Popeza Mwabadwanso Mwatsopano

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Okondedwa Anga,

Zikomo ambuye pa mpaso yomwe munatipatsa yobadwa kwatsopano pamewe timalandila yesu kukala mpulumutsi wathu.

Ndifuna ndimuuzewi zomwe muli kukhala mwa yesu Kristu kuti mukule ndiponso mukale ndi mbeu. Ndipempera kuti mulungu azamuptsani, nzeru yomudziwa maso ano adzasekulidwa kuti mudziwe yesu ndi chomwe anamupusulirani. Amen.

Izi zomwe mudzawerenga zeamupasani umoyo watsopano muli yesu Kristu. Pamewe muli kuwerenga yanganani mu mau pa mweka.

Ndikulupilila kuti uthenga uyu uzamusitana inu pa umoyo wanu. Ndiponso udzamulonjezani za kusosolo kwanu, powerenga mau ya mulungu. Mulungu amudalitseni inu mdzina la yesu Kristu amen.

Rastor Chris Oyakhilome

INU

Imwe sindimwe thupi chabe yomwe muyangana. Muoambana maganizo anu yo (bvera, kuyangana, kugwira ndi kubva) mukati mwa inu muli chikuru chopambana thupi uli muli inu. Muzimu wanu wa ku thupi noiye inu. Uyu ndiye petro mu 1 Petro 3:4 akuti "koma kukhala mutu nobisika wamtima mcobuala cosaola ca mzimtengo wace wapatali pamaso pa mzi mtengo wace wapatali pamaso pa mulungu" muwthu akara mzimu wace sukufa.

Muzimu ukala wa moyo ndithu akala monga momwe anali pamene anali ndi moyo, palibe chomwe asowa komabe sakala padziku ndikusevenza za pa thupi la dziko la pansi.

Yesu Kristu anakamba nkhani ya lazarous mu buku ya luku 16 kunali anthu awiri omwe anara. Wina anal osauka dzina lace lazaro koma anali ndi mtima wabwino. Waciwiri omwe anafa. Anali olemela mdziko lino la pansi, koma kaalidwe lake siinali yabwino iyai.

Tsopano mvesani pomwe anafa muntuyu anaikidwa mumanda, koma yesu anati mutuyu pomwe anali ku jehena anona lazarous ali ndi Abraham tate watu. Ndiponso anamuzindikira lazaro. Ichi chitataudza kuti anali kuyangana. Anaitana kwa abrahamu anati "chonde nditandizeni ine" taonani tsopano anali kukamba.

Abrahamu anakamba naye muntuyu nati, ndiponso anabvu mau ya abrahamu kutatauza

kuti anali kubvela.

Uyu munthu olemera anali ndi chota sanali ndi njota chabe komabe anakumbukira zintu zakale cifukwa awau"conde tumani munthu wina wakura akalalike kuli abale anga"anali ndi abale okwana asanu pa dziko la pansi ndipo anaganiza kuti " kapena muntu wina anafa kale akapita kulalika mau kuli akolongosi anga kapena azabva" anakumbukila ankalongosi ake!

Ichi chitiudza kuti muzimu sukufa, munatu nkabadwa kwatsopano muzimu wake ubadwa kwatsopano.

2 kolinto 5:17-18(nkjv) ikuti

"cifukwa cace ngati munthu ali yense ali mwa Kristu ali wolengedwa watsopano, zinthu zakale zapita taonani zatsopano, (18) koma zinthu zonse zicokera kwa mulungu ambwe anatiyajanitsa kwa iye yekha mwa Kristu natipatsa utumuki wa ciyasanoso."

NDINU OBADWA TSOPANO

Tsopano pamene yesu akala mupulumutsi wanu ndinu wobadwa kwatsopano, simuul momwe munalire khare ai, mungaoneka – monga cimodzi modzi kunja koma Makati munabadwa kwatsopano ndiye buku lopatulika ikamba sindimwe monga wobadwa tsopano koma ndimwe wobadwa tsopano. Chintu chomwe kunalibe kale (2 akolinto 5v17)

Sindimwe opangidwa I yai ndimwe atsopano , ndikuti watsopano, ngakhale

munabadwa kwatsopano mukhatu moga munalile mhupi. Ngati munali ndi tsitsi zingono zinakala zingono muli ndi nchito imodzi ndi abale amodzi sasinta. Koma chikuru nichakuti machitidwe yanu akala yatsopano.

