



GodsWord Ministries

Telling His story to the World

Part 3: Image & Likeness



*We preach: Christ in us - the **Hope** of realizing the glory.*

We proclaim Him (Jesus Christ, the Lord), guiding and admonishing everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom (i.e. comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that every person may be presented mature (i.e. full-grown, complete, and perfect) in Christ. (Col 1:27-28)

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○ SECTION 1:

The Image of God in me

We were created in His IMAGE and according to His LIKENESS for the purpose of ruling and reigning (have dominion) upon the earth!

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man **in Our image, according to Our likeness;** and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:27 **God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

Psa 8:4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?

Psa 8:5 **Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!**

Psa 8:6 **You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

Heb 2:6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that you remember him? or the son of man, that you are concerned about him?"

Heb 2:7 "You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; **you have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of your hands;**

Heb 2:8 **You have put all things in subjection under his feet.**" For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him.

Man lost their ability to reign as a result of sin, but praise God, this ability to reign and to rule is completely and fully restored unto us in and through Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more **those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

Rom 5:18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

Rev 5:10 "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Since "image" and "likeness" are the key factors in enabling us to live out our mandate on earth, I would like to elaborate extensively on these two concepts.

In this Section, I will focus on "the IMAGE of God in me"

IMAGE:

First we will look at some general explanations and definitions of the word "image"

The Hebrew word is "*tselem*" and has the following meanings:

To shade; an illusion; resemblance; a representative figure; a phantom;

The shadowing forth of something, in other words – it is not something static – it is dynamic, ever unfolding;

That which makes man remarkable

IMAGE is not an exact duplicate; it is only the shadow of a thing,

The Greek word is “**eikon**” and has the following meanings according to Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words – E-Sword:

*The word involves the two ideas of **representation** and **manifestation**.*

The word is used of the relations between God the Father, Christ, and man,

*(a) Of man as **he was created as being a visible representation of God**, 1 Corinthians 11:7, a being **corresponding to the original**;*

*The condition of man as a fallen creature has not entirely effaced the “image”; he is still suitable to bear responsibility, he still has Godlike qualities, such as love of goodness and beauty, none of which are found in a mere animal; in the Fall man ceased to be a perfect vehicle for the representation of God; **God’s grace in Christ will yet accomplish more than what Adam lost**;*

*(b) Of regenerate persons, in **being moral representations of what God is**, Colossians 3:10; cf. Ephesians 4:24;*

The above mentioned Scriptures

1Co 11:7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God;

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

Eph 4:24 And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God’s image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

Another similar Greek word is “**charakter**” and means the following (Also from Vine NT – E-Sword)

*Denotes, firstly, “a tool for graving” (from charasso, “to cut into, to engrave”; cf. Eng., “character,” “characteristic”); then, “a stamp” or “impress,” as on a coin or a seal, **in which case the seal or die which makes an impression bears the “image” produced by it, and, vice versa, all the features of the “image” correspond respectively with those of the instrument producing it.***

The following was taken from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia – E-Sword

*The “image of God” must denote primarily **man’s relation to his Creator**, rather than his relation to the creation.*

*Man's lordship over Nature is not identical with the image, **but is an effect of it.***

*It is best to take the term as referring to the **whole dignity of man**, in virtue of his fundamental affinity to God. It implies the **possession by man of a free, self-conscious, rational and moral personality, like unto that of God - a nature capable of distinguishing right and wrong, of choosing the right and rejecting the wrong, and of ascending to the heights of spiritual attainment and communion with God.** This involves a separation of man from the beast, and his supremacy as the culmination of the creative process.*

(Quote from David Pawson in "Unlocking the Bible", Page 46)

"There is an affinity between human beings and God that is lacking in every other part of his creation. Animals do not have the ability to have a spiritual relationship with God as humans do. In that sense, humans are like their creator in a unique way"

Here is a brief summary of the above explanations:

The centre notion of "image" involves the two ideas of:

- ***representation (a representative figure) and***
- ***manifestation (the shadowing forth of something - not something static, but dynamic, ever unfolding)***

Man was created as being a visible representation of God, a being corresponding to the original (the original One, of course being the Supreme Spirit Being - God), with the purpose of manifesting (or shadowing forth) the plans and purposes of the Creator in this earth!!

The "image of God" in me primarily indicates my relation to the Creator, rather than my relation to the creation.

"Image" implies that I possess a free, self-conscious, rational and moral personality, like unto that of God

I have a nature capable of distinguishing right and wrong, of choosing the right and rejecting the wrong.

The "image of God" in me enables me to have fellowship and communion with God, my Creator.

Some more explanations on "image":

Since God is a Spirit (John 4:24) nothing material can be used to represent Him – this would be a contradiction of God's own decision.

The Creator is non-material, which means that the "real me" is also non-material.

God, in His infinite love, gave man a body and soul (visibility) to enable him (the spirit man) to give tangible expression to His (God's) purposes and destiny for man.

God's "IMAGE" in us implies that God shared of His Spirit with us containing His character and also His dreams, purpose, vision and destiny for us. God is love, light, faithful, gracious, merciful, etc., and since I am created in His image I also have the ability to flow in these attributes, because I am wired by God this way.

His "IMAGE" in me also contains my unique personality, the talents, abilities, possibilities, interests, traits, characteristics and potential – that which make every person different from the other and that which make you unique as an individual.

His "IMAGE" in me contains my "make-up" or "wiring" and represents my spiritual "DNA"

God's "image" (as described above) is placed and vested in my spirit and I am supposed to realize all (to give visible and tangible expression) of this through my soul and body by the Holy Spirit.

1Co 2:9 But, on the contrary, as the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [*all that*] **God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him**

1Co 2:10 Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit, for the [*Holy*] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [*the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny*].(AMP)

HOW TO APPLY THE "IMAGE" OF GOD IN MY DAILY LIFE

- *The following explanation is a more practical understanding of the "image" of God in us*

What are the different talents, abilities, interests, traits and characteristics that God has placed inside of us when He created us in His "image"?

