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Leaving a Legacy

The Garden Training Center, Inc.
An Apostolic School of Ministry



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ISBN 979-8-9890762-3-9

Cover design by Garden Publishing Co./BTSM
Interior design by Garden Publishing Co.

Printed in the United States of America.

Acknowledgments

Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the content of this book, however someone put words to it. This book was written by Danetta Ferguson.

This book is one of a series of books written and distributed by The Apostolic School of Ministry from The Garden Training Center, Inc. The series arises from the foundational teachings of the school of ministry, founded by Brandy Helton. Brandy wrote several sections that are included in each book such as “God’s Love” and the prayers included at the end of each book.

Many thanks to the team of writers of the series for their collaboration to make the series available to the public. The writers are: Lauren Caldwell, Jessica Doggett, Danetta Ferguson, Debra Gray, Elisa Griffith, Nancy Hadley, Robin Harmon, Brandy Helton, Grant Hill, Kevin McSpadden, and Paula Pelzel. Each have sought Holy Spirit for the words He wants to speak through them. The result is a mixture of personalities and communication strategies that convey the total message in a beautiful, diverse way.

A special thanks goes to Nancy Hadley, Kevin Mc-

Spadden and Chelsey Butcher with Garden Publishing Co., for their preparation and fine tuning of the text.

Encouragement and Prayer for the Reader

Beloved of God, these teachings are written to reveal Jesus Christ and His heart of love for all who call upon His name to save them.

God has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who would believe in Him and His Word.

God desires to reveal Himself and to give us His divine nature in Christ Jesus our Lord through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God is Jealous. He wants us to encounter His presence daily and walk with Him in glory – intimate communion - today, while it is called today, and forever.

It is my prayer that this teaching would so impact the readers that all would come to know and believe JESUS, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Great God and Savior, and receive the PERFECT LOVE He has for us all as we grow up into Him and mature as true sons and daughters of God.

May you grow in faith and knowledge of your God and Savior and come to know the love that He has for you. I pray for you the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual growth:

Ephesians 3:14-21 The Living Bible (TLB)

"14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

20 Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. 21 May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ."

In Christ our Lord,
Brandy Helton
A child of God

God's Love

God's love is good news! Don't believe the lie that God is distant, unapproachable, and angry!

God is love. He is the only true, eternal God. He is perfect and holy, and He is truth. God is One. He has revealed Himself in three distinct, individual, equal persons: God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells the story of God's perfect love. In that love, God created the first family to live on the earth with Him. Through their deep intimate relationship with the Father, Adam and Eve were meant to fulfill all that was in God's heart on Earth just like it is in Heaven, for God's glory and purposes. Adam and Eve were chosen to walk with God, clothed in His glory presence and were perfect, as He is perfect, and they lived in His beautiful garden, the secret place called Eden. He gave them His breath, life and power to have dominion over all He created and wanted them to reproduce that LIFE replenishing the earth with it, until all the earth is filled with His glory.

Genesis 1:26-28

"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our

image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

God created His children in His likeness. He made them spirit beings, with a soul – mind, will and emotions – and placed them in a physical body. He gave His children the choice to love Him and to walk with Him in obedience to His every word. He gave the first family the power to overcome any temptation offered to them through God’s adversary, the devil, who had rebelled against the Most High God in Heaven’s glory and was cast down to the earth. The devil, Satan, brought great darkness and chaos prior to Adam and Eve’s existence.

Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that God was not perfect in love as Satan, the adversary, tempted them to believe that God would not keep His Word to them. Through their own will, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Father by eating from a tree that had the power to open their eyes to both good and evil. Through their choice of disobedience, they willfully gave their inheritance and authority over to the devil and his kingdom. Sin entered mankind, which produced death, eternal separation from a Holy God. Adam and Eve were banished from the dwelling and intima-

cy of perfection in the garden and were sent into the world as a fallen creation.

Father God knew He had to come Himself and save His family, and in His wisdom, He chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us and restore fallen mankind back to relationship with Him. Through His Son, He destroyed all the works of the devil and the curse of death. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”* Remission means to cancel the penalty, so according to the law there must be shedding of blood to cancel the penalty for sin. The Father cancelled the penalty for the sins of His children through the shedding of the blood of His innocent, holy Son Jesus, who was the Sent One, called and chosen to die for all, so all could live.

John 3:16-21

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may

be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit in the womb of a young virgin named Mary. He appeared as the second Adam, in the flesh, with the choice to walk in perfect love and obedience, full of God’s Spirit, as a man to do the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up as any male child did in the flesh but He had divine fellowship with His Father and Holy Spirit. At the appointed time, He was revealed as being sent from God to save. Jesus went around doing good and healed all who were oppressed by the devil spiritually and physically. He revealed His Father’s heart and perfect love to all who believed through His teachings, grace and miraculous power.

Salvation means eternal life, healing, deliverance, protection, peace, wholeness, and forgiveness. Salvation came to all men through the cross, where the Son of God, the perfect One, was slaughtered as a lamb, bearing all sin for all times from a fallen people. Jesus bore the wrath of God against the darkness that separated God’s family from Him. Jesus was punished for our sin and died to cleanse us from the guilt, shame and condemnation sin produces. Sin separates. Love restores.

