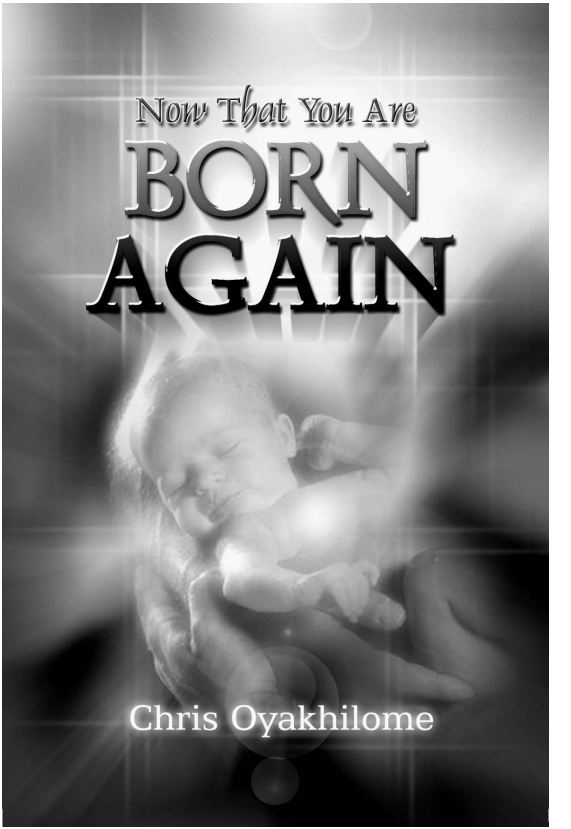
Now That You Are
BORN
AGAIN
Chris Oyakhilome

All scripture quotations in this volume are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

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**UNITED KINGDOM:**
Christ Embassy Int'l Office
363 Springfield Road
Chelmsford, Essex
CM2 6AW
Tel:44-8451-240 440

**NIGERIA:**
P.O. Box 13563
Ikeja, Lagos.
Tel:234-1-892 5724
234-802 3324 188
+234-805 2464 131

**CANADA:**
101 Ross Dean Drive,
Toronto, ON, Canada M9L 1S6
Tel/Fax:+1-416-746 5080

**USA:**
Christ Embassy USA,
7425 Forbes BLVD
Suite 205 Lanham, MD 20706
Tel: +1-301-860 0703

**SOUTH AFRICA:**
303, Pretoria Avenue
Cnr. Harley and Braam Fischer,
Randburg, Gauteng South Africa.
Tel: +27 11 3260038; +27 767 805242; +27 11 886 3179

*e-mail:cec@christembassy.org* *website:www.christembassy.org*

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*Dearly Beloved,*

Congratulations on the free gift of eternal salvation which you received when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

I want to share with you truths that are fundamental to the Christian faith; truths upon which you can build a strong and vibrant life in Christ. Study this material diligently and it will yield for you an eternal harvest.

I pray that God will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; that the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened to realise how great is the hope to which He has called you; and that you will know all that is freely given to you in Christ, Amen.

This material will help you start off your new life in Christ Jesus. As you study it, look into your Bible and study the scriptures yourself.

I believe that the message contained in it will change your life and help to shape your future according to the principles of God's Word.

God bless you richly, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Pastor Chris Oyakhilome*

# 1

# The Real You

You are more than the body that you see. You are more than the case that houses your senses (your senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell). Inside you, there's something, actually, *someone* much more than your body. It is your human spirit, and that's the real you.

This inner man is the one the Bible refers to in 1 Peter 3:4 ***: "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit...."***

When a man's body dies, his spirit lives on. He is still as much the human person he was before he died; he hasn't lost anything except that he has lost the ability to function in the physical world. His body may be dead but the real person, the spirit man, still has all the consciousness he had before he died.

Jesus Christ told a story in Luke Chapter 16 about two men who died. One was a beggar named Lazarus. The point is not that he was a beggar, but that though he was poor, he had a righteous heart. When he died, he was taken to Abraham's bosom. The second man also died. That man had been rich in the world, but he had not lived a righteous life.

