

# ALIENS FROM THE PLANET SOG

## PREFACE

Just how different are Christians from the rest of the world? Should we be compared with the rest of the people in the world? So often the born again, Spirit-filled believer seems to go to a lot of trouble to show those around just how ordinary they are - they say they are 'no different from anyone else'. They actually think their minds and spirits are the same and even when the difference is demonstrated, they fail to recognise it.

Most of us have seen the science fiction film where aliens from outer space come and take up residence in humanoid form and the authorities have a real problem identifying the invaders from the populace. Is this a back-to-front picture of the new life being manifested in the human being causing such a change? Yet **these** aliens (born-again Christians) are discovered all too easily because the world actually knows we are different. Frequently we "get up their noses" just by telling them that Jesus loves them. Why should this be?

What we would like to share with you is why and how we should be using the differences for advantage instead of playing them down. We are so diametrically opposite to the unsaved person that we appear in fact like those people from another planet and the planet can have no better name than SOG. (We are, of course, Sons of God - or SOGs.)

Just ordinary Christians? No, there is no such thing as an 'ordinary Christian'. The Bible says we are a 'peculiar people' (1 Peter 2 v 9) (Authorised). Each one of us is an extraordinary being. We hope you will find out just **how** extraordinary, in this book.

Even taking this serious subject in a somewhat light-hearted manner, we hope that you will be able to see yourself from the correct perspective, thereby taking advantage of the difference and putting to use in your life all that is so richly available to us as SOGs.

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\* All scripture is taken from the NKJV  
unless otherwise stated

# CHAPTER 1

## BORN AGAIN

Who notices first when the new life is sparked-off in a regenerated, born-again believer? It is usually Mum or Dad, husband or wife, family members - (those closest to us) - who are the first to notice. If it is a non-Christian family they don't like to see this change; they can sense that there is an intangible, supernatural dimension - an area that they cannot understand. They sometimes feel as if their loved-one is now lost to them - and this is true in a sense, because the Christian has joined a new family where Jesus takes first place and Almighty God becomes their Heavenly Father - and they have new brothers and sisters too.

I recall Naomi (not her real name) whose two daughters committed their lives to Jesus. She openly spoke about how she felt she had lost them, even though both were just as loving as ever - perhaps even more so. Mothers of course are naturally sensitive so it is not so surprising that they should feel this. Happily Naomi eventually came into salvation herself and there were many around to note the change in her as well. So all three were then re-united - into God's family.

When this sort of thing takes place it is practical evidence of the reality of the new life at work in the believer. The new convert may not feel any change. He/she is perhaps totally unaware of the alteration in the spirit realm affecting his/her ordinary, everyday life. They can be unaware that they might say things in a more gentle way. They may manifest more compassion or not "lose their rag" quite so quickly as before.

This is to be expected, for it is Jesus in us working out His new life in a place where there was no life before. We have all tried to be good or to be better, and failed, over and over again. Only Jesus can, and will, make the change.

gentle simmering that seems to be the normal Christian experience, God just put us in the microwave to get us "cooked" quickly. Is this a fair picture of the fresh anointing and appointing that is coming out of the new waves of the Holy Spirit for these last days?

The Bishop of Pontefract talks about Christians having "ingrowing eyeballs" regarding their healing. In order for physical healing to be given a chance to work, we have to stop prodding and poking it to see how it's doing! In just the same way, ingrowing eyeballs seems to be the order of the day for the recent Holy Spirit visitations.

The ambition seems to be to get "it" into the church building and shut the door so that Christians can practise on each other - over and over and over again. Of course we want to be blessed, but the fact of the matter is we already are! We have described within these pages blessing that is far away and beyond anything we as born again believers could possibly hope for.

Now is the time to turn our eyes to this lost world, to reach out to the hurting, the lost, the poor, the know-nothing, have-nothing, deceived worldling. Let's get our priorities in the right order and give these extra blessings so richly provided by the Holy Spirit, to those who are **meant** to be the recipients.

SOGs - it's time to know it and live it. Live as a SOG in all His fullness and may God richly reward you in your every endeavour on His behalf. All praise to the mighty name of Jesus'. AMEN!

our place in the Godhead family as full and complete sons.

We have the truth in all its cosmos-shaking panoply (splendid array). As we know it - we will live it. Don't try to live it down, put it down or disregard it. In a proper spirit of humility, we can take up the generously offered truth, to enable us to be the sons that Father God intended us to be.

Father doesn't want a relationship with a lesser being, like a school-boy with white mice. Even the kind of relationship that one can have with a dog or horse - good though that might be, it is a totally different relationship.

Yes, it is the ultimate - there is no more for God to give and our response from our hearts can only be that of grateful love. Thanks is not enough, not sufficient response to so much - only heartfelt love will suffice. From that standpoint of wanting to give of ourselves, we look to our beautiful example, our Lord Jesus Christ. He demonstrated so perfectly how to just live as a son - and we seem to be SO far away from that wonderful example.

It is very apparent that we are living in the last times where there is such need for the sons of God to manifest their rightful place. We are living in a time where we have had the "Toronto blessing" and the "Pensacola blessing" but these are just names for the moving (outpouring) of the Holy Spirit. Sadly, much of this blessing seems to be contained within our church buildings and religious organised structures instead of being taken outside to the people to meet their needs.

If we are to go onward further and further into the complete fullness of living that same life of Jesus, behaving and acting in the same way He desired for us, then these "Toronto" type outworkings should be only the beginning of something so much more than we would dare to dream of.

As we have already said, we are being changed from one degree of glory to another degree of glory. How would it be if, instead of the

1 Thes 2 v 13 says .... BUT AS IT TRULY IS THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY AT WORK IN YOU WHO BELIEVE. Jesus is the Word of God and it is truly wonderful how conversion happens - just naturally, without any effort on the part of the convert - without him having to think or even know about it. Usually we go on trying to do it for ourselves but we soon discover that only our Lord can make the change.

Once we were privileged to lead a Muslim to Jesus on the first day of Ramadan. We told him that he could now eat during Ramadan as he was no longer bound by Islamic law. The next day he was eating at midday and a friend walked in and was shocked to see him eating. "It's Ramadan - why are you eating?" he asked. "Because my Mother said I could" he replied (referring to his new spiritual mother). Here again, without even thinking, the new convert responds - not how one might expect, but how the Holy Spirit prompts, even recognising the difference between flesh and spiritual parents.

It is perhaps much harder for the spouse who is aware of a supernatural turnaround in their partner. The one nearest and dearest to their beloved is not now in first place in the new believer's affections. Yet we know and understand from scripture that within marriage there is a one-flesh relationship. Matt 19 v 5 & 6 FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE UNITED TO HIS WIFE AND THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH. SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE FLESH. This relationship is so strong that if it does get broken there is a rending, a tearing of the flesh. The expression "it's tearing me apart" becomes a real experience.

However, we read in Luke 14 v 26 IF ANYONE COMES TO ME AND DOES NOT HATE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND LIKEWISE HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YES AND EVEN HIS OWN LIFE ALSO, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.

Our Lord did not mean for us to bear animosity or carry hate for

relatives, but we should have such a love, an all-consuming passion for the Lord that all other love **seems more like hatred in comparison**. That is such a strong scripture, yet not one of us would, on the first day of our new life in Christ, turn to the one we counted first in the world and say "I hate you". Within the spirit realm, however, that is what has been said, even if unspoken in the natural. Just have a look at some relatives' hurt feelings at the time of a loved one's conversion; they are frequently beyond rationality because however un-spiritual folk may appear, it seems that subconsciously they do have a kind of spiritual perception.

It is such a joy to lead husband and wife together into salvation. After this happened recently, we heard the wife say to her husband "I didn't think you would respond and I was scared to look". How often do we hear similar remarks?

We will endeavour in these pages to show just how pure (spiritually) the new convert is. Acts 15 v 9 says . . . "AND MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN US AND THEM, PURIFYING THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH". The new convert has come out of his sinful state, which is so indescribably filthy, but those left in the dirty state of sin feel condemned by the pure, spotless, new-born creature. Of course we don't set out to condemn them - after all, we've only just come out of that mucky state ourselves - how could we point a finger of accusation? We are only saved by the grace of God. We would like to be able to explain this to our nearest and dearest but most of us haven't the words or the understanding to do it.

As we come to look at the state of sin and realise how dreadfully nasty it is, we get a better idea of how we should hate that which is worldly. We have all heard the expression "Hate the sin but love the sinner". That just about sums it up. In fact **love** rules over everything else, seeking to bring those in our natural families into the same abundantly blessed situation that we enjoy. We, like the invading extra-terrestrials, seek to assimilate our families into the body by osmosis, making them SOGs too.

ness. There is no escape from the despair that the worldling feels. To Mr World, a no-hope creature, the prospect that he is going to live forever and that his spirit man will not die, should fill him with horror.

Many unsaved tell us that to live forever is a terrifying outlook. Some say (though we know it is not true) that hell is right here, now. For those in the hopeless place of remaining bound into a dark night of sin, hell must be descriptive of this situation - but what they don't realise is that the real hell will be far, far worse.

So how much difference is there now demonstrated between us and them? Knowing that our Dad, Almighty God, gave us everything (Eph 1 v 3 says EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING and 1 Cor 3 v 22 says ALL THINGS ARE YOURS. Yes, all things to the uttermost, to beyond our wildest dreams; all things are ours, but only in Christ is this true. Some people have "half-truth", making it fit their own beliefs to enable them to be little gods, (one god for one person).

Phil 4 v 13 says I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH. We are so much enjoined and woven into our gloriously wonderful Jesus Christ. We are not looking outside of Him because only through Him and in Him we come into this ultimate place of sonship with Almighty God. Col 3 v 11 says CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL. Col 3 v 17 (Amp) says AND WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR DEED DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND IN (DEPENDENCE UPON) HIS PERSON.

We can take these amazingly deep truths and make them true for the here and now in our lives, so long as we stay in Christ, united as one with our Lord. 1 Cor 6 v 17 says BUT THE PERSON WHO IS UNITED TO THE LORD BECOMES ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM..

These profound facts are not meant to, nor should they "puff us up" to try and "lord it" over others. These truths are in fact very humbling when we try to understand the vast and limitless love that caused our Dad to set things up in this way so that we could take

EVIL AND NOW LEST HE PUT FORTH HIS HAND AND TAKE ALSO FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND LIVE FOREVER.”

