

CHRISTIAN

TO

CHRISTIAN

BY

PASTOR JAN W. SIMPSON

DO NOT MISS THE FIRE

Christian to Christian

Distributed by:
Pastor Jan Simpson
126 N. Main Street
Cadiz, Ohio 43907

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FORWARD

You may have spent your life in the church of Jesus Christ. You may have listened to and read the word of God. You may have prayed diligently. You did your good works and tried to follow the will of God.

You may have come to a point in your Christian life where you said “God there has to be more. I feel like I am dying on the vine.” You may get to that point where you know you want more and you cry out for more. The word says **“Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks find, and to him who knocks the door will be opened.”** Matt. 7:7 NIV

That was the point where I was and when I cried out I found Him. I started moving forward. I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and my feet have never hit the ground since that day. Life changed for me. I was on a new adventure and years later it is still an adventure.

Don't miss the fire.

Jan Simpson

CHAPTER ONE

SURRENDER

Being raised in a Protestant church and a Christian home, accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior seemed normal. Over the years we hear phrases describing that time when someone accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. I was saved, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, I gave my life to Jesus or I am born again are a few. Suddenly, to me there was a distinct difference in one of the phrases.

Becoming a Christian requires accepting Jesus Christ, but giving your life to Jesus is the next thing to do right after you are saved. Many Christian people go through life believing "**for God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whomsoever believeth in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life,**" (John 3:16) KJV They believe! What they do not do is give their lives. Giving your life is receiving. My word for this is Surrender, give it up, turn it over,

hold back nothing. Not I need Thee every hour, but I need Thee every second. **"Submit yourselves therefore to God."** (James 4:7) KJV.

In the past, although I believed that God helped me with my life I would have felt guilty for trying to burden Him with everything. I thought there were certain things that were my responsibility and other things I could not control. Those were the things I left for Him.

Now I am convinced He takes great delight in total Surrender. **"..for they being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God"** (Romans 10:3) KJV.

WORRY

Worry is rather vogue now. Everyone is always talking about worrying about something or someone. Worrying about someone is usually a commendable act, due to the fact that many only worry about themselves. I have spent too much or should I say wasted too much time with worrying.

Even though I have read Luke 12:22-32 which includes **"Take no thought for your life**

what ye shall eat, neither the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. And which of you with taking thought can add to his statue one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest." KJV I surely missed the point. What was he saying, Don't worry. You not only don't need to worry about anything, but you have this magnificent Savior who will intercede for you. So Surrender it to God, keep in total communications with Him and let Him run the show. Isn't it wonderful! You can submit yourself to God and never worry because you know He is in control. Let go.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications with God is no longer my morning devotional time, my evening prayers, Sunday morning prayer time at church, and my critical time pleas. Gee, I thought I was doing pretty good. This wonderful, wonderful communications that has been setup between our Lord and God and His children is opened at all times. The lines are only down when we disconnect. There is nothing we can not bring to God and lay at His feet. He loves us. He wants

our attention. He wants us to ask Him to lead every step we take. We can talk to Him. We do not have to have our heads bowed, eyes closed, hands lifted or whatever to communicate with Him. Sometimes those positions don't render to the situation, such as driving a car, fixing dinner, or working on the job. You don't even have to pick up the phone or dial a number. Talk to Him fifty times a day. He will love it.

I thought we shouldn't bother Him with little silly things. There are so many big problems in the world. One of my favorite Bible verses has taken on new meaning for me. **"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path."** KJV (Prov. 3:6) It doesn't say in all thy big problems ways acknowledge Him. It is limitless!! Acknowledge as described by Webster .."to admit to be real or true, recognize the existence, truth or fact of". I'm afraid my acknowledgment was limited. Would we be out of line to interpret this as: In all thy ways turn to me, and I will direct thy path. He is unfathomable and we can not understand His depths, but I am convinced that my turning to Him with every little thing is as much a burden for him as it is significant in the universe.

I heard a minister on a Christian radio station talking about the Bible. He was referring

to the Bible as the Word of God. He said God gave us the Bible to lead our lives, which I believe. Then he said that God does not talk to us, and when someone tells him God showed them or told them something he didn't believe it. That person just thought it was God. I believe communications with God is a two way conversation. I'm waiting for the day I can hear His voice with my ears. I most assuredly believe He talks to us. Let's not limit Him.

I was a little upset because I felt His communication with me, and the New Testament is not filled with verses such as "God told me this.....". One evening I was out for my walk at the local park and was praying about this concern. I shared this concern with Him and as clear in my mind as if spoken **"Whatsoever ye ask in my name you shall receive."** KJV.

Jesus Christ died for us on the cross to save us. He also said, **"whatsoever ye ask in my name you shall receive"**. No limitations, no restraints, no timetables. Ask in Jesus name that God will direct your every step and communicate with you. He loves you.

NEW DIRECTOR

Some people appear as if their live are

completely out of their control. Others appear to have their lives under control. They have gone to college, studied hard, acquired the good things in life, become good citizens in our society, which is good.

I tried to keep my life under control, always paid my bills on time, be a hard working employee, attend church, raise my girls to be good citizens. These were the things my parents had instilled in me as I grew up. Admittedly, I was no saintly type as my sinful way always seems to creep into the picture.

