

VICTORY



Over

SIN

Abiding In The Sabbath

DAVID EMECHETE

Victory Over Sin

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By

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Hiswordxray Publishing House

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PREFACE

I decided to write this book out of a vexation of the Spirit. It was a time I kept hearing about men of God falling into sin, and it was all so heart breaking. How can we claim to offer the salvation of Jesus Christ yet we are lacking in this salvation, there is no evident of it in our lives, instead we are bearing a testimony contrary to the salvation we preach? It's just so sad to see the body of Christ in this state, for too long we have been in this struggle on dealing sin, and sadly the material we have available are not too helpful.

I remember running to the internet, browsing all over in the search for something that would help me deal with the sins I was struggling with. I know many sincere Christians have also done the same or are doing it now, but most of what is out there doesn't really help. Yes there are good teachings out there but they are mostly incomplete, if only there is one single teaching or material that combines all the principle needed to live above sin in a practical way. There is this very good teaching from a minister I respect, talks about the revelation of God's love as the answer to the struggle with sin. And yes it was very helpful, but it is still incomplete, there are other things that are needed too.

Then there are those who preach that all you need is the revelation of the finished work of Christ, but these same preachers are the very ones who keep falling into sin and giving Christianity a bad name. What then is wrong? Is the revelation of Christ not enough? There must be something that we are missing, but what might that be? I have been searching that missing thing for years now, and I think I have figured it out, I have experimented on it and it seem to be working, at least it has been working for.

Well, the theologies that constitute it seem to be okay, very Christ-centred, so why not share what I have and see if it works for others? And please I will appreciate it if after reading and practicing the things in this book, you reach out to me and tell me how it has been going for you, if it really help you or not. It would be nice if we join hands together to

find a more perfect answer to this issue of sin so we can be the testimony that we are called to be. You can reach me by my email: emechetedc@gmail.com

Please read and do your best to practise these things, I can't wait to hear your feedback.

INTRODUCTION

For too long, Christians have been too carnal in their approach to experiencing the Christian life and walking the Christian walk. We have strayed far away from how God wanted the New Covenant to be. The Old Covenant had to do with physical, outward or carnal things, but God wants something better because He looks at the heart not the appearance (1Sam 16:7).

"For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies; physical [external/outward] regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established." (Heb 9:10).

God wanted a better system than that which emphasis is on outward things. He wanted something that reach deep into the heart and change the man from inside-out, as a result He began the New Covenant. So it is very sad when the New Covenant people go back to the very thing God rejected, the very reason that God desire to abandon the Old Covenant and move to a new one.

When it comes to holiness our emphasis is usually on external appearances and external regulations. Those of us that don't want to fall into this error on emphasizing on external things end up disregarding the whole thing and shift attention to other things. What about the aspect that says, "but the LORD looks at the heart." (1Sam 16:7)? What did we do with that part of the scripture? Just throw it away?

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see

them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1Sam 16:7).

If we love God we will care about what He cares about, and that scripture tells us that God cares about the issues of the heart. Our God looks at the heart, He pays attention to the heart, He cares about what is going on in the heart. Do we care about what is going on in our hearts? Do we care enough to give it attention and learn how to cultivate our hearts to be pure towards God, conforming to the image of the Son of His love?

"We may think we are doing the right thing, but the LORD always knows what is in our hearts." (Pro 21:2).

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer 17:9).

"He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered." (Pro 28:26).

If we do not pay enough attention to our hearts, if we just ignore it and say, "Well, we are already saved, we are the righteousness of God, now let's move on to other things", we would end up being deceived by our hearts. We would go about doing things and thinking we are doing the right thing, but all the while being deceived by our hearts. When we pay attention to our hearts and ask God to reveal its true intent to us then we can know our hearts just as God knows it, and we can be able to set it right towards God. You might be busy about your life, thinking you are doing the right thing and not knowing your heart has been rebelling against God. That is how many fall into an hypocritical life still they become so convinced they are doing it right, but it is all a deception, they have allowed their heart to deceive them.

