



HOW TO READ CHRISTIAN BOOKS FOR  
MAXIMUM SPIRITUAL BENEFIT

# READ AND GROW

**12** BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES  
for Getting Maximum  
Spiritual Benefit from  
Christian Books



**JOSIAH OKHEAPE**

TRANSFORM KNOWLEDGE INTO SPIRITUAL GROWTH.  
BECOME WHAT YOU READ.

# Read and Grow

*12 Biblical Principles for Getting Maximum Spiritual Benefits  
from Christian Books*

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## 12 KEYS TO READING CHRISTIAN BOOKS

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the bible.

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Finally, to every reader who picks up this book: you are the reason I wrote it. My prayer is that as you read, you will not just gain information but experience transformation. May you read, and may you grow.

*To God alone be the glory.*

# Introduction

## Read and Grow

I love reading Christian books. Yet, there was a time when I could read an entire book and struggle to remember much of what I had learned by the time I reached the last chapter.

Perhaps your experience is different. But here is a question worth asking:

### **How much of what you read are you becoming?**

The goal of reading Christian books is not merely to acquire information. It is to experience transformation. Every book inspired by biblical truth is meant to move you closer to Christ, strengthen your faith, deepen your understanding, and help you live out the realities of God's Word.

Many believers read books on prayer but do not pray more. They read books on faith but still struggle to trust God. They read books on holiness, purpose, prosperity, leadership, or spiritual growth, yet little seems to change in their daily lives.

The problem is not a lack of information.

The problem is that many have not learned how to convert what they read into spiritual growth and practical transformation.

That is why this book was written.

When I began my Christian journey, I made a decision that I would not settle for an ordinary walk with God. I desired growth. I wanted to understand the truths of Scripture and experience them in my life. Along the way, I discovered that spiritual growth is closely connected to the knowledge we receive and, more importantly, the knowledge we apply.

Although reading was not something I naturally enjoyed, God supplied the grace to develop that habit. Over the years, Christian books became one of the tools the Holy Spirit used to shape my understanding, strengthen my faith, and accelerate my growth in Christ.

As I continued reading, studying, and walking with the Lord, I began to notice certain principles that consistently helped me gain more from every book I read. These principles enabled me not only to learn but also to grow.

The result is this book.

The twelve principles you are about to discover were learned through personal experience, biblical study, and the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit. They form a practical pathway for turning reading into transformation.

In these pages, you will learn:

- How to choose the right books for your current season.
- How to partner with the Holy Spirit while reading.
- How to read with expectation.

- How to capture and preserve revelation.
- How to meditate on what you learn.
- How to create action plans from new knowledge.
- How to move truth from your mind into your spirit.
- How to transform knowledge into spiritual growth.

These principles are arranged in a practical sequence—from selecting a book to applying its lessons in everyday life. Each chapter builds upon the previous one, helping you develop a lifestyle of learning, application, and growth.

My prayer is that this book will help you move beyond simply reading Christian books to becoming a product of the truths you read.

As you journey through these pages, approach them with an open mind, a teachable spirit, and a sincere desire to grow. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truths that apply specifically to your life and give you the grace to act upon them.

If you do, you will discover that reading is far more than an intellectual exercise.

It is a pathway to transformation.

May you read with purpose, learn with understanding, and grow into all that God has called you to be.

Welcome to the journey.

Welcome to **Read and Grow**.

# Chapter 1 – Read with Purpose

One of the greatest mistakes believers make is reading without direction.

There are so many Christian books available today that, if care is not taken, you may feel pressured to read whatever you can lay your hands on. While a desire for knowledge is commendable, spiritual growth requires more than consuming information—it requires a deliberate and systematic approach to learning.

Not every Christian book is meant for you at every stage of your spiritual journey.

There are books that will greatly benefit a new believer, and there are others that may be better understood after years of growth and maturity. Just because someone else is reading a particular book does not automatically mean it is the right book for you at this moment.

If your goal is to grow spiritually, you must learn to read with purpose.

## **Read with a Need in Mind**

Reading a book can be enjoyable, but beyond enjoyment, you must be intentional about the results you desire to obtain.

Every book you pick should be connected to a desire, a need, or a goal you want to accomplish. Before choosing a book, ask yourself:

- What challenges am I facing right now?
- What knowledge do I need to overcome them?
- What do I hope to gain from reading this book?
- Does this book align with my current spiritual needs and goals?

Answering these questions will help you identify the knowledge you need most and prevent random reading.

Growth is intentional.

Just as a building requires a foundation before a roof can be constructed, spiritual growth requires foundational truths before deeper revelations can be properly understood.

As a believer, there are certain truths that must be established in your heart before you can fully grasp other dimensions of the Christian faith.

For example, every Christian experience begins with the foundation of salvation. Until a person is born again, many spiritual realities will remain unclear. Closely following salvation is the understanding of righteousness—your right standing with God through Christ. Then comes sanctification, holiness, and spiritual maturity.

Without these foundations, many truths in Scripture may remain hidden regardless of how many books you read.

*"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." (Psalm 25:14 KJV)*

This is why choosing the right book matters. Just as students move progressively from lower classes to higher classes in school, believers must also grow progressively in spiritual understanding.

When your reading follows this pattern, you will begin to notice significant changes in your spiritual growth. In the Kingdom of God, growth is rarely accidental. You do not become spiritually mature overnight. As knowledge increases and application follows, growth becomes evident.

### **Follow the Leading of the Holy Spirit**

If you are a new believer and have not yet learned to recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit, it is wise to seek guidance from mature believers who have demonstrated faithfulness in their walk with God.

There is no shame in asking for help.

You can simply say:

*"Brother, I am new in the faith and I don't want to overwhelm myself with things I may not understand yet. What books would you recommend for me?"*

If I were recommending books to a new believer, I would suggest beginning with subjects such as:

- New Creation Realities
- Fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit
- Faith and Grace
- Purpose
- Prayer

A solid understanding of these areas provides an excellent foundation for future growth.

As you mature, however, the Holy Spirit will begin to lead you personally into the truths He wants to emphasize in your life.

At different seasons, He may draw your attention toward prayer, faith, leadership, holiness, purpose, ministry, or another area of spiritual growth. When He does, it is wise to cooperate with His leading.

God often teaches us progressively. He knows what we need for every season of our lives.

Just as there are physical schools, there is also a spiritual school—and the Holy Spirit is the Master Teacher. The more you follow His leading, the more effectively He can guide your growth.

## **Focus Produces Growth**

One of the most effective ways to accelerate your growth is through focused learning.

Instead of reading five books on five different subjects in a short period, it is often more beneficial to read several books on one subject over time.

When you focus on a particular area, the truths you discover become more deeply rooted in your heart.

Different authors may approach the same subject from different angles, allowing you to gain a fuller understanding. Your faith grows as revelation accumulates.

Personally, I have found that when I spend an extended period studying a particular subject, I begin to see how different men and women of God approached that truth. Their experiences strengthen my understanding and increase my confidence in God's Word.

Focus is one of the greatest accelerators of growth.

## **Learn from Proven Voices**

Not every book deserves equal attention.

Jesus warned about blind guides leading others into a ditch (Matthew 15:14). Therefore, you must exercise wisdom in choosing whom they learn from.

When selecting books, it is wise to learn from authors who have demonstrated the realities they teach.

In the natural world, you would likely trust a specialist with proven experience over someone with little practical evidence. The same principle applies spiritually.

In the Kingdom of God, we often call those results testimonies.

Testimonies inspire faith. They demonstrate that the truths being taught can actually be lived and experienced.

I have personally benefited from authors whose books were written from results they have obtained through their walk with God. Their testimonies strengthened my faith and encouraged me to act on what I was learning.

Scripture encourages this approach:

*"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12 KJV)*

## **Be Open-Minded to Learn from the Best**

While it is important to learn from proven voices, it is equally important not to limit yourself to only one voice.

No single minister carries every dimension of God's truth.

The body of Christ is enriched through different gifts, callings, and experiences. This is why God raises apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

Paul excelled in ministering to the Gentiles. John revealed profound truths about love and intimacy with Christ. Peter carried unique apostolic insights. Each contributed something valuable to the body of Christ.

Likewise, different authors often have unique strengths and revelations.

Remain open to learning from the various gifts Christ has given to His Church.

As Paul wrote:

*"Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas... all are yours." (1 Corinthians 3:22 KJV)*

## **Growing in Discernment**

As a new believer, it is unwise to accept everything you read without careful examination.

Christian books are valuable tools for growth, but every idea should ultimately be tested against the Word of God.

As your knowledge of Scripture increases, so will your discernment.

You will begin to recognize truths more clearly and identify teachings that do not align with God's Word.

You may even discover that a book you read years ago reveals entirely new insights when you revisit it. The book has not changed—you have.

Your growth has given you the ability to see truths you could not previously understand.

This is one of the beautiful realities of spiritual growth.

As you mature, some truths that were difficult to grasp become clear. Revelations that once seemed beyond your understanding become part of your daily walk with God.

Therefore, never stop learning. Never stop growing.

Read prayerfully, think deeply, test everything by Scripture, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding.

The goal is not merely to finish books.

The goal is to grow.

## Chapter 2 – Pray Your Way Through

Let me ask you something honest. How many books have you read that left you feeling unchanged? You turned the pages. You nodded at the truths. You may have even underlined a few sentences. But when you closed the book, you were essentially the same person who opened it. The information entered your mind, but it never reached your heart. The words were true, but they never transformed you.

If this has been your experience, do not be discouraged. The problem is not with the books you are reading. The problem is that you have been reading without prayer.

Prayer is not a religious ritual you add to your reading as an afterthought. Prayer is how you acknowledge that left on your own, your reading will not profit you. It is how you say to the Lord, "**I don't know so much, but teach me through this book the things I must learn.**" Prayer is how you ask for help — the help of the Holy Spirit, the only One who can take words on a page and turn them into life in your spirit.

Let me be clear. Prayer should not be optional for the believer who wants to grow through reading. Having walked with the Lord for a number of years, I have learned a sobering truth: the flesh was destined to fail. God designed it that way. He made us weak so that we would have to need Him. Anyone who renounces their need for God is not exempt from the failure of

the flesh. They simply have no one to help them when that failure comes.

Prayer is how we register our need for grace. It is how we admit that we cannot do this alone. It is how we give the Holy Spirit access to perform His ministry as both our Teacher and our Counselor. When you pray before you read, you are not wasting time. You are preparing the soil of your heart to receive the seed of the Word.

### **A Prepared Heart**

Prayer is essential to the Christian faith. It is how we come to God and how we carry Him along in everything we do. Reading a book is no exception. You need prayer to prepare your heart for what you desire to gain from your reading.

If you are a young believer, you must understand this early: desire alone is not enough to get spiritual things done. You can want to grow. You can want to understand. But you also need the aid of the One who is capable of guiding your footsteps. Your desire is the fuel, but prayer is the vehicle that carries that desire to the throne of God.

When you find the right book to read — using the principles from Chapter One — do not just dive in. Take your desire to the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to guide you as you read. Ask Him to ensure that you do not miss the things you ought to see.

I say this from personal experience. There have been books I read and thought I understood fully. But months or even years later,

when I glanced back at the excerpts I had taken from those books, I saw things I had never seen before. The words had not changed. I had changed. And prayer was a major reason why.

Your heart is the most essential part of receiving the word of God. Remember the parable of the sower. The seed was the same in every case. What made the difference was the ground. The seed that fell on the path was snatched away. The seed that fell on rocky ground withered because it had no root. The seed that fell among thorns was choked. But the seed that fell on good ground produced fruit.

The good ground represents the heart that is prepared to receive. Prayer is how you prepare your heart. When you pray, you are inviting the Holy Spirit to till the soil of your spirit, to remove the stones of pride, to uproot the thorns of worldly distraction. You may not feel anything happening. But something is happening. You are positioning yourself to receive.

You can read a book without praying before you start. Nothing will stop you. But if you desire the help of the One who can show you what is specifically for you in that book, you need to carry Him along through prayer.

## **The Teacher**

This leads me to a truth that has changed my entire spiritual life. There is a Teacher available to every believer, and His name is the Holy Spirit.

