
FROM GLORY TO GLORY

7 Keys to the Uncommon Spiritual Life

CHRIS GARCIA

From Glory to Glory: 7 Keys to the Uncommon Spiritual Life

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PREFACE

There is a famine in the body of Christ, particularly in the West, and that famine is called *lack of fellowship or communion with God*. The Western mindset is often built upon the principles of intellect, philosophy and reason. These principles are not inherently wrong, but they are a far cry from the biblical approach to engaging with God. The knowledge of God is so much more than intellect and reason. It is more than a mental understanding, rather it is a deep, intimate, spiritual knowing and union with Christ. The spiritual affects the natural, and it is the intention of this short book to stir you into deeper communion with the Holy Spirit.

Many in church have adopted a defeated mindset, or an overarching emphasis on the devil and spiritual warfare. This short book seeks to bring

you to balance and in rhythm with the heart of God, back to the place of Christ-centered, Spirit-filled and victorious-living. These seven keys to living the uncommon spiritual life are not meant to be an exhaustive list, or the only principles of Christian living, rather they are seven simple keys to deeper and fruitful fellowship with the Holy Spirit. This book simply serves as a tool to whet the appetite of the spiritual man and should not substitute all biblical doctrine and practical living. These keys simply serve as a supplement to your quiet time with the Lord. May you increase in your awareness of God, and may you be filled with the blessing of knowing Him.

—PASTOR CHRIS GARCIA

KEY #1

You Must Live from the Place of Your Spirit

KEY SCRIPTURE:

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord,
Searching all the inner depths of his heart.
Proverbs 20:27

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit
with Him. I Corinthians 6:17

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you
completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and
body be preserved blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 5:23

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear
heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. I Corinthians 2:9,10

When a child is born into this world, they do not need to be *added to*, to become more than what they already are. They simply need to be nourished, nurtured and tended to for the purpose of growth and maturity. The infant does not need to learn to see, or to touch or feel. They have all of those senses already locked into their new bodies. All the infant does is grow. And as the infant grows, their senses, which are deeply hardwired into them, begin to develop with time, connection and nourishment from their parents.

Just as an infant is born into this world in a new body and develops with time, so it is with your born again, re-created, regenerated spirit.

In order to live an uncommon spiritual life **the first key** is that **you must live from the place of your spirit**. Just as a child learns to live in this world, so too you must learn to live and move **in the spirit**.

In his closing letter to the church of Thessalonica, Paul gives us a wonderful benediction that reveals who we are in relationship to God, he

writes, '*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*'

Notice the wisdom of God and see how your *spirit* is mentioned first. The man or woman of God prioritizes their spirit, and allows their spirit to be first in everyday life.

WHAT IS YOUR SPIRIT?

Have you ever wondered what your *spirit* is? Your spirit is the part of you that has been born again. It is the part of you that God has joined in oneness to Himself. It is mysterious, invisible, and yet a very important part of you. Your spirit is the part of you that engages with God's Spirit.

But he who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit** with Him. I Corinthians 6:17.

You are joined to Him in **spirit**.

Your spirit can be described as *the hidden man of the heart*. Your innermost being. It is a mistake to try to fully describe what it is, for it is the vessel of the breath of God within you.

The spirit of a man is the **lamp** of the Lord,
Searching all the **inner depths of his heart**.
Proverbs 20:27

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us **through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** I Corinthians 2:9,10

Your spirit is so deeply connected to your soul and body as one. Your spirit affects your soul and your body. Your body and soul are deeply intertwined and so is your spirit. As God is mysteriously one yet 3, so is man. What a glorious mystery! There is no way to discern or to fully separate the difference between soul and spirit except by the Word of God.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and **sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Just as wind cannot be seen but is experienced

in the blowing and effects in the physical place, so it is with the spirit of man. It can be sensed, felt and perceived. But in order to get to that place you must put the spirit first. If you put the spirit first you will be strong in spirit.

How?

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.** For to be carnally minded is death, but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace.

Romans 8:5-6

The flesh has impulses, desires and perceptions. The more a person lives by minding those impulses, desires and perceptions the more fleshly and worldly a person becomes and it produces death and separation from the things of God. Your spirit too has impulses, desires and perceptions that are engaged with God and if you live by minding the things of your spirit you will have life. God's life and peace.