This man, or ‘mankind’ became "LIKE ONE OF US" (Father Son and Holy Spirit) or in short - Godlike. Within a few generations we see Almighty God having to confuse the language to slow them down a bit.

It might seem as if in these pages we have been a little harsh on the poor old worldling. We do not mean to be - they are a million miles away from the glorious place of the SOG - but here we see worldlings with so much available to them that collectively they can aspire to be "LIKE ONE OF US".

Therefore, if such vast resources and mental capacity is available to them, what of a SOG — or SOGs collectively? In Psalm 82 v 6 The Lord says "I SAID YOU ARE GODS YOU ARE ALL SONS OF THE MOST HIGH". I give you this with no comment - let the scripture be sufficient in itself but if the Father is God, surely His sons have to be gods too. Even this scripture was ratified and endorsed by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself in John 10 v 34 & 35 (Amp) JESUS ANSWERED THEM "IS IT NOT WRITTEN IN YOUR LAW I SAID YOU ARE GODS, (small 'g') SO MEN ARE CALLED GODS (BY THE LAW) MEN TO WHOM THE WORD OF GOD CAME AND THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE SET ASIDE OR CANCELLED OR BROKEN OR ANNULLED. Does it sound like blasphemy - is it too much - going too far?

It is the Word of God and here Jesus says it cannot be set aside - it stands as truth for our benefit. All scripture is profitable for instruction, rebuking, correcting and training. Can we dare to leave out any part of the Word of God which so obviously has great depth of meaning to us?

Let's consider again the worldling with all his latent potential: for the most part it never shows in any way because the resources are dormant, blanketed by sin and buried in a quicksand of Godless-

The world thinks that this is a kind of madness in which we want to get them all involved. The truth of the matter is that we have come out of the madness of the worldly rat-race into sanity. Yes, our aim is to take over the world, just as you might expect people from outer space to do, and when they succumb they are made free, given joy and blessed "out of their socks".

There was a Muslim called Hussein who gave his heart to Jesus in Leicester Square and two weeks' later he was back, witnessing along with us. As I preached from the soap box he spoke to Olive about the people listening and said "**They don't know what they miss!**". Like Hussein, we frequently can't express adequately just how wonderful the new joyous life is - and a new convert like him certainly can't - but we who are SOGs are recipients of that inexpressible joy.

EPH 1 v 7 says IN HIM (JESUS) WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE .....

Only **in** our Lord Jesus, and only **because of** Jesus: none of these wonderful and amazing things would be, but for Jesus. Jesus paid the price and went to the cross for our salvation because He loves us so much. All praise to His mighty Name - He is the only one who can make us people from the planet SOG.

"Aliens from the planet SOG" may be a bizarre way to describe what you have become to those around you in the world, yet the change is so great, even this kind of description would not suffice for this transformation. Thus far we have only seen that there is a difference - but let's look at just how extreme this difference is.

## CHAPTER 2

# RECOGNITION

How are we to recognise these SOGs? Well, one of the things about them is that they are righteous (in right standing with God). However, they are not righteous because of anything they themselves have done, but only because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done.

2 Cor 5 v 21 says FOR OUR SAKE HE MADE CHRIST TO BE SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN SO THAT IN AND THROUGH HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. That is the most profound thing that we ever heard. That Innocence, Sinlessness and Purity, could be made to become sin - it beggars comprehension. He didn't just take our sin - He actually **became** sin when He bore our sin in His body on the tree (1 Peter 2 v 24).

When the children of Israel were being bitten by serpents in the wilderness, to effect a cure, a brazen snake was put on a pole (Numbers 21 v 8). Anyone having been poisoned could look at that brazen serpent and by faith, would be healed. That was a picture of what terrible depths our loving Lord had stooped to. In order to bring us into that place of righteousness He became sin - He became the serpent on the pole just for you and me.

In John 3 v 14 Jesus says AND JUST AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE DESERT (ON A POLE) SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP (ON THE CROSS).

That's hard to take in but here our Lord said it himself. He compared himself with that vile thing - he actually ratified the scripture; in effect He was saying 'that is what I have to become because I love you so much.' Just for everyone who is willing to accept Him. Only our wonderful Saviour, the Lord Jesus could do so much. Only He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. At no point did He

## CHAPTER 12

# ULTIMATE

We have seen demonstrated thus far the vast difference between worldlings and SOGs and in this chapter we are going to look into areas that few will dare to speak about, much less make pronouncements upon although the scriptures are there to be studied and the Holy Spirit will direct our understanding if we ask Him to.

Firstly, even worldlings have large, frequently untouched resources, even though they have so much less than SOGs. How much is available is demonstrated by what happened at the tower of Babel (Gen 11 v 6b) AND THE LORD SAID "AND NOW NOTHING THEY HAVE IMAGINED THEY CAN DO WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM." So this is a truth stated by God that even fallen mankind is able to work mighty exploits from the power of his mind.

It wasn't SOGs that took from the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden, it was man - and from that point on, man had knowledge. We can see the evidence of knowledge in the world: jet planes, moon rockets, vast buildings, medicines - even splitting the atom. Vast stores of knowledge - but no wisdom to use it to the best advantage: while we are putting a man on the moon, millions are starving - while we feed grain to farm animals many people die for the want of simple medicine - and more again die because of a lack of safe water to drink.

We think we are civilised because we outlaw murder, yet there is not enough wisdom to outlaw war - which is mass murder.

Let's look further in and see just what did happen at that moment of taking knowledge. Gen 3 v 22 AND THE LORD GOD SAID "BEHOLD THE MAN HAS BECOME LIKE ONE OF US (FATHER SON AND HOLY SPIRIT) TO KNOW GOOD AND

so obviously the same applies to Mr World. At the right time Christ died for the ungodly. We are not aloof but we should show how brilliant this new life is that has been given to us. We should learn to walk according to the Spirit and no longer walk according to the flesh - see Romans 8 first 14 verses.

The worldlings will be the first to see and criticise if we fail to live out our new life - and we all fail to live up to our Lord's best. The Christian life isn't difficult to live up to - it's impossible! But God, to whom nothing is impossible, works it out for us in His Son.

Jesus didn't make us plaster saints, He made us Sons of God. He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. (Heb 12 v 2). Fortunately Jesus doesn't leave us to sort out the bit in the middle - He's changing us from one degree of glory to another!

Of course, it makes no sense for anyone to want to stay a worldling. If a person were offered the opportunity to live in a palace and become king at the same time, it would not be the most clever decision to turn it down - but when they do, Love still reaches out. Love agonises over their lost condition.

In fully living out our sonship, we will draw the lost, the hurting and the fallen to seek that love so lavishly and liberally offered to rescue them from their terrible condition.

Praise God! He has opened our eyes to the truth. May we shine out in the way Dad wants us to shine in this world. If we really know that we are Sons of Almighty God we will naturally act like Sons of God. Amen and Hallelujah!

stop short of everything needed to bring us into God's family. Without His righteousness we could never have been made members of His family.

Everybody is born a natural sinner (Rom 3 v 23) (Amp) SINCE ALL HAVE SINNED AND ARE FALLING SHORT OF THE HONOUR AND GLORY WHICH GOD BESTOWS AND RECEIVES.

We SOGs are now righteous; not in ourselves, but only in and through Christ. (Rom 3 v 24) (Amp) ALL ARE JUSTIFIED AND MADE UPRIGHT AND IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD FREELY AND GRATUITOUSLY BY HIS GRACE IN CHRIST JESUS.

Do the unsaved have any righteousness - any goodness? No, they can only claim self-righteousness (which is one of the nastiest of sins) - putting themselves on the throne of their own lives. Self-righteousness will judge others and when put in the light of truth, will want to kill the pure and holy in exactly the same way as the Scribes and Pharisees wanted to kill our pure and undefiled Lord Jesus.

The 'worldling' will often deny being a sinner, for to admit that is to make himself feel guilty (and therefore dirty) - which of course he is. This is a completely sterile "go nowhere" road, the real answer being to accept Jesus as Saviour, thus having the sin removed at source.

What is the nature of a SOG? At that same point of regeneration, God becomes Daddy and we partake in His nature. (2 Pet 1 v 4b) says .....AND THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME SHARERS (PARTAKERS) OF THE DIVINE NATURE.

All in a moment of time the wonderful loving, caring, compassionate, generous nature of God Himself becomes our normality. This is so mind-boggling, so way-out (in outer space) as to be beyond our ability to take it in. Of course, our minds are so used to worldly

thinking that these wonderful facts take time to actually sink in.

We only come to understand these amazing and glorious truths as we read the Bible, hear it taught, and as the precious Holy Spirit gives us revelation. We have already been reminded how our natural families react to all of this and is it any wonder, when we begin to look at just how vast the turn-around is? God's nature is love for 1 John 4 v 16 says GOD IS LOVE.

The world's way is the opposite - what ever kind of love could be so generous? It goes way beyond our old worldly way of thinking. How often were we told as young children to hit a child back if he hit us? Our Lord has worked the "Divine Exchange" for us, taking away all our badness and replacing it with all His goodness.

God's nature is to give: (John 3 v 16) says FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE . . . . The world is out to **get** - at any cost, and having got it, hangs onto it like 'grim death' (quite an appropriate expression)!. God's way is the way of grace.

We recently heard this wonderful definition of grace: A man had an only son – and another man killed that son. Now, if the father killed the murderer, that would be revenge. If the father let the police and courts deal with it, that would be justice. But if the father took the murderer into his home, gave him his son's possessions and all that the son was heir to - that would be grace. That's just what our Heavenly Father did. Now we are in God's kingdom, we come into this state of grace; can we get a handle on that fact? As we try to do this, we read not simply of grace, but grace upon grace.

Different? - we are not just different. If we had purple heads with green spotted antenna, that would show a difference, but that would be absolutely nothing compared with how different we actually are. The comparison between the two goes out of the window and completely out of sight, as we shall now see.

even the demons are aware. But there is so much more, for we actually have the authority of our Lord Jesus. Luke 10 v 19 (Amp) says BEHOLD I HAVE GIVEN YOU AUTHORITY AND POWER TO TRAMPLE ON SERPENTS AND SCORPIONS AND (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH AND ABILITY) OVER ALL THE POWER THAT THE ENEMY (POSSESSES) AND NOTHING SHALL IN ANY WAY HARM YOU.