The answer is found in Romans Chapter 12 – the Bible calls it “Gifts” [Greek: Charisma – (Plural: Charismata)]

Rom 12:3 For **through the grace given to me I say** to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but **to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**

Rom 12:6 Since **we have gifts (charisma)** that **differ** according to the grace given to us,

{Rom 12:6 **Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities)** (AMP)}

each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **1)prophecy (prophetic activity or functioning), according to the proportion of his faith;**

Rom 12:7 if **2)service, in his serving;** or he who **3)teaches, in his teaching;**

Rom 12:8 or he who **4)exhorts, in his exhortation;** he who **5)gives, with liberality;** he who **6)leads, with diligence;** he who **7)shows mercy, with cheerfulness.**

Eph 4:7 But **to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

Paul states in Romans 12:6 - “We HAVE gifts (having gifts)” meaning:

We are clothed with it

We are pregnant with it

We have it as a permanent possession

We are wired with it

It is similar to a tree with leaves – the leaves grow from the tree. The ability to bring forth leaves is vested in the tree itself – these gifts (charismata) are vested inside of us and must become visible.

Meaning of the word Charisma:

The practical, operational and functional results of God’s Grace

A gift of grace, an undeserved benefit

The suffix -ma, indicates the result of grace.

GRACE explained: Grace is God's disposition (approach) towards us – unearned and unmerited favour.

Grace is the absolute freeness of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and free heartedness of the Giver (God).

Grace denotes a free and spontaneous willingness to bestow good on him that is destitute of it, either in a way of kindness, or in a way of compassion.

Grace is to show favour, mercy and pity.

The word excludes all idea of merit in the object of free favour.

Mercy is the practical, daily outflow of His grace in the form of His deeds in my life.

(See separate Teaching on "GRACE" for a detailed discussion on this subject)

So by His grace God impregnated you with potential, different talents, abilities, interests, traits and characteristics!!

Let's find out what they are

"Charisma" in Romans 12 is:

Seven different gifts (characteristics, traits, abilities, talents, interests and potential) given to us by God the moment we were conceived by our parents. Every one of us is born with all seven of these gifts, each one having them in a different compilation.

We are wired by God with these traits, characteristics and interests – each one of us in a different compilation, composition or make up.

One, two or even three of these are normally dominant and that dominance will describe your main (or general) purpose and direction in life. It will be your natural inclination to flow in your dominant interests and abilities.

God gave these abilities to us to enable us to live our daily lives in a practical way, to interact with each other and to live together in harmony with other people. These God given abilities will allow me to flow in His purpose for my life and will enable me to live a balanced integrated life in relation with my environment and the community.

They were never intended to be used in the church – although it will certainly also manifest in church meetings.

**Reader - NB!! First I want you to clearly understand that these “charismata” are not a “Christian or church thing”. They are given by God through His Grace to every person on this planet called earth!!*

Now Paul and Peter are urging us to “stir up” and “minister to one another” these gifts “not to neglect” them

2Ti 1:6 Therefore I remind **you to stir up the gift (charisma) of God** which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2Ti 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (NKJV)

1Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

1Pe 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

1Pe 4:9 *Be* hospitable to one another without grumbling.

1Pe 4:10 **As each one has received a gift (charisma), minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)

1Ti 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1Ti 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1Ti 4:14 **Do not neglect the gift (charisma) that is in you**, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

1Ti 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. (NKJV)

“Charisma” – the result of God’s grace in my life – is realized by the Holy Spirit. Truly a unique work of the Spirit

1Co 12:4 Now there are **varieties of gifts (charismata)**, but the same Spirit.

Every “charisma” mentioned in the Bible is realized, implemented and put into effect in my life through the Holy Spirit.

I was born with these seven “charismata” and the moment I am born again, these “charismata” are also “born again - regenerated” by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. They are infused by the Spirit

(See separate teachings on “[Grace is a Person](#)” and “A study in 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14” for a comprehensive exposition on these topics)

THE SEVEN CHARISMATA MENTIONED IN ROMANS 12

Explained in more detail...

Rom 12:6 Since **we have gifts (charisma)** that **differ** according to the grace given to us,

{Rom 12:6 **Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities)** (AMP)}

each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **1)prophecy (prophetic activity or functioning), according to the proportion of his faith;**

Rom 12:7 if **2)service, in his serving;** or he who **3)teaches, in his teaching;**

Rom 12:8 or he who **4)exhorts, in his exhortation;** he who **5)gives, with liberality;** he who **6)leads, with diligence;** he who **7)shows mercy, with cheerfulness.**

1) Prophecy (prophetic ability, activity or functioning), according to the proportion of his faith;

2) Service, in his serving;

3) Teaches, in his teaching;

4) Exhorts, in his exhortation;

5) Gives, with liberality;

6) Leads, with diligence;

7) Shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

These are all designs given by God to us freely to enable us to realise our potential, live life to the fullest and to walk in the mandate that He has given us in Gen 1:27" Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule (have dominion)

- Prophecy (Prophetic ability, activity or functioning)

The word "PROPHECY" has two meanings attached to it:

5. *"Prophetic ability, working, functioning or activity" "divine enablement"*

It has this meaning in

Romans 12:6; 1 Cor 12:10; 1 Cor 13:2; 1 Thes 5:20; 1 Tim 4:14; Rev 11:6; Rev 19:10

6. *"That which is prophesied"*

It has this meaning in the following scriptures

1 Cor 13:8; 1 Cor 14:6 & 22; 1 Tim 1:18; 2 Pet 1:20 & 21; Rev 1:3; Rev 22:7,10,18,19

What is prophetic activity (ability)?

Each one of us moves and lives in the prophetic (prophetic functioning, activity) or has prophetic abilities. God made us that way – we were created in His IMAGE and according to His LIKENESS!!

Prophetic ability is an invisible, divine driving force laid inside each one of us (this one common factor working in each and every one of us) enabling us to express ourselves in this world in line with what God has measured out for us.

The prophetic ability in me gives me insight and understanding of life with all its complications and challenges and allows me to formulate and practically implement answers and solutions. The prophetic is the ability to apply these answers and solutions to all the areas of my life.