MULI NDI UMOYO WAMULUNGU TSOPANO

Kubaowa kwatsopano mulungu amupasani mpamvu kukhala mwana wake (Yohanne 1:12) umoyo wa mulungu uli mumzimu yanu. Mulungu ndi wmoyo wa yesu Kristu tsopano kuli monga ali yense anamubvomera kukhala mpulumutsi wace. Chintu chabwino kwabasi (2 Petro 1:3-4)

Mulungu ndi atate anu! Koma mwina munyafunse kuti azakala mulungu atate wanga bwanj? Zintu zonse ziri ndi moyo zipangidwa ndi kubadwa ndiye cifukwa cace imbwa ibala imbwa. Yohane 1:12-13 ikuti "koma onse analandira iye kwa iwo anapasa mpamvu yakukhala awa a mulungu kwa iwotu. Akukhulupirira dzina lace. Amene sana badwe ndi mwazi kapena ndi cifuniro ca thupi kapewa ndi cifuniro ca mulungu."

Mulungu ndi tate wanu tsopano ndinu tsopano a kumwamba. Komwe iye ali. Mulungu tsopano ayaganira inu ndiponso amupatsani zonse monga ulemelelo wace kumwamba. (Afiupo 4:19) ali ndi umoyo wabwino pali inu. Omwe anamupatsani kale pamene munabadwa kwatsopano.ndimwe mwana wa chikondi cha mulungu mwabadwa mubanta lake. Banja lacikondi ichi ndiye chopambana. Anamupatsani umoyo kuti mukale mwana wake. Buku lopatulika ikuti muli ndi umoyo wamuyaya. Iyi ndiye umoyo uli ndi mulungu

ndiponso ndiye momwe ali. Ndi umoyo wa mulungu. Uyu umoyo mulungu sanakwanitsa kukhala mu manda ai. Umoyo wouka, ngiye umoyo wanu.

Ndipo uwu ndi umboniwo kuti mulunhu awatipatsa ife moyo wosatha ndipo moyo umene uli mwa mwana wace. Iye wakukhala ndi mwana ali nao moyo; wosaukala ndi mwana wa mulungu alibe moyo. Izi ndaku lemberani kuti mudziwe kuti muli ndi moyo wosatha inu amene mukhulupirira dzina la mwana wa mulungu.

Ali ndi mwana wa mulungu ndiye ali ndi umoyo. Cifukwa dziko lino ndila mbuye yesu, pamene munalandila yesu munalandira umoyo.

Uyu umoyo simugojetsedwa ndi cintu ciri conse, imuyikani pamwaba atowi zonse. Ganizaniponi. Mulungu sawonengedwa kapena salepala. Ndi muli ndi umoyo wace. Simungaonekedwe cifukwa muzimu oyera

omwe unausa yesu kwa kufa ali muli inu. (Aroma 8:11)

NDINU OLUNGAMA PA MASO YAMULUNGU

2 Akorinto 5:21 ikuti "ameweyo sanadziwa ucimo anamyesera ucimo m'malo mwathu kuti ife tikhale cilungamo ca mulungu mwa iye"

Ganizani mulungu achita operation pali inu. Anampanga yesu kukhala ncimu kuti tipeze ufumu muli yesu. ichi ndicho chinampanga yesu kuti atifereke, tawtaudza ndi kuti tsopano mungakhala pamaso ya mulungu, kulibe manta kapewa kutopa, kapena kuziona kuti ndinu

ochepa. Ichi ndicho kuti mungayimirire pamaso ya mulungu kulibe mantha kapena kuyopa. (Aheberi 10:10-19., Aroma 5:1)

NDINU OLUGAMA

Kodi kulugama ndi ciani? Citataudza kuti mulibe nchimo chiri chonse buku lopatulika ikuti chikulupililo tikhala ndi mtendere ndi mulungu mwa ambuye wathu yesu Kristu"(Aroma 5:1) ndinu olungangama.