Note that when he died, his body was buried on earth, but Jesus said that in hell, he lifted up his eyes and saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom and he recognised Lazarus. This means that he could still see. Then he called out to Abraham and said,

"Please help me!" You see, he could still talk. Abraham spoke back to him and he heard Abraham's voice, implying that he could still hear.

The rich man also said he was thirsty, and not only was he thirsty, he was in agony. So he begged, ***"Please let Lazarus come and give me a drop of water to cool my thirst."*** There's yet another point to note here - he could still feel.

All of his senses were still intact. In fact, he could even remember things because he said, "Please, send somebody among the dead to go preach to my brothers." He had five brothers on earth, so he thought***, 'Maybe if someone from among the dead goes to them, they'll believe him.'*** He remembered his brothers!

This lets you know that man's spirit lives on. And when a man is born again, it is his human spirit that is born again!

*2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NKJV) says,*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."*

Now that you've given your life to Jesus Christ and have made Him the Lord of your life, you're no longer what you used to be. You may

# 2

# You Are A New Creation

still look the same outwardly, but inwardly, you're a new person altogether. That's what the Bible says. You're not *'like a new creation,'* but *'a new creation'* – a new species of being that never existed before (2 Corinthians 5:17).

You're not reformed, refurbished or renovated; you're a new creation – a new person altogether. However, the fact that you're a new creation inside, doesn't mean that outwardly, you'll look different. If you had a low hair cut before you

were born again, the style would remain short. You'll still have the same job, family and neighbours.

The point however, is that, now your values have changed. You have a new set of values because you're a new person on the inside.

***B***eing born again, God has given you the power to become His child (John 1:12). The nature

# YOU HAVE THE NATURE AND LIFE OF GOD!

of God has been imparted to your human spirit. You now have a new life; the life of God that Jesus Christ makes available to everyone who believes in Him. What a privilege! You're therefore a partaker of God's nature (2 Peter 1:3-4).

God is now your Father! How? Natur is reproduced by birth; that is why a dog will always give birth to a dog. And John 1:12-13 says, ***"But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them***

***that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."***

God has parental instincts towards you. You're a member of His Household, and therefore a citizen of Heaven where He dwells.

God is responsible for you. He will supply all your needs according to His inexhaustible riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). He has a good plan for your life, which was set in motion the moment you were born again. You're a love child of a love God, and you've been born into a love family. This is very important. He gave you this new life to become a member of His Kingdom.

The Bible declares that God has given you eternal life. This is the life that is inside God, which makes it possible for Him to be Who He is. This is the God-kind of life. This life made it impossible for the grave to hold Jesus Christ. This is resurrection life, and this life is now in you!

> *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:11-13).*

It is only the one who has the SON that has this life, because this life is actually contained in the Son of God. When you received Him, you received *this life*.

This life makes it impossible for you to be defeated by any situation. It always puts you above. Just think about it! It's impossible for God to be destroyed or defeated. Now you have His life: you cannot be destroyed or defeated, because that same Spirit that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead dwells

in you! (Romans 8:11).

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, ***"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we***

# 4

# You Are The Righteousness Of God!

***might be made the righteousness of God in him."***

Imagine God performing what you may call a 'nature-transplant.' He made Jesus to be sin (that is, the sin-offering) for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God in Him.

This is what made it possible for Jesus to die a sinner's death in your place. The result is that you can now stand before God without any sense of guilt, fear or sense of inferiority (Hebrews 10:19, Romans 5:1).

*W*hat does it mean to be justified? It means to be declared 'not guilty.' As far as God is

# 5

# You Are Justified!

concerned, you're not guilty of any offence. The Bible says, ***"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*** (Romans 5:1). You've been justified!