As long as you are in this world you will have battles with your flesh and spirit. The scripture says,

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to

one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. -Galatians 5:17

The word *lust* means ***to set the heart and long for, to covet or desire***. In other words, your flesh and spirit are competing with each other in a power struggle. This power struggle is for ***your soul***.

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the **soul**, I Peter 2:11

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

Your soul, your *mind*, will and emotions, will either be affected by your spirit or your flesh. What you *mind* is what you ***give place to***.

How do we give place to our spirit? By giving place to the Word. Just as the natural body has desires and the need for nourishment, so does the spiritual body, *the spirit*. **What food & water is to our body, the Word of God and the Spirit of God is to the spirit of man:**

...as newborn babes, **desire** the pure milk of the word, that you may **grow** thereby, I Peter 2:2”

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.** John 6:63

having been born again, not of corruptible seed **but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,** I Peter 1:23
emphasis mine

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- I am spirit, soul and body
- I must live from the place of my spirit, not my flesh
- What I give place to, I will yield to
- I must grow by feeding my spirit the Word and by fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How have you seen yourself? Do you view yourself only as the person in the mirror, or do you view yourself as a person born of the spirit?
2. Are you living in a fleshly mindset or a truly spiritual mindset? Do you have life and peace?

3. What areas of your life have you yielded, or given place to, your spirit? What areas of your life have you given place to your flesh?
4. How often are you in the Word and in prayer? Is it daily? If not, why?

KEY #2

Your Spirit is the Receiver of God's Spirit

KEY SCRIPTURE:

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. I Corinthians 2:9-12

Did you play with a radio as a kid?

When I was about 7 years old my dad gave me a radio. I used to love tuning the dials and hearing all the strange sounds and frequencies just before tuning into the right station. I used to think to myself, how is something like a radio picking up invisible waves of audio? I used to imagine all this current of invisible songs, voices and noises in the air, over the hills and under the valleys. A radio only receives signals, but it never creates its own sound. It simply receives the invisible transmissions into itself. Around the same time that I received that radio, my mom gave me a birthday gift: a clear, small TV set that was powered by battery and antenna. That TV reminded me of a *visual radio* because of the dials. I remember being enamored with it, simply in awe of it. I noticed that if I didn't put the antenna up high enough I couldn't see the image as clearly.

I can't help but think that's exactly how we receive things from God. Think of a radio or TV as your spirit. Your spirit was meant to receive the invisible, but very real connection to God's Presence, His voice and His vision. However, in order to receive the things which God has for you, first you must know that He shares things with you in your spirit, and secondly you must be in a position to receive from Him. Just as an antenna reaches

towards the sky, your spirit must reach out to give God attention.

But as it is written: "Eye has not **seen**, nor ear **heard**, Nor have entered into the **heart** of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** For what man knows the things of a man except **the spirit of the man which is in him?** Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** I Corinthians 2:9-12
emphasis mine

Paul, moved by the Holy Spirit, wrote this letter to the Corinthian church. If it was true then, it is certainly true for us now! It is a deep mystery of the utmost importance. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard nor entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him." We often stop there, preach sermons about that part and move on, but the next verse points to the reality for the New Covenant believer. ***BUT God has revealed them to us by His Spirit.*** The carnal, earthly unregenerate mind without the Spirit

cannot receive the spiritual, heavenly, regenerating life giving things from God's spirit. Are you spiritual? Are you born from above? Is Jesus your Lord? Then you can freely have the deep things of God! Oh Hallelujah! What a priceless gift to have the third person of the Trinity freely revealing to your new nature the things of God!

The second key to living an uncommon spiritual life is understanding that your spirit is a receiver of the things of God's Spirit.

How does your spirit receive the things of God's Spirit? By **waiting before the Lord in prayer, worship and the Word**. This is truly the way to engage in communion with God. A receiver needs two main components to work efficiently, it needs to be grounded and it needs an antenna. The Word grounds us to be spiritually nourished, it causes us to understand who God is and what He has done for us. It brings about a maturity to grow into fullness as a child of God. Attentive prayerfulness and worship, cause you to be dialed in to the frequency of the Spirit of God. It is the antenna reaching out to the presence of God.

