

The Great Mystery

by
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This manual is the result of the united efforts of both authors. The concepts and ideas are a culmination of cooperative research and revelation. The experiences described are common to both. The pronoun “I” is used to demonstrate the unity of our thoughts.

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Introduction

When I was saved at age 15, I understood that I was inviting Jesus into my heart to be my Lord and Savior, and that I was choosing to follow Him and His ways. However, it was another twelve years (1979) before an intimacy developed between myself and God, where I was able to hear His voice, see His vision, and sense His emotions. This deepened my relationship with Him immensely. I have written about this deepened intimacy in my books *Communion With God* and *Dialogue With God*. One of these two books should be considered prerequisite reading before going on with this book, as the principles of this book are built upon a lifestyle of regular two-way communication with God.

After learning to hear God's voice and see His vision, a new hunger grew in my life to hear His voice and see His vision not only in my prayer times but throughout the entire day. I wanted to *live* in an awareness of God, rather than simply communing with Him in my devotional time. And beyond this was a knowledge that "He must increase and I must decrease" - - that the "I" which wanted so much to do things, even such noble things as abide in Christ, must be lost in Him (Jn. 3:30). I needed to learn how to *live out* the truth that "I" didn't live anymore but it was Christ now living His life through me (Gal. 2:20). That surely demanded a major overhaul in the way I looked at life and at myself.

How could I live God-conscious rather than self-conscious? How could I make this seemingly huge inner adjustment, so that I would be sensing God's movements throughout the day rather than simply my thoughts and my ideas? What would I have to do differently, internally, in order for this lifestyle of "abiding in Christ" to be realized in my life? These and a hundred other questions needed to be answered in my life.

This book contains some of the research I did to help me understand how to abide in Christ. I trust as you meditate on it, it will lead you into the

revelation knowledge of how you, too, can abide in Christ.

Additional books which were of help to me were *Abide in Christ* by Andrew Murray, *Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence and *God Unlimited in Daily Living* by Norman Grubb. Perhaps you will find them of assistance to you, also. I highly recommend each of them.

"Naturally supernatural" - My revelation of what it means to have Christ living through me

I have written about the revelation God gave me on how to abide in Christ in the book *Naturally Supernatural*. Once you have sought your personal revelation of the topic by working through the exercises in this book, you may want to read the revelation God gave me in *Naturally Supernatural*. I have found that by continuing to meditate and pray about a topic, God eventually shines His light on the subject and revelation knowledge breaks forth in my heart. I know it will in yours, also.

As Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers, I pray for you:

"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" (Eph. 1:17).

As David prayed, may you, too, pray as you meditate on God's Word, saying:

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Ps. 119:18).

To learn to live in the inner world of spiritual sensitivity is going to take as much time and effort as learning to relate to the outer world, so one should prepare to invest both time and effort in this endeavor.

Reviewing the four keys to hearing God's voice

The following is a review of what was taught in the books *Communion With God* and *Dialogue With God*. It should be considered only a review of what you have already learned in one of those books. It will probably not offer enough information and instruction to replace them.

The age in which we live is so married to rationalism and cognitive, analytical thought that we almost scoff when we hear of one actually claiming to be able to hear the voice of God. However, we don't mock for several reasons. First, men and women throughout the Bible heard God's voice. Also, there are some highly effective and reputable men and women of God alive today who demonstrate that they hear God's voice. Finally, there is a deep hunger within us all to commune with God, and hear Him speak within our hearts.

As a Bible-believing, born-again Christian, I struggled unsuccessfully for years to hear God's voice. I prayed, fasted, studied my Bible and listened for a voice within, all to no avail. **There was no inner voice that I could hear!** Then God set me aside for a year to study, read, and experiment in the area of learning to hear God's voice. During that time God taught me **four keys that opened the door to two-way prayer**. I have discovered that not only do they work for me but they have worked for many thousands of Christians who have been taught to use them. Nearly all those whom I have taught have broken through into two-way dialogue with God, bringing tremendous intimacy to their Christian experience and transforming their very way of living. This will happen to you also as you seek God, utilizing the following four keys. They are all found in Habakkuk 2:1,2. I encourage you to read this passage before going on.

Key # 1 - God's voice in our hearts sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Therefore, when I tune to God, I tune to spontaneity.