Now I have a new director. Unlike the past when I was always trying, I now let Him direct the show. I am a temple of God, **"Know you not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"(I Cor. 3:16) KJV....ye are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God and they will be my people".(II Cor. 6:16)KJV.**

Friends become irritated with me because there are things I should be moving forward. I find it hard to explain to some, but others I just tell them I am waiting for direction. We become impatient at times, waiting for His directions and answers. Oh, we of little faith. **"Cast thy burdens**

upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalms 55:22)

"Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7)" Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:5) KJV

CHAPTER TWO

LIVING IN THE SPIRIT

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)KJV

Did you ever really think about walking after the Spirit as in pursuit of the Spirit. As in a spiritual plane that sets you aside from the earthly things? Many of us have had occasions when we have been filled with the Holy Spirit. A certain sermon, a special song, a loving prayer answered, a sunset or some very special occasion in our spiritual life that makes us fill up and overflow with the Holy Spirit. A few minutes or an hour later we are called back to the real world and return to our busy schedules. God's Holy Spirit is constantly within us. He wants us to surrender our lives and live in the Spirit. Thus the things of the world take their rightful place in our lives. A place beneath the things of the Spirit.

We have our place here on this earth and

because of those circumstances we must spend our limited days with our earthly duties. Those duties can only take their rightful place in the spectrum of the whole picture. Measure our earthly lives in comparison to eternity, which is God's promise. Now think about the importance of the things of this world. We can have a glimpse of eternity while we live our surrendered lives here on earth by living in God's Spirit. Knowing what Jesus said in John 8:12, lets me know that the Light of God is always with me through Jesus Christ. **"Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God."** (Mark 4:11)KJV Let's discover them by living in the Spirit. We do not need to worry of things of this world.

Live in the Spirit and feel the infilling of God's Holy Spirit lifting you above all problems and hardships, because they have taken their rightful place in your eternal life. God will not forsake you just because you are here on earth now and not in heaven with Him. As you move along in your earthly life learn more and more to let go of all situations. Just pray in Jesus name that the smallest or largest things in your life will be handled by the Lord., **"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and**

peace." (Romans 8:6) KJV Right Now! "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Romans 8:10-11) KJV

Be not dismayed nor be afraid the things of this world are not as terrible as they may appear from an earthly point of view. Simply put, change your point of view. View this earth from another side, called the Spiritual side. Not just on Sunday morning or Wednesday bible study but always. Lift your life up. Your body is a temple to be used by God for his work. His work is turned toward man (human race). The only important thing on this earth is mankind. Let God fill you with his Holy Spirit and surrender your life to be a holy temple and enjoy his holy presence. Let Him guide your every move. **"if a man loves me, he will obey my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."** (John 4:23) KJV How can we miss his will if we surrender our lives, become his holy temple and live in his Spirit. He loves you.

CHAPTER THREE

PRAISE

How much of our life do we spend praising God? If you are like I was, it was very little. A little praise at church, a few good praise hymns, a small word of praise now and then. I must say I just didn't have praise high on my spiritual list. In fact it was almost completely missing. After changing jobs, my sister gave me a couple of Christian praise tapes. My new job required a distant drive from my present home. I really think that long drive was well planned. I started listening to those tapes and sang and worshipped the Lord right in my car. I had to leave so early in the morning there weren't many other people on the road to see me singing or raising my hand up to the Lord. Each month or two when she received another tape she would see to it that I could listen to it. In fact her tape player broke. (How convenient.)

After a few months I was talking to a friend of mine. He ask how I could drive that far

to work. I told him I had these wonderful contemporary Christian tapes that I played. He said he wondered why he had bought a copy of the New Testament on cassette. He said, "Now I know." He brought them to church, gave them to me to listen to on the way to work. Oh, what a joy.

Although I have read the New Testament through several times, there is always something new to learn. I've made about fifteen trips through the New Testament. (After the first five trips my daughter decided I should have a copy of my own.) Each time I listened I would hear something new, rewind the tape, listen again. I even jotted down some verses to read when I got home. Is writing and driving against the law? It probably should be. How wonderful to listen to the whole teaching at once. Since my driving trip was so long, (I could listen to the entire New Testament in one week.) I even picked out my favorites, which may change after another few trips. My favorites are the Gospel according to John, James and Peter I & II. John's writings seemed to portray Jesus as so loving, gentle and caring. Don't they refer to John as the apostle Jesus loved? I never doubted but he loved them all. John just seems to convey His love for us more. Enough of that.

After some time, I found that my church had the entire Bible on tape in the library. Study course completed, now I was to step up to the entire good book. I only made three trips through the entire Bible. Those took a little longer than a week, but my education was being continued. So what do we have here? Praise tapes, the Bible, and the Christian radio station. Sounds like He orchestrated a full worship service for me every morning and every evening five days a week. A praising I would go.

I went directly from a full diet of pop music for my listening enjoyment to a full diet of praise. Do you think He might have thought I was not giving Him enough of my time? Now during these trips He threw in some beautiful sunrises, sunsets and wonderful scenes. In fact during part of the year I would see the sun come up about three times because of the change in elevation. I said "Thank you, Lord and Praise the Lord." I told someone that God had my undivided attention during my trips back and forth to work. My sister suggested I might give a little attention to my driving. God works in mysterious ways.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips,

**giving thanks to his name." (Hebrews 13:15)
"Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and
ever; and blessed be thy glorious name, which is
exalted above all blessings and praise."(Nehemiah
9:5) "Sing forth the honour of his name; make his
praise glorious." (Psalms 66:2) KJV**