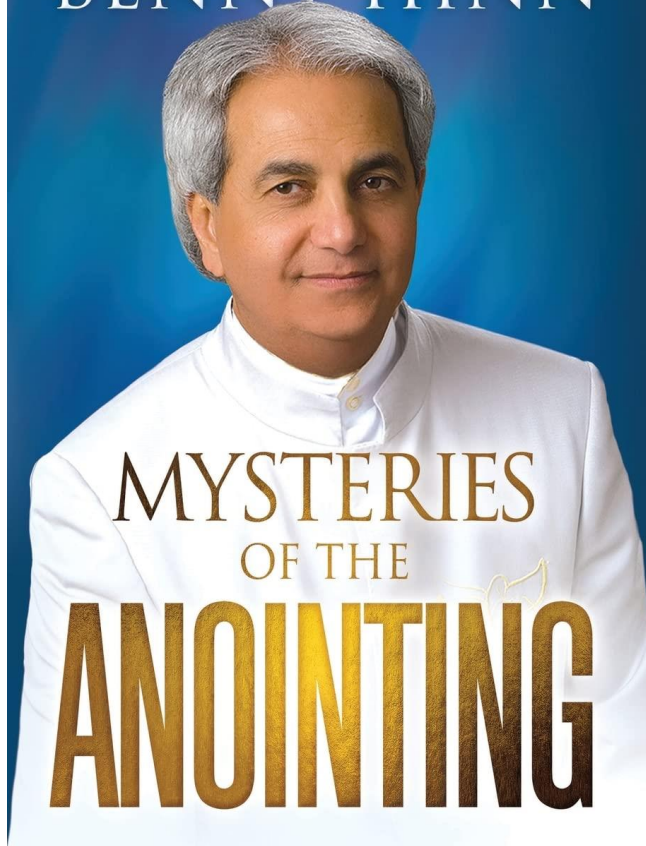


INTERNATIONAL BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

BENNY HINN



MYSTERIES
OF THE
ANOINTING

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PART I

ANOINTED FOR LIVING

Chapter 1

WELCOME TO THE MYSTERIES OF THE ANOINTING

THE ANOINTING OF the Holy Spirit is desperately needed and necessary today. Its power can be imitated but never duplicated. We must have the anointing's irreplaceable presence, which no other religious effort or spiritual quest can match. This vital equipping of the believer's life is often misunderstood and historically undertaught. The purpose of this book is to reveal mysteries of the anointing that will release the power of God to move in your life in a tangible way. Scripture sanctions the believer in Jesus as both king and priest before God. We are given the unction to rise to the place of the high calling and to be everything He has promised us we can be. The anointing initiates and confirms our position in Christ Jesus.

Charles Spurgeon, in *The Treasury of David*, an exposition on Psalm 23, wrote: "Every Christian is a priest, but he cannot execute the priestly office without unction, and hence we must go day by day to God the Holy Ghost, that we may have our heads anointed with oil. A priest without oil misses the chief qualification for his office, and the Christian priest lacks his chief fitness for service when he is devoid of new grace." ¹ In recent decades we have seen the emergence of seeker-sensitive churches and ministries that have almost been ashamed of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the gifts God brings. The anointing has been hidden and covered, and a shallow and powerless generation of believers has replaced those filled with Holy Ghost power.

God is going to rescue this generation and restore His church in great power. This book contains the antidote to the virus that has weakened the body of Christ. The anointing of God is what is required to release the huddled masses of a bound and oppressed generation. Get ready for God to ignite you with fire. The

anointing of God fuels the fire of the Holy Spirit. Open your heart to a deeper level of God's mighty anointing, and get ready to burn with fresh passion for God and His purpose for your life. After nearly four decades of powerful ministry I went through the most painful season of my life. Ministers and believers are not exempt from mental, physical, or emotional pain. God never promised we would not go through hard times. He did promise we would not go through them alone. God has given us the guarantee of His Word that He will never leave us or forsake us. This time in my life was an excruciatingly painful experience for my family. God sometimes needs to take us off the mountaintop and put us in the valley for us to learn.

The valley we walked through lasted three long years. My wife, Suzanne, suffered a personal crisis that reached back decades into her own life. God saw her and our family through it all. Suzanne has shared this personal victory, and many have been encouraged and strengthened by her story. Through this painful season I learned there are differences in the way God uses His anointing in our lives. There are different anointings that flow through God's people. I didn't realize it until I went through this extremely difficult time in my life. I did not discover this in any school. Only the Holy Spirit could have revealed these things. I saw I could minister under the anointing and the anointing upon my office was not affected at all, yet at home my personal life was struggling. As a result, I began to ask questions. I wondered how the struggle in my personal life and even the struggle in my spiritual life did not affect the anointing to minister in our live services.

Then, to my amazement, I learned the anointing upon my ministry office has nothing to do with the anointing in my life. The anointing in my life is separate. I began to search the Scriptures. The Lord said, "Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers." He did not say one river. He did not say two or three rivers. God said rivers. He never told us how many rivers. I am still discovering the rivers. It was necessary for me to go through this painful season of my life to realize there are many rivers to the anointing.

The Lord later restored my personal life spiritually, emotionally, and physically, but that period was a learning experience. I'm glad there are no wasted years. God can use the pain in our lives for our growth. God does not waste our pain. Romans 8:28 promises, "And we know that all things work

together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I can tell you this: had I not gone through this painful season, I would not be writing this book. I am writing this book because as I have shared this message worldwide, I have discovered this is not a widely known revelation. I have found this illumination of the Holy Spirit regarding the many rivers of the anointing is a fresh concept for God's people. It is revelatory for me, and I have never read about it in a book or heard it taught before. Let us now dive into the deep and discover the rivers of God's precious anointing.

2. The empowering anointing

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. -ACTS 1:8

The anointing that we see in Acts 1:8 is an outer anointing. This empowering anointing affects your ministry and the gifts of the Spirit on your life. This is the anointing for service. It provides the ability to share the gospel with others, whether or not there is a call to a ministry office upon your life. I'll cover this anointing more thoroughly in two sections: one for all Christians used by God in ministry to others and one for those called to an office or a life calling ministry position. The abiding anointing is for everyday living and is available to every believer.

The empowering anointing is distinctly for service and therefore applies to those who have dedicated themselves to serving God in ministry to others. It affects the body and soul but not the spirit. It is for doing. It does not necessarily affect a person's Christian life or spiritual walk. It is a gift. This outer anointing is given to those who prove themselves faithful to the Lord. Not every Christian chooses to serve, and so not every Christian receives the empowering anointing. I'll discuss that more in a later chapter.

3. The dominion anointing

It shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy

neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing. -ISAIAH 10:27

The dominion anointing of Isaiah 10:27 is a very rare and powerful anointing. This world-changing anointing specifically affects nations; it has the power to build kingdoms or destroy them. Very few have this anointing, which I also call the Elijah anointing. This anointing rested on Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Elijah, Elisha, and a few others in the Old Covenant. It rested on individuals God used prophetically to raise up kingdoms or destroy them. I believe we are coming into what I call the Elijah realm of the anointing.

The Elijah realm is a realm we have rarely seen on earth. Glimpses and seasons of the Elijah realm of the anointing have come and gone. We're coming into the Elijah days again very soon. This anointing is the only anointing that will destroy the spirit of Jezebel, which is the spirit of witchcraft. This anointing cannot be adequately explained in just a few words. I will devote a more complete teaching to this at a later time. As you progress through this book, you'll see that the responsibilities for each anointing get higher and so do the rewards in the kingdom. The anointing is the foundation for everything God gives you in life.

It took me a long time to learn what I must do to build a solid foundation in my life for God to use me and continue using me, and I'm sharing those insights in this book. They will save you from collapse. These insights will strengthen you to keep you in fellowship with our wonderful Lord Jesus so that you do not fall away.

Chapter 2

UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE ANOINTING

YOU ARE A spirit. Let that sink in for just a moment. You are not a soul. You are not a body. You are a spirit. You have a soul. You live in a body. But you are a spirit. That's who you are. Your body is not the real you. The real you is your spirit. At the moment of your salvation, something dynamic happened. The person of the Holy Spirit became one with your spirit. The Scripture is clear on this in 1 Corinthians 6:17, where it says, "He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." When the Holy Spirit and your spirit became one, at that moment, life, rebirth, cleansing, renewal, and regeneration took place. The moment this oneness between the Holy Spirit and your spirit took place, a mighty force was released. This force within us is what we call the anointing. The anointing of God is a vast subject. The study of it is almost endless because it has so many different streams; one book cannot contain it all.

Throughout these pages I will discuss some intriguing, hidden matters in the Bible. I call them mysteries of the anointing. I explore why certain things happened the way they did in the lives of the Lord Jesus, Moses, David, and Paul. Perhaps you've wondered about some of the things that took place in their lives. They are mysteries. But there's an answer to every mystery in the Bible. As you make your way through the three sections of the book, you'll notice a progression. In exploring the components of the anointing, we see that there are levels that go deeper and deeper. As we advance, you will notice that in the deeper levels, there are fewer who operate in each of these anointing levels. We start with the inner anointing that everyone receives at salvation, and then we progress to the outer anointing. It is reserved for those God trusts with it, ones who have chosen to dedicate their lives to becoming vessels of God devoted to His ministry.

We will also explore the coming Elijah anointing for nations, which very few have ever had. Most people don't know the anointing exists or, if they do, why it exists. It's an enigma.

My goal is to help you navigate through this challenging subject by sharing the Word of God and the experiences I've had in more than forty years of ministry. John 8:32 tells us, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The only truth that will set you free is the truth that you know. As you walk through these pages, your understanding of the anointing will grow so that you will become more proficient in moving in your anointing, an instrument of God, finely tuned to His measures. I've also had the privilege of being close to some of the most remarkable people that ever lived, and I've seen firsthand how God used them.

I learned a great deal from working with the Kathryn Kuhlman Foundation for four years and also through my close personal friendships with Rex Humbard and Oral Roberts. I've probably talked with Oral Roberts more than any other human being about the mysteries in this book. In his later years I'd go to his home almost every week, and we'd spend hours and hours together. You can't be close to people such as these and not learn something. You can't be in your own ministry for decades and not learn something either.

Their imprint is certainly on these pages as it is on every aspect of my ministry. Even with their fellowship and teaching, however, after decades of worldwide ministry I didn't understand much of what I am about to share. It wasn't until a few years ago that the Lord gave me many of these profound insights about the anointing. I didn't find them in any book or teaching. I found them by seeking the Lord and His Word. What the Lord revealed to me after I went in search of answers, I share with you now.

THREE MAJOR ANOINTINGS

In the Bible we find three major anointings: the abiding anointing, the empowering anointing, and the dominion anointing.

1. The abiding anointing

The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. -1 JOHN 2:27

The anointing mentioned in 1 John 2:27 is what I call the abiding anointing. This anointing is for living. It's an inner

anointing, working from within you to deepen your fellowship with God. As we begin our journey, I want you to notice something that many people miss. The abiding anointing is the anointing for living, not doing. This inner anointing affects the spirit of a person. The emphasis of the abiding anointing is not meant for the soul or the body. The abiding anointing stays in you; it dwells within the child of God. It affects your heart, your life, your walk with God, and your fellowship with Him. It provides the grace to continue in the things of God. Today, know and be aware that the abiding anointing is within you to teach you and help establish you daily. You are not isolated or alone. You are equipped with a continual flow of God's abiding anointing.

Chapter 3

THE MYSTERY OF THE ABIDING ANOINTING

THE ABIDING ANOINTING described in 1 John 2:27 is a vital key for this whole book, so please read that verse now. Underline it here and in your Bible. It reveals a powerful truth that is the foundation for everything else God gives you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. -1 JOHN 2:27

Let's break this verse down to understand what it is saying about this level of anointing, the one that allows you to abide in Jesus because He abides in you. It begins with, "But the anointing which ye have received of him." The first thing I want you to notice is the word of. John says this anointing is of God, not from God. This anointing of Him is separate from the one from Him. The one of Him is the inner anointing for living described here in 1 John.

The one from Him is the outer anointing for ministry described in Acts 1:8. There is a reason these words are not the same. It seems simple, but it took me years to discover this, and when you grasp this, it will change your entire understanding. That's why I'm sharing it with you in this book. The anointing for living is of God; the anointing for ministry is from God. The phrase of Him means that He is the source. This anointing is Him; it is not a gift from Him. Let me show you what I mean. If I say to someone, "Take this from me," it means I have it. If I have it, someone gave it to me. If I have it, it had a beginning. If I have it, it will have an end. But if I say to someone, "Take this of me," they cannot do it because I am it. The abiding anointing is of Him because it is Him. It is the anointing that He is.