The Bible says that "the Lord answered me and said..." (Hab. 2:2). Habakkuk knew the sound of God's voice. The Bible describes it as a still, small

voice in I Kings 19:12. I had always listened for an inner **audible** voice, and surely God can and does speak that way at times. However, I have found that for most of us, most of the time, God's inner voice comes to us as **spontaneous thoughts, visions, feelings, or impressions**. For example, haven't each of us had the experience of driving down the road and having **a thought come to us** to pray for a certain person? We generally acknowledge this as the voice of God calling us to pray for that individual. My question to you is, "What did God's voice sound like as you drove in your car? Was it an inner, audible voice, or was it a spontaneous thought that lit upon your mind?" Most of you would say that God's voice came to you as a spontaneous thought.

So I thought, "Maybe when I listen for God's voice, I should be listening for a flow of spontaneous thoughts. Maybe spirit-level communication is received as spontaneous thoughts, impressions, feelings, and visions." Through experimentation and feedback from thousands of others, I am now convinced that this is so.

The Bible confirms this in many ways. The definition of *paga*, the Hebrew word for intercession, is "a chance encounter or an accidental intersecting." When God lays people on our hearts for intercession, He does it through *paga*, a chance encounter thought "accidentally" intersecting our thought processes. Therefore, when I tune to God, I tune to "chance encounter" thoughts or spontaneous thoughts. When I am poised quietly before God in prayer, I have found that the flow of spontaneous thoughts that comes is quite definitely from God.

Key # 2 - I must learn to still my own thoughts and emotions so that I can sense God's flow of thoughts and emotions within me. Habakkuk said, "I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart..." (Hab. 2:1). Habakkuk knew that in order to hear God's quiet, inner, spontaneous thoughts, he had to first go to a quiet place and still his own thoughts and emotions. Psalm 46:10 encourages us to "Be still, and know that I am God." There is a deep inner knowing (spontaneous flow) in our spirits that each of us can experience when we quiet our flesh and our minds.

I have found several simple ways to quiet myself so that I can more readily detect God's spontaneous flow. Loving God through a quiet worship song is a most effective means for many (note II Kings 3:15). It is as I become still (thoughts, will, and emotions) and am poised before God that the divine flow is realized. Therefore, after I worship quietly and then become still, I open myself for that spontaneous flow. If thoughts come to me of things I have forgotten to do, I write them down and then dismiss them. If thoughts of guilt or unworthiness come to my mind, I repent thoroughly, receive the washing of the blood of the Lamb, and put on His robe of righteousness, seeing myself spotless before the presence of God (Col. 1:22).

As I fix my gaze upon Jesus (Heb. 12:2), becoming quiet in His presence, and sharing with Him what is on my heart, I find that two-way dialogue begins to flow. Spontaneous thoughts flow from the throne of God to me, and I find that I am actually conversing with the King of Kings.

It is very important that you become still and properly focused if you are going to receive the pure word of God. If you are not still, you will simply be receiving your own thoughts. If you are not properly focused on Jesus, you will receive an impure flow, because the intuitive flow comes out of that upon which you have fixed your eyes. Therefore, if you fix your eyes upon Jesus, the intuitive flow comes from Jesus. If you fix your gaze upon some desire of your heart, the intuitive flow comes out of that desire of your heart. To have a pure flow you must first become still, and secondly, you must carefully fix your eyes upon Jesus. Again I will say, this is quite easily accomplished by quietly worshiping the King, and then receiving out of the stillness that follows.

Key # 3 - As I pray, I fix the eyes of my heart upon Jesus, seeing in the spirit the dreams and visions of Almighty God.

We have already alluded to this principle in the previous paragraphs; however, we need to develop it a bit further. Habakkuk said, "I will keep watch to see..." and God said, "Record the vision" (Hab. 2:1,2). It is very interesting that Habakkuk was

going to actually start looking for vision as he prayed. He was going to open the eyes of his heart, and look into the spirit world to see what God wanted to show him. This is an intriguing idea.

I had never thought of opening the eyes of my heart and looking for vision. However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized this was exactly what God intends for me to do. He gave me eyes in my heart. They are to be used to see in the spirit world the vision and movement of Almighty God. I believe there is an active spirit world functioning all around me. This world is full of angels, demons, and the omnipresent Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no reason for me not to see it, other than my rational culture which tells me not to believe it is there and provides no instructions on how to become open to seeing this level of reality.