When you understand that your spirit is the receiver of the things of God's Spirit, you understand the function of your spirit.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- My spirit is the receiver of God's Spirit
- God freely gives me the deep things of God by His Spirit
- The Word of God grounds me
- Attentive prayerfulness and the worship of God tune me to receive from His Spirit

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How grounded (fixed, and unmoved) are you in God's Word?
2. What does your prayer life look like day-to-day? Is attentive worship part of your time with God?
3. What areas of your devotional life with God need to be strengthened in order to strengthen your spirit?

KEY #3

Waiting Upon the Lord

KEY SCRIPTURE:

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord! Psalms 27:14

Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him. Isaiah 30:18

I once heard a very powerful minister of the gospel say that the secret of his ministry was waiting before the Lord. I remembered being so enthralled with the way he would minister the Spirit to others. When he moved, God moved. It was almost as if he was one with the Spirit of God. The times I had the privilege of attending his meetings I could feel the tangible glory of the Lord on him and around him. Just by being *near him* the glory of God was easily felt. There was a season that the Lord used him indirectly to teach me how to pray. On one occasion I heard an old teaching of his on prayer. What he said forever etched into my heart and forever affected the way I spend time with God. Here's what he said in summary,

Learn to wait on the Lord the way an eagle soars. Have you ever seen an eagle soar? It's effortless. Just before an eagle takes off, it perches itself upon the rock near the waters and waits. It waits for the current of the wind. And because of its discerning eyes, it waits for the gentle blowing and then opens up its wings and yields to the wind. It flaps here a little and there a little, and then before you know it, brother that thing is soaring! That's how to pray!"

Isaiah 40:31 gives us this beautiful parallel "But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like

eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."

Those who wait upon God will mount up with wings like eagles. They will mount up on winds of God's spirit. They soar higher and higher in deeper realities of personal intimacy with God. Those who wait are refreshed and renewed! Would you like to be refreshed and renewed daily? Are you tired? Learn to wait like the eagle!

What does it mean to wait? I used to feel frustrated trying to understand that concept because no one was able to properly explain it to me. In order to know, we must go to the source of the very scripture.

The word **wait** in Isaiah 40:31 is the Hebrew word, **qavah** and it means *to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect--gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).*

In essence, just as an eagle waits upon the rock to be carried by the gust of the wind, so too, we must wait upon the Rock of Ages, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. We must patiently tarry with Him, simply spending time with Him. As we wait upon Him, He begins to bless us with the gentle blowing leadings of His presence. As we yield to the wind of the Spirit, we soar into greater prayer, creating a deeper, intimate, binding relationship with Him.

When we wait upon the Lord we are expectant

of Him. We wait, we tarry with Him, we patiently look upon Him in prayer. This results in a twisting, a binding, a gathering of spirit-to-spirit fellowship with Him. When we patiently wait on Him the effects are clear, a binding together of two hearts being knit in oneness with Him.

Jesus wants you to come to Him so you can receive rest for your soul. The refreshment of your spirit is in the *waiting upon Him*.

Learn to be still inwardly. Drive out all the noise and remove the distractions and cares. Learn to not speak in The Presence and simply be there waiting on Him. Wait, knowing that He is with you. Wait on God, loving every moment and simply enjoying giving Him the glory in the moment, because He is worthy. Wait, not looking for anything in return, but because your hope is in Him. Expect Him, believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. As you do, you will be entwined in the fermentation of the wine of spirit! Wine is wine because of the time spent to become wine. As we wait, we become fermented in the new wine of oneness with Him.

Waiting is an act of faith. Believing that you are in direct communion with God. Waiting forces you to realize that you are waiting on a Person. The Person of the Spirit. He has thoughts, feelings, and desires. You just need to wait for Him to lead.

He leads, you follow. As you wait, the breeze of God's presence will say, "shhh..just *be*" or "pray in the Spirit" or "be still." A scripture may arise within your own heart, or a person will come to your heart to pray for. All of these are the leadings of the wind of His spirit. As you learn the art of waiting, we enter into greater cooperation and sensitivity to His desires. These things are not learned immediately but are learned with time. Time is well spent with Him. Don't be discouraged if you don't receive right away! Waiting is an art that grows with time, and the more time you put into learning how to wait, the more you will see how easy it truly is!