Before Jesus left the earth, He promised His disciples that He would send them another Comforter. The Greek word is *parakletos* — one called alongside to help. Jesus said that this Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would teach them all things and guide them into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13).

There are many teachers in the world, but none compare to the Holy Spirit. He has a unique way of bringing truth to light in the life of a believer. He customizes His teaching to your specific needs, your current experiences, and your level of understanding. He does not teach everyone the same way because no two people are exactly alike.

One of the primary ways the Holy Spirit teaches is by leading you into truth. Notice the word "**into**." It is one thing to be told the truth. It is another thing to be shown the truth. But to be led into the truth — that is something deeper. That means the truth becomes part of your experience.

Here is how this works in practice. You may read a book and not immediately understand how a particular truth applies to your life. You might close the book and go about your day. Then, weeks later, you find yourself in a situation where that truth becomes relevant. You are struggling, trying to figure out what to do. And suddenly, the Holy Spirit brings to your remembrance what you read. He explains it to you. He shows you how to apply it to your current problem. He leads you into that truth. You did not fully get it when you read it, but now you have it. Now you understand.

Everyone needs the Holy Spirit. As much as you are a believer, you cannot do without Him. I often say, "**If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit, who am I to think I do not need Him?**" Jesus was the Son of God, yet He lived, ministered, and performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit. How much more do you and I need that same Spirit?

Receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit is a choice. It is the wisest choice you could ever make. To have the One who made the heavens and the earth living inside you, teaching you, guiding you, empowering you — there is no greater advantage.

There are many things you will never see without the Teacher's aid. I can testify to this because I have experienced His tutelage in my own reading. There have been times when I was reading a book and a truth suddenly burst forth from the page as if it were on fire. I had never seen it before, even though I had read similar words many times. I was overwhelmed with the glory of God, and I knew it could only be the Teacher at work.

Other times, the insight has come while I was sharing what I had learned with someone else. As I spoke, something new emerged — a revelation I had not consciously received before. The Holy Spirit was teaching me in the very moment I was teaching others.

It is always wonderful to carry the Teacher along. He wants to teach you. He wants to show you things you have not seen before. But you must invite Him. You must acknowledge your need for Him. And the primary way you do that is through prayer.

## Praying as You Read

Now let me take you a step further. Prayer is not only for the beginning of your reading. You should also pray as you read along.

As you progress through a book, you will encounter truths that speak directly to your life. You will find areas where you need to change. You will discover solutions to problems you have been struggling with. When this happens, do not wait until the end of the book to respond. Stop right there. Take a pause. Pray that truth into your life immediately.

You are reading the book because you want to grow and become better. So when you find an area of weakness and the book provides a solution, do not just nod in agreement. Pray. Turn that solution into a prayer. Ask the Lord to make it real in your life. Receive the grace to apply what you have just learned.

Sometimes, what you find is a call to repentance. The Holy Spirit may convict you of a wrong way of living. If that happens, respond immediately. Pray the prayer of repentance right there. Turn from that wrong path and commit to walking in the new way. Do not put it off until the end of the chapter. Do not tell yourself you will deal with it later. Later may never come.

The Bible is God's Word. Other Christian books — which are not the Bible themselves — serve a complementary purpose. They zoom in on specific areas of truth. They magnify principles that are found in Scripture. They share testimonies and applications that help you see how those principles work in real life. Reading

with this consciousness helps you respond appropriately to whatever the Holy Spirit is saying to you through the book you are reading.

Failure to respond to what you find along the way is a sign that you are not ready to receive more. God is a God of knowledge, and He weighs our actions. If He guides you into a truth and you ignore it, why would He guide you into another truth? You have shown that you are not a good steward of what has already been given.

So strike while the iron is hot. When revelation comes, respond immediately. Pray. Repent. Receive. Commit. Do not delay. This is how you show the Lord that you want more. This is how you position yourself for the next truth He wants to show you.

### **Praying at the End**

Finally, pray when you finish the book.

Reading a book is a journey. You begin at a starting point with a destination in mind. When you complete that journey, there should be a sense of satisfaction — not just because you finished, but because you have gained what you set out to gain.

If you have prayed at the beginning and as you read along, then reaching the end will bring a harvest. You will look back and see how much you have received. You will recognize the prayers you prayed and the answers that have already begun to manifest. But if you have rushed through without prayer, finishing the book

may feel hollow — like completing a task rather than receiving a treasure.

I recommend that you write down your prayer points as you read. I call them "**prayer revelations.**" These are the specific things the Holy Spirit convicted you about or prompted you to pray for. Keep a record of them. Then, when you reach the end of the book, you can pray through them again. You can thank God for what He has shown you. You can ask Him to continue the work He has begun.

In the future, you can look back at those prayer records and see how God has answered. You will see your own growth. You will be encouraged to keep reading, keep praying, and keep growing.

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### **Putting It Into Practice**

Before you read another chapter of any book — including this one — stop and pray. Keep your prayer simple, but make it sincere. Acknowledge your need for the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to be your Teacher. Tell Him what you hope to gain from your reading.

As you read, keep a notepad nearby. When a truth speaks to your heart, write it down. Then pray about it right there. Do not wait.

When you finish the book, take time to review your prayer notes. Pray through them again. Thank God for what He has done and ask Him to complete what He has started.

This is not complicated, but it is powerful. Prayer before, during, and after reading transforms reading from a mental exercise into a spiritual encounter. This is how you read and grow.

## Chapter 3 – Expect Grace to Flow

Have you ever wondered why some people read the same book you read yet seem to get so much more out of it than you did? Or why a particular truth you have read about several times suddenly comes alive one day and changes everything? The answer is simpler and more wonderful than you might think. It is called grace.

Grace is an ability of God made available to every believer through the finished work of Christ. But here is what many do not realize: each person enters into different levels of grace through knowledge and empowerment. You do not receive all the grace you will ever need at once. No, grace grows in your life as your knowledge of God increases.

This is where reading Christian books becomes so powerful. A good Christian book possesses the ability to lead you into higher realms of grace. Why? Because it was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the raw encounters and experiences of the author. When you read such a book, you are not merely consuming information. You are positioning yourself to receive a transfer of spiritual enablement.

This is why you must be expectant. And I do not mean a vague, passive hope. You must point your expectation directly toward the goal for which you have chosen to read that particular book.

## Expectation Precedes Manifestation

Let me say something that may challenge you: whatever you do not expect, you will not receive. This is not positive thinking or motivational talk. This is a spiritual law. Expectation precedes manifestation. Without hope — and I am speaking here of a hope that is generated from God's Word — you cannot activate faith. Faith always needs hope to deliver. Hope is simply an expectation built on what God has said.

The Scriptures confirm this. Proverbs 24:14 says, "**So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.**" Notice that the verse links knowledge, reward, and expectation together. When you find true knowledge from God, your expectation produces a reward.

Now consider what happens when you open a Christian book. Every book written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit contains not just the knowledge you can see on the pages. There is also a spiritual content embedded within it called grace. Grace is what makes the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Under the Old Covenant, people had the law but lacked the inner ability to keep it. Under the New Covenant, we have grace — God's own ability living inside us.

The apostle Peter understood this. He wrote, "**Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord**" (2 Peter 1:2). Did you catch that? Grace is multiplied through knowledge. This means that as you read and grow in your knowledge of God, grace multiplies in your life. You

do not have to struggle to produce more grace. You simply have to increase your knowledge, and grace flows naturally.

So what exactly is grace? Let me define it clearly. Grace is an innate or indwelling spiritual ability, supplied from the throne of Christ through His finished work, to the life of a believer, as an aid to living the victorious life of Christ. In simple terms, grace is God's ability at work within you, enabling you to do what you could never do on your own.

But here is the key: the level of grace available to you through the knowledge of God can only be released by your expectation or hope for it. Your expectation mingles with your faith, and together they release an impartation of grace upon your life.

Let me give you an example. Suppose you have picked a book on prayer because you desire to build a stronger prayer life. You have already followed the principles we discussed in earlier chapters. You know what you want to accomplish. You have prayed about this desire before you began reading. Now, as you read, something wonderful happens. Grace — that ability of God to live the life of Christ — begins to flow into your spirit. Your knowledge increases, and with that increase, grace flows. Before you finish the book, you find yourself wanting to pray more, praying longer, and praying with greater faith than ever before. That is grace at work.

This same process applies when you read God's Word. Every revelation that comes to you from Scripture carries a grace component. When you decide to obey what the Word says, you will discover that beyond your natural abilities, you find yourself

empowered to do those very things. That grace is triggered by your choice to obey. The moment you say, "**Lord, I will do what Your Word says,**" grace rises up from within your spirit to meet that decision.

## **What Grace Is For**

By now you may be asking, "**What exactly is grace meant to do in my life?**" Let me answer that directly. Grace is given to aid you to do. The whole purpose of gaining knowledge is not simply to know more. It is to do better than you used to do.

Consider this difference. When you read a doctor's prescription, you gain knowledge about what medicine you need. But that knowledge alone does not heal you. You must take the medicine. In the same way, you may know that smoking is bad for you. Every smoker knows this. But knowledge alone cannot make a person quit smoking. The human flesh, with all its depraved lusts, resists what the mind knows to be right.

However, in Christ, we have something far greater than mere knowledge. We have a supply of grace to do what the Word talks about. A doctor may know that smoking will destroy his lungs, but his medical education cannot ward off the lust in his flesh that craves the cigarette. Only grace can do that. Only the indwelling ability of God can overcome the pull of the flesh.

Generally speaking, the more you know, the more understanding you acquire, and this improves the quality of your decisions. But we live in a world that is laden with lust — not ordinary desire, but spiritual lust that affects the ability of a man to make right

choices. Whether a person is in Christ or outside of Christ, this lust wars against sound judgment. But glory to God, in Christ we have the victory.

Grace is meant to put you over where others have fallen. Let me be very clear about this: grace does not give you a license to sin. That is a perversion of the gospel. Rather, grace empowers you to live a sin-free life. The more knowledge of God you have on any subject, the more grace you have at your disposal. It is a spiritual force, a supernatural ability. But a man who is walking according to his flesh cannot function in grace. The flesh and grace are opposed to each other.

Grace demands that you walk in the Spirit to be able to engage its power. So if you have paid the price to build faith in any area of life — whether in finances, healing, marriage, or ministry — it means you possess grace in that area to overcome whatever challenges may await you. If victory is not yet your experience, then either you are not using the grace available to you, or the grace you have generated has not yet reached the level needed for that particular challenge.

Do not be discouraged by this. Grace grows. It multiplies. And it multiplies through knowledge. Keep reading. Keep learning. Keep expecting.

## **Spirit and Life**

Before I close this chapter, I must warn you about something important. Just as there is a grace that brings life, there is also a spirit that brings death. Words are not ordinary. Words are so

powerful that God made the entire heavens and the earth by His word. Jesus taught His disciples this principle when He said in John 6:63, ***"The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."***

Books are written in words. This means that a book written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit can release spirit and life to its reader. But the opposite is also true. A book written under the inspiration of the flesh or of devils can release not just knowledge but also spirit and death.

This is why you must be careful about the kinds of books you read. If a book is not helping you grow in God or adding value to your life and destiny, it is wise not to read it. I have heard stories of believers who, in their high inquisitiveness, took up books that were not appropriate for Christians to read. In some cases, they degenerated into madness or other abnormal conditions because they contacted a strange spirit. It is wrong to desire just any kind of spiritual knowledge. Many have opened themselves up to devils, all in the name of knowledge.

You must understand that there are many access routes to the spirit realm. The Holy Spirit is the legal guide and guard for every believer. He alone has the right to take you into the spirit realm. If you attempt to enter by any other means — through books, practices, or spirits that are not of God — you open yourself to corruption.

Just as the knowledge of God carries grace, so the knowledge that is not from God carries a different kind of "grace" that leads to destruction. Words empower the creative power of your mind

to imagine and reproduce what you have read or heard. This is why Scripture repeatedly warns us to guard our hearts. The major gates you must secure are your eyes, your ears, and your feet. What you look at, what you listen to, and where you go all shape your spiritual condition.

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### Putting It Into Practice

Let me leave you with this thought. You are not reading this book by accident. The Holy Spirit has brought you here because He wants to release grace into your life. As you close this chapter, take a moment to do three things.