In the Old Testament the Lord said, "I am," which means God doesn't have life; God is life. God doesn't have power; God is power. There is a power that He gives as a gift, of course. I'll write about that later. But here I'm talking about who God is. Next, this verse tells us this anointing "abideth in you." This anointing abides. It doesn't come and go. The empowering

anointing from Him in Acts 1:8 does not abide. God anoints you as you minister, and when you are done ministering, it lifts. The empowering anointing is from the Lord for a certain moment, a specific assignment. It is for a season and a reason. By contrast, the abiding anointing does not leave; it stays. It abides and thickens; it abides and grows; it abides and brings forth the revelation of all things. It abides. Please notice that the Bible says the abiding anointing is in you.

The empowering anointing (which is the anointing for ministry) rests on you. The empowering anointing for ministry comes later, but the abiding anointing comes at salvation. The Scripture continues, "And ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things." The abiding anointing that comes into your spirit and becomes one with your heart at salvation is a revelation anointing.

It reveals everything about God. It is endless because it teaches you all things. Why would John say you don't need anyone to teach you? You've got to look at the whole chapter to see that it is a warning to believers. I encourage you to read all of 1 John 2, but for the sake of space, right now we will focus on what John says in verse 26: These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. John was warning that people will try to pull you away from the truth of who Jesus is. That is the reason he says the anointing abides in you and you don't need anyone to teach you anything.

The abiding anointing teaches you that Jesus, the Son of God, is exactly who He says He is. The Holy Spirit reveals who Jesus is to our hearts. It is the truth, and there is no lie in it. The minute you are saved, the Holy Spirit becomes one with your spirit. One of the first things that happen is faith explodes in you. By the Holy Spirit you immediately know who the Lord Jesus is in your life. You don't need anyone to teach you who He is. That's why nobody can seduce you. Even though they may try, they cannot succeed because you already have the truth inside you. Jesus is the truth inside you.

CONTRASTING THE ABIDING AND EMPOWERING ANOINTINGS

When John says this abiding anointing "is truth, and is no lie," he means there is no lie in it. It is for revelation and protection. It protects you from deception. It is possible to be

deceived with the anointing on you but not with the anointing in you. Put another way, the outer (empowering) anointing allows deception; the inner (abiding) anointing protects you from deception. So someone can minister and preach the gospel as the anointing comes on him, yet the devil can deceive him. It is possible to be used by the Lord and no longer know the Lord. Think about that for a minute. The Bible says many will come in that day saying, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?" and He will say, "I never knew you" (Matt. 7:22-23).

It is a staggering truth that a person can know and preach the Bible and be under an anointing for ministry yet not know the Lord. In other words, that person has no fellowship with the Lord, no intimate knowledge of the Lord. King Saul is a perfect example. He knew how to be king, but he did not know the Lord. David knew the Lord. That's the difference. Knowing the Lord is the key. Knowing Him is the foundation for life and ministry. The greatest revelation of life is having an intimate knowledge of the Lord in a way that He is real to you and manifests Himself in you. Paul talks about the abiding anointing when he says, Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. —EPHESIANS 3:20

Notice he says that it works in us, not through us. Ephesians 3:20 and 1 John 2:27 are talking about the same anointing: the inner (abiding) anointing for Christian living. The abiding anointing works in us; the empowering anointing works through us.

The abiding anointing is for walking; the empowering anointing is for working. The abiding anointing is for revelation and manifestation; the empowering anointing is for demonstration. With the abiding anointing the Lord manifests Himself in my spirit. He doesn't manifest within me so others will know Him; He manifests Himself within me that I might know Him. The empowering anointing is for demonstration that others might know Him. The truth of the abiding anointing in 1 John is for revelation. God is revealing Himself to us. It is also for transformation. It transforms us as Christians, as servants of God, as individuals. Finally, 1 John 2:27 says, "And even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." This means it will keep

you abiding in the Lord. The abiding anointing is so powerful that it ignites the enduring power of God to keep you. Thus, we are kept by the inner anointing.

THREE SIGNS OF THE ABIDING ANOINTING

There are three signs of the abiding anointing: hunger, faith, and love. These three things happen at salvation, the moment you become one with the Lord Jesus. Allow me to explain.

1. Hunger

When a baby is born, he is hungry for food. In the physical realm, hunger is the sign of life. It's the same in the spiritual realm. The minute you were born again, you became one with Jesus and you developed a spiritual hunger. From that moment, spiritual hunger is part of your life. You start seeking more and more of the presence of God through His Word.

2. Faith

The second thing that happens at salvation is an explosion of faith. You know that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for your sins, and that He rose from the dead. How do you know that reality? You don't need to read it in a book. You know it by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives you an inner knowing that you belong to Him, that He loves you, that heaven is your home, that there is power in the blood to set you free, and that you are redeemed. That inner knowing is faith. You receive Godgiven faith, and therefore, you don't have to convince yourself it's real. The Lord becomes real to you—more real than your own life.

Before I move on, let me quickly explain that there are different types of faith. First is the measure, or seed, of faith. God puts a measure of faith in your life at salvation, and immediately you know He's your God. This is the faith I've been talking about where you know the Lord Jesus is the Savior of your soul. Next is the fruit of faith. After God has sown the seed of faith in your life, it takes hold of your heart. It grows and bears fruit in your life called the fruit of the Spirit. Last is the gift of faith.

This type of faith is different because it is not for your relationship with God. Instead, the gift of faith is for ministry to others. Every gift for ministry comes under the

empowering anointing of Acts 1:8, which I will talk about in a later chapter.

3. Love

The third thing that comes alive at salvation is the Holy Spirit gives you a love for the Lord Jesus you have never known and a desire to know the Lord, a desire to walk with Him, a desire to serve Him. That is love. The minute that oneness with the Lord Jesus takes place, there is a great desire to know Him. The Bible says that even though we haven't seen the Lord Jesus, we love Him (1 Pet. 1:8). When I got saved, on February 14, 1972, I fell in love with Jesus in a split second. A group of kids in my Toronto high school had been talking to me about Jesus, and I thought they were all crazy. It seemed that all they did was go around saying, "Jesus loves you," and I didn't know how to respond to that. But they would not give up.

All through my senior year, they kept telling me Jesus loved me. On the night of February 13, 1972, something incredible happened. I had a dream that I will never forget. I saw myself on a long stairway going down into a pit. I was chained to other prisoners, and little half-human, half-animal creatures prodded us to keep walking down the stairs. There was no way out, and the stairway kept going deeper and deeper into darkness. Suddenly an angel appeared right beside me. No one saw him but me, and he motioned for me to come to him. At that moment, my chains fell off. He took me by the hand, and a door opened out of nowhere.

The angel still held me by the hand as he led me through the door, took me through the air, and landed me on a street corner right outside one of the windows of my high school building. As soon as we landed in my dream, I woke up. I had no idea what it all meant. I had no idea that the spot where my dream ended would become significant in just a few short hours. Since I had awoken early, I headed to school and made my way to the library. The group of students who always talked about Jesus invited me to its morning prayer meeting, which was in the library. I thought, "What can it hurt? And maybe it will finally get them off my back."

I went to the meeting, and the next thing I knew, the kids were all praying in tongues. I had never heard anyone pray like that before. I was scared, but at the same time, I felt a

presence come over me. It was overwhelming. I didn't know how to say to Jesus, "Come into my heart." None of the kids said, "Here's how you get saved. Pray these words after me." They just kept praying in tongues, and I began crying. It was such an emotional moment. I put my head down and said out loud, "Jesus, come back!" I said that because I had had a visitation from the Lord when I was eleven, but nothing had happened since then. I knew this was the same Jesus I had encountered at age eleven, so all I could think to say was, "Come back!" The prayer meeting ended shortly after that, and no one said anything to me.

I didn't know what else to do except head to my first class. I knew something had happened to me, but I didn't even know how to describe it. I walked into the classroom late, and the teacher had already begun her lesson. All I could think was, "Jesus is coming back!" Something just told me this inside, and it was all I could think about. I couldn't listen to the lesson, so I just put my head down on my desk. As soon as I put my head down, I could see Jesus in a white robe, walking on the Sea of Galilee, coming toward me. I opened my eyes, and I could still see Jesus. I began crying so hard right there in class.

I cried out, "Jesus, I love You!" The whole class stopped. The teacher didn't know what to do. My cousin sitting next to me kept saying, "Shh! Be quiet!" But I didn't care. I just kept saying, "Jesus, I love You!" because I saw Him coming to me. All day I kept weeping, and the only thing I could say was, "Jesus, I love You!" Then, as I left school and headed toward the corner of the building, I noticed the library window. Suddenly, my dream from the night before came flooding back. That was the corner where I landed in my dream, and the window in my dream was the window of the library where I had just encountered the Lord Jesus. Instantly, I knew the Lord was drawing me to Him, and I knew that I loved Him with all my heart.

Who put this love in me? It was the Holy Spirit. The kids who had invited me to the prayer meeting also invited me to church. That Thursday night, I went with them to the Toronto Catacombs, led by Merv Watson and his wife, Merla, who wrote "Jehovah Jireh." The guest speaker that night was Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). At the end of his message, Loren gave an altar call, and I heard the

audible voice of the Lord telling me to go down to the altar. That's where I made my public declaration of faith.

HUNGER LEADS TO FELLOWSHIP

The abiding anointing begins to manifest immediately as a hunger for God. When I got saved, I wanted more of what I had tasted of Him when I was eleven. That was hunger. Then, suddenly, I knew I was a child of God. When I got saved, no man told me. I just knew it. The Holy Spirit put that faith in me with such reality. And third, my reaction was, "Jesus, I love You!" Those three things are the signs of life in Jesus, which begin our fellowship with Him: hunger, faith, and love. The minute your relationship with God begins, hunger leads you to fellowship. Please don't miss that: hunger leads to fellowship. It's simple but profound. The minute we become one with Christ Jesus, the abiding anointing is released, and our fellowship with Him begins.

The minute that intimacy starts, it quickens or ignites the Word. The Bible comes alive. Your relationship with God's Word starts as a result. Hunger for the Lord produces hunger for His Word, not the other way around. When people don't experience hunger for the Lord before they hunger for His Word, they become religious. They become worshippers of doctrine, not worshippers of God.

They are hungry for knowledge, not for the Lord. There are Christians today who don't even know the Lord. They know His Word, but they don't know Him. They know what He said, but they don't know the One who said it. There's a lot of knowledge, but there is no anointing, no presence of God evident in their lives. Sadly, these people end up worshipping doctrine instead of worshipping the Lord. And when they worship doctrine, they become legalistic. I'm sure you know people like this. They know the Bible and will use it against you, but there is no compassion. They don't know how to show the Lord's love.

Many of them can teach or preach circles around the rest of us, but they don't know the Lord. That's what Jesus dealt with when He was on earth. The Pharisees knew the Scriptures, but they had no love or compassion. Before the apostle Paul's

conversion, he knew the Scriptures so well that he killed believers and used the Scriptures to defend his actions. He was blinded by doctrine. That's what it does; it blinds you. But the minute he met the Lord Jesus, it changed everything. Before his conversion, he was a perfect example of a man who knew the Word but not the Lord. He even used the Old Testament Law against the Lord and His people. It is the same as the Pharisees who came to the Lord and said, "Here's a woman caught in the very act of adultery. The Word says she must be killed.

What do You say about it?" What did Jesus say? "He who is without sin, find a rock and throw it." They all walked away. (See John 8:3-11.) This account demonstrates why you must develop your relationship with the Lord before developing your relationship with His Word.

Otherwise there's no balance. Fellowship with God is the foundation of life and ministry. Then, on top of that, you develop your relationship with His Word. Your hunger for Him leads you to know His Word, not the other way around. When I know Him, I want to know His mind, not the other way around. Knowing Him drives me to know His mind—What does He think about this and that? Then, when I read the Bible, I am not reading law and rules and regulations; I am developing my relationship with the Lord. Your hunger opens the way into God's presence and causes God to quicken you, to bring you to life spiritually. The hungrier you are, the more quickened you are by the Spirit.

The Bible says, "Taste and see that the LORD is good" (Ps. 34:8). What does that mean? It means when you are hungry, God gives you a taste of His presence and you become hungrier for Him. As your hunger leads to fellowship, a brand-new chapter opens where not only do you want to know Him, but you want to know the way He thinks. How does He see life? How does He see you? That's where His Word comes in. You cannot know the thoughts of a person until you know the person. When you know the person, then you know his or her ways. David began to know the Lord before he ever knew His ways. In 2 Samuel 6, when David was on the way to bringing back the ark of the covenant, Uzzah touched it and died. Verses 9 and 10 say David was afraid to bring the ark to his home. He realized, "I need to know the ways of the Lord better." He discovered the Lord's ways through His Word. He was still finding the ways of the

Lord. And then there is Moses. He knew the Lord, but he still said, "Show me Your glory." Moses was saying, "Lord, I want to know You. I want to know Your presence." He was hungry for more. Moses wanted to know the way God thinks, the way He looks at His people. What was he crying for? He wanted to know the glory of the Lord. God already knew Moses, and Moses knew the Lord. But because of Moses' request, in Exodus 34 God passed before him. Moses wanted to see God's face, but what revealed the Lord to Moses was His attributes, His ways, and His nature.