Sometimes, we unconsciously worship, or pray for the sake of praying. Waiting sifts you and causes you to learn one very important quality, *dependance upon God*. (More on dependance upon God later.)

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- Waiting upon the Lord renews & refreshes me
- Waiting on the Lord binds me to God making us one
- I must learn the art of waiting

- I am like an eagle designed to soar on the wind of God's presence
- I will not be discouraged if I don't receive anything in my waiting with the Lord. It's a process of time spent well.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Am I in need of refreshing and renewal?
2. How much time do I actually spend waiting before the Lord in my time with Him?
3. What are some of the distractions that are preventing me from being still?
4. What can I do right now to help me to eliminate those distractions?
5. Are you aware that you are spending time with the Person of the Holy Spirit?

KEY #4

Draw Near & He Will Draw Near to You

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:5-10

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

There was a time in my life where I was so very close to God in my earlier years as a young teenager. I had extraordinary moments of divine heavenly visitations from the Holy Spirit and praying was as easy as breathing. Peace and refreshment was a part of my daily life with the Lord. I would spend hours on end reading and meditating on the Word of God, praying in the Spirit and worshipping the presence of Christ. The passion raged as a fire deep within my very being. Love for God and love for the lost and the church was the beat of my heart. Along the way, very slowly, I began to grow distracted and careless in my walk with the Lord and I stumbled often in fleshly impulses, creating strongholds. The fire that had once consumed me started to dwindle down by the complacent lukewarm waters of life. It resulted in a ten year dry season where I had to learn to depend upon God to bring me to the place I needed to be. I used to think, "God! Bring me back to the place where I once was! I want to go back to where I was!" I was often met by silence, and frustration would well up within my heart making my heart sick. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. The only thing that kept coming to me

was to be faithful in the wilderness and that It was only temporary. Have you ever cried out for God to bring you back to the place of your first love?

Little did I realize that God had no desire to bring me back. He wanted me to go beyond the past into greater glory. I had to learn, grow and come back to the place of returning to the Lord. I still loved the Lord, served Him and even ministered, but my heart was like a bag of dust. I so desperately needed refreshing. Sometimes even serving God you can forget Him. You can preach about Him without ever being *with Him*. You can minister to God's people without ever *ministering to Him directly*. I have been there. A vast majority of believers are stuck in this state. Just enough of God to make them miserable with their sin, and just enough of the world to make them apathetic to the things of God. The Spirit taught me to remember Him. It's easy to forget the Lord when you have lost fellowship but once you regain it you are flooded with the familiar embraces of His life giving presence.

Just before the drawing of the Spirit comes, where He begins to draw near to you, there is a moment in time where you must do the drawing first. Now, why is that? Why is it that for the believer there is a moment of a first draw on your part? It is because God has already provided all things in relation to life and Godliness. He has

already given us all things. We just need to agree with Him and draw near in faith, knowing that He has already accomplished the work. The scripture says, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:13.

You see, His blood, His atoning sacrifice has already brought us near to Him. We just need to believe this and walk believing this reality. Too often we are led by our souls and our carnal thoughts and feelings, but our feelings do not dictate truth, His Word does. Oftentimes the mind disqualifies us and accuses us before receiving, because a carnal mind is at enmity with God. An unrenewed mind is a *carnal natural mind* that automatically opposes the truth of God's Word. When thoughts begin to exclude you from His presence, remember that it is a lie against the very goodness of God in your life.

Just as in James 4, James rebuked the believers because they were double minded and fleshly, the result was a need to draw near first and enter into a time of repentance.

When the effect of sin and of the flesh are minded in a believer's life, it is very difficult to draw near, because the mind is set on the lie that is birthed by the nature of the flesh.

There are moments in your life when you will have to draw near first. There are seasons, for

many reasons, that you will have to draw near first. Maybe it's because of double mindedness, or perhaps you are in a time of transition or just maybe you are about to enter into a new degree of God's glory in your life. Whatever the reason is, there are times you must draw near first.

The fourth key is learning to unlock the power of drawing near.

Do you feel distant? Draw near. Do you long for refreshment? Draw near! Embrace being content to draw near and throw yourself at His feet! Sometimes, that drawing requires patience and trust. If you do your part, He will do His part. He can be trusted! Praise God!

