

PERSONAL REVELATION

GATEWAY TO REVIVAL

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Personal Revelation — The Gateway to Revival

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Introduction

The truth in this booklet can change your life.

This is a bold statement, I know. The truths contained herein have changed my life and I am excited about sharing them.

The need for *personal revelation* is at the heart of the gospel. You may not have thought about this before, but you will soon see what I mean.

Many of the most fundamental truths of our faith lie dormant in our minds. They lie there impotent because they have not been energized, personalized, nor internalized by *personal revelation*. The Holy Spirit is able to light them up and drop them into your heart.

This has huge ramifications for *your* Christian life. It can be the difference between a Christian life characterized by mediocrity and lukewarmness and a life of vibrant passion for God. It can be the difference between a life of bondage and a life of joyful liberty.

Have you ever longed to be part of a spiritual revival like the great Welsh revival of 1903/04? I have flown long distances to be a part of “revival meetings” and once explored the Isle of Lewis in order to speak directly with a man who was in the Hebrides revival in the early 1950’s. My friend, you and I do not have to sit around and wait for something like this to touch our lives. Personal revival could be as near as the distance between your head and your heart.

Many Christians wonder to themselves *there must be more to the Christian life than this*. If this is you continue reading and let the adventure begin.

Chapter 1

New Testament Mysteries

The New Testament uses the word *mystery* 26 times. Understanding the meaning behind this word is of utmost importance.

We can define *mystery* in a biblical context thus:

- *A truth undiscoverable by reason but now revealed.* (Cambridge Bible for Colleges and Schools)
- *A secret known only to the initiated, something hidden requiring special revelation. In the New Testament the word denotes something that people could never know by their own understanding and that demands a revelation from God.* (Spirit Filled Life Bible)

Paul, in Colossians 1:24-26, confirms this definition.

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, **25** of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, **26** the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. (NKJV) emphasis mine

So there you have it. The gospel itself is called a *mystery*, something that needs personal revelation to fully understand and grasp its meaning and application. Let me say it this way. You have read biblical truth in the scriptures and may understand it to a certain level, but there are great riches, life transforming riches, to be found when it is understood more fully in the heart.

We often need a *personal revelation* to fully grasp a scriptural truth. By revelation I mean an uncovering, an unveiling, a disclosure or revelation of a truth that we previously did not fully comprehend. Oh, what a glorious truth this is. What a glorious concept we now have before us. This brings hope and excitement to many a dull heart.

I remember the day when I received a personal revelation of the doctrine of *justification*. My life was changed forever. I came alive where I was once

dead, yet I had been a Christian for over twenty years when this happened. I had been taught about justification from Romans 3, 4, and 5 and I'm sure I had heard many a sermon on the subject. It was not, however, until that glorious day when it burst into my heart and became personal revelation, that my life was transformed forever.

Here is the way it happened. I walked into the classroom one evening and I saw what my bible college professor had written on the board:

Righteous 24/7

I was stunned. It lit up for me. It jumped off the board and into my heart. I was receiving revelation.

That kicked off a period of weeks when I fervently read and studied everything I could get my hands on to illuminate this precious doctrine more fully. As I said, I was changed forever. I *got it*. My relationship with God was deeper and more intimate than I had known before. I knew a joy, a peace and a rest that was fresh and new. Gone forever was the striving to please God that had characterized much of my Christian walk. Weariness was turned into rest.

I have had many revelations like this over the years. With the revelation of justification, I began to grasp the truth of who *I am in Christ* which brought significant breakthroughs in my life. I remember more recently I was so blessed when the Lord showed me what it means to be a *son*. With this revelation of sonship the love of Father God poured into my heart as never before.

I like to think of these experiences as altars where God and I had an encounter like Jacob had with the Angel of the Lord in Bethel. Jacob built an altar to mark and honor that encounter. (Genesis 28:18) So, as I look in the rearview mirror of my life I see altars erected throughout the years. These God-encounters have been responsible for my growth and maturity, yes, even personal revival from time to time.

The revealing of the mysteries of the gospel is an important ministry of the Holy Spirit. We will talk more about this later, but for now let's see what Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:17 where he says *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation*

in the knowledge of Him. Please read this verse over and over until you grasp its meaning and implication.

Before we move on let me give you a rich mine to begin to explore. As a Christian you know God loves you. It says so in John 3:16. Paul, however, prays for the Christians in Ephesus that they *may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with the fullness of God.* (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Wow! Did you see that? The love of Christ is beyond knowing fully. Paul describes it as four dimensional! What does this mean? And what does it mean *to be filled with the fullness of God*? Oh the depth of the possibilities of personal revelation waiting for you and me here. When the love of Christ bursts into your life, you will be different — chains will fall off and bondages broken. There will be a fresh new passion of the Lord. Guaranteed.

Listen to Paul in Philippians 1:25: *And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith.* Paul was telling the Philippians that he felt he would not be martyred for the gospel at this point thus allowing him to continue to minister to them. This is a great reminder to us that we are to **progress** in our faith with **joy**. I am convinced that a deeper knowledge into the mysteries of the gospel is a path to progress and joy, yes even revival. The key to this deeper, life transformational knowledge is *personal revelation*.