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. —EXODUS 34:6-7

God revealed Himself through His Word. Psalm 103:7 powerfully confirms this. It says, "He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel." When did God do that? In Exodus 33-34 when Moses began crying out. God revealed His nature, His attributes, to Moses, and Moses perceived all of it in his spirit man. The Bible declares in Hebrews 11 that he saw the sufferings of the Messiah and rejected the pleasures of Egypt. God revealed His ways to him in Exodus 34. We must understand that the abiding anointing reveals who the Lord is in our lives.

The abiding anointing protects our hearts from deception. The abiding anointing causes us to continue in fellowship with the Lord. This anointing resides in us. It is the anointing I have been writing about that produces hunger, faith, and love. In the next chapter I will examine what it means to practice the presence of God, which is dwelling in the spirit realm, where God's promises are activated. When you experience that depth of communion with the Lord, your presence becomes His presence. Your vessel becomes His vessel. Your eyes become His eyes. Your touch becomes His touch. Your voice becomes His voice. And with that the world will know He's alive!

Chapter 4

THE MYSTERY OF PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

DO YOU KNOW what I want most as a believer? More and more of the presence of God. I have discovered the essential keys that unlock the door to experiencing more of the presence of God. I am going to share these keys with you so that you can cross the threshold into a more dynamic life in God's presence. Of course, the day I stand before the Lord Jesus, I want Him to look at me with a smile and say, "Well done." But while I'm still here on the earth, I want more and more of His presence. The Word of God clearly states that we are to seek the Lord with all our hearts—not half, not two-thirds, but with all our hearts. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart...With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Seeking God with our whole hearts empowers us to keep His testimonies. The Hebrew word that is translated "testimonies" in Psalm 119:2 means God's precepts.

A precept is a principle or rule that regulates behavior or thought. When we seek God with our whole hearts, it gives us the strength to not wander from His commandments. Seeking God with our whole hearts is a master key to practicing the presence of the Lord. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. —PSALM 119:45

Seeking God with our whole hearts requires time. The tangible presence of God is what we're after in our walk with Him because the presence of the Lord Jesus nourishes, protects, strengthens, and empowers our inner man. But it only becomes a reality when we spend time with Him. Time is the price we pay. God will not show up, His presence will not become tangible, if we do not set our hearts on giving Him our uninterrupted time. Another key to unlocking the door to a life alive with God's presence is placing your focus upon the Lord. We cannot have divine communion and human communion at the same time—we absolutely cannot.

I cannot stress this enough—you cannot pollute the waters of communication with the Lord and expect to get a pure drink of His presence. He will not allow it. He wants your full and undivided attention, your whole heart. If something sidetracks you, He will hold back or pull away altogether, and regaining

His trust will be very difficult. God will not share His time. For example, you're in the presence of God, and the phone rings, so you stop and answer it. The Lord will not manifest His presence if you answer that phone. The flow of communication will be disrupted by the interruption. He will hold back until you finish what you have to do or say, and you will have to make an effort to get back to the place where you were before you answered the phone.

You will have wasted time by cutting the line of communication with God in favor of a line of communication with another human being. Our God is a jealous God. He wants all the time that you put aside for Him. When you say to the Lord, "This is Your time," He wants all of it. He wants every minute of it. Every second of it belongs to Him. He will not manifest His presence if someone knocks on the door and you answer it.'

The God we serve is jealous. You must stop the distractions that will steal your focus from seeking the Lord with your whole heart. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. —JEREMIAH 29:13

Another important key to practicing the presence of the Lord is spending time with God daily. It is absolutely vital that you set aside a period of uninterrupted time to commune daily with God. First Chronicles 16:10-11 says, "Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually." The Hebrew word translated here as "continually" could also be translated "daily." I recommend spending at least an hour with the Lord every day. (If you are in full-time ministry, you need to spend more time than this, and I explain why in a later chapter.) Spending at least an hour a day with the Lord builds your relationship.

It's like spending time with your spouse or a friend, whomever you build a relationship with. You get to know them more and more because you're spending time together. When you're trying to spend time with someone you love and that time gets interrupted by someone else, you get irritated because your alone time was cut short. You didn't get to connect as deeply as you wanted. The same is true when your time alone with the Lord is chopped in two. I cannot overstate how important it is to build upon this daily. I find that if I miss a day, I go backward; I'm not at the same place I was before I missed my time with Him. The more I spend time with Him, the quicker I

get into His presence; the less I spend time with Him, the slower I get in. Sometimes you miss your time with God because something comes up and your schedule changes that day—you're traveling, or something distracts you. But you have to decide that nothing and no one will prevent you from having time with the Lord. I typically spend time with the Lord at 1:00 p.m., but if I miss that time, I'll do it at night. God is not concerned that you missed a specific time. He is concerned that you missed the day. Don't go to bed without giving the Lord the time that belongs to Him.

HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME WITH GOD

Once you decide to spend time each day in the presence of the Lord, you may wonder what you're supposed to do during that time. Many people assume I spend the majority of that time praying. I spend much of my time waiting upon the Lord and worshipping. I wait upon the Lord to quicken me (Ps. 80:18). It might surprise you to read this, but I have come to believe that prayer in and of itself is not necessarily powerful. After all, religious people pray. Even well-meaning Christians try to put a spiritual label on things they are doing in the flesh, even spiritual practices such as prayer, fasting, and praise. The problem is, there is no power in those things when they are done in the flesh. There is only power in the presence of Jesus. When we commune with the Lord, there is power.

As we spend time with Jesus and He becomes real to us, there is real power. There are two realms in which we operate: the realm of the flesh and the realm of the spirit. Only in the realm of the spirit will you see lasting results. There are no lasting results in the flesh; anything that seems like a result there is only temporary and will quickly disappear. What happens in the realm of the spirit is eternal. Second Corinthians 4:18 says, "...while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (NKJV). We are to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 makes this very clear: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." In other words, we need to get in the Spirit and live there. People don't just naturally know how to live in the Spirit. They don't know how to find their way to that secret place. The secret place is the world God wants us to live in. Psalm 91:1 says, "He that dwelleth in the secret

place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." It doesn't say, "He that visits the secret place." That's the problem. Too many people visit and then leave. Let's take another look at this scriptural promise: "He that dwelleth in the secret place...shall abide." That means it's your address, your place of residence. It's where you live. How do you get there? Let me share what I've learned about it, and I sure have learned this the hard way.

Now, you probably already know the key I'm about to give you, but you just don't practice it. Maybe you want to, but you just don't know how. The key is this: "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength" (Isa. 40:31). Waiting upon the Lord is the secret. Waiting upon the Lord is the bridge between the flesh and the Spirit. How do we wait? The Bible says very clearly that we are to be still. God never said, "Be quiet," because it's not enough to just be quiet.

He said, "Be still." There's a big difference. Quietness is soulish. Stillness is spiritual. If you allow it, quietness will lead you to stillness. When you are quiet long enough, God will bring stillness to your spirit man. Let God quicken you to stillness. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself when we are still. Stillness activates His power. Stillness releases His power in us. Stillness manifests the presence of God in us. Stillness leads us to a deeper understanding of what it means to be in the presence of the living God.

In Psalm 46:10 God says, "Be still, and know that I am God." He is saying, "Be still, and then you will know who I am." He is saying, "Be still, and then you will know My presence." We don't know His presence because we do not want to be still. We think being still is hard because we have to sit there and do nothing. But we must change our thinking. We are not doing nothing because we are not waiting on nothing. We are waiting on the Lord. That's not nothing; it's a very important something. It's an action, or rather, an act of faith. Waiting on the Lord requires you to believe that while it seems as if you are idle, you are not wasting time.

In reality you are actively communicating with the Lord. Read this clearly: I am not saying you shouldn't pray. The Bible says we can make our requests known. But there comes a time when we finish our prayer lists. What do most people do when they're done asking God for things? They say amen and walk away. Imagine that—they are in active communication with the Creator of the

universe, and they do all the talking and none of the listening! That is when they lose. That is the definition of visiting instead of dwelling. So when you finish your prayer list, be quiet long enough for God to quicken you, to ignite you. So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. -PSALM 80:18

Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee. -SONG OF SOLOMON 1:4

When the Holy Spirit quickens you, He will bring you into the realm of the spirit. You cannot come in on your own just because you want to. You must be drawn in by the Holy Spirit. And how does it happen? "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their [spiritual] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." The moment your spirit strengthens, the Holy Spirit quickens you, and when He quickens you, He brings you in "with wings as eagles." But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. - ISAIAH 40:31

I want to show you something very powerful about this truth. What does it mean to mount up with wings as eagles? It means knowing the currents of the winds of the Spirit. The eagle does not fly; the eagle soars. The eagle surrenders to the winds. It waits for the strongest winds and then surrenders. Waiting upon the Lord results in surrender to the Lord. And notice the following: "They shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." In the Spirit we run before we walk. In other words, we run to catch up with God, and then we walk with Him.

Waiting upon the Lord disarms the flesh. It allows you time to forget about yourself and see Jesus. It dismantles the powers of sin. It gives you Holy Spirit strength in your inner man, and the flesh begins to lose its grip on your life. That is what Paul meant when he said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection" (1 Cor. 9:27). The minute you enter the realm of the spirit, something happens. Psalm 40:3 says, "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." The realm of the spirit begins with a melody. You begin to sing songs in the Spirit. Now, you don't have to have music to get into the Spirit, but it may help. There's nothing wrong with playing

worship music to change the atmosphere and keep you focused so you aren't distracted by other things. I like to play worship music as I wait upon the Lord. I find that the more often you connect with God, the less you need the music. Sometimes it can be a blockage because once you are in the flow, you don't need anything from this earth. The only reason we need worship music is so we can calm our emotions, forget our troubles, and unite with the Lord Jesus without distractions. But the moment the Holy Spirit quickens you, that is all you need. That's when the Lord Jesus becomes real. The practice of the presence of the Lord begins when Jesus becomes more real to us than our problems, our families, our troubles, and even more real than life itself. At that moment, it is all about Jesus.

Chapter 5

THE MYSTERY OF IGNITING THE WORD AND WORSHIP

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE of the Lord deepens your intimacy with Him. Spending time with God is fuel for the engine of your soul that drives you to know Him (hunger), to walk with Him (faith), and to worship Him (love). Remarkably, He gives you the hunger, faith, and love to walk with Him. The most valuable thing you and I have to give is our time. When you give God your time, something amazing happens: as the presence of the Lord manifests because of time spent with Him, the Word of God suddenly takes hold of your soul. As you give the Lord your time, the Holy Spirit captures you with His Word. You find that when you read the Word, it comes right off the pages and takes hold of your heart. You are drawn into it like never before. Your hunger and faith explode to new levels, and this explosion creates new levels of spiritual growth.

Because you give your time, the Holy Spirit uses His Word to draw you in. When that happens, it's like an ignition that revs up your soul with combustible power. You are taken into a world you didn't know existed. When you open your heart and open your Bible, you unlock the exciting new universe of God's Word. You can now go into deeper levels of the Word of God, as the Word of God begins to saturate you. His Word begins to cleanse your mind and purify your heart. ...as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.. -EPHESIANS 5:25-26

His Word begins to govern your thought life as everything in you begins to come into alignment with God's purpose and plan for your life, found on the precious pages of God's written Word. Something begins to happen to you spiritually as you are pulled into the depths of God and His Word. When hunger, faith, and love begin to manifest in your life, they trigger the Word in you at a deeper level than before. That's what Paul meant by "the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20).

It triggers the Word. The Word ignites communion and fellowship. In turn, communion ignites worship. The three ignitions of the Christian life are the Word, communion, and worship. Once they are activated, they intensify, being ignited by each other. This combustion begins a kind of chain reaction in your spirit, reigniting again and again as you remain in the presence of the

Lord. Once that anointing begins to ignite, the spirit man starts to experience the abundant tangibility of it. You have probably experienced the first stages of this without realizing it. If you go a little deeper, here's what could happen: when you go into the depths, the ignitions become very powerful. Suddenly you find yourself going into deeper layers of the Scriptures. I didn't discover that the Bible has layers until I had been in the ministry for five years. The first layer is historical.