The prophetic gives birth to and accomplishes things – it gives life and visibility to potential. This is indeed the creative part of the image of God within us!!

Therefore the prophetic ability in me enables me to complete life's assignments, fulfil my purpose and reach my destiny.

God in His infinite wisdom placed "Prophetic abilities" in each one of us to enable us to fully know and understand His plans, purpose, thoughts, dream, vision, will and calling for our lives and to enable us to live it out fully.

By flowing in the prophetic, I act as an ambassador of God and the interpreter of His mind and plan – in other words the speaking forth and doing of the mind and the counsel of God

REMEMBER – God's speaking is God's action. We operate like God operates – in His likeness. So it is not only the speaking forth of, but simultaneously the acting out and the practical implementation of the mind and the counsel of God.

The prophetic is not something static. It is dynamic, active, operative, energizing, functional, effective and operational.

Prophetic functioning is pivotal to the proper functioning of the other gifts of Romans 12:6-8

The prophetic is the ability to realize and implement in practical ways the other six gifts (charismata).

We won't be able to live a successful life without this most wonderful and dynamic "charisma" that God has placed inside each and every one on this earth. Allow the Holy Spirit to optimize this ability in you!

Prophetic functioning and faith goes hand in hand

Rom 12:6 Since we have gifts (charisma) that **differ** according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly:* if

1)prophecy (prophetic activity or functioning), according to the proportion of his faith;

Faith is the sense of my spirit enabling me to understand God and to direct and adapt my life accordingly.

The greater my knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ and His finished work, the greater my application of the gifts of Romans 12!

NB! The prophetic working, activity or functioning flows from without the complete work of Christ – the last Adam – a Life-giving Spirit – it testifies of the fullness and completeness of Jesus Christ.

Rev 19:10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; **worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (prophetic ability, activity or functioning).**"

Lost abilities restored in Christ:

We lost the efficiency of this ability when Adam & Eve sinned, but Jesus came to rectify it and on the day of Pentecost these prophetic activities and abilities were restored and activated

Act 2:16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

Act 2:17 "And it shall be in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh. And **your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" – not only the prophets as was the custom in the Old Testament, but "your offspring" shall move in the prophetic

Be acquainted with God's plan for your life

If the purpose of the prophetic ability in me is to establish in a practical, visible and tangible way in the earth that which God has in mind for me and what He has measured out for me, it implies that I must be acquainted with and understand His plan, His purpose and His destiny for my personal life.

Therefore prophetic ability and functioning is connected not only with revelation, but with vision

At the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (recorded in Acts 2) – "vision" was restored

Act 2:17 "And it shall be in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men **shall see visions**, and your old men shall dream dreams.

"SEE VISIONS" AND "DREAM DREAMS" *in this context means: the ability to know and to understand the inherent personal plan and purpose of God for your life and the ability (wisdom) to live it out fully.*

One example of the efficiency of the prophetic in the OT:

Prophetic activities played a vital role in rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem

NB!!- The elders prospered through the prophesying of Haggai, the prophet and Zechariah, the son of Iddo:

Ezr 6:14 And the elders of the Jews **were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building** according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

Ezr 6:15 This **temple was completed** on the third day of the month Adar;

- **Service, in His Service (or ministry, in the ministry)**

Ministry (serving) is the passion, compassion and love that we have for other people to alleviate their need and to love and to serve them

Without this wonderful ability we would not be able to establish and maintain meaningful relationships. –

This is a truly amazing part of the image of God within us as illustrated by Jesus who set the example of true ministry: He came to serve and not to be served

Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give** His life a ransom for many."

Php 2:5 **Have this attitude in yourselves** which was also in Christ Jesus,

Php 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Php 2:7 but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,**

Jesus said in Mathew 20:28

Mat 20:26 "It is not this way among you, but **whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,**

Mat 20:27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

Mat 20:28 just as **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give** His life a ransom for many." (Amplified Bible: Just as the Son of Man came **not to be waited on but to serve**)

Ministry – (Greek word “diakonia”) means:

Serviceable labour, service, assistance

Ministry involves compassionate love towards the needy

Service (ministry) means to be of service to each other. It involves other people and my relationship with them.

Every business, every calling, so far as it labour benefits others is a “diakonia” – ministry, service

The Greek word for a *minister, servant* or deacon is “Diakonos” and comes from the meaning: *“one who is labouring in the dust, or running through the dust”.*

“To minister” or “to serve” (Greek “Diakoneo”) means: “to wait upon” with emphasis on the work to be done and not on the relationship as such, although building a strong relationship is also part of ministry

The core meaning is: to wait upon, to be a waiter (a waiter is there for the benefit of other people – to ensure they are served properly)

A waiter only serves what is on the menu, not questioning or criticizing the circumstances of the one who is being served

Also means: to adjust, regulate, set in order

In MINISTRY the main reference is to the **voluntary** service or advantage rendered to another – in contrast to a slave “doulos” who is compelled to serve his/her master

A few examples from Scripture regarding ministry (service) in the context of Romans 12:7

Certain women ministered to Jesus and His disciples in a striking manner – they provided for them out of their personal means financially and materially:

(What a great example of how business people and people with means should sustain the spreading of the Gospel)

Luk 8:2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,

Luk 8:3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

(Amplified Bible: many others, who ministered to and provided for Him and them out of their property and personal belongings)

Other people who ministered in different ways to Jesus:

Peter's mother-in-law

Mat 8:14 And when Jesus went into Peter's house, He saw his mother-in-law lying ill with a fever.

Mat 8:15 He touched her hand and the fever left her; and she got up and **began waiting on Him.** (AMP) (she arose and served them NJKV)

The sinner woman with the alabaster vial of perfume

Luk 7:37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining *at the table* in the Pharisee's house, **she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,**

Luk 7:38 and standing behind *Him* at His feet, weeping, **she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.**

Women who used to follow Christ and minister to Him

Mar 15:40 There were also *some* women looking on from a distance, among whom *were* Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome.

