus wanted, as it related to each thought, word, and activity of your life. Through your inner being, you have had a constant and clear communication from His mind to your mind.

Jesus, help me see that it is vital that I not be confused, as to my abilities to know what You want. Help me not allow the devil to cause me to doubt Your voice guiding me to the right people to protect. Show me that You speak to me in my conscience, my mind, and my heart with power. You empower me to go to that person, while having a feeling in my heart that they are the right one. Help me not allow fear, doubt, intimidation, or satanic attack keep me from working with the right person You are assigning me to protect.

Because you have brought your body into the control of the Holy Spirit through sanctification (spiritual growth), that communication has built in you a dynamic way of life and ministry. Now, the time you spend thinking or not thinking about certain things is being influenced by the mind of Jesus. The time you spend saying or not saying things is coming under His control. The time you spend doing or not doing certain things is based on whether or not you are using your new training in Spiritual Growth and Warfare.

Jesus, I *know* and *want* or *don't want,* in my spirit, what You do or don't want my time, resources, and efforts spent on. I confess with faith, that it is my desire to yield to Your mind with my mind. I make a confession of faith, that I know the difference between Your voice and the voice of the devil, my body, and the world. If I struggle with working with someone out of feelings of fear, intimidation, or doubt, I confess that, that is not my spirit or You. It is my body, the devil, or the world trying to get me to accept their voice as my thoughts.

The Three Parts To Spiritual Growth

There are three aspects to living the life of Jesus; they are: knowing, wanting, and doing. *Knowing* to do the right thing and *wanting* to do the right thing are two different things. You have always known what Jesus wanted. The Holy Spirit, through everyone's conscience, made that *known* to every person in all the world. Once you were saved, however, you started *wanting* to do what Jesus wanted. But, it wasn't until you went through the necessary aspects of Spiritual Growth (sanctification) that you started *doing* what you *knew He wanted*.

Jesus, I know I *know* what You want, help my *want* to always be in line with Your "want." As I know it, but, also know it's going to cause me pain, rejection, loss of income and acceptance, empower me to *want* to do what You want. Then, help me be empowered, to go *do* it. Give me the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, love, and power to protect those You want protected.

Conclusion

This is the third book in **The Protection Series**. As you know, it is called: **Protection Through Jesus.** The First book is called: **Protection For Others.** The second book is called: **Protection Through Relationships.** And the fourth book is called: **Protection Through Love.** These all deal with protecting those who can't protect themselves.

There is a series called: **The Prevention Series.** Jesus uses it to teach you how to use the full armor of God to be protected yourself. If you haven't gone through that series, it would be good for you to know how to protect yourself through the full armor of God.

A Prayer For You To Always Pray For Yourself And Others
Jesus' people are praying Ephesians 1:17-23 for you. It contains such vital requests before God that it has been converted into a prayer for you and those around you. As others pray it for you, please join them by praying this modified prayer for yourself and your friends.

I *keep asking* that the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may *give me* the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, *so that* I may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened *in order that* I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for me, who believes. Jesus, help me see, know, and understand the hope, the riches, and this power.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way. Jesus, I ask that I would receive a full revelation and vision into all this power that is available to me; and, I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

It would be good for you to pray this prayer for yourself and those around you regularly.