Appearances are easy to see and judge but the heart is deceptive, and if God looks at the heart not the appearance then we have greater work to do. This book is not about physical appearance and external regulations on holiness. Rather it is about the 'cultivation of the

heart'. Seriously, I planned to write a book with that title, I only decided to cut this out and publish it sooner because of its urgent need in the body of Christ today. Yes, this book is very practical, but not practical in a carnal way (external regulations way) but in a heart/spiritual way.

CHAPTER 1

From The Finished Work Of Christ

We must start first from the place of rest in the finished work of Christ, for everything in Christianity starts from "it is finished". Anything that doesn't start from that is nothing but dead works. We must first look at what had happened in Christ, rest in that revelation, then out of that rest bear living fruit. What God is after is life, He is tired of dealing with dead things, dead people and dead covenant, He has sent his Son to give life and he would keep giving it till we have it in abundance. Life only comes from Christ, for he is the Life. We can only produce life when we rest in the finished work of Christ; only in that place of rest would life flourish.

The Perfection In Our Spirit

"For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean," (Heb 9:13).

In the Old Covenant, the work is to be done on the flesh; the flesh has to be pure, purge and cleansed. But in the New Covenant the work has been done in the spirit. It was their physical body that was cleansed and sanctified. But in the New Covenant God did the cleansing deep inside. He perfected our spirits through the new birth. Yes, our spirits are now perfect, as holy and as pure as God is.

*"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."
(Heb 10:14).*

"...and to the spirits of just men made perfect," (Heb 12:23).

We have been justified and sanctified; our spirits have been made perfect. Just as the cleansing and sanctification of the Old Covenant was done on the flesh, that of the New Covenant was done on the spirits of the covenant people. Take note that it is already done and perfected; it is not something that you need to do frequently like that of the Old Covenant. The cleansing and sanctification were once and for all.

The holiness of the Old Covenant people was based on that cleansing which is done to their bodies, but the holiness of the New Covenant people is drawn from the perfection of our spirit. Ours is from the place of Christ perfected work in our spirits, while theirs was from the external regulations and ceremonial cleansing.

The Forgotten Land of Sabbath

The holiness which we are to express is supposed to spring forth from the finished work of Christ, it starts from the place of rest, the Sabbath. Just as the Old Testament people lived and practice the life of the Old Testament in the Promised Land, the New Covenant people ought to exist and practice the life of the New Covenant in the Sabbath.

"So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality." (Col 2:6-7).

"If that had been necessary, Christ would have had to die again and again, ever since the world began. But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice." (Heb 9:26).

"And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin." (1John 3:5-6).

Christ is the reality of the Sabbath; his finished work is the Sabbath. Jesus came to give us rest from the struggle with sin; he won the victory over sin, removed sin once and for all, and gave us rest. In Christ there is no sin, it is not possible to sin in Christ, and all those who abide in him enjoy rest from the struggle with sin. All that religious people have ever known is the struggle with sin; they are always struggling to do the right thing, struggling to obey the law and not commit sin, and it is how they know to live. These people never know rest, it is alien to them. Sin to them is this enormous thing that you have to keep struggling with; they simply cannot conceive the idea of rest from the struggle with sin. This Sabbath is what Jesus came to give, through his death and resurrection he established the Land of Sabbath and called us to dwell in this land.

*"And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest... **So let us labor to enter that rest.** But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall." (Heb 3:16-19;4:10).*

Although in the spirit we are already in this Sabbath yet we must labour to experience it in the flesh and in our everyday life. Unbelief and laziness are the things that will prevent us from entering the Land of Sabbath. Just as the Israelites saw how huge the men of the land of Canaan were and they began to doubt if God's word is true when He said He would give them the land, so also have many Christians look at sin and its stronghold, and then they begin to doubt if God knows what he is saying when He said Jesus died to set us free from sin and that now the sons of God cannot sin (John 3:19).

Yes, we doubt if it is possible to live above sin, to come to a place where you are finally resting from the struggle with sin. This doubt has made them settle in the wilderness, refusing to press into the Land of Sabbath. Many have died in the wilderness without ever experiencing rest from the struggle with sin, they never knew Sabbath. In fact this Sabbath has become alien to us because most of us have chosen to remain in the wilderness; we have lived in the wilderness for so long that we have forgotten of the existence of Sabbath.