The most obvious prerequisite to seeing is that we need to look. Daniel was seeing a vision in his mind and he said, "I was looking...I kept looking...I kept looking" (Dan. 7:2,9,13). Now as I pray, I look for Jesus present with me, and I watch Him as He speaks to me, doing and saying the things that are on His heart. Many Christians will find that if they will only look, they will see. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us (Matt. 1:23). It is as simple as that. You will see a spontaneous inner vision in a similar manner to the way you receive spontaneous inner thoughts. You can see Christ present with you in a comfortable setting because Christ **is** present with you in a comfortable setting. Actually, you will discover that inner vision comes so easily you will have a tendency to reject it, thinking that it is just you. (Doubt is Satan's most effective weapon against the Church.) However, if you will persist in recording these visions, your doubt will soon be overcome by faith, as you recognize that the content of them could only be birthed in Almighty God.

God continually revealed Himself to His covenant people using dream and vision (Num. 12:6). He did so from Genesis to Revelation and said that, since the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, we should expect to receive a continuing flow of dreams and visions (Acts 2:1-4,17). Jesus, our

perfect Example, demonstrated this ability of living out of ongoing contact with Almighty God. He said that He did nothing on His own initiative, but only that which he **saw the Father doing, and heard the Father saying** (Jn. 5:19,20,30). What an incredible way to live!

Is it actually possible for us to live out of the divine initiative as Jesus did? At Jesus' death, the veil was torn from top to bottom giving us access into the immediate presence of God, and we are commanded to draw near (Heb. 10:19-22). Therefore, even though what I am describing seems a bit unusual to a rational twentieth-century culture, it is demonstrated and described as a central biblical teaching and experience. It is time to restore to the Church all that belongs to the Church.

Because of their intensely rational nature and existence in an overly-rational culture, some will need more assistance and understanding of these truths before they can move into them. They will find this help in the book *Communion With God* by the same author.

Key # 4 - Journaling, the writing out of our prayers and God's answers, provides a great new freedom in hearing God's voice.

God told Habakkuk to record the vision and inscribe it on tablets...(Hab. 2:2). It had never crossed my mind to write out my prayers and God's answers as Habakkuk did. Actually, this was commanded by God. If you begin to search Scripture for this idea, you will find hundreds of chapters demonstrating it (Psalms, the prophets, Revelation). Why, then, hadn't I ever thought of it?

I called the process "journaling," and I began experimenting with it. I discovered it was a fabulous facilitator to clearly discerning God's inner, spontaneous flow, because as I journaled I was able **to write in faith for long periods of time**, simply believing it was God. I did not have to test it as I was receiving it (which jams the receiver), because I knew that when the flow was over I could go back and test and examine it carefully **at that time**, making sure that it lined up with Scripture.

You will be amazed when you attempt journaling. Doubt may hinder you at first, but throw it off, reminding yourself that it is a biblical concept, and that God is present, speaking to His children. Don't take yourself too seriously. When you do, you become tense and get in the way of the Holy Spirit's movement. It is when we cease **our labors** and enter His rest that God is free to flow (Heb. 4:10). Therefore, put a smile on your face, sit back comfortably, get out your pen and paper, and turn your attention toward God in praise and worship, seeking His face. As you write out your question to God and become still, fixing your gaze on Jesus, who is present with you, you will suddenly have a very good thought in response to your question. Don't doubt it, simply write it down. Later as you go over your journaling, you, too, will be amazed to discover that you are indeed dialoguing with God.

Some final notes: No one should attempt this without having first read through at least the New Testament (preferably, the entire Bible), nor should one attempt this unless he is submitted to solid, spiritual leadership. All major directional moves that come through journaling should be submitted before being acted upon.

Chapter One: To Abide

Only two biblical writers speak about abiding

Two biblical writers speak of a lifestyle of “abiding:” John, the beloved apostle, and David, a man after God’s own heart. John spoke of abiding in Christ (Jn. 15), and David spoke of “abiding in His tabernacle” (Ps. 15). It is interesting that these two people, one from the Old Testament and one from the New, are the only ones who spoke about this lifestyle. That fact makes me suspect that the lifestyle of abiding is perhaps only achieved by some, rather than by all. However, the fact that you are reading this book shows your inner desire to be part of this group which seeks ongoing intimacy with Almighty God.

Paul used a different phrase to describe the experience of abiding. He called it being “in Christ.”

I have written about my revelation of Galatians 2:20 (i.e. living in and out of the Christ Who dwells within the believer) in my book *Naturally Supernatural*. The following chapters allow you the opportunity to make a similar discovery in your life. Who is this Christ Who lives within? How has He changed your life by living within you? Who are you, now that He has chosen to join Himself to you? How does that enhance your life, your abilities, your accomplishments?