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, spending three days and nights in the depths of Hades, the realm of the dead fallen race. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell from that old serpent the devil, Satan, and therefore, all authority was restored back to Jesus.

Great Holy Spirit breathed LIFE into Jesus and raised Him from the dead. He appeared to His disciples, those who followed Him and obeyed His teachings. He showed them that He conquered sin, death and the grave and now, had the keys of hell and death, and would give ETERNAL LIFE to ALL who chose to believe in Him. King Jesus ascended back to the Father of glory where He ever lives to make intercession for us all, and He is coming again to the earth in power to establish His Father's Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus Christ is the head and Lord over His church, those who have made Him Lord and Savior, by believing He is the Son of the Living God and God in the flesh, who finished the work the Father gave Him to do. He not only died for our sins to save and heal us, He chose to give His authority to those He called and chose to follow Him as His disciples, His family.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to do the same works that He did while He lived on the earth.

John 14:12-14

"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. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

God loves us and desires that none should perish. He desires for His family to be with Him where He

is. These books are written to inspire all who read them and to reveal the heart of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit in order that we might RECEIVE THE LOVE HE HAS FOR US and be CHANGED INTO HIS VERY LIKENESS. God desires to dwell with His family forever and ever just as He did in the beginning. How glorious it is to live in His presence and dominion, beholding His goodness, forever and ever, amen.

The book of Revelation describes the time that is coming when all things are made new according to God's heart of love:

Revelation 21:1-7

"1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be

My son.”

To understand what is presented in the Bible, you must start by understanding God's love. The good news is that God loves you!

The Heart of It

We were all born for a purpose. Father God knew His plan for each of us before we ever drew our first breath. The purpose He has for you is unique to you. No one else can fulfill your purpose because no one else is you. Moreover, the call and destiny on your life isn't just for you; it is also for those around you. Scripture exhorts every believer to run this race called "life" with a focused intention to bring Him glory and to show His love to all we meet. Not only that, but those whose lives are characterized by obedience to the Holy Spirit will leave our mark on this earth that will last far beyond the number of days we live here. This mark – this memory of who we were and how we lived – is our legacy. God deeply desires for His people to have an impact on the world that can point to His glory for generations, but in order to leave such a legacy, we must lay aside our own agendas and be willing to pay a price. Even so, may it be the cry of our hearts to leave a legacy of the Father's love to those generations that will follow after us.

Leaving a Legacy - Finishing Well

Often, as people approach the final stages of life, they begin to consider the impact their lives have made on the world around them and ultimately, the people with whom they have shared their journey. Questions abound: Will I be remembered? If so, how? What will remain from my time and efforts here on this earth? Have I made a real difference?

These questions and ones like them demonstrate what the Bible refers to as God putting eternity in the heart of mankind (Ecclesiastes 3:11). As eternal creatures, people are inclined to think of life beyond the span of years we live on the earth. When we consider the long-lasting impact our lives may have, we are thinking about our legacy.

Legacy is about passing on things of lasting value to those who will live on after us. Leaving a legacy involves living intentionally and purposely building up the next generations for their success. Legacy focuses on those things that will endure throughout the generations.

The word “legacy” is defined in the dictionary as being “a gift of property, especially personal prop-

erty, such as money, by will; a bequest. Anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor” (Dictionary.com).

The word “legacy” only shows up one time in the New King James Version of the Bible, but don’t let that fool you. The Word of God has much to say about leaving a legacy. A word used more often in scripture would be “inheritance.” The theme is rich and runs strongly throughout the pages of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. We even see this idea in the very layout of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.

You might recognize the term “testament” in our modern-day world. When someone dies, they leave a “Last Will and Testament.” The word “testament” is defined as “a will...especially one that relates to the disposition of one’s personal property; either of two major portions of the Bible; the Mosaic or old covenant or dispensation, or the Christian or new covenant or dispensation; a covenant, especially between God and humans” (Dictionary.com). This definition shows how God’s legacy – His intended inheritance, or will, for those who believe in and follow Him – is expressed in the truth of the Bible’s two testaments. His promises and His eternal ways empower us to know Him and to live lives filled with His goodness.

Even for human beings, leaving a legacy, or an inheritance, is much more than money or personal property. It is leaving behind a part of who you are to the generations that follow. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us.

He came to earth as a baby, conceived by the Holy

Spirit and born of a virgin. At approximately 30 years of age, He began His earthly ministry. He loved those around Him. He taught them and did mighty and powerful signs, miracles, and wonders in their presence. Jesus says in John 5:19-20, *“19 Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed...”*

Jesus lived His life doing only what He saw His Heavenly Father doing. He is the exact personification of His Father in physical form.

John 14:9

“9 Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

Someone who dies leaves a Last Will and Testament to the heirs that remain, laying out the details of what will now become theirs. In the same way, Jesus died, leaving us a legacy of all that He was on this earth, all He saw His Father do, and all that He presently is right now as He is seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. The written Word of God, the Old Testament and the New Testament, exemplify beautifully the life of the One who is our example - our model for everything we do. What a Legacy He gave!