Yesu awatenga machismo anthu pomwe awafa pa mtanda, ngakhale analibe ncimo awakhala ncimo yathu. (1 Petro 2:22) ndiye cifukwa cace mulungu sayangana cimo yanu .buku lopatolika likuta,

"ndiko kunena kuti mulungu anali mwa Kristu alikuyanganitsa dziko la pansi kwa iye yekha osawawerengera zolakwa zao: ndipo anaikiza kwa ife mau a ciyanjaitso" (2 Akorinto 5:19)

NDINU OYERE SEDWA

Ganizani kampindu kangono mwagera muchi mugodi ndiponso mwakalandi doti, munthu wina abwera amumasula ndiye kuti mwachokamo muchimugodi. Choyamba mudzafuna kusamba, mudzachotsa pothi muli inu, ichi chitenga nthawi ndi mpamvu zanu.

Kuyeresedwa kuli pawiri, coyamba mulungu amucotsani mumugodi, ndiye kuti buku opatolika ikuti ndinu oyera, munachoka mudziko muli kuli mulungu tsopano muchoka mumugodi potenga mau kuka muma wanu (Aroma 12:2)

Kuti maganizo anu akale osintha ndi comwe mucita masiku onse. Maganizo anu amagawiza zoipa muona zinthu ndi thupi mukalibe kukulupirira. Tsopano potenga mau ndi kuyinka mtima wanu. Muyanga zinthu momwe mulungu adziyanira. Mupunzitsa ma ganizo anu kuona zintu momwe mulungu azionera. Pomwepo muzakamba mau ya mulungu ndikuyenda oyera ndiponso mudzona mpoto yomwe muchoka mu mau yace.

NDINU OMASULIDWA

Ndi kuyamika atate anatiyeretsa ife kulandirana nao cocowa ca oyera mtima mkuuwika amene anatilandisa ife ku ulamuliro wa mdima natisintitsa kutilo wetsa mufumu wa mwana wa cikondi cace. (Akolose 1:12-13)

Pamene munalandira yesu Kristu munakala mwana wa mulungu. Ziwada zonyansa zomwe zichokera ku gehena palibe chomwe zingacite kuli inu. Ndinu omasulidwa ku cipangano conse comwe munali nacho kapena muwagenamo pudziwa kapena musadziwa. Ndinu omasuudwa kumacimo, matenda, cimu, ciri conse cinamumangani inu. Cifukwa? Munacoka mu mpamvu zukuda!

Buku lopatulika ikuti mulungu anatimasula ku mpamvu zonse za mudyerekedzi zakuda ndiponso anatipereka ku ufumu wace wa mulungu woyera. Musiyenera kuyopa mulungu ali na imwe ndiponso maso ake amuchegetani nthawi zonse pali inu. (Masalimu 23:1)

Buku lopatulika ikuti "ngati mwana wa mulungu amumasulani dziwani mwamasuka ndithudi" (Yohane 8:36) mulungu amuperekani mu ufumu wake ndimo muli tsopano. Ndimo mukala anamuchotsanimo kale mdamvu za mudyerekedzi. Penyani izi zintha kale . ndimwe omwa sulidwa.

MZIMU OYERA ULI MULI INU!

Mzimu oyera uli muli inu, ndiponso mzimu wa mulungu uli muli inu. Amuwuzani mau ya mulungu ndiponso mudziwa mau ya mulngu.

Tsopano ngati muwerenga mau ya mulungu muyabvetsa ndipo yali mumzimu yanu akala mwa inu. Ndiponso mzimu woyera umukumbutsani mau ya mulungu (yohanne 14:26) ikupatsani mpamvu zolalika mau ya mulungu.)

"komatu mudzalandira mpamvu mzimu woyera atadza pa inu: ndipo mudzakhala mboni zanga m'yerusalemu ndi m'yudea lonse ndi m'samariya ndi kufikira malekezero ace a dziko" (Macitidwe 1:8)

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN...