This book is designed to lead you into receiving for yourself the revelation of Galatians 2:20, that it is no longer we who live, but it is Christ Who lives His life through us. It is one thing to quote this Scripture; it is something totally different to have a revelation of the truth. Galatians 2:20 is a revelation truth, in that it can only be seen when God grants revelation.

Are you self-conscious or Christ-conscious?

When you are faced with temptation, how do you resist? Do you turn to “self” or “the Christ I?” If you think, “I must be strong and resist,” then you are living self-conscious. If you think, “Jesus, You are fused to me and I ask and trust You now to be

strong within me, overcoming all temptation,” then you are living Christ-conscious.

When you need to think something through, if you say to yourself, “Hmmm, I must figure this out,” then you are living self-conscious. If, instead, you say, “Jesus, anoint my reasoning and let me see what You want me to see,” then you are living Christ-conscious.

The invitation

The unbelievable invitation of the King of the universe is not just that “I,” little I, could come into His throne room and bow momentarily before Him, but that I could live my life in constant spiritual awareness of His Majesty. Not that I have striven to reach Him, but that He has come to me and made Himself completely available to me at all times. Such an invitation and opportunity is unparalleled since the dawn of history, when Adam and Eve walked and talked with the King. This interaction happens in the heart of the one who has learned to live and walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

When Jesus walked on earth with His disciples, the word He spoke to them was **follow**. So the disciples followed. As Jesus prepared to leave them He gave them a new word: **abide**. They would still be able to enjoy a life with Him. He would live within them, speaking, showing, and in other ways revealing Himself in their hearts. He would join Himself to them in a spiritual union, and would be constantly available to talk with them as they lived in the **spiritual awareness** of His presence. He would be as real as ever. He would not be a nebulous force without personality, but He would be a Person with thoughts and feelings and everything else that had made the God of this universe so tangible and beautiful as He represented Himself totally in their friend, our Lord and our Savior, Jesus of Nazareth.

The result of abiding

In abiding in the King, we find perfect rest for our souls. As we surrender into the loving arms of Jesus we find a fullness of strength, peace, joy, and

love bubbling up within our hearts. Our frail frame of dust is fused again to the indwelling Life Source of the universe.

His yoke is easy because at the moment of yielding to Him, He gives the strength and joy to perform any task (Matt. 11:29,30). We must simply be still, let go, relax, and know we are in His loving arms (Ps. 46:10). And so, abiding is simply weakness entrusting itself to the Mighty One to be kept. It is not a work we do, but a consenting to let Him do all for us. Our part is simply to yield, trust, and wait for Him to perform His word.

Assignment

Prayerfully meditate on Psalm 15, John 15, I John 2-5, and Hebrews 3-4, which all deal with abiding and rest. Wait before God for revelation and record on the following pages what God is showing you from these passages concerning abiding and living in rest.

Journaling Response

Journal about these verses, asking God what He wants to say to you concerning incorporating the lifestyle of abiding in Christ and entering into a lifestyle of rest.

How to receive revelation knowledge as you complete the exercises in this book

An example of revelation knowledge is when you are reading the Bible and a verse leaps off the page, hits you between the eyes, and God says, "This is for you right now." These are precious experiences for the believer. However, for many, they do not happen often enough. There are seven things I do which allow me the privilege of receiving revelation knowledge every time I read the Bible. Truth and insights leap off the page and an understanding of how they are to adjust my life permeates my spirit and soul. I love this experience and hunger for it every time I read the Scriptures. That is why I prepare myself by doing the following seven things. Prayerfully reflect on these steps and determine which ones you do and don't use. Make sure you use all of them as you complete the exercises in this book, as well as during your regular devotional times.

Biblical Meditation

Resulting in illumination, revelation knowledge, anointed reasoning

Do Not Do This:

LEFT-BRAIN

STUDY/RATIONAL HUMANISM

1. Have unconfessed sin
2. Have a pre-conceived attitude
3. Be independent: "I can..."
4. Read quickly
5. Rely on reason & analysis only
6. Read without specific purpose
7. Take credit for insights

But Do This:

WHOLE-BRAIN/HEART

MEDITATION/DIVINE REVELATION

1. Be washed by Jesus' blood
2. Have a teachable attitude
3. Pray: "Lord, show me"
4. Slow down, ponder, muse
5. Combine anointed reason, flowing pictures, music & speech
6. Read with focused purpose
7. Glorify God for insights

The seven steps of biblical meditation explained:

1. Lord, cleanse me by Your blood: Since receiving divine revelation is at the heart of biblical meditation, you must prepare yourself to receive from the Holy Spirit by repenting and being cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. You must be obedient to previous revelations from God (Matt. 7:6), and confess any sin in your life, so you are not cut off from ongoing revelation (Is. 59:1,2; I Jn. 1:9).