Mar 15:41 When He was in Galilee, **they used to follow Him and minister to Him**>;

Jesus said that whoever wishes to be great must be a servant:

Mat 20:26 Not so shall it be among you; but **whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant**, (AMP)

Luk 22:26 But this is not to be so with you; on the contrary, let him who is the greatest among you become like the youngest, and him who is the chief and leader like one who serves. (AMP)

*In Acts 6 the **ministry of food to the widows** is mentioned:*

Act 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their **widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food**.

Act 6:2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

Act 6:3 "Therefore, brethren, **select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task**.

Act 6:4 "But **we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word**."

(The "**ministry of the word**" is also mentioned in this passage of Scripture but I will deal with that concept and other meanings of the word "minister" separately)

In 1 Corinthians 16 and 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 Paul is highlighting the ministry of material things to needy saints

1Co 16:1 Now **concerning the collection for the saints**, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 **On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper**, so that no collections be made when I come.

1Co 16:3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, **I will send** them with letters to carry **your gift to Jerusalem**;

2Co 8:4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the **ministering to the saints**.

2Co 9:1 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about **this ministry to the saints**;

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, **not grudgingly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2Co 9:12 For **the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints**, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

2Co 9:13 Because **of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God** for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

In 1 Corinthians 16:15 Paul is making special mention of the household of Stephanas who devoted (addicted) themselves to the service of the saints (That is, by aiding the ministry; by showing hospitality; by providing for their needs)

1Co 16:15 Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts and our firstfruits in Achaia (most of Greece), and **how they have consecrated and devoted themselves to the service of the saints** (AMP)

In 2 Timothy 1:16-18 Paul is commending the ministry of the household of Onesiphorus

2Ti 1:16 The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for **he often refreshed me**, and was not ashamed of my chain;

2Ti 1:17 but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found *me*.

2Ti 1:18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and **you know very well how many ways he ministered to me** at Ephesus.

Ministry to the saints will never be forgotten by God:

Heb 6:10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget or overlook your labor and the love which you have shown for His name's sake in ministering to the needs of the saints**, as you still do.

- Teaches, in His Teaching

God as the great Teacher and Instructor of His people placed this wonderful ability in us as part of His image

Explanation of the concept “to teach” and “teaching”

To teach: (1321 didasko) means: – to give instructions, to know or teach. Instruct by word of mouth or by example

To teach has inherent in it the calculation of the increase in understanding of the pupil (learner),

The thing aimed at when teaching is the shaping of the will of the pupil (learner)

Teaching is about the impartation of knowledge and experience to other people's lives, and also the receiving of impartation from others.

Teaching (1319 didaskalia): The act of teaching, instructing, tutoring

Teaching refers not only to that which is taught, but also to the authority of the teacher, thus not simply the subject taught, but that which is accomplished and achieved by the teaching.

Teaching is a daily activity

Teaching is a daily activity done by each and every one – it might be:

As parents educating our children; training people in the workplace; imparting skills to other people; training people at education institutions; self-education and self-development; etc.

We are daily teaching, training and educating other people and ourselves while also learning from each other.

We not only have the ability to teach and to train, but also to be taught and to learn

We all need this vital ability. The profoundness of it all is that God placed this ability (which is a part of His nature and image) inside each and every one of us.

- Exhorts, in His Exhortation (Encouragement)

He who exhorts, in the encouragement (exhortation)

Meaning of exhortation

Exhorts (3870 “parakaleo”) means: **to call to one’s side and aid, to help**

To admonish or urge one to pursue some course of conduct (always prospective, looking to the future, in contrast to the meaning “to comfort”, which is retrospective, having to do with trial experienced)

To give advice and guidance

This “charisma” enables you to encourage and support people to reach their purpose and destiny in life, helping them to develop strong areas in their lives and to overcome weaker areas. This applies to our everyday walk of life; i.e. family, workplace, relationships, etc. and is aimed at bringing out the good in each and every one of us.

Something amazing is mentioned in Romans 12:2

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

To optimize this “charisma”, Paul urges us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we may prove what the will of God is

“That we may prove” means: to bring out that which is good in me or in somebody else

Exhortation (3874 paraklesis) means: the act of calling toward helping, exhortation and encouragement toward virtue.

The entire Scripture is actually a “paraklesis” – an exhortation, admonition, encouragement or comforting words for the purpose of strengthening and establishing us.

From the word “paraklesis” comes the word: “Parakletos” (or “paraclete”) and means: He who has been called to help, a helper; legal advisor; pleader; an advocate; one who comes forward on behalf of and as the representative of another.

In 1 John 2:1 Christ is termed our intercessory Advocate (“Parakletos”).

1Jn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;**

1Jn 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.

Christ designates the Holy Spirit as “Parakletos” (John 14:16) and He calls Him “another”, which means of equal quality.

Therefore, **the Holy Spirit is designated by Jesus Christ as equal with Himself and God.**

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby)**, that He may remain with you forever-

Joh 14:17 **The Spirit of Truth**, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for **He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.** (AMP)

This new “Paraclete”, the Holy Spirit was to witness concerning Christ and to glorify Him – He will always declare the fullness and the completeness of the finished work of Christ to us.

The Holy Spirit is called a “Paraclete”, because He undertakes Christ’s office in the world while Christ is away from the world. He is also called the “Paraclete”, because He acts as Christ’s substitution on earth.

The Holy Spirit “in us” and “with us” enables us to encourage and exhort people even if we are experiencing difficult times.

If we do not allow the Holy Spirit to develop this “charisma” in and through us, we will act in a harsh way towards others, always criticising and finding fault. That is the reason why Paul says in Romans 12:2 “do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed...”

- Gives, with Liberality

He who shares (gives), in simplicity (liberality)

The ability to make room for and accommodate each other and to share your life and all your life experiences with other people

Give: to give over, share, impart, to give a share of, to share with someone, communicate and converse with each other

Rom 1:11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

Giving means: to share with someone, communicate, to give cooperation, to help carry the burden, to love one another, to take joint responsibility

The opposite meaning:

To receive from; take to oneself; to withdraw; to remove, take away

Simplicity (liberality): (572): purity, sincerity, faithfulness, generosity

Not having a double motive

Faithfulness toward others, manifesting in helpfulness and giving assistance to others

Faithful benevolence out of proper motivation

It is imperative to know and understand that we are not alone in this world. We are part of a family, a community and a nation and we are interdependent of each other.