Let us begin to open our hearts to this ministry of the Holy Spirit. Begin to agree with Paul's prayer and ask God to reveal to you deeper knowledge of himself — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Chapter 2

The Glorious Gospel

Paul speaks of the *mystery of the gospel* in Ephesians 6:19. This mystery is the heart and soul of the New Testament. If this mystery had not been revealed to the Apostle Paul our New Testament would be gutted. (note: Let me caution you right here... do not tune out. You think you know the gospel? It is so much more than most of us have comprehended. To grasp its depth and meaning will take a lifetime and it needs to be received as a personal revelation.)

To begin our adventure you must understand the story of Paul's personal revelation — how he received it and how it impacted him. For me this has been the key to understand this subject and has motivated me to write this little book.

For Paul, it began on the road to Damascus. You can read the story in Acts 9. Saul, as he was known then, was going to Damascus to handcuff some of the followers of Jesus (Yeshua, as he would have been known by his Hebrew name) and bring them back to Jerusalem for severe punishment. Suddenly, out of the blue, literally, a light shone around him and he heard Jesus' voice, "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*" You know the rest of the story. Saul is described as *trembling, astonished, and blind*. His companions, it says, *stood speechless*. Saul was never the same. His world was tipped upside down.

These words describe a dramatic revelation. Wouldn't you agree? Paul tells in Galatians chapter 1 what happened after this encounter with the risen Christ. He did not immediately confer with the other disciples, but went away to Arabia and then returned Damascus for a total of three years. During these three years the Lord opened his eyes and revealed to him, by revelation, all the fulness of what we know as the gospel. Paul was in a private three year intensive bible training course with the Lord Jesus. The curtain was pulled back, so to speak, and he was shown a mystery that had not been revealed before to any man. Paul was in the school of revelation! Listen to what he says in Galatians 1:11-12: *11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

The gospel Jesus revealed to Paul was far more than what we usually think of as the gospel — ie., that our sins have been forgiven and we are saved by grace through faith. This is true of course, as far as it goes. However, it is so much wider and deeper and higher. I have been on a mission now for over 10 years discovering more of the fulness of what the gospel entails. Paul describes to Timothy this is ***the glorious gospel***. (1 Timothy 1:11) It truly is glorious. It is life changing and life transforming.

Here now is the crux of the matter — the key to understanding how and why personal revelation is essential to your life, even today. You may have been a Christian for 40 years and I still say this, *You need more and more personal revelation of the gospel*. **Just because Paul received this revelation and wrote it in our scriptures does not mean that you do not also need personal revelation to grasp it, understand it, and benefit from its power in your life.** You do. Paul's prayers testify to this. Let's have a look.

Ephesians chapters 1-3 are filled with many aspects of this glorious gospel which Paul received after his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road. Time and space do not allow me to go through these profound, life changing truths thoroughly.

In the midst of these three chapters Paul utters two prayers that you must see. (It is a fruitful exercise to read and study them, even memorize them. I have found them to be a gold mine of truth and revelation.) Let's look first at Ephesians 1:17-18:

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

Do you see what Paul is praying here? He is praying that you will have the spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing him; that the eyes of your understanding (read this to mean heart) may be enlightened — why? So you will receive what Paul has been teaching. The New Living Translation says *I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand.*

My friend, this is personal revelation. Paul is praying that you will be flooded with light so that you can more fully understand about him (Christ) and the glorious gospel. It is as if a veil needs to be taken away from our eyes and

hearts in order to receive the depths and power of these truths. Paul is praying for this.

Paul repeats this injunction elsewhere in his letters:

- * **Ephesians 3:18** — *may be able to comprehend...*
- * **Colossians 1:9** — *ask that you may be filled with knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*
- * **Colossians 1:27** — *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- * **Colossians 2:2** — *and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,*

This concept is at the heart of Paul's gospel — the revelation of what he received from Jesus and then his prayer that you too will receive it; that your heart will be flooded with light so that you can understand it in a transformational way, in a way with dynamite power.

This idea of power is an important aspect of our subject.

You probably know that the Greek word *dunamis* (Strong's 1411) is where we get our English word dynamite. It means *to be able, power, especially achieving power, intrinsic power, a spirit of strength and vigor, miraculous power.* (The Complete Word Study Dictionary, Spiro Zodhiates)

Now let's apply this to Saul of Tarsus. I can imagine that Saul, soon to become Paul, had as much to "unlearn" as he did learn. Remember, he was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was an Old Testament scholar and a radical disciple of the Judaism of his day. We know the strength and power of this from all the battles Jesus had with the Pharisees and Jewish leaders as described in the gospels. The Jewish leaders of Jesus' day were blind, legalistic, hypocritical, and unloving, to say the least. Eight times in Matthew 23, Jesus blasts them by saying, *Woe unto you Pharisees ...* Saul would have been just the same way.

Jesus, through his teachings, revelations and the power of the Holy Spirit had to use *dunamis* power to utterly transform Paul's mind and heart. A lifetime of teaching and life experience had to be radically transformed.

This is the same for many Christians. We have to unlearn so much. We come to Christ with baggage — sins, family inheritances, and twisted personalities. To become mature Christians, Christ-like, we need much more than a prayer of salvation and daily bible reading. Many, even most believers, need radical transformation just like Saul did. I believe our subject at hand, personal revelation by the power of the Word and the Spirit is a huge part of this process.