2. Lord, grant me a teachable attitude: Revelation is given to those who maintain an attitude of humility, and it is withheld from the proud and the arrogant. So keep an open, humble attitude before God, allowing Him the freedom to shed greater light on any ideas you currently hold and to alter them as He sees fit (Jas. 4:6; II Pet. 1:19).

3. Lord, I will not use my faculties myself: You can do nothing of your own initiative but only what you hear and see by the Spirit (Jn. 5:19,20,30). You do not have a mind to use, but a mind to present to God so He can use it and fill it with anointed reason and divine vision (Prov. 3:5-7; Rom. 12:1,2). If you use your mind yourself, it is a dead work (Heb. 6:1,2).

4. Lord, I pray that the eyes of my heart might be enlightened: Slow down as you read, mulling the text over and over in your heart and mind, praying constantly for God to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph. 1:17,18; Ps. 119:18).

5. Lord, I present the abilities to reason and to imagine to You to fill and flow through by Your Spirit: Meditation involves presenting your faculties to God for Him to fill and use. These include your left-brain reasoning capacities as well as your right-brain visual capacities. Look for the river of God (i.e. "Spirit flow") to guide and fill both hemispheres, granting you anointed reasoning and dream and vision (Jn. 7:37-39). Music can assist you, as can muttering, speaking, and writing as you go through the discovery process (II Kings 3:15).

6. Lord, show me the solution to the problem I am facing: Focused attention brings additional energies of concentration of heart and mind, which help release revelation. For example, note the difference between a ray of sunlight hitting a piece of paper, and sunlight going through a magnifying glass to hit a piece of paper. The focused energy creates a ray so concentrated that the paper bursts into flames. When you have a hunger to master a new understanding and discipline, that hungry and searching heart will cause you to see things you would not normally see (Matt. 5:6).

7. Thank You, Lord, for what You have shown me: Realizing that the revelation came from the indwelling Holy Spirit, give all the glory to God for what has been revealed (Eph. 3:21).

Another great aid to "seeing": writing out Scripture

When you write or type out a verse, you discover words which you otherwise might have missed. Therefore, I write out verses which I know are key truths for my life. I pray over them, diagram them, analyze them, meditate on them. That is why I have written many of my books. I write so I can learn, so I can put truths I am understanding in my own words and in a framework which is meaningful for me.

The following is the law which God gave for new kings who had just been crowned and were coming to sit upon their throne for the first time:

"Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests" (Deut. 17:18).

Since we are kings and priests, are we to do any less (I Pet 2:9)? Let us make the writing out of Scriptures an important part of our lives.

Group Activities

If meeting in a group, read the verses together and share with one another what you have discovered from God through the passages you have meditated upon. What have they said to you? Have they promoted any change in you in any way? Where are you currently? What are you going to do to fully appropriate the lifestyle of abiding? Share your journaling with one another.

From Mark's journal

The following questions and answers on what it means to abide all the time helped to clear up the difference between abiding and communion for me.

Lord, how does one abide all the time?

“Do you recall Adam and Eve? I came and talked to them. Then I would leave and they would live in and out of the things I had spoken. That is what I desire. One carries on in life, living out of the words I have spoken to him, coming to me whenever necessary and remaining open so I can speak to him whenever I desire.”

Lord, it seems like I operate in darkness then, and only occasionally walk in the full light.

“Yes, in a sense you are in semi-darkness. However, in a sense you walk in the light, because that which you walk in is previous light, which when brought forth anew is light again.”

Lord, please explain “brought forth anew.”

“It is even as the process you are currently doing, reaching for a piece of information in the depths of your being, drawing it forth, re-crystallizing it, seeing how it fits, and allowing it to be adjusted to the present situation. It is light because I retrieve the right piece of information for the humble in heart. I position it. Therefore, it is light.”

Lord, but why not live in constant communion?