How do you draw near?

You wait before Him with the Word of God, prayer and repentance, trusting that He will come close!

You may say, *why must I repent if there's no sin?*

Sometimes repentance is needed because we too often stray into our own works and depend upon our own efforts and strengths. That disposition of heart is called *pride*, and God resists pride. If you rely on Him and adore Him, acknowledging your need for Him, that is humility and God will lift you to Himself. The more you rely on His efforts and His grace alone the more He grants His grace to you! You will never, on this side of heaven, arrive in absolute perfection, so learn that there

will be moments of drawing near. If you can learn this key you will see seasons of spiritual lulls as a greater invitation to go deeper. So draw near!

DRAWING NEAR AS A MEANS OF SOWING TO PLEASE THE SPIRIT

In 2015, at about 5 a.m. I went to the bathroom to spend some time alone with the Lord in our small apartment. It was in this season that I recall very strong manifestations of God's presence. There were moments with God that were very tangible and overwhelming.

This one particular morning I remember seeking God and I didn't sense or feel a thing. I began to grow frustrated and I began to pant like a deer panting after water. My heart felt like a bucket of sand. I remember crying out to the Lord and doing my spiritual gymnastics! Sometimes you can go on in the flesh, beg and scream and try to twist God's arm forcing Him to move. You can't do this with God. It's spiritual gymnastics. It's performance, not grace.

Well, I began to try to get God to speak and I remember feeling so very tired, I said, "God, if Your presence is not with me I don't wanna pray. I can't pray!" Thinking that He might do something or say something. My heart felt so dry! Have you ever been there? We all have! No answer, no response, nothing! I finally got up from my plead-

ings and religious acrobatics...thinking I was really impressing God because I had awakened so early! Lord bless us in spite of our ignorance! I got up and left my time of prayer, took a shower, got ready to go to work in a frustrated and irritated frenzy. I remember being on the verge of tears because I felt I had wasted my time. As I ran down the stairs I began to grow more and more angry at God, thinking He had left me. When I got into my car and started the engine the presence of the Holy Spirit flooded my vehicle and tears of joy and surprise began to well up within me! I said, "Lord! What are you doing here?" What He said to me next forever changed the way I prayed. He spoke to me so clearly! He said, "They that sow to the flesh will from the flesh reap death and corruption, but they that sow to please the Spirit will from the Spirit reap life everlasting. Chris, if you live to sow to what pleases Me, if you spend time with Me, it doesn't matter if you feel Me or do not feel Me, you are sowing to please Me, and you will reap My life and Presence throughout your day."

When God speaks to you, it's like your whole being receives it in layers. Like your whole being hears Him in simultaneous directions all at once. At that moment, I understood what He was saying. I understood that my time with Him was not based upon how I felt. It did not revolve around *me* and *what I wanted to get from Him*. It was about *pleasing*

Him and *giving Him glory*, because He is worthy and whether or not I feel Him, He is with me. I understood that feelings come and go, and sometimes can be carnal at times and can hinder greater intimate spirit to spirit connection with Him. I was basing my walk with God around *what I felt*.

I now understood that if I felt His nearness He was with me, and If I did not perceive Him, *He was still with me*. I could know that I am sowing to what pleases Him at that moment. From that point on, I did not pray to *feel*, I prayed to *please Him*. As I adjusted my heart, His very near presence was easily perceived throughout my entire day. Greater sensitivity was birthed by loving Him *for Him*.

What happens is this, many times we approach God trying to get something from His hands, when He wants us to seek His face. When we seek His face out of a heart focused on drawing near with a heart of faith, believing that He is near, His hands are easily felt. It's about the heart posture. Our desire *to feel* can overpower His gentle blowings.