Notice in Paul's wonderful prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21, three times he uses derivatives of the word *dunamis*, in verse 16, ***might***, and twice in verse 20, *now to him who **is able** to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that works in us,*

It takes this kind of spiritual power to blast out the old and bring in the new. This is the essence of a spiritual revelation, which brings a spiritual transformation.

Truth must be received at a heart level, for out of the heart flow the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23) Paul knows that many things in our lives block the truth — things like ignorance, carnality, worldly ways of thinking, passivity, sin, doctrinal blindness, presuppositions, and hard hearts. We need Holy Spirit ministered revelation to break through these barriers.

This is exciting. There is so much more yet to be discovered and experienced in your life with God. More light and revelation brings more love, more joy, more peace, more holiness, more fruitfulness, more passion, more power ... dare I say, even personal revival.

Let me say it once again. **Just because Paul received revelation from Jesus and writes about it in the scriptures, does not mean that you do not also need personal revelation to receive it in a life transforming way.**

Let the adventure continue.

Chapter 3

Two-Mouthed

I recently learned a very interesting truth that is pertinent to our topic from a Greek scholar. I am sure you are familiar with Hebrews 4:12 which says *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Rick Renner, in his wonderful book *Sparkling Gems From the Greek*, gives a wonderful insight into this in his February 22nd entry. The Greek word used here in Hebrews 4:12 for *two-edged* literally means *two-mouthed!* Is this not unusual? What is the author of Hebrews saying here? What does this mean? Renner goes on to explain. I will paraphrase.

Ephesians 6:17 gives further insight. It says *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...* This sword is none other than the two-edged sword of Hebrews 4:12. We also see this two-edged sword in Revelation 1:16 coming out of Jesus mouth.

The word of God is likened to a sword with two sharp edges that does terrible damage to the aggressor. The Greek word used for *word* in Ephesians 6:17 is *rhema*. A *rhema* word is something that is spoken clearly, vividly, in unmistakable terms and undeniable language. It carries the idea of a quickened word. In the context of this little book, it is a word that has become personal revelation for you.

When the word of God is quickened to you by the Holy Spirit and it becomes a *rhema* word it has become personal revelation for you. It becomes a powerful weapon in your arsenal, as part of the armor of God, to overcome the enemy in your life. This is what Jesus did to defeat Satan in Matthew chapter 4. Three times Satan came to him, tempting and challenging him. Each time Jesus said *It is written ...* Satan sulked away because Jesus used this double-edged sword to defeat him.

Let me now apply this specifically to our subject of personal revelation. God's word was *spoken* once when he inspired the writers originally to write scriptures. Then, when the Holy Spirit speaks it again to us personally, it

becomes *rhema*, personal revelation, a quickened word to us. This means the word of God has moved from our head to our heart and becomes a life-changing event, a life-giving word, an altar. It goes deep into our heart and brings life, even personal revival. It also becomes a powerful spiritual weapon that defeats lies we have believed and sets us free. It brings life out of dead places, turns mourning into joy, and is part of the process of us becoming an overcomer and living a victorious Christian life.

This process of adding a second edge to the sword, speaking the word a second time, is a primary ministry of the Holy Spirit. Let us examine this in more detail in the next chapter.

Chapter 3

Spirit to spirit

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is the ministry of revelation — teaching us from the Word of God and giving us the *personal revelation* needed for a deeper understanding of truth. He speaks to us at a spirit level. In other words he communicates to us into our spirit man -- Spirit to spirit. God is Spirit and when we become born again we become spiritual beings as well.

Let' listen in on Jesus' well known conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:5-7:

Jesus answered, 5 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

You and I have been born of the spirit. We have an old man and a new man. We have a natural man and a spiritual man. The problem with much of what we learn is that it stays in our mind, our brain, our head, without going into our spirit. When the Holy Spirit speaks into our *spirit man*, we receive something on a totally different level -- a spiritual level. This is the level that brings radical change to our lives. At this level we understand the mysteries of the Lord as revealed in scripture.

I experienced something during the writing of this small book that has been instructive for me and perhaps it will help you as well in understanding the process of receiving personal revelation. I was awakened during the night a few times with fresh insight (revelation) about this subject. When I tried to write these down on paper I was frustrated to see that words did not capture the depth of what I had seen. I had been shown at a spirit or heart level and my writing was happening at a knowledge or head level. Revelation comes at a spirit level, from the Holy Spirit to our spirit; however, when it is written down to communicate to others, there comes a limitation on the revelation. So, when you read what I write it is most probably not revelation for you, but just head knowledge! Do you see what I am saying?

Let's take this to the Apostle Paul's level now. During his three years in Arabia (and additional times I'm sure) he received the revelation of the gospel of grace, the glorious gospel as he described it to Timothy. His revelation was so high, wide, long and deep, that he wrote extensively about it in all his epistles. He even says in Ephesians 3:19 that knowing the love of Christ is beyond fully knowing! Paul, however, does the best he can and his writings are inspired by the Holy Spirit, as we know. But when we read them we tend to receive them at an intellect level and they may be devoid of revelation for us personally. This is why Paul prays as he does in Ephesians and elsewhere, that we will **get it**. Let's recall Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17-18 that is the basis for my writing:

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

Paul knows he received it as revelation but as we read his letters we are receiving it initially at a head level. For us to be transformed by the truth of his revelation, we too, need to receive it as revelation, at the spirit level. Paul knows this and therefore is praying passionately for his readers.