We have chosen to dwell in unbelief and we continue to spread this unbelief, teaching it to our children. Now, generation after generation do not know Sabbath, it has become a forgotten city, a myth. Yes, when we talk about this land, we speak of it has a myth, nobody truly believes it. It sound goods to the ear, but our logic tells us it is not possible, it is nothing but a myth. We see these scriptures in the bible, and we nod our heads in agreement to it, but we do not believe it, we have refuse to believe it, it's makes little sense to us, the Land of Sabbath has become forgotten, it is nothing but a myth in our hearts, and as a result we have refused to press into it.

It Springs Forth From The Sabbath

Victory over sin is a reality that only exists in the Sabbath, the sooner we realise this, the better for us. The religious man has been dealing with sin by his own effort (the power of his will) and he has grown confidence in his effort, he won't have it any other way. You feel powerful when you accomplish something by your own effort. In fact, psychology has it that people get motivated when they know that they can accomplish something by their own effort, but when it has to do with things outside of their control, they lose their motivation.

The idea of rest is alien to the carnal man, he doesn't know how to function in rest, and he loses his motivation. Grace has to do with God's sovereign works, yes things outside of our control, this is why Christians lose their motivation to live above sin when the gospel of grace is preached, but we must learn to stop living and acting like the dead man. We are called to have life, to learn to respond to the life from above. We must learn to be poor in the spirit, to rely (rest) on God, and live in dependency to God. The Christian life is to be live in the Sabbath, we cannot experience it any other place.

The carnal man will refuse to come to Sabbath; he prefers to rely on his own effort. He likes the feeling that he gets from the idea of 'you can do it, just believe in yourself'. Yes that feeling and the confidence that comes with that, and each time he achieves some degree of success he feels powerful. But we do not need that to feel powerful or confident, we feel powerful because we have Christ, and our confidence is in him.

The point I am trying to make is that by the carnal man we would run away from the Sabbath, we would reject the idea of it, and we would not even know how to function in it. But victory over sin exists only in the Sabbath; no amount of 'you can do it, believe in yourself' can help you. You must pursue the Sabbath, you must labour to rest, to break free from the inability of the carnal man to rest and learn to function from the place of rest.

The Carnal Man And His Ways

Due to his inability to come into rest, the carnal man has gone his own way to get victory over sin through hard work and discipline. That is all he has ever known, that is his answer to everything. Whenever it involves attaining success, the carnal man will tell you the only way to it is believe in yourself, work hard and be disciplined. So here he goes again with his hard work and discipline, trying to attain righteousness and victory over sin. I have heard that some people do some really weird stuff in this process.

Some go as far as beating themselves and giving themselves some really severe punishments, just to motivate their flesh to stay away from sin. It is the flesh nature to sin; no amount of punishment can change that. There are Christians that believe 'if I will it then I could have it'. They believe in the power of their will, so they go to the mental gym to strength their will power. Yes they look for ways to strengthen their will power. After they have tried and tried and keep failing then they conclude, "it seems like I am not like those with a very strong will, I would just have to look for another way to get this thing, or maybe I should just give up, I don't have what it takes."

When people who have gotten to this conclusion hear the gospel of grace they quickly embrace it as an excuse to give up. They tell themselves, "Well, I am already the righteousness of God, so why should I keep trying to live above sin?" However, there are

those that have strong will, and with their strong will they attain some level of success. Whatever level of success they think they have is very insignificant compared with what they would have if they come into the Sabbath. When you try so hard to get something and you keep failing, you will try to encourage yourself with the little or seemingly success that you have.

That little thing, that illusion of a success, will become so enormous in your eyes that you begin to feel powerful and superior. Your head becomes filled with pride, you feel that you are better than others who are lacking in this strong will and are struggling, and then you start acting very hypocritical. Self-righteousness is an ugly thing; the truth is that it is nothing but an illusion, a deception of the heart. You think you have attained righteousness but you have attained nothing, you are only being deceived by your heart. Let's leave the carnal man and his ways and let's grow up to be the spiritual people that we are called to be. Our true victory lies in the Land of Sabbath, so let's journey to that land.