Therefore sharing with each other what we have (not talking of material things only) is of crucial importance.

What a profound part of the image of God – God shared His Son, Jesus Christ with us. Christ as a life-giving Spirit imparted His eternal life to us

- **Leads, with Diligence**

He who takes the lead, in diligence, he that rules, with diligence

Leadership: to take the lead; to give direction; the ability to influence other people

Rule: to stand before (i.e. in rank), to preside, to lead, to set over, to care for something (to attend to), leader, ruler, director.

Diligence: eagerness, earnestness (with haste and speed) zeal

We all have leadership abilities which we apply in our everyday walk of life in every area of our lives – giving guidance, direction, advice etc. – as parents, in the workplace, amongst our friends and so forth

Leadership with diligence is also the ability to follow the lead, to take and adhere to instructions, to give cooperation and to take joint responsibility.

Leadership is not a position – it is a function!

- **Shows Mercy, with Cheerfulness**

Closely related to no. 2 – “service; ministry”

Show Mercy: To feel sympathy with the misery of another, and especially sympathy manifested in act.

To show compassion; To extend help; *to have pity or mercy on;*

Mercy is my caring side

MERCY: The outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it.

Mat 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Mat 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. (NKJV)

The general meaning is to have compassion or mercy on a person who is in unhappy circumstances – implying not merely a feeling for the misfortunes of others involving sympathy, but also an active desire to remove those miseries.

Mercy is the ability to take care of each other (of your children, family, friends, colleagues etc.) and to love and respect each other regardless of the prevailing circumstances.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Cheerfulness: that readiness of mind, that joyousness, which is prompt to do anything with gladness.

Php 2:14 **Do all things without grumbling or disputing;**

Php 2:15 **so that** you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

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So there you have it!

God's image in us contains all seven of these traits, abilities, talents and potential.

This enables us to live a successful, victorious life where we could experience fulfilment and satisfaction.

We are indeed His representatives on the earth.

I want to encourage you: there is so much more potential in you than what you have achieved up to now. If you have achieved something it is not potential anymore – potential is something untapped that is still locked up inside of you.

Don't just stick to one thing – realize all of your potential (potential means capable of being or becoming).

SECTION 2:

Made according to God's likeness

INTRODUCTION

The spirit man is still invisible!

We were created in His IMAGE and according to His LIKENESS and have the ability to RULE AND REIGN (HAVE DOMINION)!

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Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image, according to Our likeness**; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. *(NB! – The expression "according to Our Likeness" is omitted here – that will come later in the creation process)*

The aforementioned two Scriptures give evidence of the **invisible spirit man** being created out of an invisible Spirit God. At this stage these spirit human beings are still without a body and soul (visibility) and also no plant or shrub had yet appeared according to Genesis 2:2, 4-5

Gen 2:2 **By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done**, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Gen 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.

Gen 2:5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

Although God spoke to the earth to bring forth vegetation, plants and trees (recorded in Gen 1:11), all of these were still hidden beneath the surface, waiting for God to send rain and the most important, waiting for the invisible spirit man to receive visible, practical functionality in the form of a body and soul enabling man to live out his mandate – the five commands of Genesis 1:28.

According to God's likeness is created at the time when the body of man was formed (recorded in Genesis 2:7):

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed (yatsar - “to squeeze together into shape” or “to mould into a form”) man *of* the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

This body containing the spirit man, must now be enabled to function properly and effectually on the earth and God did this by doing the following:

God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”.

This process is described in more detail under Step 7 – Man became a living soul

When God breathed the breath of life into Adam, He inflated man with grace, life without limitations, inspiration, intellect, wisdom, prosperity, energy, vitality, divine inspiration and health and man became a living being (soul) – intellectually, socially and morally!

Man is now able to function effectively in the earth according to the likeness of his Creator.

Man became a living being (soul) – intellectually, socially and morally:

Man began to exist actively (with “I AM” abilities) as a living individual with his/her own unique personality, intellect, mind, thoughts, desires, emotions, passion, will, character, talents and abilities.

He is now ready to act as God's ambassador and representative on earth with a mandate to be fruitful, to multiply, to replenish the earth, subdue it and to have dominion over it.

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Summarising the creation of man with regard to executing their mandate:

The direction of the flow of the authority that God gave man to execute the mandate is:

FROM GOD, WHO IS A SPIRIT, INTO MY SPIRIT, THROUGH MY SOUL, and THROUGH MY BODY PRACTICALLY INTO THE EARTH – man operated from his spirit which was directly connected and in fellowship with God who is a Spirit – indeed a position of power and authority!!

THUS IN THIS VITAL STEP “IMAGE” AND “LIKENESS” COMES TO FRUITION IN THE BODY AND SOUL OF MAN

Likeness defined:

Hebrew word for likeness is “demuth” meaning:

Representation; resemblance; model; shape; similitude; pattern; something similar

Likeness comes from a *verb* meaning:

To be like; to compare; to resemble; to plan; to think; to form ideas and to implement them; to function in a similar way.

Likeness from a Biblical perspective is the ability to operate in the earthly realm as God operates in the spiritual realm

We are thus God’s representatives on earth: to plan, to think and to operate on the earth as He operates.

His “*IMAGE*” is His *SPIRIT* part in us which contains His character, traits, abilities etc. and this is ***expressed practically and tangibly in the earth by His “LIKENESS” – to represent Him in planning, thinking, operating and executing (speaking and doing).***

Another confirmation that we as human beings have been created in the image and likeness of God:

God is a Triune Being: the Father, the Word (Christ the Logos) and the Holy Spirit!

1Jn 5:7 For **there are three** that bear witness in heaven: **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.**

These three are one. "One" in this case is an ordinal number, denoting order rather than quantity.