Not only do we have the legacy that Jesus gave

us in the scriptures, but He also gave us something more valuable than anything that's ever been given. He left us the precious and powerful Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke the following words to His disciples as He prepared them for His upcoming crucifixion:

John 14:7

"7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

In Isaiah 11:2, the Holy Spirit is fully revealed. He is:

*"2 The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."*

If we are born again, this very Spirit of God lives inside of us. Isn't that amazing!! But wait...there's more!

Not only does the Holy Spirit live inside the believer, filling the believer with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord, but He gives us gifts, too. First Corinthians 12:4-11 tells us:

"4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one

is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Romans 8:14-17

“14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

All of these things - the Word, the fullness of Holy Spirit, and all of His gifts - are a part of the legacy we have in this life as believers in Jesus Christ. The full salvation that He died for us to have is also our inheritance. The word for salvation in the Greek is “sozo” and means to save, to be kept safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, healing (physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually), deliverance from evil spirits, wholeness, peace, and eternal life forever with the Lord (Strong’s Concordance). Now that’s an inheritance! What a Savior!

When a loved one passes away and leaves a part

of their belongings, let's say a large sum of money and property, it becomes the heir's responsibility to use that inheritance wisely. Inheritances can be squandered and wasted, or they can be used as a launching pad to do good and to build an even greater inheritance for the next generation. What will we do with this glorious inheritance given to us by our Father God?

We actually honor those who have gone before us by wisely stewarding the inheritance they left behind. We certainly do not want to live our lives in such a way that disgraces the gift we've been given. Our job is to take what's been bequeathed to us and multiply it for the next generation. We do not want to diminish it in any way. I heard a wise woman say once, "I want my ceiling in life to be the floor my children start on." This increase passed on to the next generation should be the heart's cry for each of us. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, the Bible says we go from glory to glory: *"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 by the Spirit of the Lord."* By stewarding the glory passed down to us well, we can increase in our understanding and manifestation of that glory, which empowers us to hand even more on to the next generation. After all, Jesus's kingdom is one of never-ending increase.

Practically speaking, at the moment of our salvation, we receive the legacy Jesus died to give us. From that time on, we begin the journey of being changed into His very image. At the end of our time on the earth, we leave to our loved ones and those around us all that we've acquired from

the Lord during our lifetimes. We want that to be the full amount, the entirety of all that He had to give us. This will set them up for much success in their journeys. In doing this, we bring great glory to the Lord and we give Jesus the honor due His name, just as we want to honor our earthly fathers' and mothers' names after they are gone.

More than anything else in this world, we should want our children, our grandchildren, and all those who know us to remember us loving the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds and with all our strength.

Psalm 145:4

"4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts."

Psalm 71:18

*"18 Now also when I am old and gray headed,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to this generation,
Your power to everyone who is to come."*

Commissioned to Continue and Finish the Race

In life, there are many things we are called to start. We may start a new diet, or a new fitness regimen. We may start a new job. We start new projects. We start marriages and parenthood. We are always beginning something new. The excitement that arises from starting something new makes it seem easy. New ideas and adventures are fun and refreshing. They give us something to look forward to.

For example, I love the idea of a coat of fresh paint in my home. There is something exciting about looking through the many colors and choosing what will become a part of my décor. Although, I know it will require time and effort, there is still something invigorating about laying everything out and seeing that first brush stroke of the new paint going on the wall.

But what about when the newness of the project wears off and I have more paint on myself than I do on the walls? What about when I'm tired and I've had enough of the mess? What about when I'm just ready for things to be back to normal again? Will I muster up what it takes to *finish* what I've started, or will I be satisfied with one room completed instead of the fresh look in the entire house? It is in the midst of our work – that time when we have begun but may still be far from finished – that we see what we are made of!

Jesus speaks of finishing the work He was sent to earth to do. John 4:34-35 tells us this:

“34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

His food, His very sustenance, was to do everything God the Father had sent Him to do. Remember, Jesus walked the earth as fully man and fully God. As a man, there were everyday things He had to do just like we do. Even in those daily duties, His main purpose was to finish all that the

Father asked Him to accomplish. His purpose for being born wasn't just to start something. It was to finish something.

John 5:36

"36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me."

We often say that Jesus is our model. If we've been born again, we are His followers. We are to follow His example just as He followed His Father. As Jesus was born to finish the work, so are we. We weren't born into this life just to start something. We were born to finish it, and finish it well.

When we begin our journey with the Lord, it is all new and fresh. We are so excited and can't wait for what's to come. We are on the mountaintop! However, Jesus tells us in John 16:33, *"33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

When trials and tribulations hit, we can become weary and ready for things to "go back to normal." It is in these times (just like the story of the paint job) we have to decide if we will muster it up, press on, and complete the task, or if we will become complacent and quit. Again, Jesus was fully God but fully man. He also had choices to make, and in the times of persecutions and trials, even before the cross, He chose to press on and be obedient to the call. He never wavered and neither should we.