“Because it is impossible for you. You were not built that way. To abide in the presence of your wife you do not constantly talk to her. In a spiritual sense you need not even always be physically together, simply aware of her, concerned with her thoughts and reactions and considerate of her attitudes on matters. That is abiding in her presence. And you see it does not necessitate seeing her or talking with her but is simply an inner awareness of her, and her thoughts, attitudes and responses.”

Lord, are “communion” and “abiding” the same?

“Yes, in that they are both a flow of life. No, in that communion tends to involve communication, and abiding, simply awareness. Therefore, abiding is constant. Communion is intermittent. I would have you abide in Me constantly and commune with Me regularly.”

From Patti's journal

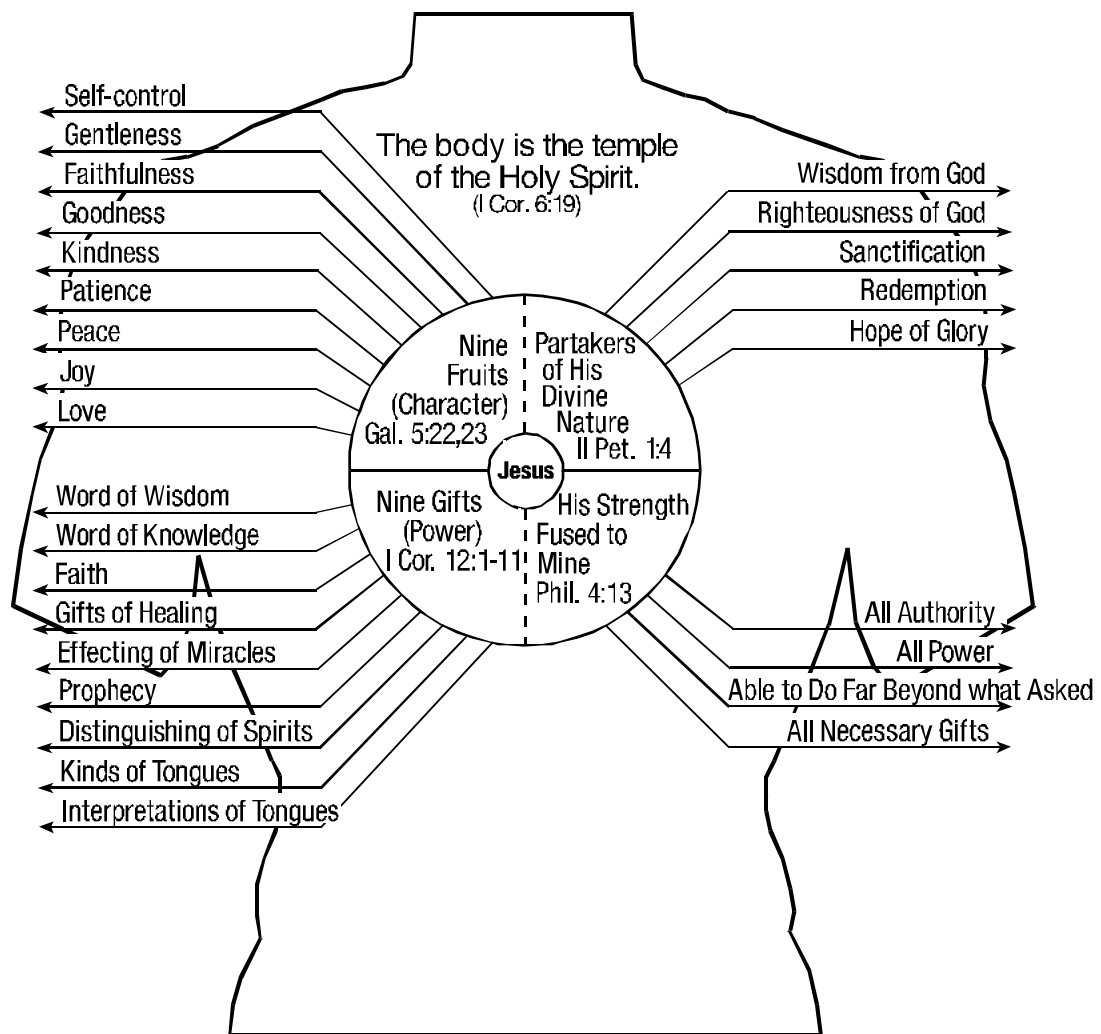
“My goal is not for you to be constantly asking Me questions, but rather that you be constantly aware of My answers and desires. More than mental conversation I want spiritual awareness that I live inside you, I am a Person. I am wise and loving and I want to, and can, guide you better than you can guide yourself.”