A marriage isn't based on just sexual gratification and feelings, but rather out of deep intimate time spent together and connection. Out of that intimate connection, touch, embraces and pleasure are easily received. God wants you to sense Him and feel His nearness, but even more than that He wants you to grow in deeper intimacy which

comes from knowing Him and believing Him. It is *faith* that He is after. We are not moved by what we see or feel, but by whom we believe in. When the desire is to know Him you will have everything that comes with knowing Him. Intimacy is incubated in the womb of daily consistent fellowship with God, the door is faith in God. ***Believing that He is, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

Draw near, even when you don't sense Him right away, understand that you are sowing to what pleases Him because He is worthy and you will reap of His life and presence throughout your day.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- Drawing near is your first step
- God draws near to you as you do your part
- God has already provided all things, you must walk in and believe
- A double mind is always a hindrance and drawing near is the solution
- There will always be moments of drawing near because we too often stray into our own efforts
- God resists pride but graces the humble

- He doesn't care to bring you back to the first days, but He wants to bring you into greater glory

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Are there moments where you know you are being resisted by God?
2. If so, what areas in your own life can you repent of?
3. Have you strayed from His grace? Are you needing to adjust your course by greater dependency on Him?
4. Are you in a *drawing near* time? Or is He drawing near to you now? What are you learning now in this current time in Him?

KEY #5

Eat & Drink

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.” Exodus 24:9-12

Did you know that in the world of physical health and fitness an estimated one third of the people who live in the United States are considered obese? Many dream of having a perfect physique, they do everything from cardio workouts to starving themselves. Yet in order to achieve a complete body transformation, did you know that 80% of this change consists of what you eat and drink? A staggering 80% of the transformation is based on your diet!

In the same way, the key to a spiritual metamorphosis is your spiritual diet. What are you eating and drinking spiritually? Many spend much time working on their physical bodies but neglect nourishing their spiritual bodies.

Unfortunately, all too often believers do not know that their spirits are starving and neglected and many walk about with emaciated atrophied spirits.

Do you want to be healthy and strong spiritually? Learn to eat and drink!

In Exodus 24:9-12 we see something quite peculiar:

Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire

stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. **So they saw God, and they ate and drank.** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.”

When the elders of Israel saw God they ate and drank! Do you want to see God? Eat and drink! What bread is for the body the bread of His Presence is for the Spirit and what water is for the body the washing water of the Word is to your spirit. We must eat and drink! Eating and drinking His Word and His Presence is what gives us Spiritual vitality! Prayer is the drink, the Word is your spiritual food!

Man does not live on bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God! The Word must be your daily bread! Feasting and chewing on the Word as food is meditation.

BIBLICAL MEDITATION AS A MEANS OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

It is important that believers understand that biblical meditation is the means by which we eat spiritually.

Joshua 1:8 says,

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

The word for meditate is the Hebrew word **Hagah** which is translated as *moan, utter, speak, muse*. 1. of inarticulate sounds: a. growl. b. groan, moan. 2. utter, . 3. a. (soliloquize) mediate, muse, c. imagine, devise, a rumbling, growling, moaning, sound. 2. a moaning. 3. a sigh or moan.

meditation, musing, resounding music, meditation, musing — 1. resounding music. 2. meditation, musing.

In other words, we are to utter, moan, speak, muse, imagine, and resound in songs God's Word. It is to put the Word into your heart and to reflect upon it. The idea can really be conveyed in the New Covenant over in Ephesians 5:17

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, **speaking** to one another in **psalms** and **hymns** and **spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**

Ingest the Word of God by reflecting, speaking, imagining and singing God's Word. It is to hide the Word within us causing us to be filled with His Spirit. It must become the very groan, and moan of our spirit. The Word must become so deep within us that it is the groan of our heart! More of Him! Amen!

It is not merely enough to intellectually understand the Word, but to also *experience* God's Word, to relish and have it revealed to our spirits by his Spirit.

MEDITATING AS A MEANS OF RECEIVING REVELATION

The way to receive revelation is by meditating on God's Word. Revelation is unveiling what God has already said in the scriptures. It is God illuminating by His Holy Spirit the scriptures that you meditate on for the purpose of receiving Him the way He intended you to to receive Him. The scriptures were breathed upon by the Spirit and they are opened up to us by the same Spirit. The Spirit will never reveal something that contradicts His written word; He simply speaks the written Word directly into your spirit causing life and transformation of spirit and soul.

Consider Moses, he along with the elders saw God, he ate and drank in His presence and God tells him to come up and be with Him and He in

turn gave Moses the tablets, the Law and the Commandments so he may teach them.

That is what biblical meditation looks like, you glimpse His person, you eat and drink of His very being and Word. He causes you to come up closer and be with Him in that state of eating and drinking. You and He share space and there's a giving of instructions from His Word to teach and give away as food and nourishment for you and for the people of God! Amen!