In Acts 20:22-24, the Apostle Paul speaks to the elders of Ephesus, exhorting them by saying, “22 *And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*”

Paul knew not only of the tribulations he had encountered, but he was also well aware of the ones that awaited him. In all of this, he was steadfast in saying that none of the threats, terrors, or hardships could move him from his call and destiny in God. He didn’t count his life as valuable compared to the riches of knowing Jesus.

Paul reiterates this steadfastness again in Galatians 2:20 when he says, “20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*”

Please do not miss what Paul is saying here. He was following the example of His Master, Jesus, saying that he, Paul, was laying down his life for the gospel because Jesus laid His life down for Paul. Paul no longer lived, but Christ lived in, with, and through him. It was because of Jesus living in him that Paul could endure what was ahead.

Also, notice that Paul states that he would not only finish the race, but he would finish the race with joy! Hebrews 12:2 says that Paul's example, Jesus, finished His race with joy, too: *"2... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Jesus was the author and finisher of Paul's faith. He was Paul's model. Paul could complete the mandate with joy because Jesus finished it with joy. The inheritance of the Holy Spirit that worked so mightily in Paul is the very same Spirit of God that strengthens and makes the way for believers to this day. We have Paul's story in the written Word to add to our inheritance. These testimonies should give us the courage to press on with joy, too, knowing that our inheritance will empower us to finish what He begins in us.

Covenant Promises — "It is Finished"

As we discussed in the previous section, the key to leaving a legacy is not merely starting well. It is finishing well. Jesus set this example for us perfectly as a man while walking the earth. From the time of His birth until He drew His last breath on the cross, He did His Father's perfect will. Jesus said of Himself in John 5:19, *"19 Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

He endured many hardships and heartaches along the way. His journey was not an easy one. Hebrews 4:15 in the New Living Translation ex-

plains this beautifully: *“15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.”* Throughout all of the testing and temptation, amid all the persecution, rejection and threats, He overcame perfectly. Jesus prevailed so much that He declared in His final words on the cross that His race was won.

John 19:30

“30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

He had perfectly fulfilled all that His Father had asked Him to do. He left us His legacy. Jesus demonstrated the importance of finishing well and He has passed the baton on to His Church, His Bride, in our time and in our generation to run her race and leave her legacy to those who will come behind us.

The temptation is always there to quit in the middle of the journey. If my parents started a business but didn't complete the process, there would be no business to bequeath to heirs. It is also possible to leave a legacy of chaos. If the business my parents started remains but hasn't been diligently tended to, I will inherit a mess. It is through the ongoing work of tending to the work and finishing well that the legacy is made.

We don't want it said of our legacy that our heirs inherited a chaotic mess. So, what about those times between the start and the finish when things get hard? What can we do? We can lean on the promise found in Philippians 1:8: *“8 He who*

began a good work in you will complete it to the end.”

Additionally, Philippians 4:13 says, *“13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

These verses should bring us so much comfort and reassurance. The full weight of this journey isn't on our shoulders, it is on His. All we have to do is, once again, follow the example of Jesus. We see what He does and we do it. We hear what He speaks and we speak it. We watch where He goes and we follow Him. He knows the way. He has already *prepared beforehand* the good works that we are to walk in (Ephesians 2:10). He has chosen the *race that's before us* and He will see to it that we cross the finish line. It simply requires our faith and our obedience. That is how we can finish well!

Encounter with Love

We all began this journey because we encountered God's Love. This is written beautifully in Romans 8:31-39:

“31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation,

or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

From the beginning, the Holy Spirit drew us and introduced us to Jesus. When we received Jesus and gave our very lives to Him, He provided us a way to the Father. The Lord really did it all for us. He started it for us, and He will finish it for us, all because He loves us with a love so great, we can barely imagine it. We simply received the gift He gave us by faith.

God's love is everything. It is a protective love. It is a free love. It is a forever love. This love builds us up and makes us strong. It gives us the courage and ability to overcome any obstacle that gets in our way. It forgives us when we step out of line and sets us back on track again. Nothing can separate us from this great love.

Many people know the truths we are discussing, but there is a deeper intimacy that occurs when people encounter this love for themselves. As we are fond of saying, there is always more. God's

legacy for us is motivated by His wonderful love. His love drives Him to give His absolute best at all times. As believers grow in their understanding of love, and as God continues to reveal His love to them, they are now driven by the same motivation. The end result is that someone is actually empowered through the love of God to love others in the same way God loves them. Jesus put it this way: *“8 Freely you have received, freely give”* (Matthew 10:8). This heartbeat of freely giving all we receive from the Father is an essential part of leaving a legacy. Not only that but living in love takes us deeper in intimacy with God.

Love the Lord Your God with All Your Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength

God is Love. He doesn't just love us with a part of His heart. He is the very essence of Love. Love is who He is. It is only when we encounter this real Love that we can truly love Him back. 1 John 4:19 lays it out very clearly: *“19 We love Him because He first loved us.”*

Even our ability to love God is a gift from Him. We literally can do nothing apart from Him...not even love.