This explains why a pastor or teacher can teach something he is excited about, that he received by revelation, but the congregation walks out unchanged and forgets about the message by tea time. It was revelation to him, but not to them. This explains why so many Christian books are inspired and written by an excited author who has understood a truth at a deep level and his or her life has been radically changed. Sadly his reader often enjoys the experience and the knowledge gained while remaining unchanged. I finally understand. This explains so much.

Let me say parenthetically that knowledge in our head is not a bad thing at all. We need to renew our minds and it is a good thing to have our head full of knowledge and scripture. We are three part beings - spirit, soul and body. The interaction among all three is complex and God-designed. However, head knowledge is only the beginning. It must move to the heart and spirit level for its intended impact and personal transformation.

Chapter 4

Two Levels of Teaching

In 1 Corinthians 2 Paul teaches us a very important concept that is critical to our subject.

Let's begin by looking at verse 14: *But the **natural man** does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.*

Did you get that? The natural man cannot receive revelations taught to us by the Spirit of God! This is huge in its implications.

Let's look more deeply at 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 3:1. I am not going to spoon-feed you on this passage. It is pretty self-evident, so get out your bible and study it with me. You need to discover some of these truths for yourself. Read this passage through two or three times to see what Paul is saying.

You will see Paul is speaking about two levels of teaching and understanding. In verse 6 he says he is speaking wisdom among those who are mature. In 3:1 he is challenging the Christians in Corinth that they are not mature but carnal. He said they were not spiritual people but carnal and thus he had to feed them milk and not solid food because they were not able to receive it.

In verses 7-10, Paul is saying he wants to speak to them the mysteries that are the deep things of God. (Remember, we talked about mysteries in chapter 1.)

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, **8** which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written:

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

These are the things Paul wants to communicate to those who are mature, who are spiritual and not carnal -- the things that have not even entered into the heart of man.

Wow, count me in on this! How about you? These are the kinds of subjects he prays for in Ephesians 1: 17-18 when he asked that the eyes of our understanding would be enlightened.

William Barclay's little commentary on this passage is very helpful, as he gives a historical background. Let me quote briefly from him:

This passage introduces us to a distinction between different kinds of Christian instruction and a distinction between different stages of the Christian life. In the early church there was a quite clear distinction between two kinds of instruction.

Barclay goes on to describe "kerygma" which is a plain, announcement of the basic facts of Christianity. These would include the death, resurrection and return of Jesus Christ. The second is "didache" which means teaching. This teaching was the explanation of the meaning and the significance of the basic facts which had already been announced. This is what Paul is speaking about here in this passage. This teaching could only be received by those who were mature or spiritual people. It is at this level, the deep things of God, that spiritual revelation is necessary.

In verse 10 Paul says: ***10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*** Do you see this? This is my premise in this little book. There are deep things of God that are given to us through the Spirit of God. He speaks them to us Spirit to spirit.

The Apostle Paul goes on to give a very helpful and significant illustration, in verses 11 and 12.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the

Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Again Barclay helps us here:

There are certain things which only a man's own spirit knows. There are feelings which are so personal, things which are so private, experiences which are so intimate that no one knows them except a man's own spirit. No one can really see into our hearts and know what is there except our own spirits.

Paul goes on to argue, the same is true of God. There are deep and intimate things in God which only God's Spirit knows; and that Spirit is the only person who can lead us into really intimate knowledge of God. There are things that the unaided power of thought would never find out; the Spirit has to teach them to us for the Spirit alone knows them.

I rest my case. This is ever so clear. You and I need far more than a Sunday sermon, far more than reading the Word of God unaided by the Spirit to receive the depth of truth God wants us to understand. We need revelation to see the deep things of God that underlie and explain the simple aspects of the gospel. This is the heart of Paul's gospel given to him by revelation during his three years in Arabia.

Let's close by looking at verse 14: *14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Are you walking in the Spirit, led and controlled by him, or is your natural man dominating your life? Are you a spiritual Christian or a natural, carnal Christian? Let the Spirit of God search your heart, bring conviction where necessary, and begin anew.

Chapter 5

The Twelve Baskets

In Mark chapter 6 there is a wonderful example of Jesus' disciples' great need for a personal revelation. In this story we will see the need to live and walk with a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Without this there can be dire consequences.

You know the story of the feeding of the 5000. You can read it in Mark 6:32-52. I want to get to verse 52, *For they (the disciples) had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.* First let me back up and tell the story.

Jesus multiplied the five loaves and two fish and fed the multitude. Afterwards the disciples took up twelve baskets full of the leftover fragments of food. It is interesting that there was one basket for each disciple.

Jesus sent the twelve in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida while he sent the multitude away. Jesus then went up on a mountain to pray. During the night the disciples ran into a severe storm and were "straining at rowing." This word straining also means tormented or distressed. They were in a crisis and were fearful of drowning.

Then at the darkest time of the night, sometime between 3:00 am and 6:00 am, suddenly Jesus was spotted walking on the water. The disciples cried out thinking he was a ghost. Jesus said, essentially, *don't be afraid guys, it is me.* (verse 50) He then went up into the boat and the wind ceased.

Then comes this very interesting verse 52: *For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.* There is something interesting going on here, something deep and significant. Let's try to understand it because it will help us along the way of our adventure.

One clue is back in verse 48 where it says Jesus *would have passed them by.* His intention was not to assist them but to pass right by them! So interesting. Why? I believe this is what was going on.