Jesus took the punishment for your sins when He died on the cross, though He was not guilty of any sin (1 Peter 2:22). That's why God is no longer holding your sins against you. The Bible says,

*"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing*

*their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19).*

Let's imagine for one moment that you fell into a ditch; you got very dirty, and someone came along and rescued you – that is, "got you out of

# 6

# You Are Sanctified!

the ditch." The next thing you'd have to do is to get yourself all cleaned up. In other words, "Get the ditch out of you," and that takes time and effort.

> *1 Corinthians 6:11 says, "...but ye are washed, but yea re sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."*

Sanctification is in two phases: first, God gets

you out of ditch, that means, you are born again and immediately, the Bible declares you sanctified; set apart from the world *u*nto God. Then you must get the ditch out of you by subjecting your mind to a cleansing (renewal) process through the Word of God (Romans 12:2).

The renewal of your mind is a continuous process. Your mind was trained to think in one way; to see things physically before believing. Now, by renewing your mind, you allow your mind to see things God's way. You re-train your mind to see things from God's perspective. Then you'll speak God's words God's way and get the results that He gets from His Word.

*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath*

# 7

# You Are Delivered!

*delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:12-13).*

From the moment you gave your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you became a member of God's Kingdom. No demon hatched out of hell can harm you now. You're free from any covenant you ever entered into, knowingly or unknowingly. You're free from every habit, sin, sickness or disease that ever held you bound. Why? Because you've been

delivered from the powers of darkness!

The Bible says that God has delivered you from the control and dominion of darkness and has translated you into His Kingdom. You never have to be afraid again. God is your Shepherd and His eyes of protection will always be upon you (Psalm 23:1).

The Bible says: ***"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"*** **(John 8:36).** God has delivered you into His Kingdom. That's where you are now; that's where you belong. You have already been delivered from the power of darkness. Note that this is in past tense – you *have already been delivered* from the power of darkness!

Another great part of this new life is that the Spirit of God comes to dwell in you. When the Spirit of God takes up His abode in you, He enlightens you in the Word of God and gives you new understanding of the Word.

# 8

# God's Spirit Abides In You!

So now, when you study the Bible, you have a new understanding in your own spirit; it becomes applicable to your life.

Another thing the Holy Spirit does is to remind you of God's Word (John 14:26). In addition, He gives you the power to be an effective witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

> *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem,*

*and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).*

**B**eing born again doesn't stop you from being tempted, but you must not yield to temptation. The Bible teaches that anytime we are tested, God always opens a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). So when wrong thoughts come to your mind, you must:

# 9

# What Do You Do When...

## *Wrong Thoughts Come To Your Mind?*

### (1) Remember That You Are A New Creation

These thoughts come to you as an outside force, a form of temptation from the devil. You don't manufacture them in your mind, especially now that you're born again. The Bible says we (born-again believers) have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). You must remember who you are now, a new creation! God always wants us to

remember that we are new creations and that He has given us the new life. This new life is what you have to believe in.

## (2) Walk In Obedience

Obey God! Let us suppose that the thought of a bad habit comes to you. The pressure is so much on you to do that wrong thing; you might even go as far as the beginning stages of the wrong deed. But right there, when you remember that you're born again; a new person, you suddenly have the courage and boldness to shrug it off.

Obey God! You see, being born again does not mean that wrong thoughts do not come to you but the point is you should not allow them to take a hold of you. Refuse them! Someone has rightly said, 'you can't stop birds from flying over your head, but you sure can stop them from building a nest there!'

You may not be able to stop these thoughts from coming to you because they are an outside force, but you can stop them from lodging within you. Don't let the wrong thoughts lodge within you, don't let them gain dominion or mastery over you. You can stop them by thinking on the right things instead (Philippians 4:8).

Suppose you were a stage artiste or performer and you were to play the role of a woman, though you're actually a man, you would put on a woman's dress and wig: and perform and talk like a woman. But you won't forget that you're a man at the end of the act. You'd get off the stage and go back to the dressing room, change into your real clothes and walk down the street. When you set out to work on Monday morning, you won't forget that you're really a man. You'd talk like one and live like one. It would be ridiculous for you to go back to work talking and behaving like a woman the

way you did while acting on stage the other night.