From the time of Moses, we have been given instruction to put God first in all we do. In Joshua 22, Joshua is instructing the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh as they were about to return to their new territory to settle the land. Joshua tells them many things, but the most important of all is this:

Joshua 22:5

“5 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Jesus Himself said this in Mark 12:30-31: “30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

When Jesus says, “There is no other commandment greater than these,” we must pay attention. Obedience to this commandment is the very foundation of the legacy we want to leave behind. There is no other foundation that matters. If everything we do is built on this truth, it will last to the thousandth generation.

Deuteronomy 7:9

“9 Therefore, know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments...”

Count the Cost

Luke 14:28-30

“28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able

to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish?’”

When saying “yes” to anything, we should count the cost of our agreement. We want to be able to complete what we said that we would do. We even need to count the cost of our “yes” to Jesus, which is an agreement to make Him Lord and Master over all we do. It is an agreement to submit fully to His agenda and plan for our lives. It is an agreement to build the Kingdom of God on this earth where we are under His authority only. Jesus tells His disciples in Luke 14 to count the cost. The verses preceding the ones above (Luke 14:26-27) tells us why Jesus issued the warning to those listening:

Luke 14:26-27

“26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Of course, God is a God of love and Jesus isn’t telling us to hate our parents, children, and family members in the way modern Westerners understand it. The word for “hate” used in this passage can carry the meaning of esteeming one thing less or renouncing one choice in favor of another, according to HELPS Word Studies. However, Jesus is letting us know up front that it will be required of us to not love anyone or anything above Him. Anything less than that kind of love falls short. Our “yes” is a full surrender to the Lordship of Je-

sus Christ. This is a matter that we grow in along the way, but we must be willing to let the Holy Spirit do this work in us.

Decree That You Will Finish

Our words carry power. With our words, we either agree with the plans of God or the schemes of the enemy. When discouragement or adversity comes our way, it is a “natural” thing to complain or speak defeat and fear. Instead, we must learn to decree the Word of the Lord and His covenant promises over ourselves, our families, and our situations.

We see this depicted in Zechariah 4:9 as an angel spoke to Zechariah:

*“9 The hands of Zerubbabel
Have laid the foundation of this temple;
His hands shall also finish it.
Then you will know
That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.”*

Decree that you will finish this race and leave a legacy to the next generation. Our hands will finish what they’ve been set to do!

Faithful and Loyal to the End

1 Corinthians 9:24

“24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”

Hebrews 12:1

“1 Therefore, we also, since we are surround-

ed by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...”

There are so many precious nuggets in these passages. We, on the earth today, are in a race, and as we run, we are surrounded by a “cloud of witnesses.” These witnesses are the saints that have run the race before us and have gone on to glory. They know what this race entails. They’ve been through the valleys and the rough spots. They have endured when they didn’t think they had the strength to carry on. They know that if we will just keep pressing forward, there is a prize awaiting us. They understand what 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT Version) means when it says, *“17 For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”* They know that what’s before us is so much greater than anything we see now, and it will be worth it all when the race is finished. They are cheering us on to finish line.

In track and field, there are relay races. There is the 400-meter race, the 800-meters and the 1600-meters. Each race is comprised of four runners. In the 400-meter relay, each runner runs 100 meters. In the 800-meter relay, each “leg” runs 200 meters, and in the 1600-meter relay, each runner runs 400 meters.

While the distances of each race vary, the concept is the same. The first runner starts the race with a baton in hand. They run their distance and pass the baton to the second runner. The second runner completes his “leg” of the race and hands the baton to the third runner. The third runner does the same thing and finally gives the baton to the fourth and final leg of the race. This leg is called the anchor and is most often the runner with the fastest time. When done well, the relay race is run as smoothly as if only one runner ran, not slowing down as the baton is being passed. This is what we want our leg of the journey and our handoff to be like.

While each runner has an individual part of the race, the race is not complete until the anchor crosses the finish line. It takes teamwork. Everyone must finish their part. No matter how fast the first, second, and third legs run, the team is disqualified if the fourth runner doesn’t finish. Also, if a runner drops the baton or has a bad handoff, the race is hindered.

Those in the great cloud of witnesses that have run the race before us have left us a legacy. Now it is our responsibility to run hard and pass our legacy to the generations that follow us. In doing so, we set them up for victory! We do not want the generation coming after us to have to make up for lost time because we didn’t run well. Our ceiling (the place where we finish our race) will be their floor (their starting point). Let’s make it a good one.

Endurance is vital in this journey with the Lord. The definition of endurance according to Miriam

Websters dictionary is:

- The ability to withstand hardship or adversity; especially the ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort or activity such as a marathon
- The act or an instance of enduring or suffering; ex: endurance of many hardships

1 Timothy 6:12

“12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Keep the Fire Burning

We always want to have a heart of passion for the Lord and for what He’s set before us to do. This doesn’t just happen spontaneously. It requires us to keep that fire burning by feeding the flame.

For a newly married couple, love for each other doesn’t merely exist, but the passion burns hot. This love is ablaze, and every aspect of the relationship sparkles with newness. Adventure awaits as so much remains to be discovered together. All of life is before them.