First, examine your expectations. What are you expecting to receive from the Christian books you read? If your answer is vague, sharpen it. Write down what you want God to do in your life through your reading.

Second, check what you are reading. Are the books you are spending time on releasing spirit and life? If not, it may be time to make some changes. Your spiritual growth depends on what you feed your spirit.

Third, prepare your heart to receive grace. Grace flows to the expectant heart. Come to every book — including this one — with an open, expectant attitude. Say to the Lord, **"I am expecting to receive grace from what I read. I am expecting to grow. I am expecting to change."**

When you read with expectation, grace will flow. And when grace flows, you will grow.

## Chapter 4 – Take Notes While Reading

Let me ask you a honest question. How many books have you read over the past year that you can barely remember today? You know you read them. You can even recall the covers, maybe a story or two from within their pages. But the specific lessons, the insights that stirred your heart, the truths that made you say "**amen**" — where are they now? If you are like most believers, including myself for many years, those treasures have faded away like a dream you cannot quite hold onto when you wake up.

This is not because you are forgetful or lazy. It is simply because you did not take notes.

I know that everyone has an opinion about taking notes while reading. Some say it interrupts the flow. Others say it feels too much like schoolwork. Still others claim they can remember everything important without writing anything down. But after years of reading Christian books and learning from some of the greatest spiritual minds of our time, I have discovered a simple truth: the goal of reading is not to be able to tell others that you are a reading machine. The goal is to gain knowledge and apply that knowledge in your daily walk with God and with people, so that your life becomes better.

This is why taking notes while reading cannot be excused. It may seem old school. It may feel uncomfortable at first. But if it works, it is worth the effort. And I promise you, it works. Over

time, I have found simpler ways of getting it done, and I am going to share those with you in this chapter.

## **Actions Are Weighed**

Before I show you the practical methods, let me first establish why note-taking matters spiritually.

The Bible tells us something remarkable about God. In 1 Samuel 2:3, Scripture says that God is a God who weighs our actions. This means He does not simply reward us randomly. He examines what we do. He considers the intentions behind our actions. And He responds according to the weight He assigns to our choices.

Think about this for a moment. God does not speak endlessly. His voice is precious because it is not heard every moment of every day. So when He does speak, His words must be cherished. But here is the question: how do you prove that you cherish God's voice? The answer is simple. You prove it by what you do after you hear it.

In the Old Testament, when men encountered God, they did something tangible. They built a monument on the ground where they had that encounter. They gave the place a name. Sometimes they built an altar. They left something behind that would remind them and future generations of what God had said and done. Today, things are different for us. We do not typically build physical altars when we read a book. But we can do something just as meaningful. We can document our encounters. We can write down what God showed us.

Now let me connect this to your reading. When you approach a book without the intention of taking down concepts, ideas, revelations, or insights, you are actually proving that you are not expecting anything from that book. And as we established in the previous chapter, expectation precedes manifestation. Faith needs hope, and hope is an expectation built on God's Word. If you come to a book with no expectation, you will leave with no manifestation.

If you followed the principles in Chapter One, you already have a reason for picking the book you want to read. You know what need you want to meet or what goal you want to accomplish. So you should come prepared to extract the treasures hidden within that book. Failure to do this limits the encounters you could have had. God weighs your actions, and He responds to the seriousness with which you approach His truth.

Let me be personal with you for a moment. Think back to all the books you have read without taking any notes. Now imagine having to read every single one of them again just to remember what you learned the first time. That thought alone is overwhelming, is it not? It will cost you far more to reread a book completely than it would have cost you to simply take notes while reading it the first time. A few minutes of writing could save you hours of searching later.

I started my reading journey just like most people. I did not take notes. I thought I would remember what mattered. But over time, I learned the hard way. I would pick up a book I had read just six months earlier and find myself saying, "**I do not**

**remember this at all. Did I even read this?"** Today, taking notes while I read is not an option for me. It is a necessity. I do not read any book without taking adequate notes of the lessons I am learning, the insights I am seeing, and the revelations the Holy Spirit is revealing to me from each book.

## **Once and Again**

There is another reason why note-taking is so valuable, and it has to do with how spiritual growth actually happens.

No one grows all at once. Think about your physical body. You did not become an adult overnight. You ate the same kinds of food again and again, day after day, year after year. That consistent nourishment caused you to grow from strength to strength. The same principle applies to your spiritual life. You do not read the Bible once and master it. I do not know how many times you have read your Bible, but whatever the number is, you will keep reading it for as long as you live. Why? Because the Word is inexhaustible.

The more we read with the Holy Spirit, the more inspirations we receive. There is so much depth in God that He remains unsearchable. The more you think you know, the more you realize how much you do not yet know. This brings us to what I call the "**once and again**" approach.

Here is what I mean. What you read yesterday, you may find a completely different meaning for today. The knowledge of God is shrouded in mysteries. Unlike other subjects of human learning, the word of God proves to be deeper every time you return to it.

This is why it takes the "**once and again**" approach to get any truth grounded in your heart to the point of genuine understanding.

If you do not have this mindset, you will fall into the trap of thinking you already know so much, when in reality there is so much you are yet to understand. Pride in knowledge is the enemy of further growth.

This is where your notes become invaluable. Taking notes gives you the advantage of an easy "**once and again**" approach. You do not have to read the entire book over again. All you need to do is pick up your notes and go through them again and again. This saves you time and energy, which you can then invest in reading other books or, even better, in practicing what you have learned.

Let me share a personal testimony. The last time I went through the excerpts I had gathered from books I read years ago, I was amazed. It felt as though I had never read those materials before. I was seeing entirely new things, truths I had completely missed the first time. I was so blessed that I decided to go through all my excerpts again, systematically. I can tell you with confidence: you truly learn when you embrace the "**once and again**" approach.

### **Tools at Your Disposal**

Now let me help you with the practical side of things. Different tools can make note-taking easier. The ideas I am about to share are not the only methods available. You may know more than I do, and that is wonderful. But what I am sharing with you are the

things that have worked for me and for many believers around me.

Before I list the tools, let me say this. I love reading books on soft copy more than hard copy. That does not mean I never read physical books. I do. But if given a choice, I prefer soft copy. Why? Because I can take notes from my soft copy and paste them directly into a notepad, which makes them searchable and handy at all times. When I read a hard copy, I can only mark points and write notes inside the margins. The advantages of soft copy simply outweigh those of hard copy.

**If you are reading a hard copy book, here are the tools you will need:**

First, you need a pen. Use it to mark areas of interest as you read. With that same pen, you can write your own ideas in the margins — thoughts that the Holy Spirit brings to you as you read. I highly recommend this practice.

Second, you may want a colored marker. A marker can do the same job as a pen for highlighting key passages, though you cannot write your own ideas with a marker. Some people use both: a marker for the most important lines, and a pen for their personal notes.

Third, you need a notebook. Use this notebook to summarize each chapter after you finish reading it. Write the summary in your own words. This gives you something tangible to review later, written in language that makes sense to you.

Let me add one more thing. When I read hard copy books, I go the extra mile. I transcribe my underlined points and notes into soft copy on my notepad. Yes, it takes a little more time. But it is worth it to have all my notes in one searchable place.

**If you are reading a soft copy book, here is what you will need:**

First, you need a smartphone or tablet. You can also use a computer, but a phone is easier to carry around. This device will hold your book and your notes.

Second, you need a book reading app that can handle multiple formats — PDF, MOBI, DOC, EPUB, TXT, and others. These apps are available on both Android and iPhone app stores. If you are using a computer, you can install similar applications. My own reading app has a text-to-speech feature. I love this because I can copy a point, minimize the reader, and the app keeps reading aloud while I paste my notes.

Third, you need a notepad app. This is where you will store your notes. A good notepad app allows you to minimize your reading app while it continues to read, and you can quickly type or paste your notes. Personally, I prefer to copy points directly and use them as my chapter summaries for future reference. But be careful. Check whether your notepad app stores your notes externally, such as in the cloud. If your notes are only saved on your phone and you lose your phone, you lose everything.

With these tools at your disposal, you are ready to take notes while reading. Choose whichever method works best for you. The method does not matter as much as the practice itself.

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## Putting It Into Practice

Let me leave you with this challenge. Before you read another chapter of any book — including this one — get your tools ready. If you are reading a hard copy, have your pen and notebook nearby. If you are reading on a device, open your notepad app.

Then, as you read, do these three things.

First, mark or copy every point that stirs your heart. Do not trust your memory. Capture it immediately.

Second, write down your own thoughts. When the Holy Spirit adds insight to what you are reading, record it. Those added insights are often more valuable than the original text.

Third, summarize each chapter in your own words before you move to the next one. This simple practice will lock the lessons into your heart.

Remember, you are not taking notes to become a collector of information. You are taking notes to grow. And growth requires that you remember, revisit, and apply what you have learned.

When you take notes, you are building your own spiritual monument. You are saying to God, **"What You showed me matters. I am not going to forget it. I am going to return to it again and again until it becomes part of me."**

That is how you read and grow.



## Chapter 5 – Read With Spiritual Sensitivity

Have you ever read a passage of Scripture or a chapter in a Christian book and felt absolutely nothing, only to come back to the exact same words a year later and find that they set your heart on fire? The words had not changed. The sentences were identical. But something in you had changed. What happened? You grew in spiritual sensitivity.

This is one of the most important lessons I have learned in my journey of reading Christian books. Reading a book about God is fundamentally different from reading a chemistry textbook or a philosophy manual. When you read chemistry, you are dealing with elements and reactions. When you read philosophy, you are engaging with human reasoning. But when you read a Christian book written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you are handling something far more profound. You are reading revelations and insights that an author received from God Himself.

This means that you cannot approach such a book with only your natural mind. You will also require the help of the same Holy Spirit who inspired the author. He alone can explain to you what the author meant. He alone can translate deep spiritual truths into the language of your current understanding.

Why is this so important? It is important because authors write from their various levels of understanding and experience. An author may have walked with God for thirty years before writing

a particular book. He may have fasted, prayed, and suffered through trials that produced deep revelations. You may be reading that book after only three years in the faith. Naturally, there will be a gap between what the author understood and what you can currently grasp.

The Holy Spirit bridges that gap. He takes what the author wrote and brings it down to your specific level of understanding for this moment. He does not show you everything at once. He feeds you according to what you can handle. This is why the same book can bless you differently at different stages of your life. The author writes through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and you must read through the help of the same Holy Spirit to access the full revelation embedded in the book.

### **What Is Spiritual Sensitivity?**

Before we go further, let me define what I mean by spiritual sensitivity. This is not some mysterious gift reserved for a select few. Spiritual sensitivity is a virtue that can only be expected or experienced by those who have been born of God through water and the Spirit. In other words, you must be born again to have access to spiritual sensitivity. Regeneration — being made alive in your spirit — is the starting point.

To be spiritually sensitive means that your spirit is alive and awake. It means you are conscious of what is happening inside you, in your innermost being. It also means that you are in agreement with yourself — your spirit, your soul, and your body are working together rather than fighting against each other.

You must understand that every human being is a tripartite being: spirit, soul, and body. Your spirit is the part of you that connects with God. Your soul is your mind, your will, and your emotions. Your body is your physical housing. Now here is the crucial truth: your soul is a slave to either your spirit or your body. Whichever one you feed and yield to will dominate.

So, to be spiritually sensitive means that your spirit is alive, awake, and in control of your soul. Your spirit is the one giving orders, and your mind, will, and emotions are following those orders. When you are in this state, the Holy Spirit can communicate directly with your spirit, and your spirit can then communicate with your soul, helping you understand what the author is saying.

*The apostle Paul explains why this is necessary. In 1 Corinthians 2:14, he writes, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

Notice the phrase "**spiritually discerned.**" The things of God are not discovered through intellect alone. They are perceived by your spirit. If your spirit is dormant or if your soul is ruled by your flesh, the things of God will seem foolish to you. You will read Christian books and feel nothing. You will open your Bible and find it dry and confusing.

*Now, who is the natural man? Romans 8:5 gives us the answer: "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."*

The natural man — even if he is a believer — has his mind full of the things of the world. His thoughts are consumed with what his flesh lusts after. He may attend church. He may even read Christian books. But his affection is set on things that satisfy self rather than God. As a result, the deep truths of the Spirit pass right over his head.