Jesus very specifically told the disciples to gather the leftover bread and fish and put them in baskets, twelve in all. It is safe to assume they had them in

the boat with them. The food in the baskets was not intended to be food to satisfy their physical hunger, but food to fuel their faith for the upcoming storm. Jesus knew what was just ahead for them. These baskets were a reminder of the previous miracle, fuel for their faith and they were right there beside them in the boat. Jesus was planning to pass them by, not because he was insensitive to their plight, but because he expected them to deal with the storm themselves. They were in his school of discipleship during his earthly ministry so they would be prepared to carry on after his crucifixion and resurrection. He was training them to become overcomers and walk in the power of the kingdom of God.

There was a previous incident that Jesus wanted them to remember as well. In a previous storm on the lake following another miracle, Jesus was asleep in the boat. You may remember the story in Mark 4:35-41. The disciples, afraid of drowning once again, woke Jesus up, and he rebuked the storm. That time Jesus reproved his men for their unbelief. You see, he was training them to be men of faith in order to be overcomers.

So here they are a second time, twelve baskets full of miracle contents in the boat, and having seen Jesus rebuke a storm back in chapter 4. Jesus intended to walk right past them — hoping and expecting they would rise up in faith and rebuke the storm themselves. In his great mercy, he stepped into the boat and the storm stopped. I don't believe this was what he wanted for his men. He was training them to get along without him and to carry on his ministry.

Now back to verse 52. The men were unable to do this because their hearts were hard! Other translations use the word dull or blind. The New Living Translation says *Their hearts were too hard to take it in.* The Greek word here means: made of stone, calloused, unresponsive, dense, completely lacking sensitivity or spiritual perception, passive, lose the power of understanding.

Do you see the application to our topic at hand? Jesus' 12 men needed *personal revelation*; their hearts needed to be *flooded with light so they could understand* about the loaves. At this point these guys were not spiritual men in their personal discipleship with the master.

This is the way believers are many times. You may be in the middle of a great storm, crying out to Jesus to step in and still your storm, when all the while he is waiting for you to look into your basket, learn from previous experiences, and rebuke the storm yourself. Your life is intended to be a

growing experience of walking with the Lord, receiving revelation, experiencing miracles and interventions by God and walking in the Spirit.

This matter of personal revelation, the subject of this little book, is not about a one-off revelation of something. It is much more about developing a lifestyle of walking in the spirit, having the eyes of your understanding opened, having spiritually sensitive hearts, and building up a legacy of fresh revelation from the Word and the Spirit. It can and should be a history of your own altars that are like baskets full of your own encounters with God.

Let me finish this chapter with a final observation. Mark 16:52 says in the New King James version: *For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.* Notice it says *their heart*, singular. There were 12 disciples, but one heart.

In the original Greek this is correct, it is singular. Some translations have made it say *their hearts were hardened*, plural, evidently because this is what they think the author must have meant. But what if the inspiration of the Spirit, through Mark, really meant one heart, singular? What is this saying and what does it mean to us today?

First, it says they were all spiritually blind together, as one team of men. Not one of them understood the spiritual meaning of the twelve baskets full of fragments. I wonder why not even one of them received the revelation Jesus intended. I don't know why, but I have a relevant application for us today.

It seems to me that many Christians feed themselves solely within one denomination, one stream of Christianity, or one teacher. For some there may be an attitude that *our way is the best or the only way*. At its worst it becomes a party spirit like Paul warned about in 1 Corinthians chapter 3 — *I am of Paul or I am of Apollos*.

I trust that you agree with me that no one group, no one stream, no one denomination, no one person is a repository of all truth. This attitude can lead to corporate blindness, just like the disciples in the boat.

It is so common that Christians allow doctrinal teaching of their church, stream, or group to so dominate their thinking that it blinds them to the plain and straightforward teaching of scripture.

From my observation two of these areas are cessationism (the doctrine that the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased to exist after the death of the apostles) and

supersessionism (the doctrine that all the promises to Israel should be spiritualized and were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This is also called replacement theology, meaning the Church has replaced Israel in New Testament times.)

A straightforward reading of scripture, not contaminated with a doctrinal or denominational bias, would clearly reveal the gifts of the Holy Spirit have not ceased and that God still loves and has a plan for Israel.

This raises an important issue. **What if you need revelation for a breakthrough, and that revelation lies outside of your understanding, or the doctrine of your church or stream?** You have a real problem. Your blindness is because you are in a group that is also blind. It is difficult for the Word and the Holy Spirit to break through a preconceived notion that is biblically untrue or self-imposed ignorance.

Let me give a couple examples. You may need deliverance from a demon, but if you do not think Christians can have a demon, you have a big problem! Many of life's issues, at their foundation, have demonic roots. If you have been taught that this is not possible, then you have knitted yourself into a corporate blindness and excluded the solution.

I have read numerous testimonies of great men of God who were brought up believing a Christian could not have a demon, that doctrinally it was not possible. Over time, God instructed them and taught them, giving them wisdom and power to minister to their flock, setting them free from all sorts of bondages. These men had to be teachable and allow the Holy Spirit to instruct them more fully.

Perhaps you are sick and need physical healing. What if your sickness has a spiritual root? If you do not believe that is possible, you are in quite a fix. You might spend all your money on doctors, but they can only treat the symptoms. If you want to get to the root of the matter and receive true healing the spiritual roots may need to be exposed and dealt with.