Man is also a triune being: body, soul and spirit

Paul emphasizes man as a threefold being in 1 Thessalonians 5:23

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God***your whole spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

1898 Young's Literal Translation of this Scripture

1Th 5:23 and the God of the peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and **may your whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved unblameably in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

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Operate in his likeness

If His “likeness” means that we are suppose to operate and function as God does, we surely must come to know “how does God operate and function”.

This is the way God operates – by His Word – speaking forth

God’s speaking is His action, for God’s speech is His “energy released”.

GOD IS SPIRIT AND HE FUNCTIONS BY AND THROUGH HIS WORD (LOGOS AND RHEMA).

This has the awesome implication of being created in His “image” and according to His “likeness”

We are also “spirit” and function by the word (logos and rhema)!! We are spirit and word.

A few Scriptures to confirm how God operates:

With God nothing is impossible.

The birth of Jesus is announced and Mary is questioning the angel and the angel answers

Luk 1:35 Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [*like a shining cloud*]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.

Here God is creating a body for the Logos (the Word) to enable the Logos to operate effectively in the earth

Luk 1:37 For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfilment. (AMP)

The word “nothing” includes the word “Rhema” meaning that, that which is humanly impossible is made possible by the word (Rhema) of God.

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Everything was created (came into being) by His Word (the LOGOS) and everything that was created is upheld by His Word (RHEMA)

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the **Word (Logos)**, and the **Word(Logos)** was with God, and the **Word (Logos)** was God.

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things came into being through Him [*Word - Logos*], and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Joh 1:14 And the **Word (Logos)** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NASB)

Hebrews 1:3

Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Heb 1:3 **who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word (Rhema) of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person

The first Adam, a living soul, was made in the IMAGE and LIKENESS of God;

The last Adam, Jesus Christ – a life giving Spirit – also had to be in the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.

Christ as “the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of His person”, is “upholding all things by the word (Rhema) of His power”

Upholding referring to Christ, the Preserver of the universe means:

To bring in by announcing, to announce

To “bear” or *carry* (literally and figuratively)

To bring forth, produce; to bring forward in a speech

To bear up, i.e. uphold (keep from falling)

To drive, to have in charge, to direct and govern continuously

The “perfect tense” used here, describes an action, or more accurately a process, that took place in the past, the results of which have continued to the present, indicating that Christ is continuously (an action that started long ago) upholding ALL things. And “ALL things” means “ALL things” – that includes even the smallest or most minute thing – He takes care of everything!!

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All things:

Each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything

Includes the idea of oneness, a totality or the whole,

The individual within the totality and the totality of the individuals

Where “logos” is God’s life giving creative power ever and continuously flowing forth from Him - “rhema” is that dynamic power flowing from the “logos” upholding, maintaining, developing and sustaining all things.

1Co 8:6 Yet for us there is [*only*] one God, the Father, Who is the Source of all things and for Whom we [*have life*], and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through and by Whom are all things and through and by Whom we [*ourselves exist*]. (AMP)

Col 1:15 He (Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 1:16 For **by Him all things were created**, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--**all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

The all creative word (the Logos) became visible flesh:

Joh 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw **(beheld)** His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

God calls into being that which does not exist (His promise of a son to Abraham)

Rom 4:17 (as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you") in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even God*, **who** gives life to the dead and **calls into being that which does not exist.** (NASB)

Rom 4:17 As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations. [*He was appointed our father*] in the sight of **God** in Whom he believed, **Who** gives life to the dead and **speaks of the nonexistent things that** [*He has foretold and promised*] as if they [*already*] existed. [*Gen. 17:5.*] (AMP)

Jesus cast out demons by word.

Mat 8:16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and **He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.**

A few Scriptures to confirm that we can operate effectively in the same power and authority of the Word:

- *Very important to understand: we are co-workers with God*

1 Corinthians 3:9

(AMP) For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God;

(BBE) For we are workers with God:

(KJV) For we are labourers together with God:

(NASB) For we are God's fellow workers;

To be “labourers together with, co-workers, and fellow workers” means this:

I am a companion (comrade) in labour with God – in His action, work and conduct – I am in union with Him and became one with Him in Christ. Christ is in me and I am in Him.

There is partnership, companionship and association between me and God and as a result of this, I can take into possession, implement His Word and be instrumental in His hands.

I can act on His behalf.

CO-WORKERS: What He speaks in the heavens, we speak and execute on the earth.

- *Jesus laid down a mighty and wonderful principle for us to follow:*

Mat 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Mat 6:10 Your kingdom come. **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

- *The keys of the kingdom of heaven:*

Mat 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Mat 16:14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Mat 16:19 **"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."**

Mat 16:19 (Amplified Bible) **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.**

Jesus gave the assurance that He will hand the authority to act on His behalf on the earth, to every believer individually and collectively. He first had to descend into the lower parts of the earth (hell) and take the keys from Satan. (When Adam sinned he forfeited his authority and gave it to Lucifer).

Jesus obtained the victory over Satan on the cross

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

Col 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Col 2:15 When **He had disarmed the rulers and authorities**, He made a public display of them, **having triumphed over them through Him**.

Rev 1:18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I **have the keys of death and of Hades**.

- ***A more detailed explanation of Matthew 16:19 and Matthew 18:18-19:***

Mat 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (NASB)

Mat 16:19 (Amplified Bible) I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.

Mat 18:18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Mat 18:19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. (NASB)

Amplified Bible

Mat 18:19 Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [*anything and everything*] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Greek grammar explanation of the words:

“Already bound and already loosed” – which were written in the “perfect participle passive”

The perfect tense in Greek describes an action, or more correctly a process, that took place in the past, the results of which have continued to the present. It has no exact equivalent in English

The finished work of Jesus Christ (an action, or more correctly a process) took place in the past and continued to the present and we are living in that completeness today – in what *Jesus bound and loosed in the heavens*

The perfect participle stresses the state brought about by the finished results of the action

The state brought about by the finished results of Christ’s action is:

- Righteousness
- Sanctification
- Redemption
- Forgiveness
- Grace and mercy
- Life and abundance
- Blessings
- , etc.