Muchita Bwanji Ngati Maganizo Oyipa Abwera Kumtima Wanu

Kukhala obadwa tsopano sindiye kuti simudzayededwa, koma muli inu. Buku lopatulika itiudza kuti. Nthawi zonse tit kuyesedwa mulungu adzatitawitsa (1 Akorinto 10:13) maganizo oyipa akabwera ku mtima kwanu muyenera co yamba.

(1) Kumbukirani Ndinu Obadwa Kwa Tsopano

Awa maganizo achoka kunja kwanu

achokera kwa mudyerekedzi. Siyachoka. Mumaganizo yanu, buku lopatulika ikuti ndinu obadwa kwatsopano, kalani ndi mtima wa yesu (1 Akorinto 2:16) muyenera kudziwa zomwe muli mwa yesu ndinu obadwa kwatsopano. Mulungu afuna ndiponso atipatsa moyo watsopano uyu ndiyo umoyo wanu.

(2) Kuyenda Mobverera

Vererani mulungu kapena nchitu choipa chabwera kwa inu. Kuli mpamvu kuti muchite chipa. Munga yambe kucita zoipa. Mukazidikira ndinu obadwa mwatsopanno muchokako. Vererani mulungu! Sindiye kuti mukabadwa kwatsopano maganizo oipa sadzabwera kwa inu. Koma musawalole. Kanani simugaletsa mbalame kumbululuka koma osati zikale pa mutu pano.

Kapena zingafunute kuletsa maganizo oyipa, koma osalowa kuti akale muli inu

ganizani zintu zabwino chabe (Filipo 4:8).

Kapena muli pamasewero mwakala monga mkazi, koma ndinu amuna mudzavala zacikadzi ndiponso ndi tsitsi monga yacikazi kwa inu. Komabe simudzaiwala kuti ndinu wamuna, mukasiridza masewero awa mudzayenda mwabuvala zobvala zacimuna. Mukayenda ku nchito simudzaiwala kuti ndinu mwamuna. Mudzakala monga mwamuna. Simugabwerera ku nchito monga mkaz pa zomwe mu naukuta usiku wapao.

Cimodzi mobzi monga tsopano, munacita zoipa kale koma tsopano mwasintha. Muli ndi umoyo watsopano. Umoyo watsopano ndiwo moyo muyenera kukalira. Ndiwo moyo muyenera kukalira. Mwakala monga mkazi nthawi yaitali nthawi zina muyiwala muyamba kucita zakale mukakumbukira kuti ndinu amuna, mudzikepetsa ndikukala mwamuna mukamba kuti sindine mkazi ine

ndine mwamuna izi ndizoonadi kwa ife.

Ndiye momwe muekela kalidwa yoyipa. Kambani kwa inu nokha ÿaganani ndinabadwa kwatsopano ine"kambani kuli mweka ndinu obadwa kale inu. Lekani kalidwe ypyipa kambani kwa inu nokha ndinu obadwa watsopano ndinu wobadwa watsopano. Lekani tsopano!

Musalole cimo ikale ndi inu osabvu manyazi udzani anthu omwe mukaba nawo pepani ndinu obadwa tsopano ine sindingacite izi zoipa tengani mau ndiponso mukulupirire mau anu, abwibo owani zabwino mu mau ya mulungu, ndipo citani.

(3) Kambani Ndi Kukamba Mau

God doesn't want us to be hearers only but doers of the Word.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not

hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was" (James 1: 22-24).

You become a doer of the Word when you remember the Word and act accordingly. And you'll always remember it. That is one of the things the Holy Spirit does in us. Jesus said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

Thank God the Holy Spirit is right here; He helps us remember the Word! Now, when you remember the Word, you must act on it. Don't

be troubled about remembering; the Holy Spirit will bring it to your remembrance. But you must always be ready to obey Him when He brings these truths to your mind.

(4) REMEMBER THAT SIN SHALL NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER YOU

You must remember one thing: Wrong thoughts don't have the power to gain the mastery over you unless you allow them.

"For sin shall not have dominion over you" (Romans 6:14). Sin shall not gain lordship over you. It will not have the upper hand, because you're not under the Law but under grace. That's what the Bible says about you.