As an example, suppose fear is the root cause of your physical ailment, which is quite common. There are many physiological consequences that result from fear and anxiety. Fear is a spiritual problem, and in fact may be a spirit of fear. (2 Timothy 1:7) Unless the fear is removed the health matter may not be healed and the doctor will only be able to treat the symptoms. Remember that the 12 disciples in the boat were not spiritually-minded and thus missed the best Jesus had for them. Let's not be the same.

Martin Luther is an example of this. He was locked into the Catholic Church and her teachings. It took a dramatic work of the Holy Spirit for him to see salvation by faith alone in the scriptures. This doctrine was and still is, plain and obvious in the scriptures. However, this truth was outside the teaching of his “stream” to use a modern term. I would say it took a spiritual revelation for him to see something outside the system, but when he did, the Protestant Reformation was born. Christianity was changed forever. Luther had received a personal revelation.

The Apostle Peter is another example. God had to go to great lengths to open his eyes. Although he became a born again, Spirit-filled follower of Jesus, he was immersed in the teachings and practices of the Judaism of his day. God wanted to take the gospel to the Gentiles, but Peter was blind and his heart was hard toward them. Gentiles were unclean and he could have nothing to do with them. Peter experienced a God-ordained trance and three times received a revelation that the Gentiles were not unclean. At the same time God gave a dream to the Gentile Cornelius. God had to work in both men to break through spiritual blindness and centuries of wrong doctrine. You can read the story in Acts 10.

What a hassle God had to go through to undeceive these men. In both these cases the truth lay outside of their doctrinal worldview. Something drastic had to be done to open their eyes. Is there any reason this is not true today for many of us?

Think for yourself. Study the scriptures. Be a Berean and study the word for yourself. Acts 17:11 says *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.* Get outside your own familiar boat from time to time. Visit a few other places, go to a conference or two by a different group. Stretch yourself. They might have an aspect of truth and revelation you need. It goes without saying, use wisdom and discernment, talk to others, and don't get caught up in something crazy and off. I'm not talking about that sort of thing. I am saying that many Christians are either so afraid of deception that they stay in their comfortable circles or they are so passive they don't make the effort. If your group or church or denomination is deceived or ignorant about a spiritual or doctrinal truth, then everyone is deceived, like the disciples in Mark 6.

I have come to believe over many years, that if I swim in a number of streams, I can grow and take the best of them all, in hopes of learning,

growing and expanding my Christian life. I try to educate myself. I have experienced growth and revelation by stepping outside my comfort zone a number of times. If we immerse ourselves in God's Word and stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit, we are in good hands.

The longer I live the more humble I get, the more I know I don't have all the answers. I need to depend on the Lord more than ever. We need to be teachable and approach the Word of God with humility and fear. *The fear **of** the Lord is the **beginning of** knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.* (Proverbs 1:7)

Chapter 6

Living Without Revelation

When I read the scriptures I catch a glimpse of the wonder and high calling we have as believers. I see promises of a glorious experience — walking in the spirit and living victoriously. Scriptures like this come to mind:

- *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* John 10:10
- *For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.* Romans 5:17
- *But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.* Romans 15:29
- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.* Galatians 5:22-23
- *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.* Romans 8:37
- *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,* James 1:2
- *But none of these things move me; (speaking of Paul's tribulations, beatings, chains, etc.) nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.* Acts 20:24
- *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.* John 14:12
- *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.* 1 Corinthians 14:1
- *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.* 1 John 3:9

- *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14*
- *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8*
- *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13*
- *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God Philippians 4:4, 6*
- *...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:19b*

My friend, these scriptures describe an abundant Christian life. I could go on and on and on with scriptures like these. These are exciting possibilities! We could turn the world upside down if we all lived like this. I don't have to say, do I, that few Christians live like this? What is the matter? There is something amiss somewhere. There certainly is a disconnect between what I see in scripture and what I observe.

I believe 2 Peter 1:2-4 holds a key, perhaps **the** key:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Here we see that **we have been given all things for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him.** It seems to me there is primarily one problem and one solution. The problem is that we have inadequate knowledge — of him; of all the spiritual blessings we have been given; of the power of God in us; of our riches in Christ. We have dull, hard hearts like the disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

If this is a fair description of the problem, then the solution is personal revelation in these matters. Revelation that is received by faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit and leading to obedience, will result in transformed lives and personal revival.

I cannot tell you what all these revelations are because they are unlimited and without number. For every area of your life that needs revival, there undoubtedly is a scriptural revelation that will bring ...

- life out of death
- truth out of lies
- victory out of defeat
- power out of powerlessness
- love out of lovelessness
- joy out of joylessness
- a life of power and fruitfulness out of a life of mediocrity
- acceptance, love, and significance out of rejection and condemnation
- health out of sickness
- rest out of striving
- passion out of lukewarmness and mediocrity
- hope out of hopelessness
- fruit out of fruitlessness
- unity out of division
- restoration out of brokenness
- peace out of worry and anxiety
- boldness and peace out of fear
- freedom and liberty out of bondage
- your future not being determined by your past

We are onto something here. Let your faith arise and begin to sing a new song.