The second layer is God's plan for Israel and the church. The third layer is where you discover Jesus in the pages of the Old Testament. That's when the ignition hits on all cylinders! How many times can you read about Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah and the ark, Joseph and his brothers, and Moses? These individuals and events can sometimes be stored in our minds as mere information. But something significant happens the second we discover Jesus in the pages of our Bibles. This ignites power! The ignition doesn't begin when you're in the historical layer.

The ignition doesn't take place when you're discovering God's plan for the nation of Israel and the church. But the second you go deep—and you cannot go deep without the Holy Spirit showing it to you—that is when you discover Jesus in the revelation of Scripture. The Bible is not just about history or poetry or prophecy. The Bible is a revelation of one person: Jesus, the Son of God. Seeing Jesus on every page of the Bible is what transforms us into His image.

It took me five years to even discover that this existed. Suddenly I realized Adam's being put to sleep has nothing to do with Adam. It is the revelation of Jesus dying on the cross. Why did God put Adam to sleep? To bring forth his wife. Why did Jesus die on the cross? To bring forth His bride, the church. God opened Adam's side for his bride, Eve, to come forth, which reveals that the side of Jesus had to open for His bride, the church, to come forth. Then I began to see that Joseph is not about Joseph. He was loved by his father. That's Jesus. He was hated by his brothers. That's Jesus.

He was placed in a pit, which is the death of Jesus. He was placed in a prison, which is Jesus in the underworld. He came out of prison, and that's the resurrection. He was seated at Pharaoh's right hand, and that's the ascension. He was given a

Gentile wife, and that's the church. Suddenly, Joseph is no longer Joseph. It's all about Jesus.

Even the feasts of Israel are revelations of the Lord Jesus, His life and ministry.

1. The Feast of the Passover—His death on the cross
2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread—when Jesus took our sins upon Himself
3. The Feast of Firstfruits — the Lord's resurrection from the dead
4. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)— the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost
5. The Feast of Trumpets—the rapture of the church
6. The Day of Atonement—the salvation of Israel
7. The Feast of Tabernacles—the millennium reign of Christ Jesus

It's all about Jesus! I encourage you to go deep in the Bible like this because it ignites great power and you begin to live in God's blessings and favor; you begin to experience your destiny. The Lord begins to manifest Himself. There is growth and a renewal of the mind. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. —ROMANS 12:2

Amazing things happen when you move deeper in the Word. First, there is a quietness that invades and permeates you. It is a solemn, sacred experience. The abiding anointing stills the soul, while the empowering anointing stirs the soul. Second, moving deeper in the Word creates depth in your communion with the Lord. Third, worship erupts on a level you've never known before. Deep communion ignites dynamic, explosive worship! When worship erupts, God's presence manifests and becomes tangible to us. His dunamis power begins to work in us, bringing us to that place Paul talked about in Ephesians 3:20 when he said, "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." That tangible presence of the Lord begins to transform you into His image. As you practice the presence, three things happen:

1. God increases your hunger, faith, and love for Him.

2. Power explodes in you, bringing you into the depths of the Word where the Lord reveals Himself to you.
3. Dynamic worship in the Spirit ignites and brings the transformation of the Lord into your life. Now you are transformed from glory to glory. The transformation from your image into the Lord's image begins at this point and will be complete when we see His precious face on that glorious day! Developing deep fellowship with God is imperative, yet it seems so basic that many Christians overlook it. If you take nothing else from this book, please learn this: you cannot afford to neglect spending time with God. This is where you develop a deep fellowship with Him.

It is essential because it builds a mighty foundation under you. When God begins to use you in your call to Christian ministry, that foundation of fellowship is your anchor. You are built upon the rock, Christ Jesus. You're not built upon sinking sand. That daily time of deep fellowship is building your life on the Lord and His Word.

Eventually the Lord will begin to trust you with the empowering anointing for ministry. Your ministry is the result of the walk I've been writing about. Because you've given Him your time and grown through divine Word revelations and intense worship, God's presence is tangible in your life. That's when God says, "I can trust you," and He anoints you with the empowering anointing of Acts 1:8. Then the gifts of the Spirit come alive because of the empowering anointing upon your life. That's what the Bible means by dunamis power; it's a power that ignites itself.

The English words dynamo and dynamite come from the Greek word dunamis. The purpose of this Holy Ghost dunamis within you is to touch others with God's power. When the woman with the issue of blood recorded in the eighth chapter of Luke touched the hem of Jesus' garment, He said, "Who touched Me?" Virtue, strength, and power flowed out of Him. The word used there is from that same Greek word, dunamis.

The release of that power made this woman whole. Worship is so intense it ignites the Word; then the Word ignites revelation and worship, and it just keeps going back and forth in a spiritual chain reaction. This chain reaction is what brings you into a place of total transformation where God begins to re-create your image into His.

Chapter 6

THE MYSTERY OF TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

VERY FEW PEOPLE have gotten to the place of total transformation, perhaps because there aren't many willing to pay the price. But before the Lord takes me home, I want to get there. A young pastor from Nigeria once asked me a powerful question. He said, "Is it possible to become one with God, and have you known people who were one with God?" I told him that of course it's possible because that was the prayer of the Lord in John chapter 17. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. —JOHN 17:20-21

I have known of three people who were one with God. All of them were women: Basilea Schlink, Corrie ten Boom, and Kathryn Kuhlman. Let me tell you a little about each of them.

Basilea Schlink

Basilea Schlink was born in Germany in 1904. Her university studies included a thesis on sin consciousness and its effect on faith. A leader in the Student Christian Movement, she came under investigation by the Nazis during World War II for her stand in defense of the Jews. After the war ended, Schlink understood the importance of repentance for the atrocities committed by her homeland. She decided instead of marrying, she would remain single and devote her life to Christ. In 1947 she cofounded The Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary and served there until her death in 2001, sharing her faith with others and authoring ten books.

When David Wilkerson went to see Basilea Schlink, he said he could not even get in the room. He began to weep when he came near her. I've heard her teachings, but I never met her. But while she was alive, I went to the place she founded, called Canaan, in Darmstadt, Germany. The presence of the Lord in that place was so powerful that I began to weep. I went to the chapel, and I did not want to walk out. It was like being in heaven inside that chapel. It was empty, but the presence of God in that place was so glorious, so real, that it felt as if I had gone to heaven and was walking with the Lord in glory. I felt

that presence because Basilea Schlink walked in total transformation. She knew the Lord and was one with the Lord.

Corrie ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom was born in the Netherlands in 1892. A watchmaker by trade, following in her father's profession, she was part of the Dutch Reformed Church and served the people of her neighborhood and established a youth club. After Germany invaded the Netherlands in World War II, youth clubs were banned and Jews were persecuted. The ten Boom family took in Jewish refugees, hiding them from the Nazis.

For this, she and other members of her family were arrested; she and her family were confined in German concentration camps. Some did not survive the war, but she did. She shared the story of her family in *The Hiding Place* and wrote a number of other books as she traveled the world, sharing her message of hope, love, and forgiveness through Christ Jesus until her death in 1983. I met Corrie ten Boom and danced with her.

I was with her in her home, and we were in the garden dancing. I was nineteen years old at the time, and I was friends with her nephew. We were roommates. God has graced my life to know all those people in a way. When ten Boom preached, her face glowed, and I was mesmerized that Jesus walked into the room when that lady walked on the platform. Like Basilea Schlink, ten Boom had become one with the Lord.

Kathryn Kuhlman

Kathryn Kuhlman was born in Missouri in 1907. She began preaching at the age of fourteen, traveling with her older sister and brother-in-law. In the 1940s she began holding healing crusades and continued her crusades into the 1970s. Her weekly television program, *I Believe in Miracles*, extended her ministry's outreach, and she authored several books over these years.

An estimated two million people reported healings through her ministry. She was diagnosed with a heart problem in her late forties but refused to allow this to impact her ministry. In spite of sometimes debilitating pain in her chest, she continued her ministry, both in person and on television. She died during open-heart surgery in 1976.

It was documented that at the moment of her death the doctors and nurses in attendance saw a bright light hover over her lifeless body for a moment before it vanished. Kathryn Kuhlman

embodied total transformation and oneness with the Lord. I can't tell you how often I sat in her meetings at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh and saw her face glowing. The presence of the Lord was manifested within her in such a glorious way that it is difficult to describe in words.

This total transformation made Jesus a reality in her daily life. When Kuhlman walked on the platform, the reality of Christ in her life was now in the whole building. The presence of Christ Jesus saturated the entire place, and it immersed everyone in it. The same thing happened in her large meetings. When the Lord became real to her, everything in the audience changed. When Jesus became real, the whole place came alive. He was already real in her life.

Now He suddenly became real to the whole crowd, many of whom didn't even know Him. In her meetings people were caught up in the reality that she lived in. Her reality made Him real to the crowd and created a hunger where people would say, "I want to know Him like this." That's what happened to me. Now think about what would have happened if there were no such reality of Jesus in her life when she walked onto the platform. The crowd would have gotten entertainment, signs, wonders, and good preaching, but those things can't change us.

The reality of the Lord Jesus is what changes us. The reality in Ms. Kuhlman's life combined with the power on her, and when she walked on the platform, the power on her transmitted the reality in her. My ongoing prayer is that the same experience happens when I minister. If the Lord Jesus isn't there, it doesn't matter if people think, "Oh, that Pastor Benny, we all love him. He's a good man. He's a good Bible teacher." If all they can say later is, "Well, I learned something, but I wasn't changed," what was the point? But when the Lord Jesus is in that audience, that's what makes all the difference. Who cares if I ever preach? I just want to bring Jesus with me because that's when lives are changed.

In this book I am giving you the foundation of life and ministry. It culminates with total transformation where the power on you is the transmitter of the presence in you. And when the power of God comes on you, it transmits what's inside you to everyone around you. They sense it; they feel it; they become part of it. surgery in 1976. It was documented that at the moment of her death the doctors and nurses in attendance saw a bright light hover over her lifeless body for a moment before it vanished. Kathryn Kuhlman embodied total transformation and oneness with the Lord. I can't tell you how often I sat in her meetings at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh and saw her

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This total transformation made Jesus a reality in her daily life. When Kuhlman walked on the platform, the reality of Christ in her life was now in the whole building. The presence of Christ Jesus saturated the entire place, and it immersed everyone in it. The same thing happened in her large meetings. When the Lord became real to her, everything in the audience changed. When Jesus became real, the whole place came alive. He was already real in her life.

Now He suddenly became real to the whole crowd, many of whom didn't even know Him. In her meetings people were caught up in the reality that she lived in. Her reality made Him real to the crowd and created a hunger where people would say, I want to know Him like this. That's what happened to me. Now think about what would have happened if there were no such reality of Jesus in her life when she walked onto the platform. The crowd would have gotten entertainment, signs, wonders, and good preaching, but those things can't change us. The reality of the Lord Jesus is what changes us.

The reality in Ms. Kuhlman's life combined with the power on her, and when she walked on the platform, the power on her transmitted the reality in her. My ongoing prayer is that the same experience happens when I minister. If the Lord Jesus isn't there, it doesn't matter if people think, Oh, that Pastor Benny, we all love him. He's a good man. He's a good Bible teacher. If all they can say later is, Well, I learned something, but I wasn't changed, what was the point? But when the Lord Jesus is in that audience, that's what makes all the difference. Who cares if I ever preach? I just want to bring Jesus with me because that's when lives are changed.

In this book I am giving you the foundation of life and ministry. It culminates with total transformation where the power on you is the transmitter of the presence in you. And when the power of God comes on you, it transmits what's inside you to everyone around you. They sense it; they feel it; they become part of it.

Chapter 7

GOD'S ROAD MAP INTO HIS PRESENCE

GOD GAVE MOSES the road map into His presence. This road map is more than a historical account of a Jewish religious custom. This is a relevant road map of the biblical protocol and pattern we follow to access the presence of Jehovah God. The Old Testament tabernacle shows us the seven practices of the presence of God. When God gave Moses the plans for the tabernacle in Exodus 25-31, He told him where to place the gate, the altar of sacrifice, the laver, the lampstand, the table of shewbread, the altar of incense, and the ark of the covenant. These represent the seven manifestations of the practices of God's presence. I'll show you.

When you begin to commune and fellowship with Jesus by practicing His presence, you have entered through the gate. You have entered the realm of the spirit, because it's impossible to experience His presence from outside. Suddenly, Jesus is real. And when Jesus is real, faith is born. You don't need to seek faith; you only need to seek Jesus, and He'll give you the faith. Let me share special insight and clarity on something very important. People have gotten off track by seeking faith instead of seeking Jesus. Sometimes people confess scriptures and claim healings, but nothing happens. This is because they have not waited upon the Lord first.