Personal Notes

Personal Notes

Chapter Two: The Treasure Within This Earthen Vessel

Christ in you



Filled up with the fullness of God (Eph. 3:19)

Striving according to His power which works mightily within me (Col. 1:29)

All things belong to you; You belong to Christ; Christ belongs to God (I Cor. 3:21-23)

The treasure within this earthen vessel - Christ in you

It takes a total renewing of our hearts and minds to live in the awareness that God lives within us. We are so inclined to think of Him living in a distant heaven, and that within ourselves dwells no good thing, that it takes revelation and constant repetition to drive this glorious truth home. Often when we look within, we see our evil and empty hearts. The truth is, however, that Jesus has filled our hearts with Himself by placing His Spirit within us. Now, by having Jesus in our hearts, we have all that God has and all that He is available within our spirits.

The first step to abiding is becoming biblically conscious of the fact that Christ lives within (Eph. 3:17), that He is all things (Col. 3:11), and that, therefore, we are complete (Col. 2:10).

When we need wisdom, He grants it from within.
When we need righteousness, He grants it from within.

When we need hope, He grants it from within.
When we need faith, He grants it from within.
When we need love, He grants it from within.
When we need joy, He grants it from within.
When we need patience, He grants it from within.
When we need kindness, He grants it from within.
When we need gentleness, He grants it from within.
When we need control, He grants it from within.

Two natures

One major insight for me was that the New Testament only mentions two “natures” available to humans. Before we were saved, we were “by nature children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3). However, now that we have invited Jesus Christ into our lives, we have “become partakers of the divine nature” (II Pet. 1:4).

I understand my nature to be the core of my being, that which is at my center. It is interesting to note that we do not have two natures at one time in our lives. We **had** an evil core before salvation, and now we **have** a divine core since Jesus has joined Himself to our spirits (I Cor. 6:17).

So when I quiet myself down into my spirit, I do not find a war going on there between Jesus and satan. I find Jesus there, sitting on the throne of my heart, healing and empowering me in so many ways. There is a mighty healing life flow which comes out of my spirit and is realized afresh every time I quiet myself down and re-experience it.

If there are still urges toward evil in my life (i.e. Romans 7), they are no longer coming from the core of my being as they were in my pre-Christian days. They are now outer attacks of satan, for satan no longer reigns within my heart. I have a new King there Whose name is Jesus Christ.

God lives within me. He has chosen to join Himself to my spirit so that now when I sense my spirit, I am also sensing God. What an amazing miracle of divine proportion! To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

Now I want to discover what Jesus has offered me through joining Himself to my spirit, and then, how I can become more sensitive to my spirit’s sensations so I can sense the indwelling God, and release Him out through my life. That is what we will explore in the next few chapters.

The misconception: I am a self-contained unit

When I was a heathen, I lived in the mistaken belief that I was a self-contained unit and that I did my own thing and made up my own mind and went my own way. This, of course, was totally wrong, for the Bible makes it clear that I was really a slave of satan and a slave of sin (Rom. 6). Much of what was going on within me was not me at all; it was the one who was living his life out through me. Satan would lead me into thoughts of anger, malice, revenge, lust, etc. Just as the Holy Spirit speaks to us through spontaneous thoughts, so do evil spirits. So, many of the spontaneous thoughts were not mine at all. They were coming from demonic forces.

When I was saved, I carried my misconception that I was a self-contained unit right over into Christianity and made a decision that I was now going to live for Jesus. Notice that I thought “I” was going to live....

Well, Paul makes it quite clear that I do not live at all.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

I have been crucified and Christ lives out through me. As a Christian, it is not me living, any more than it was me living as a heathen. As a heathen, it was evil spirits living their lives out through me. Now, as a Christian, it is the Holy Spirit living His life out through me. Now I receive spontaneous thoughts (the Holy Spirit’s voice) encouraging me to love, to heal, to forgive, to strengthen. These are no more me than were the evil spontaneous thoughts.

The revelation: I am a vessel

One of the great insights in my life was II Corinthians 4:7, that I am a vessel! What is the purpose of a vessel? To hold something. Further, I am a temple. Therefore, my purpose is to house God (I Cor. 6:19).