We, as sons of God, have a sonship exactly the same as our Lord Jesus. As He functioned, dealing with the (unseen) spirit realm and thereby changing the (seen) world, so should we. Therefore we have to have an understanding of who we are and our authority and power.

I once stood in for another preacher who was going to speak on prosperity so I believed it right to preach that message. I believe the prosperity message and I know that to give means that we shall be given to. I believe in sowing and reaping. But, in speaking it out I'm making the word of truth more real. In writing it down, thinking about it and then speaking it, the word becomes "rhema" word or "faith" word. I don't know if what I spoke affected anyone who heard it but I came back from that church on a high of faith for prosperity - and I still have it for that area of my life. Bless God.

Our sonship covers a whole lot more than just one area like prosperity: it covers everything we have and are in Jesus. We learn to walk in each part so that in becoming mature in each area we quite naturally are what we are - sons of the Most High God.

Knowing and understanding this should not make us aloof from the unsaved, but just like Jesus, we should love them and give of ourselves for them. However, loving them is not making friends with them or taking them as business partners. Loving them is putting ourselves in the position to bridge the gap for them so that they might have the opportunity to meet Almighty God and be able to call him Dad too.

Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us while we were mucky and sinful

## CHAPTER 11

### JUST BE IT & DO IT

There are some Christian groups who, understanding this vast difference between SOGs and worldlings, try to keep themselves apart as much as possible, even refusing to eat with worldlings. We have to look to our best example - as we always do. Jesus did not keep Himself aloof from people - He loved them. He went to dinner with them, even the hated tax man! Jesus always had a rapport with the ordinary folk who were doing the best they could. We have many reports in the scriptures of this.

Jesus knew who He was. He was totally aware of his Sonship, of His oneness with Father God. But He was human and relied 100% on the power of the Holy Spirit of God. In just the same way, we must follow Jesus as our example. We must know who we are and understand our sonship. We have to know who we are in Christ and, having full understanding, we will quite simply begin to live our son of God lives every day.

Jesus walked through this world with the most complete authority you could comprehend. After teaching what we know as "The Sermon on the Mount" the scripture says this in Matt 7 v 28 & 29 (Amp) **WHEN JESUS HAD FINISHED THESE SAYINGS THE CROWDS WERE ASTONISHED AND OVERWHELMED WITH BEWILDERED WONDER AT HIS TEACHING. FOR HE WAS TEACHING AS ONE WHO HAD (AND WAS) AUTHORITY, AND NOT AS (DID) THE SCRIBES.** The fact that He knew that He knew that He knew He was the Son of God became apparent to everyone. The people knew, the centurion knew, the scribes knew – and even the demons knew.

This takes us back to the first chapter: even if we haven't learnt the ABC of our new life in Christ, those around **do** see the Jesus, whose name is above every name, at work in us. They see the authority -

## CHAPTER 3

### LIGHT BEINGS

What other differences are there? Light is one difference. Phil 2 v 15 says **THAT YOU MAY SHOW YOURSELVES TO BE BLAMELESS, GUILTESS, INNOCENT AND UNCONTAMINATED CHILDREN OF GOD IN A CROOKED AND PERVERSE GENERATION AMONG WHOM YOU ARE SEEN AS BRIGHT LIGHTS (STARS OR BEACONS SHINING OUT CLEARLY) IN THE (DARK) WORLD.**

You cannot take a cup of darkness and a cup of light and 'mix thoroughly till blended' . It doesn't work like that. In the pitch dark a single candle can be seen. Where light appears, the darkness flees away. John 1 v 5 says **AND THE LIGHT SHINES ON IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS HAS NEVER OVERPOWERED IT.**

Darkness can never overcome light. God said "Let there be light" (Gen 1 v 3) and there was light - and light - and light - on and on *ad infinitum*. We look into the night sky where there are two hundred thousand million galaxies each containing two hundred thousand million stars. And that's just in this universe - and there might be more universes, all creating light. And we are children of that light too. We, as new beings in God's own family, are light beings. Yes, without understanding how, we are translated out of a state of darkness, a state of blindness, into this glittering, glorious, star-spangled, brilliantly illuminated place of light. We are not required to understand it - that's just how it is.

We might or might not learn about it later on but at the time of being born again, we just become 'light beings'. So how is "Mr World" going to feel about this alien (to him) 'light being' turning up? He mistakenly thinks that being good gets someone into heaven - the "I never did anyone any harm" syndrome. We know

that we are not good, even if we are trying to be. Later we find out it is no good even trying and relax and just let Jesus do it for us, but Mr World sees a "goody-goody" or a "hypocrite". Why? Because he expects us to be good but it's the light, not goodness. Because he sees our light (and our light illuminates his darkness), our light makes him feel dirty and puts him on the defensive. John 3 v 19 says **THEY LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT FOR THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL.**

If you don't believe that, go out and work on the street to bring light to a crooked and perverse generation (Phil 2 v 15). People can get very cross, even to getting physically violent sometimes. Another place where we experience this is when bringing the light to bear on Islam. We have seen absolute fury stirred. They try to defend God with their hatred. Why should these religious people think they need to defend God?

Jesus was the demonstration of a light being - in fact He is a very special kind of Time-lord. Why time and light? Einstein's theory of relativity is basically that the fourth dimension is the time factor related to the other three dimensions and thus time is measured by light. Because time is light and vice versa, we measure vast distances in light years. Our Lord Jesus showed that He was not bound by what are considered the natural laws of the earth or the universe, by walking on water, feeding 5,000, healing the un-healable, stilling the storm, etc. Because He is a Time-lord, circumstances cannot dictate to Him - He dictates to **them** and everything has to bow to His Name (Phil 2 v 9 & 10).

The disciples took up this state of timelessness - or eternity (which is a much better name for it). They began raising the dead and doing all the same things that Jesus did - even being transported away from a situation in a moment of time (Acts 8 v 39). Or being transported to the third heaven (2 Cor 12 v 2). Jesus promised that these things would happen as we come into this state of eternity - or another name for it would be "The Kingdom." **I ASSURE YOU IF ANYONE STEADFASTLY BELIEVES IN ME HE WILL HIMSELF BE ABLE TO DO THE THINGS THAT I DO; AND HE**

the Lord calling you, we can't advise you in this way but we can encourage you to prayerfully take your own giant step into your own adventure. Don't try to write the script, let the Holy Spirit do it and just stay in that sabbath rest of God described in Hebrews 4.

However, do be aware and remember that we **all** experience failure - and it doesn't matter - that is how we learn - Jesus always puts right our mistakes. Also remember that provision has already been made for every SOG to live by faith, just trusting Dad for each and every part of his supply.

willing to let the Lord Holy Spirit touch your lifestyle?" Of the hundred or so brothers and sisters there that morning, all but eight stood to commit their lives even unto death.

That is of course not always the case but our contentment and fulfilment as SOGs is directly related to our response to our Lord's call. There is a balance to be drawn between rushing about trying to serve - and resting in the Lord and allowing the Holy Spirit to do the job.

We read that the early Christians were quite willing to go to the Roman amphitheatre to be burned, but please understand this; we have to be willing to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice - not a dead one. We are actually not a great deal of use dead although as Paul says it is the better place to be. What our Lord requires is that we don't love our lives so much that it obstructs the work we should be doing. There is a mission for many of us and some are involved where they should be, but alas many are not.

If this might be you, try going for just a short time, say just a week, or an annual holiday perhaps - some are already doing this, taking Bibles to far-away places. Try it - and see many of the doubts and fears fly out of the window - but be careful - you might get a taste for that kind of service in a big way!

On our last trip to the Dutch Caribbean we were privileged to be able to pray for and encourage two couples to go into full time service; one to Cuba and the other to Costa Rica. It is one thing, and a wonderful thing, to lead a soul to salvation, but from these mission-motivated people - who knows how many souls might be won to Christ?

It's not hard to imagine SOGs being able to sail through the job demanded by the Great Commission for in the power of the Holy Spirit they do just that - and feel really fulfilled by doing it.

We have had a number of SOGs writing to us asking how hard it is and what are the dangers and set-backs to look out for. If you feel

WILL DO EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER (John 14 v 12)

Pretty impressive stuff, this Time-lord business - but not really any more than you might expect from a SOG (or born again Christian - or light being - which ever way you prefer to describe him).

However, in spite of the magnificence and the awesomeness of all this, there are actually Christians who only talk about Jesus to other Christians. They say "Well I only embarrass people (worldlings) if I talk about Jesus". Why should it be embarrassing to be a SOG when we are such a superior type of being? That sounds prideful but it isn't, it's a fact. Superior, not in ourselves but in Christ, and Christ (who is in us) is totally and unconditionally superior to any other being, human or spirit. In fact He said just that about born again Christians in Matthew 11 v 11 TRULY I TELL YOU, AMONG THOSE BORN OF WOMEN THERE HAS NOT RISEN ANYONE GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST, YET HE WHO IS LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS GREATER THAN HE.

There you have it - kingdom or eternity again. Even if you feel as if you are the least, the nobody's nobody, the Bible says that you are someone so special that you are a Jesus person, a wonderful being, because the Lord Jesus made you so. For any one of us to make less of it than it really is would virtually be a slap in the face for our loving Lord who paid such a high price for all that we enjoy.

So why play down and almost apologise for being clean and pure and holy? It's like speaking to pigs and saying "I'm sorry I smell like this, I've just had a bath". But that is a caricature of what sometimes does happen. We hardly need to apologise for having the life of Christ so richly provided by God - a life that manifests itself as light in a darkened world.

Romans 10 v 19 and 11 v 11 talk about making Israel jealous and we see most Jews enjoying the benefits of the old covenant. If Paul is saying here that we should make Israel jealous, how much more

should we make the unsaved jealous. For these have no benefit from any covenant or blessing and just "bumble along" through life as best they can - but we have a new covenant which should have the poor unsaved folk utterly green with envy at our special position - but more of that later.

For the most part, the unsaved will show quite plainly that they don't want to hear the gospel, for if we prove any of this to them it makes them responsible and they, for the most part, seem irresponsible.