They have not waited for His Holy Spirit to move. Genesis 1 says first the Spirit moved, and then God spoke. God always speaks into the wind of the Spirit. He always speaks after the Spirit moves. When you don't enter the spirit realm first and wait for God to speak, even things you do that seem spiritual are being done in the flesh, and they produce no lasting results. You and I can only enter the spirit realm by waiting upon the Lord. It may take a half hour, an hour, or even longer, but this time will not be wasted. As we wait, we are quickened, and when we are quickened, Jesus becomes real.

When Jesus becomes real, a song is born. And when a song is born, something happens. We come to the altar of sacrifice, where the blood of Jesus becomes more real than our bondage. At that moment, as we are practicing the presence of the Lord, our hearts break open. His Word says, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt

not despise" (Ps. 51:17). There is brokenness, repentance, cleansing, and forgiveness. "Old things are passed away" (2 Cor. 5:17), and the very memory of sin is gone from our souls. Let me share something many people miss: A lot of people confess their sins in the flesh. That's why they go back and sin again. But when you repent in the Spirit, it is impossible to repeat the same sinful behavior because the Holy Spirit erases it. The third place you come to in the practice of the presence of the Lord is the Word. That's the laver in the tabernacle, the place where those who served the Lord washed, and it is here that we wash ourselves with the Word.

This is the place where the promises of God suddenly become powerful. Now you can look up and say, "Father, Your Word says...", and you take hold of that promise. Because you're in the Spirit, there's a confidence, just as John talked about when he said, "This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14). How do you know He's heard you? You know because you are in the Spirit. If you are in the flesh, you will question whether God hears you. But when you are in the Spirit, you know He has heard you. And then you know you have what you have requested of the Lord.

Then you move into the holy place, another level of the practice of God's presence, and you come to the lampstand, which is the renewal of the mind that has been enlightened by God. It is where you know His will; the Light allows us to see what we could not discern before. You see, at the gate Jesus becomes real. At the altar of sacrifice the cross becomes real. At the laver the Word becomes real. At the lampstand His will becomes real. He reveals His will. You know His plans for your life, and you join in. His will becomes your will. Across the way is the table of shewbread, and that's where you present your body as a living sacrifice.

The bread is the body. Jesus said, "This is my body," when He gave them the bread at the last supper. The bread speaks of the body being surrendered to Him. That's where we yield our members as instruments of righteousness. That is where we offer Him that living sacrifice. The greatest experience in the baptism of the Spirit is when we give Him our bodies as living sacrifices, and our bodies become His body. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. -ROMANS 12:1

Then you come to the blessed altar of incense, which is worship. What is worship? Worship is intimacy and union with the Lord.

You are in communion with the Master. It's where you enter in and He takes hold of you. Every cell in your body adores Him. Every part of your being magnifies His name. It's not mental; this is totally spiritual.

It's where "deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts" (Ps. 42:7). The verse continues, "Thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." This verse describes great depth in the Spirit. Those waterspouts are tornadoes in the ocean. Think about the Holy Spirit lifting you in the water and bringing a wave of such power and glory on your life that you will be completely immersed in the presence of the Lord. When this happens, worship will explode inside your being.

In that worship, you will hear God's voice, and that is the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies. You enter into the most sacred of all places in the practice of God's presence. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 91:1). This is our hiding place. Verse 2 says, "I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust." Next we look at verses 7-8: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." And verse 10 says, "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." Why? Because you dwell in the shelter of the most High! You are in there! Now that you have spent time in that blessed place, the glory of God has wrapped itself around you. Can I tell you something?

When I used to go to Kathryn Kuhlman's meetings, I always wondered how she could walk out on the platform without saying a word, and people would be healed. I was amazed by it. I couldn't understand how she just stood there without saying a word or preaching a message and people were healed. I now know why. When you experience the depth of communion that she experienced, Jesus walks into the room with you. Your presence becomes His presence. Your vessel becomes His vessel. You carry that glory in you wherever you are.

When you arrive, the presence of God arrives with you because you have become one with Him. I remember a time when Kathryn Kuhlman came to London, Ontario, for a miracle service. Many of us from our church in Toronto traveled to her meeting together. We had a bus full of excited people as we pulled up in front of the Holiday Inn to check in before the miracle service that night. As we entered the lobby, we sensed the presence of the Lord Jesus in a very strong way. I was amazed and wondered

why we sensed the Lord's presence, because the miracle service was to be at the stadium, not at the Holiday Inn. As we were checking in, the elevator door opened, and we were stunned to see Ms. Kuhlman exit the elevator with her assistant, Maggie Hartner. They walked through the lobby and went outside to wait for a cab while all of us looked on in amazement, still sensing the presence of Jesus. When the cab drove off with Ms. Kuhlman, the glory lifted from the hotel lobby. Imagine living so close to the Master that you carry Him with you everywhere you go. This is my greatest longing.

The practice of the presence of God is the realm of the spirit, and in the realm of the spirit the promises of God are activated. In the realm of the spirit, victory comes to you. You can't win over your sin outside of that realm. It is impossible. Because the Bible says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus [which means in the Spirit] hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2).

You cannot truly know the love of God without that realm. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. —ROMANS 8:38-39

The minute you are in Christ in the spirit, His love is real. "[Pray] always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18). You enter in as He quickens you, and at the gate you experience Jesus. At the altar you experience His blood, and at the laver His Word. You learn His will at the lampstand. Then you surrender at the table of shewbread, and He takes over your vessel. Lastly, you worship at the altar of incense, and His glory wraps around you as you experience the ark of the covenant where He speaks to you.

And now you walk out, and He will come with you. In that secret place is your safety. Outside of that secret place is danger. Let's look at what David said about it under the anointing of the Spirit in Psalm 32:7. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

This is what happens in the secret place. There is safety. Today, with all the fear out in the world, new pestilences and new threats, you might be tempted to wonder what kind of world your children and grandchildren will live in. I have these thoughts too. But the Lord assures me that they will be just fine if they remain in the secret place. They will be protected.

We will also be protected as we remain in the secret place. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. —PSALM 57:1

What I've written so far is the foundation that will keep you safe in His arms. In the coming pages I want to deal with the anointing that comes on you for ministry, how different it is from the one in you, and how both can work together to bring about the most amazing revelation of the Lord to a world that desperately needs

PART II

ANOINTED FOR MINISTRY

Chapter 8

THE MYSTERY OF THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING

THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING is a topic many believers are completely unaware of. Yet if you are a child of God, cleansed by the blood of Jesus and sealed by His Spirit, you can and should operate with the empowering anointing.

Remember, the abiding anointing of 1 John 2:27 is in you, and the empowering anointing of Acts 1:8 is on you. They are separate. Many believers are not even aware of the Holy Spirit's activity in their lives, let alone the different types of anointing. But if you desire to be used by God, it is essential to understand how to operate in the empowering anointing. Not everyone is called to stand behind a pulpit or hold an office of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher.

But every Christian can and should have a ministry—whether it is interceding in prayer to fight spiritual battles, witnessing to others and leading them to Christ, laying hands on people to pray for healing, the working of miracles, ministering to others through words of knowledge or other spiritual gifts, or the ministry of helps. And if you are going to be used by God to minister to others, you must have the empowering anointing. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him. —PSALM 89:20

BUILDING UPON THE ABIDING ANOINTING

The empowering anointing should be built upon the sure foundation of the abiding anointing. Let's start by taking another look at Acts 1:8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me. It may surprise you to learn that the empowering anointing upon you is not about you. It's not about you because you cannot earn it or achieve it on your own. It's not about you because it

is not for your personal benefit. It is for the benefit of others.

It's not about you because it's about Him. It is about the Lord Jesus. The empowering anointing is for God's glory. It's not about you. The abiding anointing that He has placed in you is completely under God's control. He is totally in charge of it. As long as you are walking with the Lord and abiding in His presence, you are living in the fullness of this anointing within you. It has one main purpose: to transform you into the image of the Lord. That's it. That's the excitement of the Christian life. It is about so much more than just your being on your way to heaven. What makes the Christian life so exciting is that you are continually becoming more like Jesus. The change began on the day you were saved, and since then you have been becoming more and more like Jesus every day. As long as you remain here on this earth, you will continue to be transformed into the image of Christ Jesus. That's what the abiding anointing does.

CONTRASTING THE ABIDING AND EMPOWERING ANOINTINGS

Every Christian receives the abiding anointing at the moment of salvation, but not every Christian receives the empowering anointing. God reserves the empowering anointing for those He uses in ministry. It is received only after we have grown in intimacy with the Lord and He trusts us. The abiding anointing, within you, builds you spiritually; how strongly it operates depends on your own hunger. But the empowering anointing, which is upon you, relies mainly on the hunger of the people to whom you minister.

As a result of their hunger for the power of God, He begins to fill you with everything that they need. They may need miracles. Some may need deliverance. Many will need healing. Now the burden of ministry becomes very heavy because of the needs of the people, and if you tried to carry it under your own power, you would fall and it would crush you. Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. —ZECHARIAH 4:6

If you are spending time daily in deep communion with the Lord, you will be strong enough to bear this burden. If you fail to spend time in His presence, this burden will be too great for you to bear and you will not want to even make an attempt to carry it anymore. If you are to be used by God in any ministry capacity, the empowering anointing is essential. This vital

equipping enables you to work for the Lord and fulfill your purpose in the ministry to which God has called you. Believe me when I say, you do not want to be in ministry without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Perfect sermons without the anointing fall powerless to the floor. The world's most talented singers without the anointing have never changed one life. It's the anointing that makes the difference.

THE DANGERS OF THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING

Now I will write about something you will never learn in Bible school: the dangers of the empowering anointing. This is not a subject that is taught in classrooms or preached from pulpits. But there are genuine dangers, and you can do a lot of damage to yourself, your family, and the people you minister to if you do not properly handle the empowering anointing. Let's look at what the prophet Samuel said to Saul.

And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee. -1 SAMUEL 10:6-7
First, note that it says, "the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee"—upon thee, not in thee.

So we know this is the outer anointing, the empowering anointing. Next, notice verse 7 says, ". . . that thou do as occasion serve thee." This is why there are dangers: you are now in charge. God is in charge of the abiding anointing, the one that grows and deepens as you fellowship with Him. But you are in charge of the empowering anointing, which comes upon you for ministry to others. God controls the anointing in you; you control the anointing on you. You can use it or abuse it. You can use it to bless people or misuse it and harm people. You must get this. It is vital that you understand this.

Most people miss it. Verse 7 says, "Do as occasion serves you." This means do whatever comes to your spirit as you serve in ministry. Now that the empowering anointing is yours, do as you feel led to do. When God places the empowering anointing upon you, He is trusting you with this divine equipping. He trusts you with it so much that He puts you in charge of it. Think about how amazing that is! He is in charge of the abiding anointing, which transforms you, yet He puts you in charge of the empowering anointing, which demonstrates His power to the world! What makes the empowering anointing so amazing is the

same thing that makes talented singers without the anointing have never changed one life. It's the anointing that makes the difference. THE DANGERS OF THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING Now I will write about something you will never learn in Bible school: the dangers of the empowering anointing.

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But you are in charge of the empowering anointing, which comes upon you for ministry to others. God controls the anointing in you; you control the anointing on you. You can use it or abuse it. You can use it to bless people or misuse it and harm people. You must get this. It is vital that you understand this. Most people miss it. Verse 7 says, Do as occasion serves you. This means do whatever comes to your spirit as you serve in ministry. Now that the empowering anointing is yours, do as you feel led to do.

When God places the empowering anointing upon you, He is trusting you with this divine equipping. He trusts you with it so much that He puts you in charge of it. Think about how amazing that is! He is in charge of the abiding anointing, which transforms you, yet He puts you in charge of the empowering anointing, which demonstrates His power to the world! What makes the empowering anointing so amazing is the same thing that makes it so dangerous: God puts us in charge of it. If you are not careful, that level of power can quickly and easily go right to your head. You can do great damage with it. And sadly, many have. What will you do with the empowering anointing? Many will be rejected because they didn't use it properly. The Lord calls

them workers of iniquity and says, "I never knew you" (Matt. 7:23). We know this is true because we've seen people who have casually played with the empowering anointing. They've muddled this holy endowment with fleshly ambition, creating careers instead of callings.

They've used it to manipulate others, to make money. They've turned it into cheap merchandise and put it up for sale. The empowering anointing is a precious gift. We should respect it and hold it in awe, handling it with reverence. Many have lost a holy fear of handling the empowering anointing. This is a dangerous mistake; it is not to be taken lightly. God has trusted you with His tremendous power.