God has delivered you from the powers of sin and of darkness, and delivered you into His Kingdom.:

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which

hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:12-13).

That's where you are now that you are born again, and that's why the powers of darkness can't have dominion over you. They're in the realm of sin but you're in the realm of God's life, which supercedes sin. So you see, they cannot have dominion over you.

Colossians 1:14 says, "In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." In Christ Jesus, we have redemption. This is our present-hour possession (Ephesians 2:5-6). We're not trying to have it; we have it now! We must retain this consciousness of the Word of God and rejoice in it.

Now that you're born again, you belong to a new family. You don't belong to your old family anymore. This doesn't mean you must completely abandon those old friends and acquaintances or reject them. You have to be a light to them. They're still in the dark, because they don't have Jesus Christ in their hearts. You must remember that you've become the light of God to them. Share the Gospel with them so they too can follow Jesus.

What are you supposed to do when they try to discourage you? The Bible says that in the last days, there will come scoffers who will do every wrong they can think of and laugh at the truth (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Scoffers are those who try to discourage you and take you back to the old life. However, you must refuse to be moved by them. Refuse to allow their attitude stand in the way of your

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN...

OLD FRIENDS TRY TO DISCOURAGE YOU?

fellowship with Christ. Refuse to be 'unequally yoked' with them. Don't accept their counsel. Instead, maintain your stand for God and His Word.

Unequal Yoking

In the early days of mechanised farming, a farmer would yoke two animals, for example, two donkeys or two oxen, and attach them to a plough. The two animals would plough the ground as they moved together. Because they were yoked together, the two animals had to move in the same direction. Wherever the first one went, the second went too. The farmer directed them and they had to go in the same direction as long as they were under the same yoke.

Now if both of them were donkeys, it was called an 'equal yoke.' But if one was a donkey and the other was an ox, it was called an 'unequal yoke,' (because they were not of the same kind). If we are to be yoked together with anyone, it must be an 'equal yoking.' That is, a Christian and a Christian walking together in companionship. But if a Christian and a non-Christian are in companionship together, they're unequally yoked. And God is saying, "Don't be unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

So you see, if you and a non-believer

are in companionship, living the same life, then you're in an unequal yoke, and this is wrong. God doesn't want you in an unequal yoke, rather to be equally yoked with other Christians, doing the same things with them. Non-believers cannot be your best friends. No matter how moral a person is, as long as he's not born again, he cannot be your best friend.

It is impossible and unacceptable before God because it is an unequal yoking. Your assessment of an individual can never measure up with God's assessment.

Once, God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). When Samuel saw the first son of Jesse, Eliab, Samuel said, "Surely this must the Lord's anointed before Him," because he was huge, tall and handsome. But God spoke to the prophet and said, "Don't anoint him, because I have rejected him."

Then He said, "For man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart, the inward man." So your assessment of an individual is at the most, based on the outward appearance— what he says, how he looks, the way he walks.... You can form all kinds of opinions about him based on these, but you see, God looks at the inward appearance.

One who is not born again doesn't have the right spirit with God. The only way by which one can be right with God is to be born again. This is the only time the person qualifies to be your best friend. Until he's born again, he cannot be your best friend; he doesn't qualify by God's standard to be such. Now that you're born again, you desire should be to please God, so you must not use your own standards. This is very important.

Keep your heart on God's own and He'll see you through (1 Corinthians 10:13).

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN...

Persecutions and Afflictions Come?

In Mark 4:1-9, Jesus told us about the parable of the sower. The man went to sow his seeds and some fell on stony ground, some on hard ground, some among thorns and others on good ground.

In verses 16 and 17, the Bible says,

"And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in

themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended."

He's talking about those who have no root in themselves, and so endure affliction only for a time. He says although such people eagerly accept the Word, when afflictions or persecutions arise for the Word's sake, they're offended. This has happened to several people.