When we prayed for my friend Hugh's frozen shoulder it was healed and the next day he told me I had given him a massive problem because before, he hadn't cared whether there was a God or not, but now he knew there definitely was, so what could he do? I had to ask "Would you like to give your life to Jesus?". Three months later he did and came into full and free salvation. (He was a responsible person.)

On the other hand, in Leicester Square on a Saturday night, I have been threatened with a broken bottle and have seen a knife pulled to threaten another evangelist. We are telling people about love and the Author of it. Can such extreme hostility be a **normal** thing? A well-known evangelist told me how the Muslims stood in front of his platform with AK 47s and said "If you don't prove what you say with miracles we will shoot you. God never fails where His promises are concerned and miracles flowed as expected.

2 Cor 6 v 14 says DO NOT BE UNEQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS (DO NOT MAKE MISMATCHED ALLIANCES WITH THEM OR COME UNDER A DIFFERENT YOKE WITH THEM INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR FAITH). FOR WHAT PARTNERSHIP HAVE RIGHT LIVING AND RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD, WITH INIQUITY AND LAWLESSNESS? OR HOW CAN LIGHT HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH DARKNESS?

That just about sums it up. If we could plainly see, as God sees, the filthy dirty blackness of an unbeliever who is still in his sin, and

really content. In fact they become round pegs in square holes. They are in the wrong place, probably doing the wrong job: even worse, they don't really seem to know who they are in Christ. I can state most emphatically that anyone who obeys the call to mission, even if it is hard or dangerous (as it often is), will be completely fulfilled and satisfied.

Over the last few years the Lord has had me preach a message in many churches world-wide on Rev 12 v 11 (Amp) AND THEY HAVE OVERCOME (CONQUERED) BY MEANS OF THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE UTTERANCE OF THEIR TESTIMONY FOR THEY DID NOT LOVE AND CLING TO LIFE EVEN WHEN FACED WITH DEATH. That is a triumphal word and we have all heard the first part of that verse so many times. I usually ask if anyone knows the rest of the verse but, sad to say, very few ever do. The remainder of the verse (actually the sentence) AND DID NOT LOVE AND CLING TO LIFE EVEN WHEN FACED WITH DEATH makes us sit up and think. It stops us in our tracks. We preached this in a big church in Moshi in Tanzania and at the point of challenge, all but 6 out of 200 people stood as commitment to the challenge. Praise the Lord!

We were driving one day to speak in a church in Shropshire and while in very slow traffic on the M25 a dove was flying along at the same speed as the traffic, weaving in and out between the cars and lorries. Then it flew up to the top of a lorry and perched on the back of it, having a free ride! I have never before or since seen any bird land on a moving truck on a motorway. On this truck was written the word "Lifestyle".

I told the Lord that if it was a sign from Him that He wanted me to change what I had prepared and speak on the Holy Spirit touching our lifestyles, He would have to show me another lorry the same. The next day we were going along a quiet country road on our way to the church and when we were just a mile or so from our destination, a lorry went past us going the other way and on the back of it was written "Lifestyle". I threw my prepared message away and preached that day on Rev 12 v 11 and asked the question "Are you

politan London we have to ask each person if they speak English because people from every nation of the world seem to be in Leicester and Trafalgar Squares. This makes preaching the gospel to the world a slightly more simple affair because some of the world has come to us.

I often wonder if SOGs who fly share the gospel in our International Airports where people from so many places pass through. On our journeys around the world the Lord frequently gives us many salvations and miracles in airports when we pray for folk. (There are people in airports who come from countries in which we are not allowed to preach the gospel.) Even so, to enjoy our SOG adventure to the full, we need to do much travelling. We are very aware that the aeroplanes are running just for SOGs to spread the gospel round the world. Worldlings buy tickets as well, just to keep the aeroplanes flying so that they are there and ready when we need them. We have had some beautiful evidences of this.

God's whole purpose is to bring mankind back to Himself and to prepare these redeemed SOGs to be a bride for His Son Jesus. God's paramount consideration is for the gospel to be preached in all the world (Matt 24 v 14 AND THIS GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM (THE GOSPEL) WILL BE PREACHED THROUGH THE WHOLE WORLD AS A TESTIMONY TO ALL NATIONS AND THEN WILL COME THE END.

In our place of being at rest in God's own Sabbath rest, we can have the most enormous adventure and there are many, many SOGs who are meant to be enjoying the adventure of a lifetime right now – but making a decision to do it is like taking a giant leap in the dark. It's putting your money where your mouth is - literally. It is in fact taking God at His word and just going and having the faith to believe that He will provide all your needs. Anyone who goes out into the unknown for Jesus is never disappointed.

Even so, there are many SOGs who have heard the call but have not responded — for very good and reasonable reasons. We meet them - and sadly they are never fulfilled in their walk with God; never

then see the pure undefiled spotless cleanness of the redeemed, we wouldn't even think about having any kind of relationship with them. Daddy God in His word has made it so very plain. Live as what you really are - a pure and holy child of light - be aware of it and walk as one.

This is a very severe warning for each one of us - the dirty contaminates the pure, not the other way round. Would one consider getting into bed with a pig that had been wallowing in its own filth? How often do we see dear Christian brothers and sisters tempted into these situations and being torn apart by them?

Arthur Blessitt describes how as a young man he saw Jesus walk across a lake to him and of how indescribably filthy he felt in the presence of Christ. Another servant of the Lord describes how God showed him a horribly filthy black thing which made him scream at the sight of it. God revealed that He was showing him his own heart. Can that give us any idea just how vile and deceived is the unbeliever who sees nothing wrong with the vile mess he is in? It takes light to shine on it for the darkness to flee away.

Born again Christians are pure and spotless, made that way by being washed in the blood of Jesus. They are therefore light in a dark world. We bring Jesus to the sad, hopeless people - **we** can't meet their needs but Jesus can. Only Jesus can work in us to be light for the lost and spiritually dying. Let's not play any of this down, but rather rejoice in it and not get involved in the world's dirtiness.

## CHAPTER 4

# COVENANT

There's more blessing in the pages you have just read than anyone can possibly imagine. Yet there's more, lots, lots more to come.

There is a super-abundant covenant that comes into effect at the moment of new birth in Christ. What is a covenant? It really means agreement and the best way of thinking of it is as a Last Will and Testament. A covenant (or testament) cannot be broken and this is God's covenant which is the strongest kind of all because it is sealed in blood - the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, God entered into a covenant relationship with Israel, a covenant based on the law of Moses (Deut 9 v 15). The ten commandments were called the tables of the covenant. Deut 29 v 9 says **THEREFORE KEEP THE WORDS OF THIS COVENANT AND DO THEM THAT YOU MAY DEAL WISELY AND PROSPER IN ALL THAT YOU DO.** This Covenant is perfectly plain and straightforward—if they kept the agreement they would be blessed in every way.

Having worked with Jews for a number of years, I was always surprised how they managed to be so blessed in so many ways and we see them at the top of their chosen professions and excelling in so many fields: medicine, entertainment, the arts, clothing, diamonds, finance and banking. Much of this blessing is still coming from that old covenant written between them and Almighty God, even though they are only living in the shadow of it.

These were God's chosen people who, had they continued to live under the covenant, would still be chosen out of all the world - but they failed to keep this blood covenant with God. They in fact broke the agreement, making it null and void. Heb 8 v 9 says **THEY DID NOT ABIDE IN MY AGREEMENT WITH THEM SO**

fore, that puts the cart before the horse - the vehicle before the creature, trying to make the service more important than the person.

Having learnt and understood this, we then by faith enter into God's rest. Now, having come to believe, we can rest and just let the Holy Spirit do it through us; our adventure begins here - go into all the world - go take this promised land, or land of promise. Any ground your feet touch is yours if you wish to claim it in the name of Jesus - that's the promised land. What promised land? The book - God's holy inspired word - it is full of wonderful promises for every SOG.

Each and every promise is ours to ingest by faith. Therefore, provided we are willing to believe the promises and have faith for them, every single one is there for our benefit. The promises mean that we can have absolutely everything we need. It is so tragic and hard to understand that the poverty-stricken worldlings don't want to know or understand this land of promise. Their eyes have been blinded to the mighty, glorious words of the gospel of salvation.

Another sad fact is that there are actually born again believers, actual SOGs, who don't think the promises are for us today. They sincerely believe that we have to try to get the job done without any spiritual power or gifts. Can you imagine anything more ridiculous? How could we get the job done any other way except by the power of God and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Our Heavenly Dad doesn't want us to struggle to obey Him - He wants us to use the 'tools' He has so thoughtfully and lovingly given us.

To each of us who is willing to come into the land of promise, everything is so readily available. That is the word that's repeated time and time again - **all** things, **everything** is available. It is like having a cheque book issued on the bank of heaven - and all the cheques are already signed by our Lord Jesus Himself.

His injunction is to "Go". Go into every corner of the world to preach the gospel. In the natural, this world has never been so open, so accessible. Only in recent years have we been able to travel on a scale not previously dreamed of. As we work in cosmo-

## CHAPTER 10

### LAND OF PROMISE

It is hardly worth making a comparison between SOGs and worldlings - we have it all and sadly, they have nothing at all.

It's almost like snakes and ladders with us having all the ladders and them having all the snakes - but that's hardly a true picture. That would suggest there is just a remote outside chance that they could still scrape in a win. The truth is that we have already won. In actual fact the victory is ours in Christ Jesus - and it's been settled for quite some time. Sorry Mr World - you're lost at the moment. The world and its systems belong to the devil so in following the world's ways, people, usually unknowingly, follow satan.

How do we know all this - like the fact that we've been given this amazing victory for instance? Well, it's all in our land of promise - which begins in entering God's own sabbath rest. Heb 4 v 11 (Amp) says LET US THEREFORE BE ZEALOUS AND EXERT OURSELVES AND STRIVE DILIGENTLY TO ENTER THAT REST (OF GOD TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE IT FOR OURSELVES) THAT NO ONE MAY FALL OR PERISH BY THE SAME KIND OF UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE (INTO WHICH THOSE IN THE WILDERNESS FELL).

That would almost appear to be a contradiction. We know that we can't do anything for God or please Him by service - there are no acts of service we can in any way perform.