You had better know what you're doing with it and treat it properly. I write this because I do not want you to hurt others or yourself with the gift that God has given you. Mishandling the anointing of God has brought great harm to so many; some have died. Just ask Uzzah.

Uzzah was the son of Abinadab, in whose house the ark of the covenant had been placed when it was brought back from the land of the Philistines. I believe Uzzah became too comfortable with the ark of the covenant in his home and began to treat it casually. We must always revere God's holy presence and respect the empowering anointing that rests upon us. And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. -2 SAMUEL 6:6-7

If someone improperly uses the empowering anointing, one can damage his own life. He can bring destruction to his soul. Remember what I said in chapter 3? This empowering anointing that comes upon you does not protect you from deception. Your inner anointing, the abiding anointing, is the one that protects you from deception, but if you neglect nourishing the abiding anointing, you can be deceived and mishandle the empowering anointing that comes upon you.

You can misuse the Lord's name and His anointing. That is why Matthew 7:22-24 says in that day, many will say, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?" But He will say, "I never knew you.

Chapter 9

THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING GROWS AND MULTIPLIES

AS THE EMPOWERING anointing grows and multiplies, the gift of faith begins to operate. Remember what I wrote earlier about the different kinds of faith: the measure of faith is given with salvation, the fruit of faith is the result of salvation, and the gift of faith is the gift of ministry.

That's when God is using you in ministry. We see this progression in the Book of Acts. In Acts 2:47 Scripture shows us that the Lord added, in Acts 6:1 He multiplied, and in Acts 6:7 He multiplied greatly. So there is growth in the empowering anointing. We go from addition to multiplication to great multiplication.

After that we don't even read about head counts or numbers. The Scripture just says multitudes, multitudes, multitudes. Why? Because now it was a massive ocean of believers. That's how the empowering anointing grows—it goes from addition to multiplication to great multiplication. Now let me show you some things that can cause the empowering anointing to increase and intensify.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God is the first thing that will increase the anointing. Job 29:6 says, “. . . when I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil.” I've taught on this, but it can be hard for people to grasp. Washing your steps with butter refers to the depth of the Word of God. The depth of God's Word is not known by surface-reading three chapters a day. You do not find the depth of God's Word by speed-reading through the entire Bible. You do not grasp it simply by completing a “Read the Bible in a Year” plan. Please understand, it is good to read through the entire Bible, and I highly recommend it, but that isn't the point here. Sailboats skim the surface of the water quickly, but the surface is the only place for them.

Submarines get beneath the surface, even as far as the bottom in some instances. But depending on the materials and construction, there are limits to how deep a submarine may go. Only a deep-submergence vehicle, or DSV, can reach into the true depths of the ocean, plunging into the trenches and exploring places that were previously unable to be examined by man.

So it is with the Word of God. What I want to impress upon you is that just casually reading the Scripture is insufficient if you are seeking to attain the deep places of God's Word. Mere reading can be shallow and is only able to produce a weak, ankle-deep understanding of God's Word. To experience its depth, you have to study it, search it, go deep, deep, deep in the Scripture, examine its trenches.

If you want to discover the buried treasure hidden in God's Word, you will need precision tools to excavate the riches of the Holy Scriptures. Dig into the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words and get to know what the Bible really says. You can do this by using some study tools; Strong's Concordance and an Amplified Bible or other translation may be helpful. A Bible app or online study guide may provide multiple translations and study tools for easy access.

These tools will help you view Scripture through a wider lens and see the details and take in a larger scope of God's precious Word. Let me share a time when this happened to me. Years ago in Orlando, Florida, the anointing came upon my life in a massive way when I looked up from where I was sitting and I said, "Dear Jesus, give me a revelation of the blood." I felt such power when I said that.

So I began studying the blood throughout the Word of God. I'd been reading the Bible, but our whole ministry took off when I began to study the Bible. The church began to grow like wildfire. The Bible says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15). Today, it's so much easier with the internet than what I did back in the seventies and eighties. Back then I had books on the floor, and my eyes were hurting; I was in pain physically.

I would have to go and stretch and get back on the floor because there was no space on any table for all the books I had. They were spread all over the floor. I would lock myself in for hours and days. This is no exaggeration. But the anointing came. The empowering anointing comes when you pay the price. When you are willing to pay the price by studying God's eternal Word, the empowering anointing will come. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. -2 TIMOTHY 2:15

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

The blood of Jesus is the second truth the Bible says will keep the anointing growing in intensity. If one does not remain under the cleansing flow of the blood of Jesus, one day the empowering anointing can destroy that individual because he or she is not

clean. Those who operate in ministry must maintain an upright life. Ruth 3:3 says, "Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee." These are the words of Naomi, who was telling Ruth to first wash and then anoint herself. This means that first, the blood washes you, and then you can be anointed for God's service. The blood of Jesus keeps you intense in the empowering anointing of God. It keeps the intensity upon your ministry.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The third thing that will cause an increase, or expansion, of the empowering anointing in your life is fellowship with God, which is continual prayer. Smith Wigglesworth said, "I don't often spend more than half an hour in prayer, but I never go more than half an hour without praying."¹ You will not receive the empowering anointing just by praying a few minutes a day. It takes more effort, more determination, more staying power. In Acts 1:4 the The third thing that will cause an increase, or expansion, of the empowering anointing in your life is fellowship with God, which is continual prayer. Smith Wigglesworth said, "I don't often spend more than half an hour in prayer, but I never go more than half an hour without praying."¹ You will not receive the empowering anointing just by praying a few minutes a day. It takes more effort, more determination, more staying power.

In Acts 1:4 the Lord Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem, and the Word says in verse 14, "These all continued...in prayer." They continued, and then, in Acts 2, the power fell. It takes an ongoing, concerted prayer to reach this level. You cannot receive the power promised in Acts 2:4 without first practicing the continuing prayer of Acts 1:14.

ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER ANOINTED MEN AND WOMEN

The Word of God, the blood of Jesus, and continued prayer intensify the empowering anointing. But don't forget the life-changing, ministry-launching power of the right associations. Right associations with other anointed men and women of God absolutely intensify the empowering anointing. Just ask Joshua. Joshua was a man who loved the Word. He never left the tabernacle. He embraced God's Law and loved to fellowship with God. But Joshua also understood not to leave Moses.

He knew if he left Moses, he would lose this God-ordained association. In my case I don't know how I knew this, but I knew

it, and I saw the results in my life even after I became an evangelist and pastor. I began preaching as an evangelist in 1974, I became a pastor in 1983, but long before that, something in me told me not to disconnect from Kathryn Kuhlman's ministry. I would listen to her daily on the radio at precisely 8:00 p.m. Her broadcast.

came from Wheeling, West Virginia. I was taking notes in Toronto. I could hardly even hear the station because it was so far away. But it didn't matter. I was compelled to listen to Ms. Kuhlman. I still listen to recordings of her now. You might ask, "Why?" Connection. Maybe for you it is reading books by Andrew Murray or other great Christian leaders. Maybe it is recording your favorite Christian program while you are at work so you can watch it and savor it when you are free to concentrate.

When you read or watch or listen to the men and women of God you feel led to connect with, you will feel their anointing no matter where you are. Even if they are already in heaven, you will still feel the anointing while you are on the earth. Not only does the Lord anoint the individuals; He anoints their ministries.

When a minister goes to heaven, the empowering anointing upon his or her ministry continues touching lives on earth through the minister's recordings, videos, and books. The anointing adheres to the printed page; it rides on the airwaves of a broadcast. If the anointing was flowing when the pages were penned or when the sermon or song was written, you will still feel it. The anointing is not limited by time or space. It does its work when- ever and wherever God needs it to.

I have learned from personal experience the importance of remaining associated with anointed men and women of God. My fellowship with God grows when I walk with Him. His presence deepens as I remain in communion with Him. But the empowering anointing develops and expands when I remain walking closely with God and connected to men and women whom God is using. Fellowship with those God uses is essential. Fellowship with God and with His saints is the key.

Hebrews 10:25 says, ". . . not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." Don't neglect the powerful principle of staying connected to those who minister in the empowering anointing. Ecclesiastes 4 underlines this powerful principle. Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow....And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him;

and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. —ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10, 12

You by yourself are mighty through God. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. No weapon formed against you shall prosper. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

One can put one thousand to flight—one thousand. One thousand is a lot. But two can put ten thousand to flight. In the world one plus one equals two. In the kingdom one plus one equals ten thousand. With that kind of math, one can put one thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand to flight, three can put one hundred thousand to flight, and four can put a million to flight. We are stronger together.

Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. —MATTHEW 18:19-20

Association with men and women of God is essential for the ministry. It intensifies the empowering anointing.

THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING IS FELT

You can feel the empowering anointing. The empowering anointing affects your emotions, your physical body. It doesn't affect your spirit or your spirit man. The abiding anointing within affects your spirit. The empowering anointing on you affects your physical body and your feelings. That's why when you are under it, you become emotional. You become stronger physically. First Samuel 10:6 says, "Thou...shalt be turned into another man." When the Spirit comes upon you, you will become a different person. You will talk differently, act differently, think differently, and feel different.

Everything about you is different. When the empowering anointing rests upon you, you may become uncharacteristically loud, demonstrative, emotional, or sensitive. I know this from experience. I am very calm and predictable when I'm worshipping the Lord, but the moment I surrender and that empowering anointing rests upon me, I become very sharp and bold. No one knows what I might do next. You are now responsible for that

heavenly empowerment that equips you for ministry. You feel its anointing tangibly on your physical body. The empowering anointing can come flowing out of you like a river of joy. Psalm 45:1 says, "My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Inditing means boiling up. The psalmist was saying, "My heart is bubbling up or boiling up with a good matter. I can't hold it back. I'm all fired up."

The empowering anointing may come with trembling. In the Old Testament, Daniel felt the anointing on his body, and he began to tremble (Dan. 10:10). This is also something that I experienced in another of Ms. Kuhlman's services. I shook for so long my whole body was trembling. My bones seemed to be coming loose from the joints.

I felt that anointing of the Holy Spirit so strong—standing outside and then inside the church she was ministering in in 1973 when I saw her the first time—I was just shaking all over. It looked as if I were cold. But I wasn't cold. I didn't feel cold at all. The Bible says the prophet Jeremiah felt fire in his mouth (Jer. 5:14) and in his heart (Jer. 20:9). When God spoke through Jeremiah, he felt fire. I have felt that fire. I will never forget preaching at our church, Orlando Christian Center, and in crusades when I felt the fire in my mouth. God puts His fire on your tongue in your mouth. The empowering anointing burns, and you can feel its intensity in your mouth.

Not only is fire in your mouth, but fire is also in your heart. When you preach, you feel it in your bones. You can feel it on your body. I have felt such fire on me, such an inner burning, that I thought, "I'm going to blow up!" Some people's skin gets so red it looks like a tomato.

I used to see this with Ms. Kuhlman. She would get so red from the heat of the empowering anointing that you could literally feel it when she came near. One time when she came near me walking down the aisle, her face was lit up with fire. She was so red—red cheeks, red everything—and when she looked at me, the power of God came upon me.

I was knocked out just by her looking at me. I was gone. There is also a burning in the heart. We learn this from the disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? —LUKE 24:32

The burning and the fire are two different things. The burning is the same as being constrained, pressed in the Spirit. You

burn, and then you testify. It's shut up in you, and everything in you is about to explode. You've got to say it, but the timing may be wrong. You have to wait for the timing of God. We feel burning many times when God gives us a word of prophecy. But we have to wait for the right moment to release it. If we do not wait for His time, if we give it at the wrong time, it will not affect people as God intended. We must keep quiet until the right time, and then the Word of God will have the greatest impact. Remember: The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. -1 CORINTHIANS 14:32

Fasten your seat belt! We are accelerating into the next demonstration of the empowering anointing.

Chapter 10

THE EMPOWERING ANOINTING CAN BE TRANSFERRED AND STORED

NOW NOT ONLY does the empowering anointing grow, not only do you feel it in your body, but it is also transferrable. You can give it away. In 2 Kings 4:16-29 the Shunammite woman found Elisha and told him her son had died. So Elisha said to his servant Gehazi, "Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child" (v. 29). Nothing happened when Gehazi laid the staff on the boy, because he had been distracted.

Elisha had warned him not to talk to anyone because distraction kills the anointing; it shuts down the flow and takes it away from you. Nevertheless, that does not change the fact shown here that the empowering anointing can be transferred to an inanimate object such as this staff. Another scripture shows the empowering anointing being transferred to a dead body.