After several years of marriage, if that flame is not fed, the love remains, but the fires diminish. Life happens. Busyness and distractions take priority over tending the fire. The couple must decide to adjust priorities and do whatever is necessary to get the fires burning again.

In similar fashion, we must be careful to keep

the flames of passion burning in our relationship with the Lord. We are called to be laid-down lovers in full surrender to Him and to Him alone. Set aside time for just the two of you. Let Him love you and speak intimately to your heart. This kind of intimacy will cause us to want to do whatever it takes to accomplish the plans He has for us. This burning love is a powerful force, and we must be intentional to be still and receive from Him.

Led by the Spirit

The race He has called us to run is not a natural one. The fight He has called us to fight is not a natural one. It is a spiritual race and a spiritual fight. It is supernatural. Therefore, we cannot accomplish anything in our own strength and our own flesh.

Zechariah 4:6

*“6 ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’
Says the Lord of hosts.”*

If we attempt to live out this journey with the Lord in our own strength, we will be worn out, burned out, exhausted, and discouraged. It simply cannot be done in the flesh. Our human nature wasn't designed to run this race without the supernatural strength of the Holy Spirit. Praise God, Jesus went away so the Father could send us the Holy Spirit for our journey. He knew we couldn't run without Him. However, because we have trusted in Jesus and chosen to rely on Him and not our own strength, Holy Spirit will lead us every step of the way.

Many times in the Bible it is written, *“He who*

has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Holy Spirit is always speaking. We must always be listening and obeying. And just like we must be still to keep the passion alive, we must be still to listen to what the Spirit is saying as He perfectly directs our steps. He is the only One that knows the way we are to go, and allowing Him to lead us will guarantee a successful race.

Obedient to His Word

The Word of God is and has always been the final authority over everything. It does not change to fit emerging cultures. It is not open for debate. John 17:17 makes it clear when it says, *“17 Thy Word is Truth.”* End of discussion!

Jesus is the Word made flesh according to John 1:14. As followers of Christ, this is Who and what we follow. Obedience to this Word is critical. Anything less than full obedience is disobedience or rebellion.

Jesus said in John 8:31, *“31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”*

There will be many voices in this world vying for our attention. Cultural opinions and human reasoning will resound all around you. There are those that will try and redefine scripture or attempt to remove it altogether. It will be called “old fashioned” and “out of date,” and some will claim scriptural truth is not relevant to our world today. There will be many arguments that, on the surface, might make sense to a humanistic way of thinking. In all these things, we must hold on

tightly to the fact that His Word is Truth – all the time and in every situation. *He is the same yesterday, today and forevermore* (Hebrews 13:8).

Live on the Edge

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is full to the brim of those who counted the cost, gave it all, and either paved the way for Jesus to be born, or carried the baton after He ascended back to Heaven. Most often history is written by those who lived on the edge. Culture changers live on the forefront of their times, not on the comfortable back row seats. Even in a natural sense, those who serve, protect, and defend us live on the frontlines. It's the same in the Kingdom. We all love our comfort zones, but living the life of a forerunner is an exciting life, and forerunning is a huge part of leaving a legacy for those who follow. After all, how can someone follow your steps if you don't blaze a path for them?

Living on the edge requires faith. In His goodness, we've each been given a measure of faith to do what He's called to do. *Without faith it is impossible to please God* (Hebrews 11:6). Faith, also defined in Hebrews 11:1 as *"1 the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,"* often leads us into uncharted territory. It requires deep trust of the One who supplies us with the very faith that leads us there. Nonetheless, those who live by faith continually go deeper into their relationship with God, and as a result, leave behind a legacy of encouragement for future generations.

A Poured-Out Drink Offering

In this journey, our life is not our own. It belongs to the One who redeemed us and called us by name.

Romans 12:1-2

“1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Notice that this verse says presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice is a “reasonable service.” The writer didn’t call giving our lives up being a great sacrifice. No, it is *reasonable*. Why is that? He gave up His life for us; why wouldn’t we give our lives up for Him?

John 15:13 says, *“13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”*

Remember, we are to love Him with ALL of our hearts, with ALL of our souls, with ALL of our might, and with ALL of our strength. It is reasonable.

Philippians 4:17

“17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.”

In Paul’s final valedictory in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, He says the following:

“6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

This man endured imprisonment, beatings, and tortures of various kinds. He had been shipwrecked three times, and he always fought the good fight. He did indeed finish the race and kept the faith. While it can be easy to focus on all Paul went through, let's consider how he finishes the passage: Finally.... All that follows that word in the passage represent Paul's ultimate and overwhelming victory, despite all his trials and challenges. After all he endured, Paul could see his reward and declare with great joy, “Finally!”

It is that same “finally” for which we are running, fighting, and laboring. Paul's journey was coming to an end, and he knew it would all be worth it when he saw His beloved Jesus. We can say the same thing with the same confidence in our Lord. In the end, there is a crown of righteousness laid up for us, too, if only we do not quit.