The same thing applies to you now. You acted the wrong way before you were born again, but now you have a new life. That new life is the one you're supposed to live now. You've been playing the role of a woman for a long time and sometimes you forget yourself and start acting like one. But then you remember again that you're really a man and you correct yourself. You wise up and say, "Oh I'm not a woman, I'm not on stage acting; I've got to be real!"

That's the way you should stop a bad habit. Say to yourself, *"Look, I'm born again. That's my real nature!"* No matter the habit: when you remember (and you will remember), STOP! Say to yourself, *"I'm born again! Stop it right there!"*

Don't let the cycle of sin go on, and don't be ashamed to tell anyone involved in it with you, *"Oh I'm sorry I can't do this because I'm born again."* Get rid of bad habits by replacing them

with good ones. Do this deliberately. Find out godly character traits from the Word of God and train yourself in them through practice.

## (3) Be A Doer; Act The Word!

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

# 10

# What Do You Do When...

## *Old Friends Try to Discourage You?*

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 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).

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 of-*

# 11

# What Do You Do When...

## *Persecutions and Afflictions Come?*

*fended."*

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!

**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

# The Holy Spirit and You

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 NOT 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.

*I*n Matthew 16:18, Jesus spoke of His 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

# 13

# Must You Go To Church?

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 says that as you hear God's Word, faith comes to you. I recommend the following messages for your spiritual development. These messages are designed to show you how to be fruitful and productive and cause faith to rise in your heart to do just that.

Get them. Listen to them. Put the Word to work and see a transformation in your life.

1. *Now That You Are Born Again (1 tape)*
2. *Explaining Christianity (1 tape)*
3. *Growing In The Word (1 tape)*
4. *Growing To Maturity*
5. *Building Your Spirit (1 tape)*
6. *Being Filled With The Spirit (1 tape)*
7. *Victory In The Word (1 tape)*
8. *Life In Christ: The New Superman*
9. *The New Man In Christ: An Introduction*

To contact the author write:
Pastor Chris Oyakhilome:

***United Kingdom:***
Christ Embassy Int'l office
363 Springfield Road
Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6AW
Tel:+44 8451 240 440

***South Africa:***
303 Pretoria Avenue
Cnr. Harley and Braam Fischer,
Randburg, Gauteng
South Africa.
Tel: + 27 11 3260038;
+27 767805242; +27 11 8863179

***Nigeria:***
Christ Embassy Church
P.O. Box 13563, Ikeja,
Lagos, Nigeria.
Tel:+234-8023324187-9

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*Please include your testimony or help received from this book when you write.*
*Your prayer requests are also welcome.*

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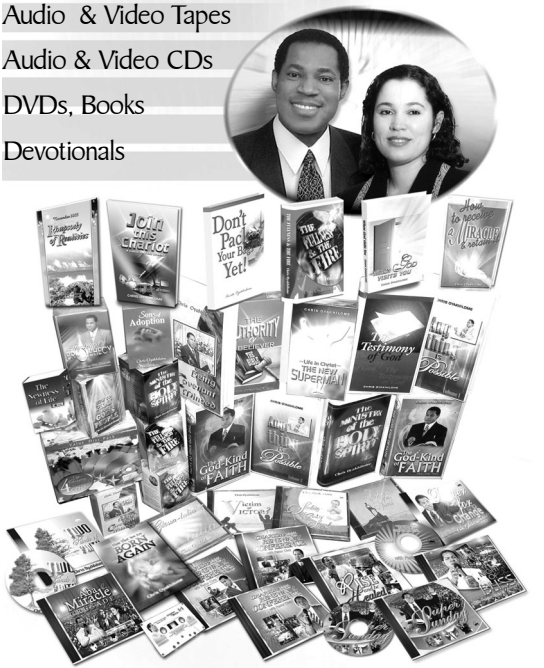


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