How else could Elisha's bones raise the Amalekite man in 2 Kings 13? The empowering anointing that remained on the bones of Elisha after he had been buried came in contact with the body of the recently deceased Amalekite man, and that empowering anointing was transferred from Elisha's bones into the second man's dead body, reviving him and bringing him back to life, and the man stood to his feet. The empowering anointing can be transferred through somebody's hands. Acts 19 says that Paul's hands transferred the Holy Spirit's power.

His hands became the channel of power. Through that channel, the empowering anointing was re-leased into pieces of cloth that had been brought, and once the empowering anointing was stored in these remnants, it remained there until it was connected to its purpose. And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: so that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. -ACTS 19:11-12

I've experienced this in my ministry. Not only is the empowering anointing transferred from my hands when I touch something, but it's also transferred from my body to my shirts and suits. This is the reason I sometimes threw my jacket at people.

I have seen more power released when I threw my jacket than when I lay hands. Do you know why? Because my jacket was storing it up. At first, I couldn't believe it. Then I realized it is like soaking up liquid with a cloth, and as I'm ministering, it keeps

absorbing more and more and more and more. Now there's more absorbed into it than I had when I started. It drips into it and saturates it. And the longer I wait, the more power is released. The empowering anointing builds in an object, on a piece of wood, on cloth. It sometimes drips from clothing. The woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8 understood this.

She said, "If I can just touch Jesus' hem," and the Lord felt the empowering anointing go right through the cloth. "Who touched me?" He asked. He knew power left. He felt it. I have felt it many times too because it's stored in clothing and other objects. Isn't it amazing that God gives us charge to store it for another time? Think about that. The empowering anointing is the only anointing we can impart. I cannot lay hands on anyone and say, "Be saved."

Neither can I impart the abiding anointing of 1 John 2:27 that comes at salvation because that is the Lord. I cannot impart the Lord. I cannot put my hands on someone and say, "Receive the Holy Spirit." That's not even scriptural. But I can impart the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Only the Lord Jesus gives the Holy Spirit. (See John 20:22.) Yet we, the church, can impart the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

This is the empowering anointing of Acts 1:8. This is the anointing God rubs on you. God applies the empowering anointing on Spirit-filled individuals whom He has entrusted to fill a specific position. Remember what the Bible says in Acts 6. They had a little situation there. The disciples had multiplied, and the local Jewish believers were not taking care of the believing Hellenistic Jews, who were Greek.

Their widows were neglected. So the Greeks came to the apostles to say, "Look, it's not fair what's happening here to us." And here's what the apostle said: Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full body to my shirts and suits. This is the reason I sometimes threw my jacket at people. I have seen more power released when I threw my jacket than when I lay hands. Do you know why? Because my jacket was storing it up.

At first, I couldn't believe it. Then I realized it is like soaking up liquid with a cloth, and as I'm ministering, it keeps absorbing more and more and more and more. Now there's more absorbed into it than I had when I started. It drips into it and saturates it. And the longer I wait, the more power is released. The empowering anointing builds in an object, on a piece of wood, on cloth. It sometimes drips from clothing. The woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8 understood this. She said, If I can

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And here's what the apostle said: Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. -ACTS 6:3-6

Power for ministry came when they laid hands on them. These individuals were filled with the Spirit, born again, faithful, trusted men, and now the apostles laid hands on them and imparted the power for ministry. Before we lay hands on someone, we need to be careful that the Lord has truly told us to do this. (I will share more about that later.) But there are times when God wants us to impart the empowering anointing to others by laying hands on them, and so we must carefully and prayerfully obey Him in this.

THIS ANOINTING AFFECTS OUR WEAKNESS

As I write this, I know that each of us has at least one weakness. When the empowering anointing comes on individuals, it magnifies everything. If your weakness is not under control, the empowering anointing will stir it up because the anointing on you stirs up everything—good and bad.

The empowering anointing on you affects your body and soul. It doesn't affect your spirit. The abiding anointing, the anointing in you, affects your spirit and your spiritual life. But the empowering anointing, which is on you for ministry, affects your body and soul. It affects your emotions and your physical strength. That's why under the anointing, people get loud. They get bold, aggressive.

It's the result of the empowering anointing stirring everything up. It's a good thing because it makes them strong. But it also stirs up the bad stuff—including any weakness in a person's life. All of us, called and not called, have flaws. I mean everybody; there are no exceptions. All those flaws are stirred under the empowering anointing if they are not properly controlled. The only way you can control your flaws is in the presence of the Lord.

When you practice the presence of Jesus, that weakness has nowhere to go. It shrivels up. It's under control. It's still there, but it has no sound, no place. It's as though it's paralyzed, unresponsive. When you minister under the empowering anointing of God, that weakness doesn't show up because the presence of God under the abiding anointing took care of it earlier. For example, imagine someone who lies a lot. He's always lying about something.

He grew up lying because he lived in fear of his dad, mom, or teacher, and he learned to lie his way out of trouble. (All lies begin with fear. If a person is not delivered, the lie becomes a demonic stronghold.) So now he's always lying and can't stop. But in the presence of God, that lying stronghold loses its power and becomes shriveled.

That man always tells the truth when the Lord Jesus is there. He can control the lying because he spends time living in the presence of God, which is the price he must pay to gain this control. The price, I repeat, is spending time with Him. Time with the Lord Jesus is the price that must be paid to gain this control over our weaknesses. God can now begin to use him because of his faithfulness, and he's been able to control his weakness. If he doesn't spend time in the Word, prayer, and fellowship, then that weakness starts to show up again. It comes

back, and soon it's vigorous and in full bloom once more. So now he's under the empowering anointing, and he hasn't spent time with the Lord. Next thing you know, he's lying under the empowering anointing, and he lies more when God is using him than when He isn't! Now his biggest lies are told through preaching! If it's not lying, it's women, pride, greed, or something else.

Remember, the empowering anointing magnifies everything in a person—good and bad. People are at their best when God anoints them. However, not only does the best come out, but so does the worst. This is why the greatest failures happen after the greatest moments of being used by God—regardless of what your ministry is. Your greatest moment is your most dangerous moment because when God uses you, everything is magnified. The majority of ministry leaders who fall into sin do so after their greatest moments.

After a great spiritual victory and a mighty flow of the empowering anointing, our weaknesses can surface and try to overtake us. We must be aware of this sabotage and strengthen ourselves through personal time with the Lord. It's easy to understand this when you think about what happens after you've spent time ministering. Your emotions are high, but your strength is low. You're physically tired. That's when you are the most vulnerable.

If that weakness is stirred up because you did not bring it under control in God's presence before ministering, you can sin right after God uses you. I heard of a man who could preach with great power, but afterward, he would sleep with a woman he was not married to every time he preached. It bothered me deeply, so I asked Oral Roberts about it.

"How can this happen?" He told me what I've just shared with you: "Everyone is flawed, Benny. The anointing stirs both the good and the bad. Spend time in the presence of God before you minister so that He can shrivel that thing. And pray hard after God uses you, so you don't fall into sin." That example was about preaching, but it applies to anything you do under the empowering anointing.

After you've been used by God, if you find yourself in a situation where your strength is weak, and you know you've got to get alone and pray because that weakness is about to drive you into sin, resist the urge to keep ministering. Stop immediately and walk away, no matter what. If you do not, if you continue to minister in this weakened state, you are draining what little strength you have left, and then you won't be able

to pray at all. I've experienced this when I've been ministering for some time and more people ask me to pray for them, and I think, "Even though I'm tired, I need to be nice. So I've got to pray for them." But I'm telling you that's very dangerous. That's the worst thing you can do when you're tired. Taking time alone in prayer to reconnect with the presence of God after ministering under the empowering anointing is also protection for you.

It keeps that weakness whittled down and under control so that your human flaws aren't exposed by your tiredness. So instead, say goodbye and get alone somewhere so you can talk to the Lord Jesus. This way you can remain strong and continue to keep your human nature under His control. My examples often involved platform ministry, but the empowering anointing in your life will flow through whatever God has called you to do as a Christian.

You might be called to a full-time position in a church or large ministry. Perhaps God will use you as an entrepreneur, a business professional, a schoolteacher, a crafts-man, an artist, a musician, or a writer. God can use you in your role as a spouse, parent, or grandparent. Whatever your calling, it is the empowering anointing that enables you to fulfill it. Now let's look at what triggers this outer anointing, because before you can minister for the Lord Jesus, you must first minister to the Lord Jesus.

Chapter 11

THE MYSTERY OF MINISTERING TO THE LORD IN PRAISE

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO know the Lord without worship; it is the only thing that reveals Him. Likewise, it is impossible to minister for the Lord without worship; it triggers the power of God and keeps it active and flowing in your life. Both the abiding anointing and the empowering anointing are dependent upon worshipping God. It's an incredible truth, and I'll show this to you in the Scriptures. O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. —PSALM 95:1-7

This psalm includes some amazing invitations. First, we are invited to sing and make a joyful noise of praise to Him. In that joyful noise there is a revelation of what God has done in our lives. Verse 1 says that He is the "rock of our salvation." Notice the invitation is repeated in verse 2, and it is still connected to praise and thanksgiving. Then the psalmist says He is a great God and a great King, and we are invited to worship Him. Now, I want to focus on this because we must understand how praise differs from worship.

We thank Him because of what He has done in our lives. We praise Him because of His power and His greatness. But it says we worship Him for His holiness. Look at verses 6 and 7: "Let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture." Here we see that worship is possible only because we are His people. We can see from this that thanksgiving and praise are on a different level than worship.

We give thanks for what we have seen and experienced; we praise because of what God has done. Praise and thanksgiving are connected to the natural world and our experiences in it. As such, they come from the part of us that is connected to the natural world—our senses and our physical being.

But we worship from a sense of who He is and how we are connected with Him—through our spirit man. As we worship, we enter into His presence, not merely as beings that He has created but as His children, having the privilege of enjoying His closeness while being intensely aware of His holy nature.

It comes from our innermost part, as our spirit man unites with the Spirit of God. Psalm 96:9 says, "Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth." It is not possible to worship God without a revelation of holiness and the fear of the Lord. It is just impossible.

SIX REASONS TO PRAISE

1. Praise is where God lives

Psalm 22:3 says, "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." God dwells in our praise. It is where He lives. It's His address. If there is no praise in your daily life, there is no way that you can worship. Without worship you

cannot access the fullness of His anointing on your life. Praise is where God lives.

2. Praise gives us access to the throne room of God.

Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise." Praise doesn't bring us into the throne room; it only opens the door to the throne room. Only worship allows us to draw near to the throne of God, but praise makes the way open. When you praise the Lord, you will be invited to come closer. It gives you access.

3. Praise changes the atmosphere in and around our lives.

Isaiah 61:3-4 says, "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations." Think about the repair that comes when you praise the Lord. Putting on a new garment isn't just about feeling better. It's about starting to live righteously with power. It is about God beginning to use you to repair all the damage that the enemy has done in your life and in others.

4. Praise brings deliverance.

Psalm 50:23 says, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." That means deliverance. If you are going through a demonic attack, praise has great power to deliver you. If there's trouble, begin to praise Him. As the praise of God takes over the space around you, the trouble you have been experiencing will be forced to its knees and it must leave. Praise has a sound.

It is not just the sound of voices raised or a crowd clapping. Praise sounds like crashing chains. Ask Paul and Silas. When we praise God in our prison, chains crash to the floor and prison doors swing open. Our praise even has power to set others free. When Paul and Silas praised, it was so powerful that it shook the prison. The spiritual affected the natural. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and

immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. -ACTS 16:25-26

Even the keeper of the prison and his whole household were saved and baptized as a result of Paul and Silas and their praise. Praise sets people free!

5. Praise brings protection and preservation to your life.

Psalm 59:17 says, "Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy." David was praising the Lord for being his defense, which is protection. Then in Psalm 71:6-7, he talks about preservation: "By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee. I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge." Both protection and preservation are found under the covering of praise.

6. Praise is our weapon of war.

Psalm 149:6, 8-9 says, "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand...to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD." In praise we find the power to carry out God's judgment against our enemies. In David's time this meant physically restraining men who were in power and removing them from their thrones.

In our time, however, we are not battling against men, as David was. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We use praise to take down these spiritual enemies, not to conquer other people. When we lift our voices in praise, we disarm these spiritual powers. Once we have done so, even people who have operated under the wicked influence of demonic powers will be disarmed and lose what power they had.

These lessons from God's precious Word tell us what happens when we praise the Lord: It's where God lives; it gives us access; it changes our garments; it brings us deliverance, protection, and preservation; it's our weapon of war. Praise releases the power of God to do battle on our behalf. In praise we find what we lacked. In praise, victory is ours!