The religious do that; they tell you it's church (or mosque, or temple) attendance that will please God. Or it is good works: giving to the poor, knocking on doors, or even that killing a person of another faith is service to God. That's the worldling's way. As we said be-

I WITHDREW MY FAVOUR AND DISREGARDED THEM SAYS THE LORD.

It was in fact too hard for them to keep and in chapter 8 of Hebrews we see that it talks of a different covenant, a new agreement; the whole book is called the New Testament or new covenant or agreement. It is best summed up in Hebrews Chapter 9 verse 15 CHRIST THE MESSIAH IS THEREFORE THE NEGOTIATOR AND MEDIATOR OF AN ENTIRELY NEW AGREEMENT (TESTAMENT, COVENANT) SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE CALLED AND OFFERED IT MAY RECEIVE THE FULFILMENT OF THE PROMISED EVERLASTING INHERITANCE.

There it is again, the people of SOG appear in those last two words "everlasting" (or "eternal") inheritance. What is our inheritance through this new blood covenant? It is that we are His (God's) children and joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8 v 17). That means joint equal sharing in Christ's own inheritance. What is that inheritance when the Will is read out? You find it in Heb 1 v 2 IN THE LAST OF THESE DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US IN THE PERSON OF A SON WHOM HE APPOINTED HEIR AND LAWFUL OWNER OF ALL THINGS.

Wow! You can't get any more than "ALL" - but it's even better than that! The first covenant was impossible to keep but the new one is not based on the same foundation as the old (us having to keep the law); it is based on something gloriously generous. It is based on grace: therefore as much as the old agreement was hard to keep, the new one is hard to break (Heb 8 v 12). It is based on love and forgiveness, compassion and care (Heb 8 v 6).

This passage shows that the covenant does not rely on our keeping the agreement but that we have Someone keeping it for us. If it were left to any one of us, we would blow the whole thing apart so quickly - a careless word or thought, a wrong action, etc. Praise God that our Lord Jesus Christ keeps it for us in His safe hands. He is the mediator between God and man. He is our All in All.

So, back to worldlings and SOGs. How are we different? If that doesn't make us different, then I don't know what will. The world has no hope - the worldlings look forward to nothing - and nothing is what they will get, unless they come to Jesus. We look forward to everything - and is that what we are going to get? No! **We already have it!**

Heb 9 v 15b, 16 & 17 says SINCE A DEATH HAS TAKEN PLACE WHICH RESCUES AND DELIVERS AND REDEEMS THEM FROM THE TRANSGRESSIONS COMMITTED UNDER THE FIRST AGREEMENT FOR WHERE THERE IS A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT INVOLVED THE DEATH OF THE ONE WHO MADE IT MUST BE ESTABLISHED. FOR A WILL AND TESTAMENT IS VALID AND TAKES EFFECT ONLY AT DEATH SINCE IT HAS NO FORCE OR LEGAL POWER AS LONG AS THE ONE WHO MADE IT IS ALIVE.

Christ has already died (and has risen again) so the death is in place: now everything is done and finished - we have the inheritance. We are eternity people - Kingdom kids - we are in it already. Rom 8 v 32 says HE WHO DID NOT WITHHOLD OR SPARE EVEN HIS OWN SON BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL WILL HE NOT ALSO WITH HIM FREELY AND GRACIOUSLY GIVE US ALL OTHER THINGS.

At the moment of giving His Son the "all things" were included. Christ is the ALL IN ALL - and outside of Him there is nothing. That "ALL" must include everything in this great cosmos. "ALL" must include ALL that our wonderful Lord created - stars and planets - on and on in this mighty universe. John 1 v 3 says ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM AND WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT WAS MADE. That's part of our inheritance for us to enjoy and eventually to rule over with Jesus for all eternity.

If that were the end of the book it would surely be quite enough for us to know that we are not just the same as the worldlings - in fact we are eons apart. We bear no resemblance to them in any way

FEAR and a SET OF RULES.

It completely mystifies them how we can claim all of this without our having to do anything to obtain it. Hallelujah - Jesus did it all for us! We cannot emphasise enough that it is only through Jesus. Jesus is the answer - now, what's the question? The world wonders why we talk so much about Jesus—but outside of Him there is nothing. Bless His mighty name. He shouted those words of triumph - **IT IS FINISHED!**

However, in the knowledge and reality of all this, we must keep well clear of the danger of becoming proud or self-righteous. Romans 12 v 3 (b) says NOT TO THINK OF HIMSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK BUT TO THINK SOBERLY AS GOD HAS DEALT TO EACH ONE A MEASURE OF FAITH.

There is an essential warning here and the danger is ever present that we might become "puffed up" and proud about what we are now shown to be. Yet the enormity, the vastness, the glorious wonder of it all should cause each one of us to stand in awe of this amazing transformation that our Lord has worked out. It surely can only make us come humbly before Almighty God, marvelling at His grace and love in doing **so VERY much** for us.

Equally sadly, many Christians have a very poor opinion of themselves; such low self-esteem. Father God wants them to know who they are, (NOTHING IS HIDDEN THAT WILL NOT BE REVEALED) and in knowing, to be sons of God who are a credit to the family name.

With our speech we can either tear down or build up. It is not hard to make someone feel really bad or tear someone's reputation apart by tittle -tattle. We are warned about this very strongly in the Bible: we will all have to give account for every idle word (Matt 12 v 36 & 37).

Even though the devil's words have no faith and the demons are absolutely aware of this fact, they are continually endeavouring to make SOGs speak out negative things - which is like making SOGs shoot themselves in the foot - or much worse, shooting at other family members.

Faith runs the universe; faith creates; faith dominates the unseen spirit world - and in turn the spirit world decrees what takes place in the seen world. It really doesn't take a lot of working out to understand that what we speak is vitally important. We are obliged to learn faith just as those first disciples had to, for it is our stock-in-trade for this kingdom.

Comparison? There is hardly anything to compare. We actually have it all: the word, the power, the faith. The world, so far as faith is concerned, is bankrupt. Deut 30 v 14 and Rom 10 v 8 **THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, EVEN IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART, THAT YOU MAY DO IT.**

It does not take a great deal of effort for us SOGs to be sons of God - because that's what we are, and as naturally as night follows day, we just speak as sons. Let's not apologise to the world any more for being so very, very special and clean.

We frequently witness to Muslims that we are pure because all our sin is washed away by the blood of Jesus. We are holy because in Christ Jesus we are made holy (Col 1 v 22). We are Sons of God because Almighty God Himself has declared it to be. Those of any non-Christian faith haven't got any of these things - they are just working as hard as they can to be acceptable to God by good works, prayer, mosque/temple attendance, wearing the right clothes, not eating the wrong food or at the wrong time etc, etc. They live by

whatsoever. What is the point of trying to pretend to them that we are "just the same as you"? With so much difference it's not really such a surprise that we failed to understand it all on the first day we invited Jesus to live in our hearts.

Working in Africa we see much of this. When we go into a village, most of the children are wearing little leather bags the size of a postage stamp around their neck or waist, or sometimes both. These are supplied by the witch doctors to "keep the children healthy". So are they any more healthy than the kids who don't have them? No! So why continue to wear these satanic fetishes? There have been some angry scenes when we suggested removing them so that we could pray for the children in the name of Jesus.

It all really boils down to who is your God. There are other faiths and there is a whole gamut of superstition because their gods are not able to provide in any way. God is not father to them but some unapproachable, far-off unknowable being. So, fear of the circumstance of their lives causes them to resort to superstition.

When we look at so-called "civilised" people in the West, it is really hardly any different, for exactly the same reason prevails; not having a relationship with our Heavenly Father leaves these sad individuals in the same awful mess.

It is of course so easy for the SOG. He has the Bible to feed his spirit each day. He has the availability of faith in prayer to so easily overcome the difficult circumstances for himself and others.

## CHAPTER 5

### SEATED

Eph 2 v 6 says AND HE RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH HIM AND MADE US SIT DOWN TOGETHER GIVING US JOINT SEATING WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY SPHERE BY VIRTUE OF OUR BEING IN CHRIST JESUS. What an amazing promise - and yet this is not even a promise, it is a fact. It is not that we are going to be, or that we might be, or we should be or could be - or even **will** be. The fact is we are **already** seated with our Lord Jesus in all His glory.

At this point you should be calling for someone to come and peel you off the ceiling! Some of the glorious things we are discussing are so profound as to be beyond our minds' ability to comprehend them. The truth of each is indisputable so we just simply accept by faith and say we can't really understand how such a wonderful thing can be, but we're just grateful that it is so.

Now, if we make a comparison with that statement and know that the alternative for many will be an eternity in hell; an eternity of continual torment that can only be properly described as a burning torture, it would be fair to say that there is no comparison - the two alternatives are just about as far apart as it is possible to get.

John 11 v 25 & 26 says JESUS SAID TO HER (MARTHA) "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, ALTHOUGH HE MAY DIE YET HE SHALL LIVE AND WHOEVER CONTINUES TO LIVE AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER ACTUALLY DIE AT ALL. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"

That's got to be pretty hard to absorb because we know by experience that we will all die physically and the body decomposes or is burnt. There is such reassurance for us because if our Lord Jesus said this then in our hearts by faith we hold on to the certainty of it.

It is just as if they have been inoculated with a little bit of Christianity to prevent them from catching the whole beautiful experience. Isn't that tragic?!

Working out our faith is so important. We read THE KINGDOM OF GOD CONSISTS NOT OF TALK BUT POWER (1 Cor 4 v 20). Again that power, which is backed by faith. We have won many arguments with other faiths but never seen anyone saved as a result. The souls are won when we speak by the power of the Holy Spirit and then the power is also available for signs and wonders (miracles) - all by faith of course. We all only get what we truly have faith for.

Now let's look at Mr World: does he have anything like faith - even a tiny amount of it? Sad to say the answer is "no" - not even a poor substitute. Instead Mr World has fear - which is the absolute opposite of faith. Sadly, everything runs on fear for him. This world is run by the devil, and the devil's whole kingdom works by fear. He drives his fallen angels by fear and they use the same thing on men. Most of the choices people make are based on this principle.

Even language is based on the devil and his works which are: killing, stealing and destroying. We hear things like "You little devil"; "I'm dying for a drink"; "They're tearing me apart"; "He's pestering the life out of me"; "It worries me to death" or "My feet are killing me". For the most part, this kind of negative language is so normal to us that even beautiful SOGs speak it just because it is in everyday use. Our speech should be a real quality product, our conversation demonstrating who we are.