On the other hand, the spiritual man is attracted to the things that please God. His spirit is active and alert to hear from God. His mind is filled with thoughts of knowing God and walking with Him. It is such a man who can glean whatever the Holy Spirit wants to say through the book he is reading. The same book, read by two different people, produces two completely different results — not because the book changed, but because the readers had different levels of spiritual sensitivity.

### **Logos and Rhema: The Written Word and The Revealed Word**

To understand this even more deeply, you need to know two Greek words that describe two different dimensions of God's Word: Logos and Rhema.

Logos is the written word of God. Anyone who can read can read what is written in the Bible. Anyone who picks up a spiritual book can read its content. You do not need to be born again to read the words on the page. There are moral lessons, proverbs, and historical stories all in the Bible. An unbelieving scholar can study these things. But that is only the surface.

Behind the written word lies the revealed word, which is called Rhema. Rhema is the word that God speaks to you personally. It is the same Scripture you have read a hundred times suddenly coming alive as if God wrote it just for you this morning. God is the author of the Bible, and God is a Spirit. This means that beyond what is physically written, you need the help of the Holy Spirit to access its spiritual content.

You will never fully understand the Bible with only the Logos. If you try, you will walk away with many questions and misconceptions. Even the disciples struggled with this.

*In Mark 4:10-11, we read: "And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables."*

Jesus taught in parables, but the deeper meaning was reserved for those who were with Him, those who had hearts prepared to receive. We need God's help to break down what He has written.

Now here is a truth that will change how you read Christian books. Any spiritual book written by a proven Christian author was written from their encounters and revelations as given to them by the Holy Spirit. When you read that book, you are reading the Logos of that book. But behind the Logos lies the Rhema — the revelation that the Holy Spirit wants to give you personally. What the author received as Rhema becomes Logos to you, until the Holy Spirit reveals it to your heart.

This is why two people can read the same book and come away with completely different experiences. One person reads it and is unchanged. Another person reads it and is transformed. The difference is not in the book. The difference is in their spiritual sensitivity and the Holy Spirit's customized teaching for each person.

As you grow in God, the Holy Spirit grows with you — not that He changes, but His dealings with you deepen. He does not teach you the same way He teaches someone else because your experiences, your calling, and your current needs are different. My growth level may be different from yours based on how much time I have invested in fellowship with Him — in prayers, studying the Word, obeying His instructions, and other spiritually related exercises. So what an author writes may be shown to me in a different light than it is shown to you, and both of us are correct because the Holy Spirit is meeting each of us where we are.

## **How to Improve Your Spiritual Sensitivity Before Reading**

Knowing all of this, the question becomes: what can you do to position yourself for greater spiritual sensitivity? Let me share five practical steps that have worked for me.

### **1. Pray Before You Begin**

Now that you understand that each Christian book is written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you also understand that you need His help to access the Rhema within it. So pray before you

open the book. Talk to the Holy Spirit as you would talk to a trusted Teacher. He is not far away. He lives inside you.

Here is a simple prayer you can use:

*"Dear Holy Spirit, thank You for helping me find this book and for the grace You have made available for me to read it. I ask that the eyes of my understanding would be opened to see and learn about (name the specific reason you chose this book). Show me all that You desire me to see as I read. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

The goal is not the length of the prayer. The goal is the access you gain. A short, sincere prayer before you read can open doors that remain closed to the proud and the hurried.

## **2. Incorporate Fasting**

There is something wonderful about reading a book while you are in a fast. Fasting starves your flesh so that your spirit can be fed. It is denying your body of food or fleshly pleasures so that your spirit man can receive the food it truly needs. And what does your spirit feed on? The word of God.

*Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

When you fast, your flesh is weakened and quieted. Your spirit becomes more sensitive and alert. This is the perfect condition for reading a book inspired by the Holy Spirit. Even if your body feels weak, the act of reading feeds your spirit and gives you strength that your body cannot provide.

### **3. Pray in the Holy Spirit**

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:14 that when you pray in the Spirit, your spirit prays. This means that praying in tongues bypasses your natural understanding and engages your spirit directly. This stirs up your spiritual sensitivity.

You can pray in the Spirit for a few minutes before you start reading. You can also take breaks while reading to pray in the Spirit. Some books include prayer points at intervals or at the end of each chapter. Take advantage of those opportunities. Let your spirit be stirred and sensitive to what the Holy Spirit wants to say.

### **4. Read in a Quiet Place**

The Holy Spirit wants to speak to you personally as you read. But if you are in a noisy environment, surrounded by distractions, you may miss His still, small voice. Reading is not a competition to show others how much you love books. The goal is to receive instruction and revelation that will help you grow.

Find a quiet place where you can focus. In the quiet, the Holy Spirit can engage your mind with past experiences and show you how they connect to what you are reading. He can speak directly to your heart. And you will hear Him because the distractions are gone.

### **5. Pause to Meditate**

As you read, you will occasionally encounter something that seems to jump off the page at you. It may feel as though you are

seeing it for the first time, even if you have read similar words before. When this happens, do not keep reading. Pause.

Take time to meditate — to think deeply about what you have just read. Ask yourself questions: What does this mean? How does this relate to my life? Why is the Holy Spirit highlighting this to me right now? Remember, the Holy Spirit has a specific emphasis He wants to lead you into. It may not be the entire book. It may be one sentence that changes everything.

Asking questions invites the Holy Spirit to bring perspective. So watch for those moments. When they come, stop. Sit with the truth. Let it sink from your mind into your heart. That is how you grow.

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### **Putting It Into Practice**

Let me encourage you to do something before you read another chapter of any book. First, find a quiet place where you will not be interrupted. Second, take a moment to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher. Third, open your book with expectation, knowing that behind the written words lies a revealed word waiting for you.

And when that truth jumps out at you, do not rush past it. Pause. Meditate. Let it settle into your spirit.

This is the difference between reading for information and reading for transformation. This is how you read and grow.



## Chapter 6 – Ponder What You Have Learned

In the previous chapter, I encouraged you to pause when a truth jumps off the page at you and to take time to meditate on it before moving on. That practice is so important that I want to dedicate an entire chapter to it. Because here is the truth: you can read an entire library of Christian books and still remain spiritually unchanged if you never learn to ponder what you have read.

This chapter is a direct continuation of where we left off. The goal of pondering is to spend time thinking — engaging both your mind and your spirit — with the things you have learned from the book you just read. You are not simply reviewing information. You are inviting truth to travel from the surface of your intellect into the depths of your heart.

Let me be honest with you. You cannot read and ponder at the same time. Reading is about taking in. Pondering is about digesting. They are two different activities, and you must give each its proper time. So you can pause during your reading to ponder a specific truth that stood out to you. Or you can finish a chapter or a section, then take your notes — the highlighted passages, the margin scribbles, the excerpts you copied into your notepad — and sit with them. Let me show you how to do this effectively.

## **Steps to Pondering What You Have Learned**

Pondering is simply another word for meditation. But when I say meditation, I am not talking about emptying your mind, as some Eastern practices teach. Christian meditation is the opposite. It is filling your mind with God's truth and turning it over and over until you squeeze out every drop of meaning. It is like chewing your food thoroughly so your body can absorb all the nutrients. If you swallow without chewing, you will not get the full benefit of what you have eaten.

So how do you ponder? The most effective way I have found is to ask yourself specific questions. Questions force your mind to engage. They invite the Holy Spirit to bring revelation. Let me give you two questions that have changed my own reading experience.

### **1. What have I learned from this book or this chapter?**

This question sounds simple, but do not underestimate it. When you ask yourself this, you are forcing yourself to recollect what you have read and to pick out what truly matters. A book may contain hundreds of truths, but your heart — guided by the Holy Spirit — will only latch onto the ones that are relevant to you at this particular time.

As you answer this question, you will begin to appraise your life in light of what you have learned. You will see where you are falling short and where you are doing well. This is not meant to make you feel guilty. It is meant to give you clarity. You cannot

change what you do not see. Asking "**What have I learned?**" brings what was hidden into the light.

## **2. How does this affect me?**

This is where pondering becomes personal. The lessons you have learned — how do they affect your past, your present, and your future? Are you guilty as charged by this truth? If so, do not run from the conviction. Let it do its work. Are you currently doing well in this area? Then thank God and ask for grace to continue. Can you do better? Almost always, the answer is yes.

What specific efforts can you put into what you have learned to add more value to your life? Do not be vague. Be concrete. If the chapter was about prayer, do not just say, "**I learned that I need to pray more.**" Ask yourself: When will I pray? Where will I pray? For how long? What will I do when I get distracted? These practical questions turn abstract lessons into actionable change.

These two questions are not the only ones you can ask, but they are an excellent place to start. As you practice pondering, the Holy Spirit will teach you to ask better and deeper questions. The goal is to see what the Holy Spirit is saying to you in this moment, not what He said to someone else or what He might say to you next year. Right now matters.

## **From Your Mind to Your Spirit**

Let me share with you one of the most important truths I have learned about spiritual growth. Until any truth journeys from your mind to your spirit, it will not form a way of life for you. You

can know something intellectually for years and never be changed by it. But when that same truth drops from your head into your heart, everything shifts.

The primary assignment of every believer is to get the word of God from the Bible into the mind, and from the mind into the spirit. This is not automatic. It does not happen just because you read. It happens through meditation — through pondering. You must think about the word until it becomes part of you.

Why is this so critical? Because when the word of God on any subject gets into your spirit, your faith — which is the substance of the things you had hoped for — is formed for that subject. Faith does not live in your head. Faith lives in your heart. Romans 10:10 says, "**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.**" The heart here means your spirit. So if the word only reaches your mind, you may have knowledge, but you will not have faith. And without faith, you cannot please God, nor can you receive from Him.

This is why getting the word from your head to your spirit is the greatest challenge of the Christian life. I call this process UNDERSTANDING — not just knowing facts, but seeing truth with the eyes of your spirit.

*Jesus explained this in the parable of the sower. In Matthew 13:23, He said, "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

Notice the link. Those who understood the word produced fruit. The proof that a word has entered your spirit is your ability to produce fruit from it. If you cannot produce what the word talks about — if you have heard sermon after sermon on giving but are still not a giver — then the truth has not yet reached your spirit. It is still lodged in your mind. But when understanding dawns, everything changes. You will not need anyone to pressure you to give. You will give naturally, joyfully, because the revelation has become part of who you are.

That is the moment you say, "**I see.**" You hear with your ears, but you see with your spirit. And when you see, you understand.

*The prophet Habakkuk understood this. He wrote in Habakkuk 2:1, "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me."*

Did you catch that? He said he would watch what the Lord would say. Normally, you hear words. But Habakkuk wanted to see them. He wanted understanding, not just information.

Until the word journeys from your mind to your spirit, understanding does not dawn. This is why we read the Bible again and again. This is why we read the books of those who have obtained the results we are seeking. We are not just collecting information. We are trying to see what they have seen. We want their sight to become our sight. And that happens through meditation — through pondering the word until we see what God is saying to us personally.

## Putting It Into Practice

Let me give you a simple but powerful exercise to try this week.

After you finish reading a chapter of any Christian book — including this one — close the book. Take out your notebook or open your notepad. Write down the answers to these two questions:

1. What have I learned from this chapter?
2. How does this affect me?

Do not rush. Give yourself at least ten minutes. Let your answers be honest and specific. Then, before you move on to the next chapter, read your answers out loud to yourself. Let the truth you have written down travel from your eyes to your mind, from your mouth to your ears, and from your ears down into your heart.

You may feel awkward at first. That is fine. Growth often feels uncomfortable in the beginning. But I promise you, if you will practice this simple discipline, you will notice something happening. Truths that used to slip away from you will begin to stick. Lessons that never seemed to change you will start producing fruit.

This is the difference between a reader who stays the same and a reader who grows. One collects information. The other meditates until information becomes transformation.

Be the one who grows. Be the one who pondered what you learned until you saw it. That is how you read and grow.

## Chapter 7 – Write Down Your Action Points

By now, you have read several chapters of this book. You have learned about choosing the right book, praying before you read, expecting grace to flow, taking notes, reading with spiritual sensitivity, and pondering what you have learned. If you have been practicing these principles, you have already begun to grow.