I am hollow on the inside. Much of what goes on within me is not me at all. It is the one whom I have chosen to fill me, either the evil one or the holy One. I choose who fills me. However, once I have made my choice, then a spirit takes over, either the Holy Spirit or evil spirits, and I begin receiving spontaneous thoughts and pictures and emotions from one of them. I am one through whom another flows. This takes some revelation to fully grasp because most of us have lived in error for so long, believing that we are self-contained units, and not realizing that we are to house the God of this universe.

The revelation of “flow”

Another of the great revelations of my life is that I can tune to my heart/spirit by tuning to “flow.”

“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall **flow** rivers of living water.’ But this spake He of the **Spirit**, which they

that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified” (Jn. 7:38,39).

If I tune to analytical thinking, I tune to my mind. When I seek anointed reasoning, I allow flow to guide the reasoning process.

In seeking a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom, I fix my eyes upon Jesus, tune to flow and see what spontaneous thoughts, ideas, pictures, impressions or emotions light upon my heart and mind. I then choose to honor them as being the flow of the river of God within my heart, and I begin to process them. First, I must be sure they line up with Scripture, and that I feel a sense of peace in my heart about them (Col. 3:15). I then submit them to two or three others whom I respect as giving godly, spiritual counsel (Prov. 11:14). With their confirmation, I am ready to move into action and live out what I have received from the Spirit within me.

Assigning inner sensations to one of three sources

Since Christ lives within me, I want to be able to determine what within me is coming from the indwelling Christ and what is not. So now I will sort through my mind to determine whether the thoughts, pictures and emotions I am experiencing are coming from myself, an evil spirit, or the Holy Spirit.

1. Self-directed = self: Any thoughts, pictures or emotions which are self-directed would be viewed as coming from myself.
2. Spontaneous evil = satan: Any spontaneous thoughts, pictures or emotions which line up with any of the names of satan I would consider as coming from satan.
3. Spontaneous good = God: Any spontaneous thoughts, pictures or emotions which line up with any of the names of the Triune God I would consider as coming from God.

Assignment

Analyze the thoughts, pictures and emotions within you this week and determine where they are coming from, based on the teaching of this chapter. Using the Name of Jesus, bind and rebuke those coming from satan. Meditate on those coming from God. Those coming from self should be rejected, because what you really want in life is Jesus in action through you, not yourself in action.

Take some time and prayerfully meditate on the following passages, and any others which relate, asking God to give you a **greater revelation** of the divine truth that “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). This is a revelation truth. By this I mean you can only fully SEE it as the Lord Jesus Christ reveals it to your heart. So practice the seven steps to revelation given at the close of the previous chapter as you explore these Scriptures.

The following verses are the ones God has used on several occasions to reveal this truth more deeply within my heart. I suggest you spend several uninterrupted hours pondering these passages with this prayer on your lips:

“Lord, give me a greater revelation of the divine truth: `It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.’”

Colossians 1:1 - 3:11

Ephesians 2:1-3

II Peter 1:4

I Corinthians 1:30 - 2:16; 6:17

Philippians 4:13

Galatians 2:20; 3:27; 4:19

I John 4:7-16

Have your pencil at your side as you read, and jot down whatever God is showing you. Specifically write down anything you discover about Jesus being inside you, what He provides to you through

His indwelling presence, and how you would access these wonderful gifts of His grace which flow within you. Your burning question should be, “Lord, show me how You have built me, and Who and what is within me, and how I can tap into my spirit and Your wondrous power joined to my spirit. Let me see and understand this.”

Also, record any other insights God has given you from this chapter.

Journaling Response

“Lord, speak to me concerning this great mystery of having Christ joined to my spirit.”

Group Activities

If meeting in a group, read the above Scriptures and share around the circle the revelations God has given and how they are adjusting your life. Try not to use religious cliches, but instead to be as practical and nitty-gritty as possible as you discuss the insights you are gaining and how you are applying them in your life. Share what is working and what you have tried that didn't work in the lifestyle of abiding.

Share what you have discovered as you sorted through your thoughts, pictures and emotions this week, rebuking demonic thoughts, renouncing self's thoughts, and embracing anointed thoughts.

Share your journaling with one another.

Additional Resources

Our highest recommendation goes to the book ***God Unlimited in Daily Living*** by Norman Grubb. The author has seen most deeply this divine truth that God lives within and not I. In this book he lays out the revelation for you to behold. He gloriously reveals that God is the ultimate reality and that the sole function of man is to “radiate” God, carefully showing how this is learned and experienced. It is a wonderful and life-changing book.

Personal Notes

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