What Jesus is saying here is that there are many people who really don't have a deep love for Him. They're excited about the Word of God because of the promises of eternal life, happiness and answered prayers, but they don't really have a deep love for God. So when persecutions come, they give up. This is sad! When persecutions and afflictions come, what you ought to do is follow the Word:

(1) YOU MUST HAVE A DEEP LOVE FOR GOD

God wants you to have a deep, strong love for Him. Love can increase or decrease. The more you think about Him, listen to His Word and have fellowship with Him in prayers, the greater love you'll have for Him, because love increases with acquaintance. The more acquainted you are with God, the more you love Him. The more you listen to His Word, the more you discover Him and love Him, and then the more of Him you receive.

When you have this strong love for God, His Word becomes rooted in your heart, so that when you're faced with any situation, you know God's position concerning it and you promptly declare God's stand about it.

The Bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:20-21), and that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34-35, 37). When you fill your heart with God's Word, no matter the situation, you will see things God's way and speak the same. And it will come to pass!

(2) Dont't Give Up!

You must not give up when problems arise! Being born again doesn't mean that problems will not come, neither does it mean that there will be no trials. What it simply means is that in the face of all difficulties, in the presence of all problems, God will take you through. As in Psalm 23:5: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..." you may be right in the presence of your enemies but they cannot destroy you; the persecution cannot destroy your life!

God doesn't want you to give up. You must stand strong! No matter how hard or difficult things may seem, never give up! God will bring you through, so don't be discouraged. Remain faithful to Him and He will never disappoint or forsake you. You will win in every circumstance of life, because they become subject to you. Isaiah 43:2 says when you go through the waters it will not overflow you and when you go through the fire it will not burn you. When you follow Jesus Christ, serve Him with all your heart. Follow Him no matter the challenges.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

You see, God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, so, we can't be losers. Study 1 John 5:4 carefully; it talks about the victory that overcomes this world, which is our faith. Live by faith; you're an overcomer, not a loser. You were born an overcomer because you're born of God. You're the offspring of God, born of His Spirit!

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

To be born again is to born of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 12:13, John 3:5-8). When you are born again, the Holy Spirit becomes an integral part of your life. So you need to understand who He is and recognise His work

You must understand what He has come to offer you, so you can enjoy the abundant life that is available in Christ and receive the gift (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) and power (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8) available to

you through Him.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In different parts of the Bible, we find mention of the Holy Spirit.

- In the Old Testament, we see Him impart power and ability to do the extraordinary (Judges 14:6, 19).
- In the New Testament, we see Him even more prominent in the birth, ministry and life of Jesus (Luke 4:18).
- The Holy Spirit is also seen in Acts 2: 1-4 in operation in the lives of the disciples of Jesus.
- He is God. He is a Divine Person and He is the third Person of the Trinity (John 14:16-17, John 15:26).
- He has been in existence before time (Genesis 1:2).
- He is the expression of God's power. In other words, He is the part of God that

accomplishes whatever words the Father speaks (Genesis 1).

- He is the Spirit of love, power and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
- He is the Spirit of liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT?

It is also worth noting that the Holy Spirit is <u>NOT</u> a force, wind, oil or dove, although from Scripture, we see Him symbolised as such. He's not 'tongues,' though He gives the utterance to speak. He's not 'power,' but He brings to us the power of God. He's not the Spirit that brings you again into bondage to fear (Romans 8:15), but of liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).

WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- The Holy Spirit gives us divine power (Acts 1:8). This word 'power' translated from a Greek word 'dunamis,' actually means 'dynamic ability to cause changes.' When the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. He gives us the ability to change things in our lives and in the lives of others.
- He gives us boldness to preach the gospel (Matthew 28: 18- 20, Mark 16:15-18).
- He guides and directs us (John 16:13, Romans 8:14).
- He comforts us (John 14:18, Acts 9:31). He instructs and teaches us (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:11-12).
- He walks with us and becomes a part of our daily lives (John 14:16).
- He bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God, and therefore partakers of His riches in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:16; Ephesians 3:6).
- He gives us the freedom to approach God in love (Romans 8:15, 2 Corinthians 3:17;

2 Timothy 1:7).

YOU CAN HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

In John 14:17, Jesus says,

"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

To have a relationship with the Holy Spirit is to recognise His presence and acknowledge His ministry in your life. You must therefore spend time in His presence communing with Him and getting to know Him as a friend. You can have this relationship by spending time to pray, studying the Word and obeying the promptings and bidding of the Holy Spirit.