But let me ask you a question that may sting a little. How many sermons have you heard that moved you deeply, only to forget what was said by the time you got home? How many books have you read that inspired you to change, only to find yourself back in the same old habits a few weeks later? If you are like most believers, including myself for many years, the answer is painful. We sit under powerful teaching. We feel conviction and inspiration. And then we do nothing.

This is the great tragedy of so much Christian reading. We consume, but we do not apply. We are fed, but we do not exercise. And the result is stagnation disguised as activity.

That ends now. In this chapter, I am going to show you how to move from reading to doing. And the first step is simpler than you might think: you must write down your action points.

Let me define what I mean. Action points are the specific things you have discovered from your reading that you need to implement in your life. Action plans are how you will go about

putting those points into practice. This is not a vague resolution you memorize and hope to remember. You must pen them down and plan them out. Otherwise, I can almost guarantee you will not follow through.

## **Write It Down**

Whatever you cannot write down, you will not practice. It is not enough to have it in your mind. You may start practicing for a few days or even a few weeks, but without a written record, the urgency will fade, and the commitment will slip away.

Writing is not a bureaucratic exercise. Writing allows you to see and count the cost. When you write down an action point, you can look at it and ask honest questions: Is this point truly possible for me? How can I actually get this done? These questions lead naturally into planning. And planning, like everything else we have discussed, should not be done only in your mind. You must write it down.

Let me be blunt. Whatever you cannot write down, you will not do. And what you do not do cannot change your life. You may have the best intentions in the world. You may genuinely want to grow. But intentions without written plans are like seeds thrown on hard ground. They may sprout for a moment, but they will not take root.

There is another reason writing is essential. Whatever you do not write down, you will forget. Over time, even the most powerful revelations fade from your memory. God designed your mind to prioritize what is immediately relevant. That means truths that

are not written down and regularly reviewed will gradually sink into the background of your subconscious. They will still be there somewhere, but you will not be able to access them when you need them.

Think about it. There are probably certain characteristics you know you should have developed by now — habits of prayer, patience, generosity, self-control. But because you never wrote them down or planned how to develop them, they remain wishes rather than realities.

Using a pen and paper — or a notepad app on your phone — helps you remember anything at any time. After you finish your book summary, whether on a physical notebook or a digital notepad, write a subheading: "**Action Points.**" Then list them. Write another subheading: "**Action Plans.**" Then write out how you will accomplish each point.

You must write them down because whatever you do not write down, you cannot use. Whatever you do not write down, you will forget. And whatever you forget, you cannot apply. Writing also gives you a way to appraise yourself later. You can look back at what you wrote six months ago and honestly evaluate your progress. That kind of honest assessment is invaluable for growth.

## **What Must I Change**

So how do you actually create action points from a book you have read? Your action points must be based on the change you

desire to see in your life, drawn directly from the new knowledge you have acquired.

Let me give you a concrete example. Suppose you just read a book about building your faith. As you read, you discovered that you need to start confessing God's Word over your life daily. That is an action point. You also learned that you need to stop speaking doubt and fear. That is another action point. Whatever you identify as something you must begin to do — or stop doing — based on what you have read, those become your action points.

Here is an important warning. Listing a long list of action points may scare you away from even trying. Do not let that happen. The length of your list does not matter as much as your willingness to take the points one step at a time. You do not have to change everything at once. Choose two or three action points to focus on first. Practice them until they become natural. Then add more. This gradual approach will keep you from feeling overwhelmed, and it will allow you to experience small wins that build momentum.

### **What Must I Do**

Once you have identified what you must change, the next question is how. How will you effectively enforce these changes in your life as simply as possible? This is where action points become action plans. Planning involves breaking down each action point into practical steps and daily routines.

Let us stay with the example of prayer. Suppose one of your action points is to pray more consistently. How do you plan this into your daily routine so that it is actually doable? Planning requires thinking, questioning, and finding the best resolution.

Ask yourself honest questions: When have I prayed consistently in the past? What time of day worked best for me? Do I currently have a set prayer time, or do I just pray when I feel like it? What has hindered me from praying consistently before? Was it my phone? Was it fatigue? Was it a lack of a dedicated space? Answering these questions will help you build a plan that fits your actual life, not some ideal version of your life.

A good plan is specific. Instead of saying, "**I will pray more,**" say, "**I will pray every morning at 6:00 AM in my living room for twenty minutes, using a prayer list I have prepared the night before.**" That is a plan you can actually follow. That is a plan you can measure. That is a plan you can share with an accountability partner.

## **How to Make It Work**

Now you have your action points, and you have planned them out. But it does not end there. You have probably planned to do things in the past that never got done. Walking in the Spirit goes beyond planning. There is more to making your new plans work.

### **1. Make Up Your Mind**

If your mind is not made up, you have already failed before you began. Every great feat begins in the mind. If you lose the battle

in your thoughts, you will lose it in your actions. Are you serious about changing your life in this area? If you are, you must be determined to practice what you have planned. It is your determination that will keep you from giving up when the initial excitement fades.

Let me encourage you. It is not against God's Word to miss it at the beginning. You may fail to follow your plan on the first day, or the second, or the third. That does not mean you are a failure. It means you are learning. Your determination is what picks you up to begin again. Remember, you are just getting started. Greatness is not the absence of mistakes. It is what your mind is made up to achieve despite those mistakes.

## **2. Pray on Your Action Plans**

Determination alone is not enough. You also need the help of the Holy Spirit. Walking in the Spirit goes beyond planning and resolve. You need supernatural assistance to live the life of Christ, and that assistance comes through prayer.

Take your action plans to the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you run with them. Man is a bundle of weaknesses, and God designed us that way on purpose — so that we would have to depend on Him.

*Consider Daniel. In Daniel 1:8, we read, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."*

Daniel made up his mind. That was the first step. But Daniel also knew that flesh and blood cannot please God. That is why, in Daniel 6:10, we

find him with a demanding prayer life: ***"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."***

Daniel purposed, and Daniel prayed. You must do the same. All your points and plans need the help of God's Spirit. With humility, go to God and pray something like this:

*"Lord, I have learned what You have allowed me to see through the book I have read. I desire to apply these principles I have outlined. I need Your help, and I receive it by Your Holy Spirit who lives in me. Therefore, I am strengthened to do all that I have made up my mind to do, that my profiting may appear to all. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

We are creatures of limitation without our connection to our Source. God made it that way. You will depend either on the Holy Spirit or on some other spirit. The wise choice is clear. Prayerfully commit every plan you have made to God.

### **Engage an Accountability Partner**

Let me share one more practical tool that has helped me immensely. Find an accountability partner.

If you are married, share your action plans with your spouse and ask him or her to hold you accountable. If you are single, find a godly friend who will check in with you regularly. This is not about pride or shame. It is about wisdom.

*The Scripture says in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

When you involve a trusted person, you break the yoke of secrecy. It is much easier to abandon a plan when you are the only one who knows about it. But when someone else is expecting an update, when someone else is praying for you and asking how you are doing, you are far more likely to follow through.

Your accountability partner is not there to judge you. He or she is there to encourage you, to remind you of your commitments, and to help you get back on track when you stumble. It is difficult to "**untell**" someone you have asked to hold you accountable. That difficulty is a gift. It keeps you going when your flesh wants to quit.

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### **Putting It Into Practice**

Before you close this chapter, take out your notebook or open your notepad. Review the notes you have taken from this book so far. Identify two or three specific action points — changes you need to make based on what you have learned.

Write them down clearly. Then, for each action point, write a specific action plan. Be as detailed as possible. Include when, where, and how you will practice this change.

Then pray over your plans. Invite the Holy Spirit to empower you. And before the day is over, tell someone — your spouse, a friend, a mentor — what you have committed to do.

This is not legalism. This is wisdom. This is how you move from being a hearer of the word to a doer. This is how you read and grow.

## Chapter 8 – Turn Points into Confessions

In the previous chapter, I showed you how to write down your action points and action plans. You learned to identify what needs to change and how you will go about changing it. You made up your mind. You prayed over your plans. You even found an accountability partner to walk with you.

But there is one more step that many believers miss, and missing it is often the difference between temporary improvement and lasting transformation. You must turn your action points into confessions of faith.

Let me explain what I mean. To confess means to acknowledge faith in something or to profess belief in it. When you confess something, you are not just saying words. You are declaring that you believe those words are true. And here is the wonder of how God designed us: even when a truth does not immediately stick to your conscious mind, your confession goes down into your subconscious mind. It plants itself there like a seed, and over time, it begins to grow.

Think about how this works in everyday life. Have you ever heard a song you did not particularly like, only to find yourself humming it hours later? Your conscious mind was not paying attention, but your subconscious mind recorded it. The same principle applies to the words you speak to yourself. Even when it seems like you are just going through the motions, your inner being is listening and recording.

When you keep telling yourself, "**I cannot fail,**" your mind picks up that declaration and begins to program itself around it. Later, when you are tempted to take a step that might lead to failure — such as being lazy with your work — that declaration rises up as a reminder. It says, "**You said you cannot fail. This laziness is the path of failure. Choose differently.**" In the same way, if you tell yourself, "**I am a winner,**" your mind gradually guides you toward winning decisions and away from losing ones.

Now apply this to your reading. When you turn your action points and plans into confessions of faith, you are programming your mind to accept these new truths, even though they may feel foreign to you at first. As you continue to confess them and take steps to practice them, your mind gradually begins to live in the reality of what you have been saying. What started as a confession becomes your experience.

### **If You Can't Say It, You Don't Believe It**

Let me share a principle that has never failed me. Whatever you cannot say or confess is proof that you do not yet believe it. Confession is the first evidence of believing.

*The apostle Paul made this clear in Romans 10:10: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Notice the order. Belief comes first in the heart, but confession is what brings it into full expression. If you truly believe something in your heart, you will eventually confess it with your mouth. The two cannot be separated. This means that the proof that you believe anything is that you can say it out loud.

Let me give you a practical test. Suppose one of your action points is to pray every Thursday at 3 pm. Can you say that out loud with conviction? Can you look at yourself in the mirror and declare, "**I am a person who prays every Thursday at 3 pm**"? If you cannot say it, it is because you do not yet believe it. Something in you is afraid that you will not follow through. That fear is the opposite of faith.

When you cannot confess what you have made up your mind to do, you have already lost the battle in your mind. Fear has gained a foothold. But here is the good news: you can fight fear with confession. You may miss your commitment sometimes at the beginning. That is okay. Do not stop confessing. Keep saying what you intend to do. Keep declaring the change you are working toward.

The goal is to have your entire being — spirit, soul, and body — accept this new way of living. Confession is how you convince yourself. It is how you align every part of you with the decision you have made.

Let us say you are working to quit a bad habit, such as lying. Every part of your being needs to hear you say, "**I am not a liar. I am a child of God, and I do not tell lies.**" When you say this repeatedly, something shifts inside you. Then, when the urge to lie rises up, you will feel a strong resistance against it. The choice will be clear: give in to the old habit or stand on your confession. Your confession gives you the strength to choose what is right.

## Speak to Yourself According to God's Word

Now I need to make an important distinction. Turning your action points into confessions is not the same as the motivational chanting you see in the world. It is not about pumping yourself up with positive thinking. No, this is something far more powerful. You are speaking to yourself. Your body hears you. Your mind hears you. Your spirit hears you. And what you are speaking is not mere human optimism — it is the word of God.

Nothing changes a man like the word of God. Nothing has the power to transform your nature, renew your mind, and reshape your character except the Scriptures. This is why your confessions must be based on God's Word. If you are only speaking your own determination, you will eventually run out of steam. But when you speak what God has already said, you are tapping into an infinite source of power.

Let me show you the difference. Using the example of quitting lying, a motivational confession might be, "**I am honest. I tell the truth.**" That is fine, but it has no foundation. A biblical confession, on the other hand, sounds like this: "**I do not lie anymore, for in me is the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit of God. The devil is the father of lies, but I am a child of God. Therefore, I do not lie anymore.**"

Do you see the difference? The second confession is rooted in Scripture. It declares not just what you want to be true, but what God has already said is true about you. That is what gives it power.

*The writer of Hebrews tells us why this works. In Hebrews 4:12, we read, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit."*

The word of God is alive. It is active. It has the power to cut through every lie, every excuse, every fear, and every habit that has held you captive.