Father God revealed to me a long time ago that the reason our Holy Spirit tongues are more acceptable in the Throne Room is because all the world's languages have been corrupted by satan's principles. Therefore God gave us His pure, angelic tongues to speak so that our conversation could be pure and holy - and words are SO important.

is completely involved in on-the-job training with His sons. We are told to go into all the world (Matt 28 v 19 & Mark 16 v 15) with His authority, His power, His love and His words, all working together by faith.

If we go out into all the world thus equipped, we will see people healed, we will know the life of Christ and the authority of His name available to us for everything. The precious Holy Spirit is ever present, ever available, to carry out the mighty works of God.

We personally see much of this outworking as we go on the streets to bring the good news to Mr World. One day in Zanzibar, two miracles came about as we spoke to twenty or so people. A lady had her mouth healed - (at first she had not been able to speak properly because of her condition). As we prayed a brief prayer she was instantly healed. At this point many were laughing - they didn't really believe she was healed. We led her to salvation and she immediately began to witness to others in the group.

Then a man came up who had bad legs; again his healing was instantaneous when we prayed. This man started running on the spot, demonstrating his healing. This time they saw - and believed. Sixteen muslims gave their hearts to Jesus in that place that afternoon: all glory to the living God.

We frequently see healings and other miracles, as well as many salvations, in Leicester Square in London on Saturday nights. Jesus has caused colour blindness to be cured, bad backs straightened, bad feet and headaches, etc healed. Nothing is too difficult for Him.

However, for the most part, when we offer healing in the name of Jesus, it is refused. Why should this be? The fact is that the world didn't want Jesus 2000 years ago and it still doesn't now. If they were healed, then they would have to be responsible because their healing would be proof of the truth of the gospel. Of course it is irresponsible to deny that God exists or to accept the idea that "ignorance is bliss". But it is easier to remain in the comparative comfort of the sin and mess that they **do** know.

We hear of people who die and come back after several hours of being dead and we hear wonderful testimonies of how they went to heaven and met with Jesus – or went to hell and heard the screams of those there. These may be very interesting to hear but in spite of that, our assurance does not come from testimony (however good – or bad) but it comes from the Holy Spirit endorsing the words of Jesus and causing them to become "rhema" word, or 'faith' word - knowing the truth, down in our spirit. All glory to God - His word will not return to Him void - it does accomplish what it sets out to do and produces faith in us; settled, grounded faith.

Heb 11 v 1 says NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE (THE CONFIRMATION, THE TITLE DEED) OF THE THINGS WE HOPE FOR, BEING THE PROOF OF THINGS WE DO NOT SEE AND THE CONVICTION OF THEIR REALITY (FAITH PERCEIVING AS REAL FACT WHAT IS NOT REVEALED TO THE SENSES).

This states that faith is proof that there is an unseen reality behind the thing that we appropriate; the thing that we believe for; the thing that is promised, although we do not yet see or feel it. So the plain un-garnished, un-embellished fact is WE WILL NOT DIE because Jesus said so to Martha (John 11 v 25 & 26). That's it – settled, finished - "game, set and match!"

To compare what SOGs have and are, against the antithesis of what is in the world - is there anything to compare? The worldlings have no hope - they know they are going to die. They consult their "horror scopes" to perhaps find out if things will be good or bad, but with no hope of changing anything. Many live a life bound into superstition - of not walking under ladders or on cracks in the pavement - and all this rubbish is prevalent everywhere in the world. Of course it is totally satanic and the poor person who gets enmeshed in any of it can be dragged down deeper and deeper.

So many times I've heard "Oh come on Frank - it's not **that** terrible - just because I read my teacup and gave a hallowe'en party for the

kids - it's only a bit of fun." That's what they always say "It's only a bit of fun". **That is a lie of the enemy.**

May I bring to your attention Mr Howard Hughes, who was one of the richest men in the world. He owned aeroplanes (and one of the companies that manufactures them), he financed films from studios that he owned and his name was associated with many film stars. But I understand he suffered with agoraphobia and was troubled about dirt. Apparently he couldn't go out of his apartment and had to wear white gloves and insisted that those around him wore them too. Despite all his money he lived a life of misery. OK that's the extreme - but it begins with things like fortune telling; it begins with what looks like "just a bit of fun".

What is so sad is that so often born-again, Spirit-filled believers are incited into doing these very same things. Why? Because they see themselves as no different from worldlings. These wonderful SOGs think that because they also have two eyes, a nose, a mouth, two arms and two legs, they are the same. Not true! It is what that mouth says; it is what those eyes see; it is where those legs take them and what they do with those hands.

If Jesus isn't involved in **every** aspect of our being, then we are living short of His full potential. Jesus can't be involved in any of that superstitious nonsense. If we have the temerity to go into it ("fools rush in where angels fear to tread") for the most part we have to go in alone, without our guardian angels - because **they** don't want to be there.

We heard a testimony from a native Nigerian medical doctor. He told us he was a Christian but he had consulted a witch doctor for a certain condition which modern medicine couldn't help. After buying charms a couple of times that did not help, he went back again and the witch doctor said "I will prepare a potion for you and your wife that you must take at nightfall each day". The basis of this concoction was cow's urine - and husband and wife dutifully drank this indescribably filthy "medicine" each day. Needless to say, it didn't help at all.

## CHAPTER 9

### MAKING IT WORK

Maybe your response to all of this is "yes, I understand now, how dirty and awful people are, who are still in their sin and I realize that in Christ I am clean and pure because I'm washed in His blood - and I live in this great big world surrounded by these sinful beings - so how do I hack it?"

Answer: by faith - that's the only way. Every facet of the Christian life is sewn up together with threads of faith and trust. Without faith we cannot please God (Heb 11 v 6). Therefore faith, put to legitimate use, is pleasing to Almighty God. Our vast, immeasurable, generous Father God has already done everything for us, and given us everything. There is nothing we can do for Him except believe. ". . . . BUT THE WORK OF GOD IS TO BELIEVE IN THE ONE WHO HE HAS SENT" (John 6 v 29) ie have faith - just believe - that's our work!

Not one of us became a SOG because we were good or did anything heroic or wonderful. We are SOGs only because God chose us and then gave us the faith to become SOGs. On our own, we didn't even have enough faith to get saved (Eph 2 v 8). He did the complete work, and even gave us the faith needed for the job. Romans 12 v 3 says **GOD HAS DEALT TO EACH ONE THE MEASURE OF FAITH.**

Jesus talked a lot about faith. We see the twelve going around with the Boss for on-the-job training. He talked about mustard seed faith; He even talked about faith moving mountains; making the sycamore tree plant itself in the sea. Then He demonstrated faith-healing, feeding 5000 people and raising the dead. Jesus lives in our hearts and He will never leave or forsake us (Heb 13 v 15). He

thing else. Love just gives and keeps on giving. Love never fails (1 Cor 13 v 8). If it were possible for love to fail, then as God **is** love, it would mean that God could fail.

How can you or I respond in like manner? We may not be too good at it yet but our Lord is working it out for us for He is in us, changing us into His likeness bit by bit. His likeness is just pure love - not what this world calls love, but pure, unconditional, undefiled, God-type love.

Our Lord Jesus Christ willingly went to a cruel and agonizing death on that cross for the sake of love - He knew exactly what was going to happen. Not just that torturous crucifixion but even worse - He went into the depths of hell to pay the price for your and my sin. He stayed in hell for three days and took our punishment upon Himself, the just for the unjust, the righteous for the unrighteous (1 Pet 3 v 18).

He knew in advance (Luke 22 v 4) that His sweat would fall from Him like drops of blood. He could have so easily walked away from all of this but the Most Beautiful Person of all time chose not to. Why? For your sake and for mine - and for the love of those who He knew would reject His glorious offer of forgiveness. He even washed the feet of Judas - Love didn't leave him out. Love gave him the bread and the wine - Love could not even reject the betrayer. In the presence of such incomprehensible love, we just stand in awe of its vastness and depth. **BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US.**

Can you imagine satan watching and laughing? Going back to the witch doctor, our Christian was told "one thing remains - you must bury some symbol (I can't remember quite what it was) in the garden of your home at midnight and you must do this naked. Our brother set about being obedient to this but while digging the hole and worrying about his neighbours seeing him, he said to himself "Just a minute! I'm a Christian - **WHAT AM I DOING?!!** They went before the Lord and cried out to Him in repentance for turning to another god. The Lord forgave them and healed the whole situation.

We might laugh at how stupid or foolish the actions of our brother were, but many of us have entered into foolish things. Perhaps we should all reflect and think about what occultish and superstitious things we have been enticed into and become involved in: Eastern religions, mysticism, hallowe'en, tarot cards, horoscopes, tea cups, fortune tellers, spiritists or mediums. We are required to repent of all of it - none of it is "just for fun". It all carries satanic undertones; even reading teacups, not walking under ladders or using the ouija board. These are positively evil and have got so many of our children into trouble - tragically, even causing some to commit suicide.

The reality is we are seated on the throne (Eph 2 v 6). We can't take filth like we have been describing into the throne room - it won't go into such a place. Let's stay seated and keep ourselves in that perfect condition, walking according to the Holy Spirit (Romans 8 v 4).

Rom 8 v 12 & 13 says **SO THEN BRETHREN WE ARE DEBTORS BUT NOT TO THE FLESH (WE ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO OUR CARNAL NATURE) TO LIVE (A LIFE RULED BY THE STANDARD SET-UP BY THE DICTATES) OF THE FLESH FOR IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF THE FLESH, YOU WILL SURELY DIE. BUT IF THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU ARE (HABITUALLY) PUTTING TO DEATH (MAKING EXTINCT,**

DEADENING) THE (EVIL) DEEDS PROMPTED BY THE BODY, YOU SHALL (REALLY AND GENUINELY) LIVE FOR EVER.

That's the difference. The worldlings have no way but to live out of their flesh - in other words out of their minds, their carnality. They have to live prompted by lust, pride, egoism, gossip, greed and all the other nasty ways of the world. They don't understand that they are being pushed around by the devil and his demons.