*Come, and let us return to the Lord;
For He has torn, but He will heal us;
He has stricken, but He will bind us up.*

*After two days He will revive us;
On the third day He will raise us up,
That we may live in His sight.*

*Let us know,
Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.
His going forth is established as the morning;
He will come to us like the rain,
Like the latter and former rain to the earth.*
Hosea 6:1-3

Chapter 7

Whom You Have Become

Today we will be moving into deeper waters by considering Jesus' teaching in what is known as his final great discourse -- John chapters 14-17. We will be getting into chapter 14, but let me first set the stage.

Let's begin with this statement: The course our Christian life takes will largely depend on how well we grasp in our heart *who we have become*. The operative phrase is **who we have become**. Think about what this means. This is the present perfect tense of the verb "to become." It means that in the present we have become something because of what has happened in the past.

In the context of the theme of this book, it means who we have become because of the glorious gospel — our salvation, redemption, spiritual ascension to be seated with Christ in heavenly places, and adoption into God's family. Paul tells us these matters are "unsearchable" and "unknowable." We all know the basic facts of course, but what are the deeper truths we need to grasp? What are the things that only the Spirit of God can teach us, that are spiritually discerned?

Allow me to use a very worldly illustration as a way of giving us a glimpse of our spiritual treasures. The actress Angelina Jolie has adopted three children from third world countries -- a boy from Cambodia, a girl from Ethiopia, and a boy from Vietnam. Try to imagine being one of these three children. You are notified by the head of the orphanage that this pretty American woman will be taking you away and she will become your mother. You are excited to be leaving the orphanage although you know little of her, her home or where she will be taking you. You pack all your belongings in a little brown suitcase and are swept off to the airport. You've never been on a plane before, so this is fun. You have no idea that you are in 1st class, but the seats are really big and the food is great!

Eventually the plane lands and you are met by a limousine or a Lexus and driven off to one of Mom's homes. (I am not sure of how many she has but a quick google search shows pictures of mansions and estates in Beverley Hills, NY, France and who knows where.) The big gate opens up and you drive in, passing through immense gardens, past a fountain or two, and eventually come to a stop in front of two huge double doors with large gold

door knobs. You walk in and cannot believe your eyes -- glistening tiles, winding staircases, chandeliers ... but the best of all, through your young eyes, is out back -- a huge swimming pool! You are not in a dream, and you are not on vacation. This place is yours. You are dazed as you try to get your head around it all.

This is a whole other world. It takes weeks, even months to be able to take it all in. Eventually, since you are a child you just accept it. You soon find out that when you swim you are able to have someone in a black suit bring you pizza, or cherry pie a la mode, or strawberries and cream. This is beyond cool. You soon learn that you fly with Mom to many places on a private jet, meet amazing people, and are the center of attention.

This fantasy is not a fantasy for three little kids. All this is theirs because one woman chose them and decided to make them her sons and daughter. Everything she has is theirs. She even includes them in her will along with her natural born children. Imagine, someday you will inherit everything she has.

Now back to you. Oh, you know the facts of your salvation, but do you know the sauce? Do you really know **whom you have become?** Do you know all God has made available to you in this world and the next?

Now let's have a brief look at John 14. Open your bible and follow along. I strongly urge you to read slowly, thoughtfully and carefully all of this chapter. Continue to move on to chapters 15, then 16, then 17. Ask the Holy Spirit to begin to speak to you the deep things of God that only the Spirit knows.

In chapter 14 Jesus is describing family unity among the Trinity. As you look at this, keep in mind that he will soon be telling his disciples that they are to have this same relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

14:9 ... *He who has seen Me has seen the Father...* They are in such unity that when the disciples saw Jesus, they saw the Father. Does this not mean that when people see you they are to see Jesus?

14:10 *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.* Again, is this not what Jesus plans, wants,

and expects for you and me? Think about this amazing privilege. It is far better than a giant pool and cherry pie.

14:12 *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go the My Father. My vocabulary is insufficient of superlatives to adequately describe this. We are to see, the Holy Spirit working through us, doing the works of Jesus.*

Could this be what Paul is praying for you and me in Ephesians 3:20 *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

He wants to do in and through you, above all that you can ask or even think. Certainly we need a fresh revelation and working of His power to even contemplate this.

14:13-14 *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

14:16-17 *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. God himself, in you. What will happen to your life if you chew on this truth for about ten years?*

14:20 *At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.*

Let me jump back to **John 5:19-20**, which keeps to our theme:

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

This is to be your lifestyle in the kingdom. You are supposed to be able to do nothing apart from Christ and the Holy Spirit in you. All the while the Father is showing you what he is doing, for he loves you.

What does all this have to do with personal revelation? Isn't it obvious? Your life in God is to be organic, a oneness, a close intimate walk with your God in which he is consistently speaking to you, guiding you, empowering you and disclosing to you the deep things of God.

This is Hebrew thinking. **The opportunity and privilege of personal revelation comes out of personal relationship.** Have a peek at Jesus' teaching in John 15: he is the Vine and you are a branch. In kingdom living, this is the normal Christian life.

So, let us stop living below our privileges and receive everything he has for us. May God give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him and may the eyes of your understanding be enlightened as to **whom you have become.** This is a gateway into the kingdom and into personal revival

Final Thoughts.

The theme of this booklet has been the receiving of personal revelation in the knowledge of him (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). Some of these revelations will come suddenly as your spiritual eyes are opened to a truth that had been personally hidden from you. I shared an example of this in Chapter 1 when I had my eyes suddenly opened to the doctrine of *justification*. For me, it is no longer merely a biblical doctrine, but it is personal and life changing. It all happened suddenly.