This is what I mean by speaking your action points and plans to yourself based on God's Word. If your confession is not grounded in Scripture, it cannot bring lasting change. But when you add the Word to your confession, you are wielding the sword of the Spirit.

You can say, "**I am a winner,**" but the devil may laugh at you. Add the Word: "**I am a winner because I am born of God. For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world**" (1 John 5:4). Now you are not just declaring a hope. You are declaring a fact. That is how you do it. Your confessions must be rooted and grounded in God's Word. That is where the power resides.

### **Get Scriptures in Line with Your Action Points**

So how do you build these biblical confessions? You need to find Scriptures that support each of your action points. The more you fill your heart with God's Word on a particular subject, the more powerful your confessions will become.

Sometimes, the book you have read will provide the Scriptures for you. Many Christian authors include Bible verses to support their teaching. You can use those verses as the foundation for

your confessions. But do not stop there. Go further. Search the Scriptures for yourself. Find every verse you can on the subject you are working on.

This is where being a student of the Bible becomes invaluable. We do not read the Bible because it is a religious duty. We read it so that our hearts become flooded with God's Word, ready for use at any moment. Colossians 3:16 says, "**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.**" The word "**richly**" means abundantly, extravagantly. God wants His Word to fill you to overflowing.

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, as Ephesians 6:17 tells us. But unlike a physical sword, which you hold in your hand, this sword is held and released through your mouth. Revelation 19:15 describes Jesus with a sharp sword coming out of His mouth. That sword is the word of God. When you speak Scripture-based confessions, you are swinging that sword against every enemy of your growth.

If you have not yet read the Bible extensively, do not be discouraged. Ask a mature believer to help you find Scriptures on your action points. Ask your pastor. Ask a godly friend. Ask AI. There are Scriptures on every human subject and every situation you may be facing. You do not have to find them all alone. That is part of why God gave us the body of Christ.

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## Putting It Into Practice

Take out your action points from the previous chapter. For each point, find at least one Scripture that supports the change you want to make. Write the Scripture next to the action point.

Then, turn that action point and Scripture into a confession. Write it in first person, present tense, as if it is already true. For example, if your action point is to pray consistently, and your Scripture is 1 Thessalonians 5:17 ("**Pray without ceasing**"), your confession might be: "**I am a person who prays consistently. The Spirit of God in me leads me to pray throughout the day, just as Scripture says.**"

Speak these confessions out loud every morning and every evening. Say them until they become part of you. Do not be discouraged if you do not feel anything at first. Faith is not a feeling. Faith is acting on what God has said, regardless of how you feel.

Over time, you will notice something changing. The things you confessed will begin to feel natural. The actions that once required great effort will become habits. The habits will become character. And your character will produce a life that glorifies God.

That is the power of confession rooted in Scripture. That is how you read and grow.

## Chapter 9 – Act Immediately

We have come to a point in this book where I must speak to you with holy urgency. Everything you have learned so far — choosing the right book, praying before you read, expecting grace, taking notes, pondering, writing action points, turning them into confessions — all of it leads to this single moment. The moment of action.

God is a God of the present. He is the God of the past, the present, and the future, but the only moment you can actually meet Him is now. The past is gone. The future is not yet here. But now — this very moment — is where God dwells and where He calls you to respond. Therefore, if you are learning these truths, the best time to act on them is not tomorrow. It is not next week. It is **NOW**.

The kind of action I am talking about is a response to what you have learned. It is not just any action. It is a corresponding action — a step that lines up with the truth God has revealed to you through your reading.

### **Faith Without Works Is Dead**

You have paid the price to read this book. You have followed the steps I have outlined. You have taken notes, pondered the lessons, written action points, turned them into confessions, and shared them with an accountability partner. Yet if you will not move in line with what you have learned, you have created a

loophole in the cycle of transformation. You have done everything except the one thing that actually produces change.

Let me remind you of what James wrote: "**Faith without works is dead**" (James 2:20). Faith is not opposed to action. Faith requires action. Faith begins in the heart, is expressed through the mouth, and is proven by the hands and feet.

Think of it as a cycle. Each step contributes to the final product. Missing any one step may abort the entire process. Faith requires corresponding actions. Whatever you have read and desire to incorporate into your life, you must take action. And you must take it now. Faith demands that you engage your action points immediately.

### **Strike While the Iron Is Hot**

Every time you learn something new, faith is generated in your heart to respond to that truth immediately. This is a window of opportunity. But here is what most people do not realize: that window does not stay open forever. If you delay your response, the faith that was generated will begin to wane. Its driving force will diminish. And if you wait long enough, that faith can die altogether.

Let me give you an example. You have written your action points. You have turned them into plans. The faith you need to kick into action is already in you. But if you do not start applying yourself to those plans within a few days — or certainly within a week — that faith will wear off. You will lose the strength, the urgency, the holy determination to engage. The book that inspired you will

still be on your shelf, but the power it released in your heart will have dissipated.

This is why you must strike while the iron is hot. A blacksmith does not let the iron cool before he strikes it. He works with the heat. He shapes the metal while it is soft and pliable. If he waits, the iron hardens, and his work becomes much more difficult. The same is true for you. The heat of revelation does not last forever. Act on it now.

Take that action now. Do not wait until tomorrow. Do not wait until you feel more ready. Do not wait until your circumstances are more favorable. Act now, even if your action is imperfect. It is better to start imperfectly and improve as you go than to wait for the perfect moment that never comes.

I have learned in my walk with God that you will rarely have everything you need before you act. God often asks you to start from where you are, with what you have. He will supply what you lack along the way. But you must take the first step.

Suppose you have learned that you need to add fasting to your Christian walk. Do not postpone it to next month. Fix a day now. Say to yourself, "**I am fasting this Tuesday until 3 pm. I have not done this before, but I am taking action now.**" That is a step. You do it again next week, and the week after. You will find that grace has been there all along. You did not need to wait until you were a "**fasting expert.**" You just needed to start.

If you wait until next month, as your flesh would prefer, you will find that next month the faith to fast has vanished. You will have

lost the window. The rule is simple: do not wait until you have grown to take the action. Take the action, and then grow on it.

## **Procrastination: The Enemy of Growth**

I must speak plainly about something that has stolen more destiny than almost any other force in the lives of believers. Procrastination.

Procrastination is saying you will do tomorrow what you can do today. Every time you push into tomorrow what should be done today, what should be done tomorrow gets pushed further into the future. You are not saving time. You are denying yourself the value of your time.

Time is the currency of life. You cannot get it back once it is spent. Procrastination is not a harmless quirk. It is an enemy. It steals from you, and it steals from the future God has planned for you.

If you need to change your environment to make action easier, do it. If you need to call your accountability partner right now and confess that you have been putting off your action steps, do it. If you need to discomfort yourself to break the cycle of delay, do it. A little discomfort now is nothing compared to the regret of a lifetime of postponed obedience.

Let me paint a picture for you. Procrastination will deny you of your time and your future. It will ensure that when you should have become a helper to others — someone who could guide new believers in their Christian walk — you are still struggling

with the same issues you faced years ago. You should have fasted enough by now to teach someone else how to fast. But instead, you are still trying to figure out how to start. You should have grown in prayer to the point where you can intercede for others. But instead, you are still asking others to pray for you as if you were a spiritual infant.

Procrastination will rob you of the future you should have. When you should have been settled in spiritual virtues, principles, and even physical provisions, you will find yourself lacking — not because God did not provide, but because you kept postponing the actions that would have positioned you to receive.

Procrastination is an enemy of faith. Remember what I said about striking while the iron is hot. When you delay, faith wanes. So procrastination kills dreams. It renders vision useless. You think you will do it tomorrow, but the secret goal of procrastination is to ensure you never do it at all. It will kill the dreams God has placed in your heart. For when the faith to act dies, it takes a supernatural supply of grace to resurrect it. Do not put yourself in that position.

You never truly know what you are worth until you put commitment into action. Imagine where you would be today if you had acted immediately on every truth you have ever learned from every book you have read. Imagine the growth. Imagine the fruit. Imagine the impact you could be having on others right now.

That future is still available to you. But it starts with a decision. A decision made right now.

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## Putting It Into Practice

So here is my challenge to you. Before you close this book today, take one action step from what you have learned. Just one. Do not wait until you have a perfect plan. Do not wait until you feel ready. Choose one action point from your notes and do it today.

If you have learned that you need to start taking notes while you read, take out a notebook and write down one insight from this chapter. If you have learned that you need to pray before you read, stop right now and pray over this book. If you have learned that you need to share what you are learning with someone, send a text message to a friend and tell them one thing God has shown you.

It does not have to be a big action. It just has to be now.

Yes, you have not done this before. Yes, you may feel awkward. Yes, you may be afraid that you will not follow through. But you have learned from this book that change is possible. You have learned that grace is available. You have learned that God is with you.

So take a step of faith. Act now. Quit procrastinating. That is how you read and grow.

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## Chapter 10 – Share With Others

By now, you have learned how to choose books, pray before reading, expect grace, take notes, ponder what you have learned, write action points, turn them into confessions, and act immediately. You might be tempted to think that you have reached the end of the growth cycle. But there is one more practice that I have found to be absolutely essential — and it is one that many believers overlook entirely.

You must share what you have learned with others.

The Bible is filled with wonderful promises for those who give willingly. Proverbs 11:25 says, "***The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.***" This verse is most often applied to giving money, and rightly so. But the principle extends far beyond finances. It applies to knowledge, to insight, to revelation. The one who waters others with what he has learned will himself be watered in return.

Now, you might be thinking, "**After dedicating so much time and effort to reading a book, why should I turn around and give away what I have gained? Shouldn't I keep it for myself?**" I understand that feeling. It seems counterintuitive. But the kingdom of God operates on a different logic than the world. In the world, you keep what you have by holding on tightly. In the kingdom, you keep what you have by giving it away.

Let me clarify something. Sharing does not mean you must find someone who has not read anything and pour your knowledge into them. That is one way, but it is not the only way. The goal is simply to find someone with a listening ear — someone who also loves to learn. When two learners come together, something supernatural happens.

Sharing is a form of giving. And giving is a hidden platform for gaining more. I once heard a wise person say, **"If you have a great idea and cannot explain it to a five-year-old child, you do not truly understand it."** That statement has stuck with me because it reveals a profound truth. Understanding is like digestion. You have not truly absorbed what you have learned until you can articulate it to someone else. Sharing is how you test your understanding. As you endeavor to explain your insights to another person, you will quickly discover whether you truly grasped them or merely collected them.

But there is more. Beyond testing your own understanding, there are spiritual benefits to sharing that you may never experience any other way.

### **The Other Side of the Coin**

Something special happens when you share knowledge with others. Let me explain.

When you read a book, the Holy Spirit explains its contents to you according to your current level of revelation. He is a wise Teacher. He will not show you depths beyond what you can handle or what your mind can carry. If He did, it would be wasted

on you because you would not be able to understand it anyway. Jesus acknowledged this when He said to His disciples, "**I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now**" (John 16:12). The Holy Spirit works the same way. He feeds you according to your capacity at each stage of your growth.

Now here is where sharing becomes powerful. When you share what you have learned with another believer who is also striving to grow, that person brings different experiences, different backgrounds, and different revelations than you have. The Holy Spirit has been teaching them things He has not yet taught you, and He has been teaching you things He has not yet taught them.

When you come together and share, the Holy Spirit gets another opportunity. He can take the truths you are sharing and interpret them differently through the other person's revelation and experiences. As you speak, they may add a perspective you had never considered. They may ask a question that opens up a whole new dimension of understanding. Suddenly, you see the other side of the coin — the side you could not see before because your own experiences limited your view.

This is not just my opinion. Scripture establishes this principle. Second Corinthians 13:1 says, "**In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.**" When you share what you have learned with others, the truth you received becomes established. It becomes settled. It becomes grounded in your heart in a way that solitary reading could never achieve.

In my experience, I have found that I often gain more from sharing than the person I am sharing with. While I am explaining

a truth, my own understanding blossoms. New connections form. Insights I never had before rise to the surface. The person listening receives a blessing, but I receive just as much — sometimes more. This is the mystery of sharing. You give, and in the giving, you receive.