Chapter 12

WHEN PRAISE TURNS TO WORSHIP

WE CANNOT WORSHIP until we have entered in through praise. Psalm 100:4 says we "enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise." Praise erupts in the courts and brings us to the doorway. As we enter, our thanksgiving and praise lead us into worship. Now Psalm 48:1 provides another insight on how we are to enter. It says, "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised." This verse says something powerful: God will not accept half-hearted praise. What the Scripture is saying is, "He's so great— how dare you praise Him with half a heart? He won't accept that."

This verse tells us how we are to enter: praising and thanking Him with full hearts, not half hearts. He didn't halfway save us. He didn't halfway redeem us. We must never insult Him by praising Him halfway. If we return to Psalm 95:3-5, we see why we have to praise God with our whole hearts. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. I once traveled to Sinai, and I will never forget the experience of climbing Mount Sinai at night.

Because there was no pollution, we could clearly see the Milky Way. At the sight of it we broke into spontaneous, exuberant praise like never before. Everything in us erupted, and we began shouting our praises with tears flowing down our cheeks. We realized God's greatness because we saw the Milky Way. Isaiah 40:12 says God marked off the heavens with the span of His hand. God created the stars of the midnight sky.

Scripture declares God counts the stars and gives them names. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! Nature reveals His greatness to us, but only the Holy Spirit can reveal His holiness.

When you see His holiness, your attitude toward Him and the way you inter-act with Him will completely change. You will fall on your face and worship the Lord. This depth of worship will transform your life. Let me discuss an important reason for this shift from praise to worship. Praise crucifies the flesh, and worship puts a new robe on us. As you dismantle the influence of your flesh through praise, it falls into submission to Him. Now as you dress yourself in the robe of worship, you invite God's presence in a new way. You can see how this process progresses. First, you destroy the weaknesses of your flesh with the praise; then you pick up the robe of worship and put it on. When you add

the deeper level of worship to your praise, you elevate yourself into a closer encounter with the presence of God. We see this shift from praise to worship once again in David's call to worship. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice... -PSALM 95:6-7

These verses show how our experience changes as our worship brings us to the heart of the matter. We enter quietness in verse 6: "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." When we bow down, we are not screaming or shouting. We are peaceful and reverent as we allow worship to lower us into submission before the greatness of our God.

Then, verse 7 says, "To day if ye will hear his voice." This implies that your voice is quiet so that you can hear His. You are in a place of quietness when you are worshipping. Verse 7 gives two reasons to be quiet: (1) He is our God, and (2) we are the people of His pasture, meaning we are under His care. He is our God. He is the only Being worthy of worship. You may be permitted to praise a person, but you are not allowed to worship a person. You may only worship God. One reason is that whatever you worship will control you. Many people worship other people, and they come under bondage.

They are controlled by an individual they have thought of too highly. They placed that person on a pedestal, but soon everything came crashing down. If we do not worship the Lord, then is He really our God? Is He really our Lord? Remember what the Lord Jesus says in Matthew 7, and I'm paraphrasing: "You call me Lord, but you don't live it." How does this happen to people? They stop living it because they stop worshipping Him as Lord. Worship is the key. We worship because we are responding to His love, His care. Psalm 95:7 says, "We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand." That shows that we are in His care, and we worship in response to receiving that care.

Amazingly the psalm doesn't end here; it closes with a warning. Verses 8-11 say, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: when your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest. Worship brings us into faith, and faith brings us into rest. But what is His rest? Rest means no more striving. You do not have to work to achieve His rest; you just have to receive

it. He has done it all, so enter in and rest. The Christian life is not all "do, do, do." The Lord Jesus didn't say, "Do," on the cross. He said, "Done." Now, this brings a decision before us: Do we worship or not? When we worship, we hear His voice. Upon hearing His voice, we obey and enter His rest. So worship brings us into rest. Jeremiah talked about this too. But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. —JEREMIAH 7:23

If it is well with you, you are in a place of blessings and rest. It's not about prayer and fasting, begging and pleading, pounding the floor, and concluding that God is not listening to you. You are not trying to make it happen; it is happening by itself. Again, obedience follows worship. Worship produces obedience.

Praise does not produce obedience; worship does. You see, the moment you move from praise into worship, you hear His voice. Once you obey His voice, there is rest. Nothing moves the hand of God as quickly as worship—nothing. Back in the 1970s I would lie on my bed and worship God deep in the night. Those were wonderful hours for me! God began to visit me in those early days because I spent time worshipping Him.

I played Bill Gaither's Alleluia! album over and over again. I would lie on my bed with my hands up as my tears soaked my pillow, just playing those worship songs with the lights off. I would talk to the Lord Jesus and love Him.

I believe that this intimacy with the Lord is what launched my ministry. Every time I reach this level of intimacy again, I see a new resurrection of the anointing in my meetings. Worship is vital. People who don't worship are dry and dead. And when they try to minister, it is obvious there is no anointing there. You just want it to stop because it is powerless.

But when true worshippers minister, the atmosphere becomes charged with dynamic power. The presence of God cannot be mistaken here. Everyone is glued to every single thing that these worshippers say and do because God is there with them. When praise turns to worship, everything changes. The climate shifts and lives are transformed. You can sense His presence best in an atmosphere of worship.

Chapter 13

MINISTRY TO THE LORD, NOT FOR THE LORD

EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN writing about in these past two chapters is what I call ministering to the Lord. When you spend time worshipping and loving the Lord, you minister to the Lord, not for the Lord. Your ministry to the Lord is the foundation of your ministry for the Lord. This is a compelling truth. Let it soak into your very being. Your ministry to the Lord is the foundation of your ministry for the Lord. Deuteronomy 10:8 talks about God establishing the Levitical order:

At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day. God established a whole tribe assigned to do one thing only: minister to the Lord. They were to stand before the Lord to minister unto Him. Our ministry to God comes before our ministry for God. You cannot minister to people if you have not ministered to Him first, because you can't give away what you don't have.

If you've been in His presence, you can take people there. If you've been in His presence, you know exactly how to get in and take them with you. When you worship, He shows up. Churches everywhere have talented singers as their worship leaders who often don't spend enough time with the Lord. They cannot lead the congregation to a place in the presence of the Lord if they seldom spend time there.

If we want a deeper experience in the presence of God in our churches and in our ministries, then we must check our priorities and embrace the power of personal communion with the Lord and our ministry to the Lord so we can have a dynamic ministry for the Lord. We need to encourage our worship leaders and ministers on the importance of having a personal daily walk with the Lord Jesus.

It is absolutely imperative that our leaders actively lead by example in this area, demonstrating a daily time of personal worship. When I held crusades, I would worship from 2:00 p.m. to service time. I focused on the Lord for several hours. Then I'd walk on that platform, and He walked on with me. Why? He'd been with me since 2:00 p.m. I realize you likely have a very different calling than mine. Nonetheless, you must spend enough time with the Lord to keep your spiritual life strong and vibrant. In 1 Samuel 3:1 Scripture says that Israel was going

through spiritual dryness, a season of spiritual famine. The voice of the Lord was not heard. It says, "And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision." One can't help but notice that this is the condition of America and the world now. Samuel started ministering to the Lord when he was a child, which brought back the prophetic. When Samuel lay down, the Lord called his name.

He did not even recognize the voice of the Lord the first, second, or third time. Then, the fourth time, he realized it was the Lord speaking. But why did God speak to him? Because he was ministering to the Lord. It goes back to what I wrote about Psalm 95. When you start worshipping, God will talk to you. It's quite simple. He even spoke to a little boy who had never heard His voice before.

Revival came to Israel because one little boy changed the whole atmosphere by ministering to God. What would happen to Canada, the United States, Kenya, and China if God's children began ministering to Him? Revival would be poured out upon our nations. If God heard Samuel, He will hear you. If God poured out revival for Israel, He will do it for your nation. Think what you can do if you begin to minister to the Lord and spend more time worshipping than begging, more time worshipping than fasting, more time worshipping than praying. In 1 Samuel 3 God visited Israel because of a little boy, and in 2 Chronicles 5:13 Solomon finished building the temple. God didn't show up when they finished the building.

He didn't show up when they sacrificed all the animals. He showed up when all the people of Israel worshipped the Lord in one voice. The glory of God descended. In 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 the fire also fell on Israel because they ministered to the Lord. In Acts 13 God called the apostle Paul while he ministered to the Lord. Verse 2 says, "As they ministered to the LORD, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul [who became known as Paul] for the work whereunto I have called them." God did not call Paul on the road to Damascus.

God didn't call him when he went to Arabia either. Paul went to Arabia for fourteen years and then came to Jerusalem to ensure that what he had heard and seen was true. He went back into tent making in his hometown. Barnabas found him and brought him to Antioch, which is present-day Syria. While he was in Antioch ministering to the Lord, God said, "Now I want him." They were ministering to the Lord. Every time worship moves, God moves, calling people into ministry like Paul. Do you want God to call you into ministry? Do you want to be used of God? Today,

begin to minister to God; make it your priority. The practice of your ministry to the Lord will be the foundation, the launching pad of your ministry for the Lord. In Daniel 7 angels minister to the Lord, and as a result, judgment falls on the wicked. The Antichrist is judged because of worship.

It's all there. I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. — DANIEL 7:9-11

God destroys the Antichrist as a result of worship in glory. It moves the hand of God against His enemies. When you are a worshipper, you do not have to fight your enemies. God will take care of it for you; His army is sent to battle on your behalf. Worshippers are protected. God will fight for you.

GOD SETS HIS LOVE UPON US

Now I want to focus on why we have such power with God. It is because we are His people. We are His children. Deuteronomy 32:9 says, "The LORD's portion is his people." Deuteronomy 7:7 says that He sets His love upon us. God did not set His love on the angels. He set His love upon us, and the Bible very clearly says in 1 John 4:19 that He loved us before we loved Him: We love him, because he first loved us.

We are the church of Jesus Christ; we are God's children. He loves us with unconditional and eternal love. As His beloved children, we have so much influence with Him. When we pray, we spend too much of our time focused on our problems, our needs, our enemies, and our spiritual battles. This precious time would be better spent in expressing our love, devotion, and worship to the One who can transform our lives and work every situation for our good. Two verses in Isaiah 43 say something powerful. In verse 7 God declares that He created you for Himself. In verse 21 He restates that.

Even every one that is called by my name; for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him... This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise. —ISAIAH 43:7, 21

Why did He create you? That you might worship the Lord. This is the purpose for which we were created; everything that we are called to do leads back to this singular purpose. We were created to worship Him. That's very, very powerful. In Ephesians we see that when we give ourselves to Him, He gives Himself to us. Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. -EPHESIANS 1:16-18

He wants to pour His riches into you. God's purpose in saving you is so that you can know Him. The hope of His calling is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Think about that one. There's an inheritance in you. He gives you Himself as you give Him yourself. Moses didn't just nod his head toward God in acknowledgement; he threw himself to the ground and worshipped. Moses immediately threw himself to the ground and worshiped. -EXODUS 34:8, NLT

One worshipping man saved an entire nation. Never underestimate the power that is unleashed when we worship God. Do you remember the demon-possessed child of the woman in Matthew 15:21-28? She went to the Lord, and He ignored her. The disciples tried to get rid of her, so she went back to Jesus. He called her an outsider, one outside the covenant at the time, but she fell down and worshipped Him. When she did that, she broke through everything that was in her way.

At that time, only Israel was entitled to receive anything from God. This woman had no right to expect anything from Jesus, but she didn't let that stop her. Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon [northern Israel and southern Lebanon]. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. -MATTHEW 15:21-25

Her worship changed everything. Before she worshipped, Jesus ignored her very existence. After she worshipped, the Lord addressed her for the first time. He didn't give her the answer she wanted, but she still kept worshipping Him, and her worship broke through. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman,

great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. -MATTHEW 15:28

"Great is your faith," He told her. "Let it be done even as you will." So she canceled the opposition with worship, and her daughter was healed. Let's take another look at Paul and Silas in prison in Acts 16. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. -ACTS 16:25-26

When they started worshipping, the jail doors opened and their chains came loose. God still moves the same way He did back then. That is the key to power. When you worship the Lord wherever you are, God will show up and change your life. Worship will never wear you out. Other things may weary you, but worship will not. Before Billy Graham died, he reportedly was asked, "What would you have done differently?" He said, "I would have stayed home more and told Jesus how much I love Him." I live for one thing: to give all the glory to the Lord Jesus. I do this by honoring His precious name, loving Him with all my being, and being pleasing to Him.

When I look back on my life, I want to be able to say that I did these things. It's that simple. After you put this book down today, you might find yourself unable to sleep. Put on some worship music and talk to the Lord while you're lying down. I promise you that if you make time for Him, He will meet you there. And you will wake up feeling refreshed and strong because the Lord visited you.