We operate on this earth by binding and loosing what has already been bound and loosed by Christ – we bring into reality the finished results of Christ’s action

We now have the keys and have the delegated authority to bind and to loose on earth those things that are already bound and loosed in the heavens by Christ Jesus. We do this mighty work by speaking the logos and the rhema.

What an amazing authority, but also what a deep responsibility rests upon our shoulders.

See the Teaching on “Logos and Rhema” for a more in depth discussion on “Binding and Loosing”

- *By faith we frame the world around us:*

Hebrews 11:3 (*This is truly amazing*)

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that **the worlds were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word (RHEMA) of God**, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible. (AMP)

Worlds:

Also my world, *my current situation and circumstances*

What God has destined, *purposed*, planned and *measured out* for me, *my future, purpose and destiny*.

Framed:

To arrange, *to set in order*, equip, *adjust*, make fully ready, *complete what is lacking*, repair, *prepare*, restore, *heal*, complete thoroughly, *mend*, make perfect.

Word of God: The “rhema” word.

“According to His likeness” is an awesome ability waiting to be unlocked.

Because I have the ability to operate like God operates, I have the ability to frame my world by the RHEMA word of God in the name of Jesus Christ and by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- *Jesus promised that we will do the works that He did and even greater works*

John 14:10-14

Joh 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

Joh 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Joh 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

- *Asking produces tremendous results:*

John 14:13-14

Joh 14:13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Joh 14:14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

The word "ASK" here has the meaning of:

To demand (not in arrogance, but by someone who knows his/her legal blood bought privileges and rights in Jesus Christ), insist on being helped, to claim (as in an insurance claim)

To this type of asking Jesus gave a guarantee: "I WILL DO IT" so "that the Father may be glorified in the Son"

In this instance not the asking of an inferior party to a superior party, but that of a person who knows and understands "righteousness – right standing with God".

2Co 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**.

Asking is to act without any sin consciousness and feelings of guilt in approaching God's throne with boldness – knowing that you will find grace to help in time of need.

Asking is righteousness in practical action

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, *yet* without sin.

Heb 4:16 **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Amplified Bible translation of Hebrews 4:16

Heb 4:16 **Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [*appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it*].**

This corresponds with God's declaration about His Son in Psalm 2:

Psa 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Psa 2:8 **Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**

The result of bearing fruit is that whatever we ask will be done for us – God the Father is glorified by it

Joh 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Joh 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.

Joh 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and **appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.**

Let us ask and declare in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God – it produces tremendous results

Php 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is **above every name,**

Php 2:10 **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,** of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

Php 2:11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NKJV)

Mar 16:17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: **in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;**

Mar 16:18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."**

Practical application of the aforementioned:

Whenever I speak, ask or declare in the Name of Jesus Christ, I act on His behalf and it is as if Jesus Himself declares it – He is only using me by the Holy Spirit as a channel to operate through!

It is the very same situation if I would act on behalf of an earthly king who gave me authority to speak on his behalf. The moment I act in this delegated authority it would be as if the king himself is speaking.

Jesus said

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

Mat 28:19 **"Go therefore** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; **and lo, I am with you always**, even to the end of the age."

- ***We do not approach God with a beggar mentality – No! No! – We are a kingdom and priests!***

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. **To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood--**

Rev 1:6 and **He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father--to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Rev 5:9 And they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased for God with Your blood *men*** from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Rev 5:10 **"You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."**

Each member of this true kingdom is a priest unto God, with direct access to Him at all times.

- *My life is directed and formed by speaking and doing (executing and implementing) the word of God:*

Luke 4:4

Luk 4:4 And Jesus replied to him, It is written, **Man shall not live and be sustained by** (on) bread alone but **by every word and expression (rhema) of God.** [*Deut. 8:3.*] (AMP)

Romans 10:6-17

Rom 10:6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down),

Rom 10:7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? **"THE WORD (RHEMA) IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"**--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**;

Rom 10:10 **for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

Rom 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

Rom 10:17 **So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word (RHEMA) of Christ.**

Rom 10:9you will be **saved. (sozo)**

Rom 10:10confession is made unto **salvation. (soteria)**

Save (sozo) and salvation (soteria) – the amazing results obtained from confessing, speaking, hearing and believing – means:

To rescue from peril; to protect; to keep alive; to save; to deliver; make whole; preserve safe from danger, loss or destruction.

To heal; to restore to health

Salvation with regard to:

- Material and temporal deliverance from danger, suffering, sickness, etc
- The spiritual and eternal salvation granted by God to those who believe in Christ.
- The present experience of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin

Freedom from sin as a present power

- All the blessings inclusively bestowed by God on us in Christ.

2Co 4:13 But **having the same spirit of faith**, according to what is written, "**I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,**" we also believe, therefore we also speak,

- ***The parable of the sower teaches us to sow the seed – the Word of God:***

Mat 13:3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, **the sower went out to sow;**

Mat 13:4 and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

Mat 13:5 "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

Mat 13:6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Mat 13:7 "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

Mat 13:8 "And others fell on the good soil and *yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

Jesus said it is absolutely important that we must understand this parable – otherwise we will not be able to understand all the other parables.

Mar 4:13 And He *said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?

The seed is the Word (not money or material things) and this seed is tremendously productive:

Mar 4:14 "The sower sows the word (*the Logos - Christ as the final and perfect revelation of God to men*)

Luk 8:11 "Now the parable is this: **the seed is the word of God (*the Logos - Christ as the final and perfect revelation of God to men*)**

Mat 13:23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who **hears the word and understands it**; who indeed **bears fruit and brings forth**, some a **hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.**"

Mar 4:20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they **hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.**"

Luk 8:15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have **heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.**

Hundredfold: a complete productiveness.

Constantly sow the seed (The Word - the Logos - Christ as the final and perfect revelation of God to men) in your life, in every situation, in the lives and circumstances of other people and in your future and a harvest will be produced!

Get knowledge, insight and understanding of the full and complete work of Christ – convey it to others – and everyone will bear fruit.