### **Giving Begets Receiving**

I know this seems unfair to your natural senses. You labored to read that book. You invested time and energy. And now I am telling you to give away the fruits of your labor? Yes. Because the kingdom operates on a different principle. You do not receive in order to give. You give in order to receive. Your increase lies in your ability to both gather and disperse.

Let me share a personal testimony. I have observed that I love to share the things I learn from books, from the Bible, and from messages I hear. I believe this desire is the working of the love of God in me. But here is what I have noticed: many times, while I am sharing, I say things I never planned to say. The Holy Spirit speaks through me, and I learn something new in the very moment I am teaching it to someone else. I walk away from the conversation having received a revelation that I did not have when the conversation began.

This is possible because knowledge and understanding are not the same thing. You may know something intellectually but not yet understand it in your spirit. You may have heard a truth many times without ever grasping its full weight. But when you share that truth with someone else, the Holy Spirit often uses that

moment to move it from your head to your heart. The very act of explaining it to another person completes the digestion process.

*The Scripture says it this way in Proverbs 11:24: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."*

This is a spiritual law. The one who scatters — who gives away, who shares, who waters others — actually increases. The one who withholds, thinking he is protecting his treasure, ends up in poverty. He loses even what he had.

If you keep holding back what you have learned, you will keep only what you currently know. You will give no room for the Holy Spirit to bless you with higher levels of understanding. The natural man is self-driven and selfish. He thinks holding back gives him an advantage over others. But in the kingdom, the opposite is true. The one who gives freely is the one who grows.

Let me warn you about something serious. The most gruesome implication of withholding more than is meet to withhold is that you will end up losing most of what you have learned. Truths that were not shared become truths that are forgotten. Revelations that were not given away become revelations that fade. Do not let that happen to you.

## **How to Share**

Now let me give you some practical ways to put this principle into action. These are not the only methods, but they are places to start. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what will work best in your situation.

## **1. Family Setting**

If you have a family, consider setting aside a regular time for reading and sharing. It could be once a week for thirty minutes. Gather your spouse and children — or even just one other family member — and take turns sharing what you have learned from your reading. This will not only enhance your spiritual growth but will also strengthen your relationships. There is something powerful about a family that grows together.

## **2. Peer Group**

If you have a group of friends who are also interested in reading and growing, create a regular time to meet, either physically or online. Share what you are learning. You can all read the same book and discuss it, or you can read different books on the same subject and bring your insights to the group. Reading on the same subject creates uniform growth and allows for deeper conversation.

## **3. Book Reading Groups**

I personally belong to a book reading group. We review a book or two every month, and we meet every Friday to discuss what we are learning. It has been fun and wonderful, but more than that, it keeps me reading consistently. Knowing that I will be sharing with others motivates me to stay on track.

There are many such groups on social media platforms like Telegram and Facebook. You can join existing groups or start

your own with a few friends. This is not compulsory, but it can be a great help in maintaining your reading habit.

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### **Putting It Into Practice**

Here is my challenge to you. Before the end of this week, share something you have learned from this book with at least one other person. It does not have to be a long sermon. It can be a single insight. Send a text message. Make a phone call. Place it on your status. Have a conversation over coffee. Just share.

Notice what happens as you speak. Pay attention to whether new thoughts come to you while you are explaining. Watch for the Holy Spirit to add to what you are saying. And after the conversation, take note of whether your own understanding of that truth has deepened.

You may be surprised to discover that the person you shared with was not the only one who received a blessing. You may find that you received just as much — or even more.

This is the law of the kingdom. Give, and it shall be given unto you. Share, and you will grow. That is how you read and grow.

## Chapter 11 – Read Again and Again

Let me confess something to you. There are many things I have labored to understand in the Christian faith that I have still not fully mastered. I have read multiple books on certain subjects. I have studied the Scriptures. I have prayed and sought the Lord. And yet, I have not fully produced the effects of what I have learned. Perhaps you can relate to this. You have read about faith, but you are not yet walking in the full measure of faith. You have read about prayer, but your prayer life is not yet what you desire it to be. You have read about holiness, but there are still areas where you struggle.

What do you do when this happens? Do you give up? Do you assume that reading does not work? Do you conclude that you have somehow been left out?

No. You do what every successful believer has done before you. You read again. And again. And again.

Jesus taught in the parable of the sower that those who understood the word produced fruit — some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, and some a hundredfold (Matthew 13:23). Notice that all three groups produced fruit. All three understood the word. But their levels of understanding were different, and their levels of fruitfulness were different as well.

This is a crucial revelation. Your level of understanding of any subject of faith determines what you can produce from it. The

proof that you have truly mastered a subject is not that you can recite its principles from memory. The proof is that you can produce its fruit in your life. You can reproduce what the word talks about. If you cannot produce it, you have not yet mastered it. And if you have not yet mastered it, you have every reason to keep reading.

So let us say you have read three books on the subject of faith, but you have not yet seen the hundredfold results you are seeking. What then? Do you stop reading? Do you assume you already know everything there is to know? Do you give up in discouragement? Not at all. The fact that you have not yet produced the full result is not a reason to quit. It is a reason to press in further. It is evidence that there is something more you need to see, something deeper you need to understand, something the Holy Spirit has not yet revealed to you.

You may choose to read books from different authors on the same subject. Or you may choose to read the same book again and again. Personally, I often go back to the excerpts I collected from books I have already read. That is one of the reasons I emphasized note-taking so strongly in Chapter Four. Your notes give you a way to revisit the most important truths without rereading the entire book. Whatever method you choose, the goal remains the same: to produce the word in your life.

This is a kingdom principle I call "the again and again effect." The Lord watches for desperation. He looks for hunger. When He sees that you are not satisfied with thirtyfold or even sixtyfold, when He sees that you are pressing in for the hundredfold, He

opens up more insights to you. It may be that when you read a truth the first time, your heart could only receive it faintly. But with the second touch, things begin to open up perfectly.

*Observe this mystery in the way Jesus healed a blind man. Mark 8:23-25 tells us: "And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that, he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly."*

Did you notice that Jesus had to touch the blind man twice? The first touch produced partial sight. The man could see, but not clearly. People looked like trees walking. The second touch brought complete restoration. This is a picture of how the word works in our lives. The first time you read a truth, you may see it, but not clearly. The second time, things come into focus. The third time, you see with perfect clarity. Do not despise the first touch just because it did not produce full results. The first touch prepared you for the second.

### **Faith Comes by Continuous Hearing**

Let me explain why reading again and again is so effective. Romans 10:17 says, "**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" The Greek text actually implies a continuous hearing. It is not a one-time event. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing, and hearing. The more you expose yourself to the word of God on any subject, the more faith is generated in your heart.

This means that the first book you read on healing may not produce the faith you need to receive your healing. But it is not a waste. It added to your knowledge. It built a foundation. Then you read a second book, and while reading with the Holy Spirit, He suddenly opens your eyes to a revelation you had never seen before. And that revelation becomes the key that unlocks your healing. The first book prepared the soil. The second book planted the seed. The third book watered it. And in God's timing, the harvest came.

Faith has an inherent nature to come to anyone who gives himself to God's word. It may not happen on the first approach. But God's word never fails. If you keep coming, faith will come. This is why in the parable of the sower, those who understood the word produced at different levels. Understanding does not come all at once. It grows. It develops. It deepens.

As you receive faith and apply it, your faith grows. As you gain understanding and act on it, your understanding deepens. The two work together. And eventually, if you will stay with it, you will come to a place of rest. You will no longer struggle with doubt on that subject. You will no longer labor to believe. The truth will have become so much a part of you that faith flows naturally. That is the hundredfold measure.

*2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

We grow from glory to glory. We do not jump from glory to glory. It is a process. And reading again and again is one of the primary ways that process unfolds.

## **A Desire for More**

None of this will happen, however, if you do not have a genuine desire for more. Desire is the currency of the kingdom. We pay for spiritual substances largely by our desire. Another word for it is thirst. When you truly thirst for something, you are willing to go the extra mile to obtain it.

If you do not have a desire to increase your level of understanding, you will not have the discipline to read again and again. It is desire that keeps you coming back to the same subject long after the initial excitement has faded. It is desire that makes you willing to read the same book a second time, a third time, a fourth time.

A man without desire will say, "**I am tired.**" He will say, "**I have come a long way already.**" He will say, "I know enough." But Scripture warns us against this mindset. 1 Corinthians 8:2 says, "**And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.**" The moment you think you have arrived, you have stopped growing. The moment you think you know enough, you have closed the door to further revelation.

The Holy Spirit, however, is always stirring the hearts of those who give Him access. If you keep an open mind and a humble heart, He will keep stirring your desire for more. He will never let

you become complacent. He will always show you another mountain to climb, another depth to explore, another facet of God's glory to behold.

## **The Word Is New Every Day**

There is another reason to read again and again. The word of God is new every day.

In the Old Testament, when God fed His people in the wilderness, He instructed them to gather only enough manna for one day. He rained fresh manna every morning. If they tried to store up extra for the next day, it bred worms and stank. The only exception was the day before the Sabbath, when they gathered enough for two days. That manna did not spoil. This symbolism points to God's word. There is fresh manna every day. The word you read yesterday was sufficient for yesterday. But today, you need today's word.

This is true even if you are reading the same book. A dose of fresh insight is always available to you. I have been reading my Bible for many years, and the more I read it, the more I find things I never saw before. The Bible has not changed. I have changed. My capacity for understanding has grown. And because it has grown, the Holy Spirit can show me things He could not show me before.

As I have said throughout this book, the Holy Spirit unveils mysteries to us based on our level of understanding. When you grow in understanding, new insights become available to you. The Holy Spirit is not holding back out of stinginess. He is waiting

until you have the capacity to receive. So keep growing. Keep reading. Keep coming back. There is always more.

There is no limit to the understanding a man can have of God's word. The more you have seen, the more there is that you have not yet seen. The knowledge of God is past finding out. Our minds cannot harness all of it. This should not discourage you. It should create room in you for more. It should produce humility and hunger. As long as you consistently come with an open heart, you will always receive more understanding.

### **Come with an Open Heart**

This brings me to my final point in this chapter. You must come with an open heart.

God sees your heart. While men look at outward appearances, He looks within. Many people approach God's word or Christian books with the notion that they already know so much. They have been in church for years. They have read many books. They have heard many sermons. And they carry that familiarity like a badge of pride.

With such a mindset, you will miss out on so much. No human teacher wants to teach a student who already thinks he knows everything. How much more the Holy Spirit? He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. You need meekness to learn. Meekness is not weakness. It is teachability. It is a posture that says, "**Lord, I am willing to learn. Show me what I have not yet seen.**"

*Psalm 25:9 says, "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way."*

The Holy Spirit teaches the meek. He guides the humble. He reveals His secrets to those who know they do not know.

There is no point in reading a Christian book without meekness. You will gain nothing. You will skim the surface and miss the depths. You will collect information and miss transformation. You must come as a student, willing to sit at the feet of the Holy Spirit and learn.

That you have read this book to this point shows that you are willing to learn. Fun would not have gotten you this far. And I am sure you have observed that this has not been merely fun. Learning generally is not. It requires effort. It requires humility. It requires persistence. But the reward is worth every price.

I pray that the grace for meekness will continue to increase in your life. May you always come to the word of God and to Christian books with an open heart, ready to receive whatever the Holy Spirit has for you.

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### **Putting It Into Practice**

Here is my challenge to you. Choose one subject that you have been struggling to master — faith, prayer, love, patience, whatever it may be. Then commit to reading on that subject again and again for the next three months. Read books from different authors. Read the same book multiple times. Review

your notes and excerpts. Share what you are learning with others. Act on what you discover.

Do not stop at thirtyfold. Do not settle for sixtyfold. Press in for the hundredfold.

You may feel like you are not getting anywhere at first. Keep reading. You may feel like you already know this material. Keep reading. You may be tempted to move on to something new and exciting. Keep reading.

The again and again approach is not glamorous. It is not exciting. But it works. It is how faith comes. It is how understanding deepens. It is how thirtyfold becomes sixtyfold, and sixtyfold becomes a hundredfold.

This is how you read and grow.