Mr & Mrs World think they make their own decisions - the truth is that most of those decisions are prompted by need or "how best will that benefit me". So their little boat is blown about on the sea of life, this way and that, without the poor misguided victims having any real say as to where it goes.

Sadly, how often does a SOG seem to be in the same boat. Of course he absolutely should not be as we have so clearly already seen. It is beyond comprehension that a SOG should try to live the same as a worldling, yet many seem to live their lives trying to "keep up with the Joneses".

Yet not one of us will ever come to an end of the wonders of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. We must rule the circumstances in our lives - from the throne, where we are seated.

Eros is not usually love at all - in fact it is for the most part lust masquerading as love. At other times greed is disguised to look like love. Eros is base and for the most part, the lowest of any form of love.

Then there is filial love: most of us have enjoyed love from our parents, brothers, sisters and siblings and this has to be the world's better side. Many forms of this love have demonstrated a creditable side of the world's nature but of course this is not always the case.

However, the question is: is it possible for anything to resemble the love spoken of in 1 John 3 v 1? BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US. Here, we are looking at agape love - the highest form and the very purest love. This love that is expressed in John 3 v 16a FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.... We have been looking at a world of people who are in sin - not leaving ourselves out because we were all in that mess at one time - and yet we see that God loved us even as we were. What did He do because He loved the world? John 3 v 16b continues THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. God didn't do this because we were worthy of it or deserved it - He only did it for one reason - because He LOVES us.

Eph 2 v 4 & 5 (Amp) says BUT GOD - SO RICH IS HE IN HIS MERCY! BECAUSE OF AND IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE GREAT AND WONDERFUL AND INTENSE LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD (SLAIN) BY (OUR OWN) SHORTCOMINGS AND TRESPASSES, HE MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP AND IN UNION WITH CHRIST; . . . . BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED.

There you have it - undeserved, unmerited, unwarranted - the only reason - LOVE. It's not sloppy or sentimental: it's not Mills & Boone type love - it's as practical as it can possibly be. It is as practical as a rugged wooden cross and an empty grave. Love gave everything to us and demanded nothing in return. Love gave and still gives - life, light, righteousness, holiness, forgiveness and every-

## CHAPTER 8

### A MAN CALLED LOVE

From what you have read in the previous chapter you might be excused for thinking that power was the number one thing - the 'cherry on the cake'. If there is that much power, limitless power, then isn't it important? Yes, but love takes a higher place - love comes before all else and is supreme above everything because God is love.

It was love that took our Lord Jesus to the cross and it was love that held him there - He loved us to His death - and our life. It was love that caused our Dad to become our Dad because GOD IS LOVE (1 John 4 v 16.) That is the actual essence of our God. He can never do anything without love being part of the situation for He would be leaving Himself out.

But we are comparing the worldling with the SOG. Surely the world has love, for it tells us "Love makes the world go round" and the world is full of silly love songs: surely here is a place where the two people, Mr Worldling and Mr SOG find common ground? What absolute cods wallop! The world hardly has an idea of the God type love - agape love. Their god of love has a statue erected of him in Piccadilly Circus in London where the prostitutes sell "love". This god is named Eros and he is the god of erotic love. The valentine cards have his arrows piercing hearts. The love songs for the most part are pandering to the same instincts. Just a stone's throw or an arrow-shot away from his statue are the sex shops and the cinemas where most films include explicit sex or violence.

Much of the world's advertising is based on this false premise - "buy this aftershave - it will make all the girls fancy you". The female form is used to enhance so many products - using sex is just another way of selling a product. Yes, the world does have its love and because it is based on eroticism, sex has to be the ultimate goal.

## CHAPTER 6

### DREAMING

Let's just pause a moment and think about this scripture: 1 Cor 15 v 53 says FOR THIS PERISHABLE (PART OF US) MUST PUT ON THE IMPERISHABLE (NATURE) AND THIS MORTAL (PART OF US, THIS NATURE THAT IS CAPABLE OF DYING) MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY (FREEDOM FROM DEATH). These are such giant truths - God is immortal and we are told to take on the same immortality. We also read we must "take on the very nature of God" (2 Peter 1 v 4) and "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2 v 16). These readings come out of the same drawer - the very top one! This agrees with our reading in John 11 v 5 which says "we will never die". That means a SOG must become a time-lord just like Jesus - that is what we are being changed into.

How does that stack up against what our poor old worldling has (if he has anything at all)? One of the predominant aspects of worldliness is escapism. Many are trying to escape like rats leaving a sinking ship and this takes on many forms. The "rinky-dink" television with its sex, drugs and violence - even the cartoons take violence to its extreme.

Then there's the "soaps" which are supposed to emulate real life and so many people are addicted to them and need to ingest a daily dose of East Enders, Neighbours or Coronation Street. Is the reason that the worldlings have to watch this rubbish because their lives are so boring and without hope of anything? Of course, you would not expect a SOG to need this kind of rubbish to pollute their minds, because their lives are not boring, but should be the most exciting you can get.

Rarely is there a film or TV play where sex is not paramount to the plot, and the writers have the characters jumping into bed together at the slightest excuse. How often do these same characters have

problems in their real lives with making love or have a disease as a result of their fornication or adultery? Of course, the truth is that "soaps" bear no relationship to real life in any way whatsoever.

Then there's computer games and the vast untold hours wasted on them, even all night sometimes. Now these games are being developed into "virtual reality". People, particularly the young, get hooked so easily on this totally unproductive rubbish and the name "virtual reality" just sums it up completely. People are saying by their actions: "Stop the world, I want to get off and get into my unreal, untrue world where I am in control, where I answer to no-one and am responsible for nothing."

Drinking to excess is another escape, so prevalent in recent years and particularly amongst the young. We hear them boast about how many drinks they had last night - but never of the hangover the next morning. "Champagne at night - real pain in the morning"! Of course drugs are in the same league. A good feeling for a short time, to be paid for in poor health, flash-backs and possible addiction with all the problems that brings - even to suicide.

The first time we met Dirk (a street evangelist) in Leicester Square, he asked if anyone would care to give a testimony. I shared for a few minutes on our adventures spreading the gospel in many countries, and what an exciting time we have. When I had finished, Dirk said to the crowd "That was good - now would anyone care to share about how drugs have improved their life". No-one responded - how could they? But he made his point.

The worldlings need escapism - run off to the sun - have a holiday in a tropical paradise - meet unusual people who speak a strange language - go to places that only dreams are made of like Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, etc. We are SOGs and we go wherever He sends us and it's usually to countries that are mainly either Islamic, Hindu or Buddhist. In Zanzibar in 1996/97 our room was 10 yards from 2 miles of deserted beach and the warm sea and the sunsets were beautiful. When we say to people "Wouldn't you like to become a Christian too?" they often reply "you people live in cloud

because we send them to the place Jesus has appointed for them.

I hope I haven't made it sound as though power is the most important part of all this because we care far more for the Author of the power than the power itself. Having said that, it seems a bit churlish of us if we refuse to use the enormous power that our Lord went to the trouble of providing for us. Eph 1 v 19a KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER IN AND FOR US. So there it is repeated again - the power is in us and also for us - Hallelujah! We are in a war and we need His power to fight the battles on a daily basis. We know that Jesus has already won the victory for us but He knew that we would need Holy Spirit power to live our lives here.

The "job description" at the end of Matthew and Mark is a pretty tall order without this power. Yet with it, the difficult becomes easy and the impossible becomes the norm. The worldling is not at this point even on the map. He does not feature in any way at all - not even a 'walk-on' part. He only has himself to rely on and he is "dead in trespasses and sins". We cannot make a comparison for there is none to make.

I cannot imagine how a power person (a SOG) would even have the faintest desire to take a retrograde step back into powerlessness. We could spend much more time on power but there is more, so much more, so - on to LOVE.

age with our generous God - He gives all things liberally and generously - and that works with power as with anything else.

1 Cor 4 v 20 says THE KINGDOM IS BASED NOT ON TALK BUT ON POWER. This expressly deals with the situation of men saying things and teaching others out of common sense or their own opinions. A good example of this is when people say that signs and wonders (miracles) are not for today. We hear this stated and there is just one verse which is misquoted to back it up but of course nothing to demonstrate the truth of it.

Now on the other hand, we SOGs who live spirit-filled lives, preaching the gospel with signs and wonders following, actually demonstrate the power: the power of the Holy Spirit and of the Word – which the Lord Holy Spirit will always back up. The power of the Name of Jesus Himself which is the Name above all Names, and the power of the blood. There is nothing stronger in the universe than an agreement sealed in blood. The power of love is stronger than all the things that might appear to have power in this world but really only have a semblance of it - just a mere shadow. Isn't it amazing that all these aspects of power are readily and easily available to us (a) to get the job done, and (b) for ordinary everyday living.

We so often see the power of the Holy Spirit at work on the mission field: the power of the Word to cut people free. There was a lady in Florida who had a crippling pain in her shoulder coming through to her chest. The Lord revealed a spirit of freemasonry to be the cause and as we cut her free in the Name of Jesus, the pain disappeared immediately.

The same power is also used to move spirits (ghosts?) out of houses. By the authority of the Name of Jesus they know they have to flee - and they do! The same when we are ministering to people who are oppressed - the demonic beings just have to bow to Jesus's mighty name. (Everything that has a name, has to bow to the name which is above all names—the Lord Jesus Christ!) Then we set the blood line around the person and those filthy things cannot return

cuckoo land". No! Sometimes it's Zanzibar on the beach - by God's grace and provision.

Our Lord's injunction to His SOGs is to "go into all the world to preach the gospel". The picture I have drawn of Zanzibar leaves out the people who try to stone us, the lack of running water and electricity, the mosquitoes and scorpions etc, but once you begin to enter into this injunction, which ever place Dad sends you to, will be the place where you will be happy and fulfilled. This comes not as a result of the place being where it is, but rather the work getting done while moving in the fullness of the verse "I only do the works that I see the Father doing" (John 5 v 19). We never fail to be amazed at the work the Lord prepares for us to do.

A young Muslim named Swali gave his heart to Jesus. Two months previously his back had been miraculously healed from "malaria spine" as we prayed for him in the name of Jesus – and then he became a Christian. Can the world know or even have an inkling of what that is all about - much less understand the joy and fulfilment it gives to the SOG? That is the reason we were in Zanzibar - to tell the Muslims about Jesus and His love for them – and there were over 500 of them saved by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. The worldlings dream the impossible dream - we SOGs **live** the impossible dream.