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- I must eat and drink spiritually
- I must consume God's Word and Presence as my daily need
- God wants to reveal to me His Word by His Spirit
- Biblical meditation is internalizing the Scriptures within my heart

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. When was the last time you viewed God's Word as food?
2. Have you ever meditated on God's Word?

3. Is the Word of God alive to me? If not, why?

KEY #6

Beholding His Glory

KEY SCRIPTURE:

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. II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

In 2011, I was privileged to go to Font Parisian, Haiti, one of the poorest regions in all of Haiti and arguably the world. I saw poverty in that area that broke even the toughest of men's hearts. I had the opportunity to visit a local orphanage and many of the children were so poor that some of them didn't even have proper clothing. On one particular

occasion I was ambushed by little children wanting to greet me. I remember taking out my small camera and I began taking pictures and videos of the kids singing and clapping. One particular kid looked at the camera and was very curious. He began staring at himself on the screen. He was acting as if he had never really seen himself. To my surprise and disbelief, he hadn't! Many of the kids were mesmerized by their own image. It was like they were responding to a magic trick or something. It was amusing to see this! They may have seen their reflection in the water of a pond or stream, or perhaps a metal pot, but never through a perfect mirror.

We act like what we see, and how we see determines our perspective. When we think of a mirror we think of a perfect mirror image of what we are seeing. But biblically speaking, that wasn't the case in the early days of the church in the times of the New Testament. Mirrors in that time were not the perfectly clear mirrors we enjoy today. Back then you really had to intently look to see your reflection and work with it. It was a dim reflection, often a piece of polished brass or copper, and in order to see yourself you had to look purposefully, often with a light.

Paul addressing the Church of Corinth gives us that insight when he says:

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.** I Corinthians 13:11-12 (emphasis mine)

You see, on this side of heaven you are going to see and understand things dimly but a time is coming when we will see Christ face-to-face in all His glory and radiance.

My favorite scripture of all time is 2 Corinthians 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.

When we turn to Christ the veil of spiritual blindness is removed and we, with unveiled faces, behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord and we are transformed after the likeness and image that we behold of Christ. You become what you behold. But in order to behold, you must understand that just like the primitive mirror in those days, you need to look purposefully and with the light of

God's word. Right now you are not meant to see all of the fullness in perfect clarity. It is progressive, it is from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. Your responsibility is *to behold*.

Just like in that mirror, you are not going to see all up front, but you see from glimpse to glimpse. Oftentimes believers get frustrated because they try to see the Lord through the lens of their own feelings or past experiences or preconceived thoughts of what God is like, but there is only one real way to intently look, it is through the window and the lens of Scripture.

As mentioned in the previous key, you must learn to eat and drink and see God, but you cannot see God without ingesting and reflecting on God's Word. The Word is the Light and the entrance of God's Word brings forth light. You can only see God through the mirror of God's Word. As you reflect on that mirror you continue to see Him in greater clarity. You must be faithful in how you see, for in the measure that you see you will increase in seeing. When you see Him through the revealed Word of God, you will see Him accurately and be changed into what you behold..

You were meant to be an image of God. You are meant to reflect His glory on this earth, but in order to properly reflect Him you must reflect on His Word. With each small glimpse into His

person through the Word you will reflect more of Him. Be intentional in looking, and as you keep looking unto Christ through the Word you will see more of Him from glory to glory!

This sight into God's glory is not a physical seeing, but a spiritual perceiving of God's presence and goodness. It is the awareness of God's glory in your life. It is not a vision, though visions can be a part of the life of a believer, but an awareness of God's glory. It's not looking for a vision or an image of what His face is like to you. Rather it is reflecting upon Him, and the lifting of your heart to Him, and the light of who He is in you. You are called to behold His glory. You behold His glory through the Word and as you lift the scriptures to the Spirit, the Spirit will reveal Himself more and more! What a mystery!

Do you have eyes to see? Let this be your prayer:

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may

know what is the hope of His calling, 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 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:15-23

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- I am called to behold His Glory
- I am an image of God
- I see dimly, but I must continue to see for clarity
- I cannot see through what I think God is like except by the lens of God's Word

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. When you pray, how do you perceive God? Through the Word or through your own reasonings?
2. Is there anything preventing you right now from seeing Him in your life?
3. Do you believe that God has called you to reflect His glory? If not, why?