The Legacy—Leading the Next Generation

I believe that many times, perhaps most of the time, we are unaware of the way our journeys in this life affect others. We can often see ourselves as insignificant and have been led to believe that our day-to-day tasks go unnoticed by those

around us. This could not be farther from the truth. Those around us observe our actions, our attitudes, our motives, and our decisions. They are watching how we handle temptation. They see how we respond to those around us, whether it be in love or in unkindness. They see our grumbling and complaining, or they see our praise and gratitude. Our co-workers watch us. Our families see us. Those whom we've never met notice our behavior as we are out and about. Do our actions line up with our words, or do we say one thing and do another? Whether we are aware of it or not, people are watching!

Whether we intentionally do so or not, we will lead those around us. Without fail, we will leave the next generation a legacy. The question is, where will we lead them? What kind of legacy will we pass on? As we have said before, our very heartbeat should be to leave them everything that has been given to us by our Father in Heaven. The goal should be to live in such a way that those who follow us end up closer to the Lord than they would have without us.

Proverbs 13:22

"22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous."

We began our journey together in this book discussing inheritance as one way of understanding legacy. As a reminder of what we read together,

"Legacy is about passing on things of lasting value to those who will live on after us. Leaving a legacy involves living intentionally and pur-

posely building into the next generations for their success. Legacy focuses on those things that will endure throughout the generations.”

There is no greater inheritance to leave for your children and your children’s children than the journey of love in Christ Jesus. Our children are watching us. They are taking in all that we do and say. There’s a line from an old hymn, Let Others See Jesus in You, that says, “Your life’s a book before their eyes; They’re reading it through and through.”

Remember that if we will just obey, He will finish what He started. He promised to give the Israelites the Promised Land as their inheritance, and He was faithful to complete all that He had spoken.

Exodus 6:8

“8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give to you as a heritage; I am the Lord.”

The following passages are great ones to decree over our inheritance in the Lord:

Psalms 16:6

“6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.”

Psalms 61:5

“5 For You, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.”

There are many covenant promises given to us in the Bible regarding our inheritance. Psalm 111:6 says, *“6 He has declared to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.”*

It is on these promises that we will take our stand. The covenant promises will last throughout all eternity and will never change. They are our firm foundation.

Do Not Forsake His Heritage

We can actually abandon our inheritance. We see this throughout scripture. The generation of Israel whom God delivered out of Egypt did not get to cross into the Promised Land, their inheritance, because of rebellion and sin. Through their disobedience and their grumbling and complaining, they forsook the land allotted to them by the Lord. May we learn from the error of their ways and live with thanksgiving and strong resolve that we will complete the journey and receive the full inheritance Jesus died for us to have.

In Jeremiah 2:7, we see these words:

*“7 I brought you into a bountiful country,
To eat its fruit and its goodness.
But when you entered, you defiled My land
And made My heritage an abomination.”*

You can feel God’s pain as He communicates the grievous nature of Israel’s sin. God left them a wonderful inheritance, and they made it abominable through their rebellion and sin. Meditate on what God is saying in these verses, and ask Him

to grant you grace to remove all hindrances and obstacles so that you can finish your journey well.

Enemies to 'Finishing Well'

We have an enemy that doesn't want us to finish the race. According to John 10:10, he (the thief) comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy all that the Father has given us. The enemy wants us to quit. He wants us to "drop the baton" as we hand off blessings from one generation to the next.

There are many avenues satan and his forces can use to attempt to thwart our inheritance and hinder the passing on of our legacy. *Pride* is probably at the top of the list. We are not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to (Romans 12:3).

Satan (once named Lucifer) was called the son of the morning. His fall is found in Isaiah 14:12-21 and was due to his desire to be as powerful as God. He stated, "*14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.*" Pride leads to being brought low.

Proverbs 16:18

"18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 29:23

"23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor."

As we read earlier, when the fire and passion for the Lord isn't kindled and made to burn, *apathy and complacency* can easily set it. The daily grind

can cause us to lose sight of the real reason we were born – to run the race set before us and finish with joy. Keep those fires burning hot!

Doubt and unbelief are enemies of our finishing well. When God's promises don't seem to be coming through, and things aren't turning out like we thought they would, we begin to buy into the age-old question that the serpent asked Eve in the Garden of Eden. "Did God really say....?"

Scripture records Abraham and Sarah's story and their promise of a son. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and yet, he had no heir. Year after year passed by until the season came when Sarah was well past child bearing years. Abraham could have lost all hope. He could have allowed doubt and unbelief to creep in. Instead, Romans 4:19 says, *"19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb."*

We must hold fast to the promises of God regardless of the circumstances around us just as Abraham and Sarah did. Abraham saw God's Word come to pass in his old age with the birth of Isaac, and he is known as the father of many nations to this day.

Compromise is a heavy hitter against finishing well. We are deceived into thinking that "just a little bit won't hurt." Many justify their compromise by believing it's just a little sin and everybody is doing it. That way of thinking simply doesn't work, especially in the Kingdom of Jesus. I've heard the question asked, "If there was just a

teaspoon of dog poop in the brownie batter, would you go ahead and eat the brownie? After all, it's only a little tiny bit."

Just that little tiny compromise in any area of our life can lead to us getting off track in big ways. Scripture warns us not even to look to the right or to the left. We must always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Remember, He alone is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the one we obey. His is the only voice we should heed.