Then of course there's the day-dreaming which is of quite another ilk. Daydreaming is basically saying "I am not satisfied with things as they are, or me as I am. I would prefer to be a millionaire or a film star - or sportsman of the year", etc. If it happened in reality it could be ruining or at least result in great unhappiness. Paul tells us to be content with our lot.

Millionaires, film stars and sports personalities are not especially happy - rather the other way around. Many in these three categories commit suicide, get hooked on drugs or alcohol or get into some kind of really bad trouble. What the daydreamer is saying ultimately is "I don't like the way God has ordered it for me - I want to write the script". To do that out of no knowledge or understanding

is abject foolishness, to say the least: playing at being God, or worse if that's possible.

Of course SOGs don't usually daydream because they know they have everything. They are aware that all there is that's any good is already theirs in Christ, so it is not necessary. We can't go beyond being a child of eternity, a child of light (a child of Almighty God). Yet there is more, and both SOGs and worldlings daydream because they have a power to create.

However, the worldlings' daydreams only run on a one-and-a-half volt battery but the SOGs' daydreams are on mains power. What do I mean by this? OK, the Word of God says in John 14 v 13, John 15 v 16, John 16 v 23 and Matt 21 v 22 and in many other scriptures "anything you ask in My Name, that I will do".

With so many confirmatory scriptures, how can we not assimilate this truth? Our daydreams (thoughts) are our unspoken prayers. Do worldlings get these prayers answered? SOGs do! Mostly these "thought prayers" do not get answered because we ask wrongly (James 1 v 6) or ask for two opposite things thereby cancelling each other out.

So, do SOGs daydream foolishness as the worldlings do? The answer is yes, they do. Satan, or his minions, spend vast amounts of time nagging us in order to try to make our minds unproductive for the Kingdom. They set their sights to dominate our thought-life: the battleground is our minds.

Once I was involved in a car crash where I could have been killed. It was a situation where at the very least severe injuries and hospitalisation should have been the outcome. The Lord revealed some time later that a Christian was daydreaming my death - they had a heart desire for me to be out of the way. Whereas the evil powers would normally try to thwart the prayers of a born again Christian, but because it comes under the heading of "destruction", they went along with the daydream prayer. But our loving Daddy God showed me how in the face of such danger He was holding me in

Christ from that throne room NOW. Not being blown about by every wind of change, but **by** ruling, change the wind!

We read that we now have God's own nature (2 Pet 1 v 4). We have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2 v 16). Think in terms of Christ in you and you in Christ. In Him you are made full (Col 2 v 10) and are therefore filled with the Godhead.

When our Lord Jesus Christ said on the cross "IT IS FINISHED!" it was the shout of triumph that rang back down through the ages of time for all those waiting in faith for salvation. And the same shout of triumph rings up through time for our benefit to make us rulers and reigners with Him throughout all eternity, all time, all light and all space.

If we want to see real power, the most power ever demonstrated, then we must again look at what God said in Gen 1 v 3. He said LET THERE BE LIGHT and by those words light was created. All those heavenly bodies switched on to creating light on and on and on eternally. I was once told by a mature Christian that creation is finished. Boy, did he get it wrong. We are made in God's image, with His nature, His mind and His power. His what?! POWER. It certainly is not our own power for we do not have any of our own.

With all these attributes of God and not only being like Him, but being His sons as well, could we switch on a few, just a million or so stars out there in the cosmos? I can't wait to have a go at it. Sounds like a lot of fun to me. The Lord showed me what the family business is. It is not called "God and Son" - it's called God and Sons **Unlimited**!

You can be sure there are no limitations regarding real estate available to the sons of the Lord God Almighty. The millionaire worldlings are all fighting over real estate but their estate is in fact **un-real**. We have been conditioned for such a long time to the world's way of thinking that our minds tend to get stuck in the same groove. The world works on a system of shortages to keep the price as high as possible - "buy now while stocks last". There is never any short-

mis - this is the root of the words we know as dynamo and dynamite. That is what fell that day on those 120 frightened followers huddled quietly waiting on the Lord. That day DYNAMITE fell, fear got trampled underfoot in the rush for the door and Peter preached and 3000 got saved!

I don't think "super power" is an overstatement! We have every kind of power you can imagine - and some you can't! We have the power to heal at our fingertips; power to change the weather (as we have already mentioned), power over the strong man (Luke 11 v 21 & 22) WHEN THE STRONG MAN, FULLY ARMED, (FROM HIS COURTYARD) GUARDS HIS OWN DWELLING, HIS BELONGINGS ARE UNDISTURBED (HIS PROPERTY IS AT PEACE AND IS SECURE). BUT WHEN ONE STRONGER THAN HE ATTACKS HIM AND CONQUERS HIM, HE ROBS HIM OF HIS WHOLE ARMOUR ON WHICH HE HAD RELIED AND DIVIDES UP AND DISTRIBUTES ALL HIS GOODS AS PLUNDER (SPOIL).

Power has been reinstated to all SOGs over the whole of this created world: over the animals, fish, insects, birds and more, much more. Here we come into the place of the unseen or supernatural where the SOG really excels and comes into his own. We are given power over even the principalities and powers (Eph 6 v 12) for they are already disarmed (Col 2.15).

I recall a time when some 20 of us SOGs got together in the little hall in Albert Road, Rochester: we were singing the well known chorus which has a last line "And I'll reign with You for all eternity". The Lord spoke to me and said "When's eternity Frank?" "Well, Lord, it's a bit open ended both ways" I replied. "And where will you reign from?" He asked. "The throne" was my reply. "And when will you be seated on the throne Frank?" "I am already" I said. "W-e-l-l?" He asked - and I knew what He was saying.

Can you catch the idea of this? Can you cotton-on to how Father God wants us to be in this world? Not as the know-nothing, do-nothing, be-nothing worldlings but to be ruling and reigning with

His arms - and I only had a few cracked ribs and minor cuts and bruises.

SOGs have at their disposal vast opportunity either to build or to destroy. (Isaiah 59 v 5) THEY HATCH COCKATRICE' EGGS, AND WEAVE THE SPIDER'S WEB; HE THAT EATETH OF THEIR EGGS DIETH, AND THAT WHICH IS CRUSHED BREAKETH OUT INTO A VIPER. Chapter 59 deals with the iniquities of the believer and his ability to tear down instead of build up. Plainly, sin is usually conceived in the daydream.

James 1 v 15 says THEN THE EVIL DESIRE, WHEN IT HAS CONCEIVED, GIVES BIRTH TO SIN, AND SIN, WHEN IT IS FULLY MATURED, BRINGS FORTH DEATH. Jesus made it quite plain that it is enough to think the thought to have committed the sin already (Matt 5 v 28).

On the other hand, these same thoughts can be used for good. Then we have another name for it - it is called "vision." Now, instead of letting our thought-life be dominated by the enemy we now use it to bring God's kingdom into being; by visualising, by looking forward to furthering the kingdom God's way.

When Father created us He made us to dream, to desire, to wish. That is not sin - sin is when we use it wrongly. Proverbs 29 v 18 says WITHOUT VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH. Our best is to know and understand God's plan for each one of us individually and all of us corporately - and then put our daydreaming to work for the Kingdom.

The world creates fiction along the same lines. The world creates characters we would not even try to emulate. Even Superman (who is of course another example of escapism) does not come anywhere near to being like a child of eternity.

Have you as a SOG ever changed the weather? God gave Adam dominion over everything (Gen 1 v 26) but he lost it at the fall (Genesis chapter 3). The Second Adam (Jesus) reinstated it, remov-

ing the curse for us (1 Cor 15 v 45).

Not once, but twice in Zanzibar, while preaching in a church building with a tin roof, it began to rain heavily, so much that my voice could not be heard. We commanded the rain to stop in the name of Jesus and it stopped within 30 seconds. We know many SOGs who have changed the weather because they **know** they walk in Kingdom power.

I recall an occasion in the UK when an unsaved lady told me that she was receiving obscene phone calls. Her husband had intercepted one and had sworn and shouted and verbally abused the caller - who just laughed and seemed to enjoy the confrontation. I put my hand on the handset and commanded in the name of Jesus that the calls stop. Speaking to this lady a few months later, she told me there had not been any more obscene calls from that moment on. Glory to God!

A short time later I prayed for another young lady's phone in the name of Jesus for the same reason but this time without actually touching the handset. Again the response was immediate and conclusive. SOGs have such tremendous power and authority at their disposal.

It boggles the mind how any SOG would desire to return to the ways of the world, having tasted the new way of forgiveness, life, love, joy, peace and power. Oh yes, we haven't spoken about power yet - so we will next.

## CHAPTER 7

### POWER

Luke 24 v 49 says AND BEHOLD I WILL SEND FORTH UPON YOU WHAT MY FATHER HAS PROMISED; BUT REMAIN IN THE CITY (JERUSALEM) UNTIL YOU ARE CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH. Let's look into this power that is promised.

Now the world has a bit of a problem here because they don't have much power and therefore they don't understand much about it. It is said that 'power corrupts' and 'absolute power corrupts absolutely' . We can see that that is true in the world because if we look at the despots like Hitler, Nero and Stalin for example, we see the truth of that saying, yet their power is very limited. They can only kill you - that's not much, is it? That just about sums up Mr Worldling's power, or his hopes or dreams of it.

The truth of what I am saying is found in Luke 12 v 4 & 5 DO NOT DREAD AND BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY AND AFTER THAT HAVE NOTHING MORE THAT THEY CAN DO. BUT I WILL WARN YOU WHOM YOU SHOULD FEAR: FEAR HIM WHO, AFTER KILLING, HAS POWER TO HURL INTO HELL (GEHENNA); YES, I SAY TO YOU, FEAR HIM!

The world's power is based on deceitful riches, on fear and lies. An example of the world's power is that of the mafia. I remember hearing a preacher once say that the demons are like the mafia - leave them alone and they will leave you alone. Both elements of that statement are false - in fact both will use their power against men.

What about the power of a SOG? Does he have power? What Luke 24 v 49 is referring to is the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples at Pentecost. Now the word for Holy Spirit in Greek is Duna-