KEY #7

From Glory to Glory!

KEY SCRIPTURE:

And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image **in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.** 2 Corinthians 3:18 AMPC

The 7th key to living the uncommon spiritual life is to absolutely depend upon and trust God, that He wills and desires to take you from one degree of glory to the next.

Consider what the scripture says above *in ever*

increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

It is the Lord who is the Spirit that causes you to increase from one degree of knowing Him to the next degree of splendor. Nothing that you can add or say can cause you to come closer. It is only by His invitation. The great news is that if you are His child you have been invited and are continually being invited!

We cannot live off of yesterday's manna, we cannot live and replicate yesterday's glory and yesterday's anointing. We must be endowed with the newness of life, fresh oil and the present Presence of Christ speaking now and revealing now!

When the children of Israel were in the time of their wilderness, Israel had to follow the cloud of God's glory by day and the pillar of God's fire by night. God had to teach them to be a people of *the Presence*. Where the Presence moved they moved, where the Presence camped they camped. Finally, the resting place of God's glory was in the Temple and then tabernacled within Christ the Living and Greater Temple.

Today His Glory and fire live in a new tabernacle, your body. You are the dwelling place of God and His Glory resides in you by the Holy Spirit. Great is the mystery hidden from ages and generations! Christ *in you* the hope of Glory! He, that

same glory wants to move and camp and lead you from one degree of glory to the next! He is the one that invites us! Oh glory to God!

Again, nothing that you can add or say can cause you to come closer; it is only by His Spirit.

This reality alone demands two very important responses from you: humility and dependence.

Humility, because you are sustained by God alone and dependence because it is God that takes you from one degree of fullness to the next.

He holds you and moves you, you just need to rely on His grace, His strength, and His power. You must learn to embrace your fragility and weakness before God so that you can depend on Him in everything for that is where the power really rests.

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. II Corinthians 12:9-10

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you

except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. I Corinthians 2:1-5

The secret of God's presence and power is absolute humility and dependence upon God Himself, not upon our own abilities or strengths!

He can be trusted and depended upon to take you from Glory to Glory!

KEY TAKE-AWAYS:

- I have been invited into God's glory in my life
- God is the one who brings me from one degree of glory to the next
- I embrace my weaknesses and depend upon God
- Dependence and humility attract God's presence, power and strength in my life

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Do I trust the Lord to take me from glory to glory?
2. Do I really depend on Him to draw me near?
3. In what ways can I depend on the Lord to release greater grace in my life?

CLOSING SCRIPTURES & PRAYER

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John 7:37-38

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:17

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to

know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:14-21

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, 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 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things

under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all' Ephesians 1:15-23

MY PRAYER FOR YOU!

May the Spirit of God fill you to an ever increasing glory and splendor! May you be filled with the fullness of God's Spirit bringing you into the overflow of His peace and grace! May the love of God, the grace and peace from Christ and the sweet abiding communion of the Holy Spirit be with your spirit. May you grow to love the Father, the Living Word, and the Spirit. May the grace of Christ unveil the spirit of revelation and fill your heart with the divine light that proceeds from knowing Him.

May God keep you, strengthen you and enlarge your capacity to receive more and more of Him. May you get out of the way, go low so that the King can come in and lift you into the heights to be seated with Him in heavenly places. May you and God share the same space, share in the thoughts and feelings of His heart and may you become a light to a dark world. May you become entwined in the New Wine

and learn that **waiting** is your weapon against the flesh. May your spirit be strong and your flesh subdued by your spirit and may your soul receive all of the effects of being with Him.

In order to keep resources like this available at no cost, donations of any amount would be a blessing to the ministry.

You can follow up at the link below:

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Chris and Zuly Garcia are the founders of *Father's Glory International*. Father's Glory is devoted to promoting the manifested presence and power of God through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is Father's Glory and it is through the unveiling of His Son that lives are transformed. Chris is a revivalist with a heart for the local church, he serves on Pastoral Staff at Victory Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, *"But we all, with unveiled faces, 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."* It is for His Glory that we proclaim His Name. He & his wife Zuly currently reside in Arkansas along with their 3 children.

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