When you're born again, you're baptized

into the Spirit of God. To be baptized means to be immersed into something completely. For example, you can take a rubber ball, and immerse it into a large tub of water in such a way that the ball is totally covered by the water. This is what happens when you're born again – you're immersed, like that ball, into the Holy Spirit.

But you know, it's one thing for the ball to be covered by the water and a different thing entirely for it to be filled with and also covered by the water. For the ball to be filled, there must be a way for the water to enter in. In other words, the material of the ball must permit the water to flow into it. In the same way, when you're born again, you must receive the Holy Spirit into you and be filled with Him.

Again, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a singular experience that occurs once in a lifetime. Rather, it's a continuous, daily experience (Ephesians 5:18). This relates

to your consciousness of His presence and constant acknowledgement of His ministry in your life. You can be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, as you grow in your fellowship with Him, through praise, prayer, study of the Word and consistently adhering to His instructions and promptings. This way, you can be led by the Spirit of God.

Speaking In Other Tongues

As I mentioned before, the Holy Spirit gives to God's children the utterance to speak in other tongues. One of the signs which the Lord said would follow the believers is that they should speak with new tongues (Mark 16:17).

This is a spiritual and supernatural ability by which the believer communicates directly with God from his spirit, and it is imparted to you as a gift by the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in other tongues is sometimes

referred to as 'Praying in the Spirit.' When we speak in other tongues, we speak directly to God (1 Corinthians 14:4) and our spirits are edified or built up (Jude 1:20). Our spirits are also energised and refreshed (Isaiah 40:31).

Once you receive the Holy Spirit, you can speak in tongues anytime you choose. He doesn't speak through you, but He gives you the ability to speak. So you can go ahead and talk to the Lord in tongues whenever you desire to.

When you begin to speak in other tongues, you will become more fluent as you make it a regular practice. It's just like a little child who just recently spoke his first few words. The more he practises speaking, the more fluent he gets. This is the same with speaking in tongues. It's a new language, and although you don't need to learn it, you'll become more fluent as you continue to speak.

Also, as you speak in tongues often, it will

enhance your spiritual development and lead you into other gifts and manifestations of the Spirit of God.

 ${
m In}$ Matthew 16:18, Jesus spoke of His

Must You Go To Church?

Church, which is His Body on earth, and said He would build it and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not

one member, but many" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

We are the Body and Christ is the Head. All Christians (born again) are members of His Body, and of one another (1 Corinthians 12:27). And just as different parts of the human body cannot function in isolation, the different members of the Body of Christ cannot function effectively on their own. This is because God gave different gifts and callings to members of the Church, so that the whole Church may benefit (1 Corinthians 12:18-24; Ephesians 4:11-12).

Attending church is therefore in obedience to God's will, and enables us to bless and edify each other with different gifts of God – miracles, healings, prophecies etc. You're able to obtain a better understanding of the Word that is taught, hear testimonies and witness miracles. Praying and worshipping God together brings on a 'corporate anointing' of

the Holy Spirit, ministering to each member of the congregation in a specific manner (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 1:14; Psalms 133:1-2).

Walking in the Word on your own is an uphill task when you're not attending a *Spirit-filled* church. However, participating fully in such a church enables you to find out more about the church and her members. You're also able to develop your spirit (your inner man) to maturity. This makes your walk in the Word easier and become more productive.

As a Christian, you must identify with a local assembly, a church you can call your HOME and participate fully in the activities. Otherwise, you'll deprive yourself of a lot of God's blessings and will be walking out of line with His Word.

Now that you're born again, walk in the consciousness of who you are and don't forsake the assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25) - Go to church!

GROWING UP

The Bible admonishes us to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). I recommend to you our various books for your spiritual development. They contain teachings and revelations designed to show you how to be fruitful and productive in every area of your life, and will cause faith to rise in your heart to be just that.

Get them. Study them. Put the Word to work and see a glorious transformation in your life!

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