Other revelations will come more slowly, over a period of time. I remember, not many years ago, I went through a process over time of receiving the revelation of the Fatherhood of God. The revelation of *sonship* was life transforming, but it took months of study and prayer to really “get it.” I soaked myself in the teaching of men who were anointed to teach this subject. I invited a speaker to come to our church to teach us and I went to a conference on the Father’s heart.

Sometimes it takes even longer. Many years ago I read a wonderful book called *Hudson Taylor’s Spiritual Secret*. I read and read that book knowing I needed to grasp this secret, which might be called “the exchanged life.” I understood this truth in my head, but I needed to receive it by revelation into my spirit. This has been a life-long project! Slowly, over time, I am receiving spiritual understanding of his revelation.

I say all this to encourage you to embark on a life-long journey. There is so much God wants to reveal to each of us, *until Christ is formed in us*. (Galatians 4:19) This will take a lifetime, but the adventure with the Lord is exciting.

After completing the text of this book I came across *The Word of God With Power* by Jack Taylor. If you want to pursue further the theme of personal revelation I highly recommend Taylor’s book, especially Chapter 5, *The Word in the Now*. On page 46 he writes: *We must allow the Bible to move out of the realm of printed factual knowledge into the realm of empowered truth. The former without the latter will intensify pharisaical tendencies. The latter could not exist without the former. Only the Holy Spirit will be able to bring us into and keep us in balance.*

Taylor goes on to quote Watchman Nee in his book *The Ministry of God’s Word*:

Inspiration means God once breathed upon this Book the Bible. Inspiration is the foundation of the Bible. God inspired Paul to write Romans; that is, God breathed on him that he might write the letter to the Romans.

Revelation (what I have previously referred to as illumination) means that God again breathes on His Word when I read Romans two thousand years later in order that I may know it is the Word of God. Inspiration is given only once; revelation is given repeatedly. By revelation we mean that today God again breathes on His Word, the Holy Spirit imparts light to me; the anointing of the Holy Spirit is upon this Word so that once again I see what Paul saw in his day. God does something today to make alive the inspiration of yesterday. What again is revelation? Revelation occurs when God reactivates His Word by His Spirit that it may be living and full of life as at the time when it was first written. The Bible is the Word of God; God has indeed once spoken these words. But to make it alive a person must ask God to speak afresh. When God speaks again, things will happen — God's Word, light, and life will come forth. Unless there is this speaking afresh, the Bible will remain a sealed book. (page 87 in Nee's book)

One final thought. Personal revelation given by the Lord is not limited to revelation of the Word of God through the Holy Spirit. This is the primary thing but not the only thing. Paul's writings in the New Testament, and especially in his prison letters, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, are his account of revelations he received in his three years in Arabia. These form the heart of New Testament gospel teaching. However, Paul also received specific revelation to him personally for his own life and ministry.

In Galatians 2:2 Paul says this: *And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.* Here Paul is explaining that the Lord told him it was time to go up to Jerusalem to discuss his gospel with the apostles. He was given specific direction as to where and when he was to go.

He had a similar experience in Acts 16:6-10:

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to preach the word in Asia.
7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit did not permit them.** 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to

Troas. 9 And a **vision appeared** to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

As you can see, the Holy Spirit wants to guide you and give you direction in your life. You will find, as you become sensitive to the inner promptings of the Spirit, he will consistently speak to you. As you abide in Christ (John 15), abide in the written Word, and have fellowship with the Holy Spirit, you will sense his presence and follow his guidance and promptings.

Additionally you will see that the gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 are gifts that will give you revelation regarding a specific situation. (ie. a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, gift of faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues.) These gifts are additional means of God speaking to you and using you powerfully in his kingdom.

I have been very much blessed over the years by receiving God-prompted prophetic words through his servants. This has been for me, a delightful source of revelation, that has brought clarity and direction to my life.

As wonderful as these personal revelations are, I want to emphasize the main point of this booklet. At the very heart of the gospel, at the heart of Paul's teachings, is the concept that you and I need personal revelation, especially in the knowledge of him, so that we will have a walk worthy of the Lord.

Lets begin the adventure in confident expectation of personal revival!

Appendix A ... New Testament Mysteries

The word mystery or mysteries occurs 26 times in the New Testament. Here is a list of the relevant occurrences. Within them you will find many opportunities for deeper study, meditation, and fruitful harvesting for personal revelation. If they are described as mysteries, then they are to be revealed and understood.

Mark 4:11: *And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,*

Romans 11:25: *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

Romans 16:25-27: *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith — to God, alone wise, be glory throughout Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*

1 Corinthians 2:7-10: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.’*

1 Corinthians 15:51-52: *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

Ephesians 1:9-10: *having made known to us the **mystery** of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him,’*

Ephesians 3:3-6: *how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ throughout the gospel,*

Ephesians 3:8-9: *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;*

Ephesians 5:32-33: *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

Ephesians 6:19: *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

Colossians 1:26-27: *the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Colossians 2:2-3: *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

2 Thessalonians 2:7: *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.*

1 Timothy 3:8-9: *Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*

1 Timothy 3:16: *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*

Revelation 1:20: *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

Revelation 10:7: *but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

Revelation 17:5: *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

Revelation 17:7: *But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.*