Lusting and longing for the things of this world is an enticement that leads to compromise. We can easily find ourselves chasing after the things that are popular in this life, and yet scripture instructs us in Matthew 6:19-21, "19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The enemy of our souls is the god of *deception*. In the Garden, satan easily deceived Eve by merely asking a question that caused her to doubt God's Word for just a split second. Giving heed to that question opened the door to the fall of mankind. She doubted God's love for her and believed that He didn't have her best interest in the depths of his heart.

It was then that her human mind took over and her thoughts were exalted over God's command. Genesis 3:6 explains, "*6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleas-*

ant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.” This tree was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It was the only tree in the entire Garden of which God told them they could not eat. The rest of the Garden was all theirs. Isn’t that just like human nature? We see the one thing we can’t have, and that’s the thing we want the most. Deception is tricky. Beware!

Ignoring sin steals the legacy. First John 1:8-10 warns, “8 ‘If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Sin separates us from God. Confessing our sins is telling God that we agree with His Word and Holy Spirit’s conviction. We own up to what we’ve done wrong and are willing to say we are guilty as charged!

Upon confession of that sin, we agree to repent. Repenting is a changing of our minds toward that sin, making a choice to stop it and go in the opposite direction of it. Sin causes us to walk away from God. Repentance turns us around and leads us back to Him.

When confession and repentance aren’t done, we go further and further away from Him and fall into the danger of *forsaking the cross of Christ!* Yes, the sin that we choose to ignore can grow and grow, eventually causing us to turn our backs on the cross of Christ altogether. Ignoring sin is a

very dangerous thing to do. Run to repentance. Run to the cross. Don't run away from it.

We need each other as we journey through this life. We were never meant to walk alone. Isolation is a thief of the legacy the Father has for us. According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-26,

“12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink [g]into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater hon-

or; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no [h]schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

Conclusion

Our Heavenly Father is such an abundant and generous God. There is no lack in Him. He has given us everything we will ever need for life and for godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Our inheritance in Him is so rich. I don't know about you, but I want to run the race with such passion that I receive all He has for me and all He has for me to pass on to those who come after me.

Looking at Hebrews 12:1 again, *"1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."* Every sin, every burden, every yoke, and every weight that life throws at us can be cast off so that we can truly run with endurance and with joy.

Living this life with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit isn't a list of things we "have to do." It's exactly the opposite. Living this life is living in fullness and abundance. The "have to" attitude will always weigh us down. The "I get to" mentality will spur us on to run with joy and excitement all the days of our lives. Jesus did all He did for

the joy set before Him. That joy was us.

Now, let us run our race for the joy set before us. That joy is to give Jesus the inheritance He died for (that's us), and to leave a legacy of joy for the journey that awaits the next generation.

Prayer for Salvation

If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior, and you desire this with all your heart, then please, join me in prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe with all my heart, Your love for me. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, the Son of God, and that He is God in the flesh. I believe that You sent Him to this earth to save me. Thank You. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and He was dead and buried three days, and then rose again from the dead and that He ascended to Heaven and is now seated at Your right hand and is returning again.

Father, please forgive me for all my sin and iniquity and I choose to forgive others who have sinned against me. I give You all my heart and choose to live with You forever. I believe I have been born again according to Your Word and that I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. I declare I am forgiven and healed! Now, I ask for Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, baptize me in Holy Spirit and fullness in order that I may know You intimately and serve You all my days.

Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Amen.”

Scriptures:

John 14:6

“6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Romans 10:8-13

“8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

John 3:3-8, 16-18

“3 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 4 Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said

to you, *"You must be born again."* 8 *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

"16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 'He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

II Corinthians 5:17

"17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

I Corinthians 15:3-5

"3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve."

II Corinthians 5:21

"21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Colossians 1:13-14

"13 He has delivered us from the power of dark-

ness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 11:9-13

“9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I Timothy 3:16

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”

Fresh Infilling of Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If you have been born again and filled with Holy Spirit and you desire MORE and want to encounter the Lord's presence afresh and anew, please join me in prayer:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for loving me and I ask according to Ephesians 1:17-19, that You would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus, and the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Amen.

Father, according to Colossians 3:9-12, I ask in Jesus name, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Amen.

I surrender and yield my life to the fullness of Holy Spirit; His power and anointing; the spirit of wisdom and revelation; counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord and knowledge according to Isaiah 11:2, in Jesus' name. Amen."

The Garden Training Center, Inc. The Apostolic School of Ministry

The Garden Apostolic Training Center is a place that fosters spiritual growth. The center provides training to equip believers in Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry and to be victorious and free in all areas of their lives through the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. For more information check out **thegardenstc.org**.

The Garden Gathering Church

The purpose of The Garden Gathering Church is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ: to fully embrace the love of God; to walk in freedom; to carry His presence and glory; and to be equipped and trained for the work of the ministry through worship, teachings, and impartation.

“It’s all about Love. When you see His eyes of Love for you, nothing else matters. That’s it. That’s all you need to know.”

-Brandy Helton



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An Apostolic Training Center