Seed has the inherent ability to produce fruit. The same with the Word of God (the logos and rhema) – it has got inherent power and ability to create and produce – 30, 60 or 100 fold.

My responsibility is to ensure the seed is not contaminated – otherwise it will not produce a healthy harvest. Do not mingle the Word of Grace and Truth with the Law – you will render this powerful Word ineffective.

We are called to glorify God by bearing fruit – only seed can produce fruit – the seed is the Word (Logos – Christ)

Joh 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

Joh 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and **every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.**

Joh 15:4 "**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.**

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Joh 15:7 "**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

Joh 15:8 "**My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.**

Joh 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and **appointed you that you would go and bear fruit**, and *that* your fruit would remain, **so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.**

Allow the word of Christ (the fullness of the finished work of Christ) to dwell richly in you – God desires to express Himself through us by the logos and rhema

Col 3:16 **Let the word (logos) of Christ richly dwell** within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another

○ ***God's solution for the worst case scenario – Prophecy (speak) to the situation***

Eze 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones.

Eze 37:2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* every dry.

Eze 37:3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

Eze 37:4 Again He said to me, "**Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'**"

Eze 37:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.'

Eze 37:6 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'"

Eze 37:7 **So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied**, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

Eze 37:8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Eze 37:9 Then He said to me, "**Prophecy to the breath**, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'"

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Eze 37:11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'

God told Ezekiel:

Say precisely what I tell you to say! - Now that is co-working with God!

Prophetic speaking accomplishes and gives birth to things.

It gives life, tangibility and visibility to potential and possibilities.

Every prophetic utterance is a Rhema designed by the Holy Spirit to speak life, edification, exhortation and consolation (the prophetic in the New Testament was never intended to expose and condemn people)

1Co 14:3 But **one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.**

1Co 14:4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but **one who prophesies edifies the church.**

- ***Elijah's prayer to control nature:***

The prayer of Elijah is of such great importance that it is quoted in the New

Testament

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.**

(The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working] (AMP)

Jas 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

Jas 5:18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

Elijah's earnest prayer: he just spoke one sentence:

1Ki 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, **surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.**"

- *Under grace we should do exceedingly greater things than Elijah:*

The significance of Elijah's prayer is that he obtained these profound results while operating under the Law – ***under grace we should do exceedingly greater things:***

2Co 3:7 Now if **the dispensation of death** engraved in letters on stone [*the ministration of the Law*], **was inaugurated with such glory and splendor** that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [*a glory*] that was to fade and pass away, [*Exod. 34:29-35.*]

2Co 3:8 Why **should not the dispensation of the Spirit** [*this spiritual ministry whose task it is to cause men to obtain and be governed by the Holy Spirit*] **be attended with much greater and more splendid glory?**

2Co 3:9 For if the service that condemns [*the ministration of doom*] had glory, how infinitely more abounding in splendor and glory must be the service that makes righteous [*the ministry that produces and fosters righteous living and right standing with God*]!

2Co 3:12 Since we have such [*glorious*] hope (such joyful and confident expectation), **we speak very freely and openly and fearlessly.** (AMP)

I want to add: we speak very freely and openly and fearlessly, because we know that it will produce results beyond our greatest expectations

Eph 3:20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [*action of His*] power that is at work within us, is able to [*carry out His purpose and*] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [*dare*] ask or think [*infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams*]--

Eph 3:21 To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it). (AMP)

- *Give the Holy Spirit a Sword to work with!*

Eph 6:17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word ("Rhema") of God.**

The very moment I declare or speak the Rhema – it becomes a sword in the Hands of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to create in you a “rhema” word designed to address your specific situation. This rhema will become a sword in the hands of the Holy Spirit and He will do what is required on your behalf.

- *The all creative word (the Logos) became visible flesh:*

Joh 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw **(beheld)** His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

As we speak and live the Word – the Word will again become flesh – it will become visible and tangible things.

As we behold the glory of the Word – the glory will be manifested in practical things in our everyday walk of life.

- *You become what you behold and you can visibly realize what you behold*

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

JOHN SAID:

We beheld the glory of the Word (the Logos – Jesus Christ)

NOW PAUL SAID:

While we behold the glory of the Lord, we are constantly being changed into that same image of glory as what we behold.

BEHOLD:

To look closely at, that is, to perceive (literally or figuratively); by extension to visit:

By and through the Word we speak and we do practically.

We speak and we strategize.

Then we can say that we operate in His likeness.

- ***The Bible highlights the importance of guarding our hearts and being careful of our speech***

Pro 4:23 **Keep and guard your heart** with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for **out of it flow the springs of life.** (AMP)

Pro 18:20 **A man's [mora] self shall be filled with the fruit of his mouth; and with the consequence of his words he must be satisfied [whether good or evil].**

Pro 18:21 **Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]. [Matt. 12:37.]** (AMP)

Mat 15:10 After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand.

Mat 15:11 **"It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."**

Mat 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for **the tree is known by its fruit.**

Mat 12:34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

Mat 12:35 "**The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil.**

Mat 12:36 "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Mat 12:37 "**For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. **If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man,** able to bridle the whole body as well.

Jas 3:4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

Jas 3:5 **So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things.** See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; **the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body,** and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

Jas 3:10 **from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing.** My brethren, **these things ought not to be this way.**

Jas 3:11 **Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*?**

Col 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

Col 4:6 **Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt,** so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Much more on the subject "Logos and Rhema" in a separate Teaching under Third Dispensation Teachings

In conclusion

In conclusion to the creation of Adam and Eve: They were created completely righteous in the image of God and according to His likeness with all the privileges and attributes as described in the aforementioned teachings.

They had an openhearted unhindered relationship with God and were in complete harmony and fellowship with Him.

In Christ we have been recreated and restored to the original plan and purpose of God as mentioned in Genesis Chapters 1 – 3, but with the following enhancements:

- I am born from above, from God, from His Spirit
- In Christ I am a total new creation
- I am now called a child and a son of God
- I have been made a king and priest for God
- As He is, I am in this world
- I am a heir of God and a co-heir with Christ
- I am a conqueror and more than a conqueror

More of the above in other Teachings

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