## Chapter 12 – Stay Diligent

You have made it to the final chapter of this book. By now, you have learned most of the keys you need to make the most of every Christian book you read, including the Bible. You have learned how to choose the right book, how to pray before, during, and after reading, how to expect grace to flow, how to take notes, how to read with spiritual sensitivity, how to ponder what you have learned, how to write down action points and turn them into confessions, how to act immediately, how to share with others, and how to read again and again.

These principles, if learned and practiced, can transform your reading from a passive activity into a engine of spiritual growth. But there is one more principle to go — and it may be the most important of them all. Without it, everything else will eventually fall apart.

That principle is diligence.

### **What Is Diligence?**

Diligence refers to the ability to be constant. It is the power to persevere in an assignment, to stay on course without wavering. It is to maintain the same attitude you began with, through the middle, all the way to the end of a set goal or assignment. Another way to say it is consistency. Diligence is showing up day after day, week after week, month after month, even when you do not feel like it.

Most people can start well. Starting is exciting. Starting is full of hope and energy. But finishing? Finishing requires diligence. And finishing is where the reward is found.

## **The Mystery of Diligence**

As it pertains to spiritual things, diligence is how you produce whatever the word talks about. It is the bridge between believing and becoming. You may have begun to take steps as proof that you believe what you found from reading. But without diligence, you will never fully become what the word describes.

A mystery, in the biblical sense, is something that is not common to all. It is hidden from many. The mystery of diligence, therefore, refers to the benefits that come to those who stay the course — benefits that the casual reader never experiences.

Now that you have read this book, you have taken down action points and turned them into plans. You have engaged in confession routines. You have found a sharing partner and made plans to read again and again. All of these are good. But you must also embrace the principle of diligence. It is the only way what you have learned will actually show up in your life.

Paul understood this. In his first letter to Timothy, he gave instructions that apply directly to what we are discussing. He wrote, "**Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all**" (1 Timothy 4:15).

Notice the connection. Timothy's profiting — his growth, his progress, his visible transformation — would appear to all to the

degree that he gave himself wholly to these things. Not partially. Not occasionally. Not when it was convenient. Wholly. Completely. Consistently.

This is what makes diligence a mystery hidden from many. Most people never discover how great they could have become because they never stayed on the things they learned long enough for those things to manifest in their lives. They started. They saw some progress. Then they stopped. And they never found out what would have happened if they had continued.

Do not let that be your story. It does not matter if the principles do not seem to be working yet. It does not matter if you do not see the signs you were hoping for. You will never find out if diligence would have produced results unless you actually practice diligence. So many people are in a hurry. They cannot stay on one thing for any length of time. They jump from book to book, from method to method, from church to church, always looking for the next new thing. They are so anxious for quick results that they miss out on the best God has for them — the deep, lasting transformation that only comes through sustained diligence.

Diligence proves your faith. It validates your belief. Anyone can believe for a day. But the person who believes for a month, for a year, for a decade — that person's faith has been tested and proven true.

## **The Mastery of Diligence**

Here is something you need to understand. It takes time to master diligence. Diligence does not just happen because you decide to be diligent. You have to learn it. You have to practice it. You have to fail at it and try again. It requires patience with yourself and with the learning process.

Even God is not in a hurry with you. He is patient. He understands that you are learning. He is not frustrated by your slow progress. He is pleased by your continued effort.

So do not be surprised when you begin to practice what you have learned and then miss a day. Or a week. Do not be shocked when the initial zeal fades and you find yourself struggling to maintain your new routines. This is normal. This is part of the process.

What matters is not that you never miss. What matters is that you do not give up.

You missed your prayer time yesterday? Then pray today. You broke your reading routine for a whole week? Then start again today. You said you were going to fast, and you failed? Then fast again next week. The just man falls seven times and rises up again (Proverbs 24:16). He does not stay down. He does not quit. He rises.

The flesh will rebel against anything it is not used to. Your flesh loves convenience. It loves the path of least resistance. It will fight against every new discipline you try to establish. This is not a sign that you are doing something wrong. It is a sign that you

are doing something right. Your flesh is uncomfortable because it is being trained.

So do not stop because you missed. Do not give up because it is difficult. Continue. Continue. Continue. That is how you master diligence.

### **Setting a Hope Before You**

How do you keep going when everything in you wants to quit? You need a hope set before you.

Jesus endured the cross. He endured the shame, the pain, the rejection. Not because He was immune to suffering. Not because He was some unfeeling machine. He endured because He had a hope set before Him. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that *"for the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame."*

There was a joy waiting for Him on the other side of the suffering. That joy pulled Him through. He kept His eyes on the finish line, and the finish line gave Him strength for the journey.

You need the same. You need to set a hope before you. What are you hoping to become? What transformation are you believing for? What would your life look like if you fully mastered the truths you are reading about? Hold that picture in your mind. Let it pull you through the difficult days.

When you remember that the word works — that it has never failed and will never fail — you will find strength to wake up early. When you look forward to the anointing of God's power

and all the benefits that come with walking closely with Him, you will be encouraged. When you truly taste the ease of a life lived in the Spirit — where things that used to be hard begin to answer to you effortlessly — you will despise the temporary discomfort of praying and fasting.

A time will come, if you stay diligent, when grace becomes so available to you that the things which seemed impossible at first become natural. You will look back and wonder why you struggled so much. But the grace did not come before you began. It met you on the road. It found you in the middle of your obedience. It showed up when you were about to give up and carried you the rest of the way.

### **Grace Is Available to You**

Let me remind you of something I defined earlier in this book. Grace is an innate spiritual ability, supplied from the throne of Christ, that aids you in living the victorious Christian life. Grace is not just unmerited favor. It is also divine enablement. It is God's power at work in you.

There are two primary ways grace is released into your life. The first is through knowledge. As you read and understand God's Word, grace multiplies in you. The second is through prayer. As you pray, you draw on the supply of grace that is already yours in Christ.

*Paul testified to this. In Acts 26:22, he said, "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day."*

He obtained help. That help was grace. And that grace enabled him to continue despite persecution, imprisonment, shipwreck, and every other trial.

Grace is available to you for mastering diligence. You do not have to struggle in your own strength. You do not have to rely on your own willpower. All you need to do is receive it.

*Romans 5:17 says that those who "receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life."*

Receive it. Do not try to earn it. Do not try to manufacture it. Just receive it. And when you feel you cannot go any further, receive it again.

## **You Are Born of God**

I want to remind you of who you are. If you are born again, you are born of God. First John 5:4 says, "**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.**"

Whatever comes from God cannot fail. A seed from God carries the DNA of victory. And you are born of God. That means you have an immune system against failure. You have a supernatural capacity to overcome that the world does not have.

Whatever is born of God does not give up. Giving up is not in your spiritual DNA. When you feel like quitting, that feeling is coming from your flesh or from the enemy. It is not coming from your born-again spirit. Your spirit is wired for victory.

So when you feel like giving up, stir up the gift of God that is inside you. Paul told Timothy, "**Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee**" (2 Timothy 1:6). The word "**stir**" means to fan into flame. It pictures a fire that has died down to embers, needing someone to blow on it until it blazes again.

That is what you must do. When diligence feels hard, stir yourself up. Speak to yourself. Remind yourself of who you are. Remind yourself of what is inside you. The Holy Spirit is in you, and He is ready to help. But He is waiting for you to stir Him up.

You are born of God. He is in you. He is with you. He is ready to help you through. Stir Him up. Fan that fire into flame. And keep going.

### **Stop Reading and Stop Growing**

Let me warn you about something. You may be tempted to quit reading. Not everyone who starts this journey finishes it. The excitement fades. Life gets busy. Other things demand your attention. And slowly, almost imperceptibly, your reading habit slips away.

If that happens, your growth will stop. It is that simple. Stop reading, and you stop growing. And if you stop growing, you will eventually start shrinking.

I cannot tell you how much I have grown in just a few years from reading Christian books and practicing the principles I have shared with you. The growth has been undeniable. But it only

came because I kept reading. I did not stop. And I am not planning to stop.

You cannot afford to stop now. Whatever you begin to do in the kingdom of God that proves to be a blessing to your walk with Him, you must protect. If you abandon it, you will find yourself slipping backward. The grace you used to enjoy will become distant. Weakness will creep into your spirit. Your flesh will gain the upper hand. And sin will not be far behind.

If growing in the grace of God is your goal, do not stop reading. Grace is first delivered into your spirit through knowledge. That knowledge must be constantly renewed. My own zeal to never quit reading has become part of my daily confessions. I have decided that ignorance is no longer an option for me. I hope you make the same decision.

### **Make Up Your Mind About Diligence**

In the end, this is a choice. You must make up your mind to continue. Your spirit, your soul, and your body must all agree: I will not quit.

Understanding the mystery of diligence is not enough. Knowing how growth works is not enough. You must add to your knowledge a mindset that is made up. A settled determination. A decision that has already been made before the temptation to quit even arrives.

Everyone who fell at some point fell because they stopped being diligent. David stopped going to war. He stayed home while his

soldiers fought. And in that place of ease and comfort, he fell into adultery and murder. It did not happen overnight. It started with a small slip in diligence. A little less vigilance. A little more comfort. And then catastrophe.

It can happen to anyone. So before the slip comes, make up your mind. Decide now that you will be diligent. Decide now that you will keep reading. Decide now that you will practice what you have learned.

Making up your mind is like making a choice. And that choice invites God to supply His grace. He has nothing to work with without your definite decision. So make the choice. Then let God supply the grace.

Grace is released through knowledge and through prayer. You have gained knowledge by reading this book. Now pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be diligent. Ask Him to help you continue. And then, by His grace, keep going.

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### **Putting It Into Practice**

This book is ending, but your journey is not. You have the keys. Now you must use them.

Take some time today to review all the action points you have written down as you read these chapters. Choose one to focus on this week — just one. Practice it diligently. When you miss, rise again. When it gets hard, set your hope before you. When

you feel weak, receive grace. When you want to quit, stir up the gift of God inside you.

And keep reading. Keep growing. Keep becoming everything God has called you to be.

That is how you read and grow.

## Are You Born Again?

Before I close this book, I must ask you a direct question. The principles I have shared here are written to help believers in Christ make the most of their time and resources when they read Christian books. But if you are not born again — if you have never received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior — these principles will not work for you as they should. Spiritual growth begins with spiritual birth. You cannot grow if you have not been born.

If you are not sure whether you are born again, or if you have never made that decision, I invite you to pray the following prayer with all your heart.

### **Prayer of Salvation**

*Heavenly Father, I believe in Jesus Christ, Your Son, the Son of the living God. I believe that He died for me on the cross, and I believe that You raised Him from the dead. He is alive today. I declare with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life from this day forward. By faith in His name, I receive eternal life into my spirit. Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul. I have eternal life right now, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*If you prayed that prayer sincerely, you are now a child of God. Welcome to the family. Now go back to the beginning of this book and read it again — this time as a believer. The principles will come alive for you in a new way.*

## Receive the Holy Spirit

Now that you are born again, there is another gift that God wants you to receive. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit — our Helper, Teacher, and Counselor. The Holy Spirit is not a force or an influence. He is a Person, and He wants to live inside you, fill you, and empower you for the Christian life.

Just as you received Jesus by faith, you can receive the Holy Spirit by faith. Jesus said in Luke 11:13, **"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"**

If you desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit, pray this prayer with all your heart:

*"Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit that You have given freely to everyone who believes. Father, as Your child, I desire to have this gift in my life. Your Word says that whosoever believes in Christ and has repented from their sins can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Right now, I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit into my heart. I expect to speak in my new spiritual language, which is the evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen!"*

Now begin to worship the Lord and thank Him, for He has given you the gift of the Holy Spirit. You will begin to sense the Holy Spirit granting you utterance. It will come from your belly — from the depths of your spirit. Give voice to that utterance by faith. Begin to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gives you the words. Do not hesitate. Do not overthink. Just speak.

Praise God! Hallelujah!

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### **A Final Word**

If you received the Holy Spirit, your spiritual journey has just entered a new dimension. The same Holy Spirit who inspired the authors of the Christian books you read now lives in you and will teach you as you read. Go back to the beginning of this book and read it again — this time as a believer filled with the Spirit. The principles will come alive for you in a new way.

Now go, read, and grow.