CHAPTER 2

From The Spirit And Through The Heart

My previous book is titled “Christ; The Christian Spirituality”. There I try to define the spiritual status of the New Covenant, if you can please get the book. Something is said to be spiritual base on it origin; “where does it come from, what is the thing behind it?” These are the questions that determine the spiritual status of a thing. If the thing is a thing in itself which starts and ends in the flesh, then it is carnal, but if it has some connection with the realm of the spirit, then it is spiritual. If this thing starts from the flesh and end in the spirit, well it is spiritual but not spiritual in the New Covenant way. But if it starts from God in the spirit and end in the flesh then it is spiritual in the Christian way. Christianity is all about Christ, and Christ is the God who is spirit become flesh. Everything in Christianity is centred on that principle: **the God who is spirit become flesh—Christ.**

If we are to be victorious over sin in the Christian way, then this victory must be that which is coming from Christ in the spirit. Christ has perfected us in the spirit, we have 'victory over sin' fully established in the spirit, and therefore it is foolish to try to create another victory over sin in the flesh. We simply draw from that which is already established by Christ in the spirit, and we try to manifest it in the flesh—the God who is spirit manifesting in the flesh. It is only that which is God in the spirit manifesting in the flesh that can we called Christian. If we try to copy the pattern and create another righteousness or victory over sin in the flesh then whatever that thing is it is not Christian. We are not to copy; copying of pattern is for the Old Testament people. We are called to become and manifest, not copy.

There is a huge different between copying in the flesh that which is in the spirit (in heaven, or in God) and manifesting the original thing itself from the spirit to the flesh. Again, we do not copy; we reach out into the spirit, grab the original and bring it down to the flesh. We are alive to God in the spirit, we have access to the spirit, and we have become one with God in the spirit, so we simply manifest what we have become in the spirit. Please get the book, **Christ; The Christian Spirituality**.

The Gateway Of The Spirit

Before that which is in our spirit find expression in our bodies it must pass through our soul (the mind and the heart). This brings us back to the issue of the heart. Your spirit is already sanctified and perfected, but this perfection must pass through our hearts in order for it to be expressed in our flesh as works of righteousness. Our heart can either be influenced by the things in the flesh or the things in the spirit. When it is influenced by the flesh we end up doing carnal things, but when it becomes so filled with the things in the spirit (in Christ) we won't be able to stop ourselves from expressing this spiritual reality.

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Jer 31:33).

Do you see the plans that God has for the New Covenant people? His plan is to get their hearts filled with His law so they cannot do anything but express His law—oh, such a perfect covenant. You cannot resist expressing that which your heart is filled with. Whether or not you like it, it will come out, it will surely find expression.

"You brood of vipers! How can you speak good things, when you are evil. For out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matt 12:34).

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Pro 4:23).

The way the word 'guard' was used in that scripture, mean to say, "of all the things you ought to guard, guard your heart the most". This shows God's great concern for the heart. Our heart is to be guarded, because whatever our hearts are filled with, that is what we would express. That scripture says everything we do flows from our hearts, if we want our actions to be conformed to the reality in Christ then our hearts must be conformed to the reality in Christ. If we don't want to do anything that is not Christ then our hearts must not contain anything that is not Christ. We must guard our hearts that it might be filled with only that which is Christ, and then we will find ourselves doing only that which is Christ.

The Work Is To Be Done In The Heart

When a game or a computer program has glitches, the programmer goes to work on the code. He does not struggle and fight with the game itself, no he leaves the game and start working on the code behind it. He does this because he knows whatever he does to the code will affect the game. So if he could get the coding right then everything will be right with that game. Our actions are a by product of our hearts, and if we discover a problem in our actions, the best place to fix it is in our hearts, because once you get the heart right then the actions will be right.

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." (Rom 8:29).

As Christians we are to speak Christ and do Christ; everything we do must be in accordance with the nature of God. We are to be like Christ to express his nature, to be conformed to him. Now the only way we can be conformed to him in our actions is when we are conformed to him in our hearts. So there is work to be done in the heart and don't think God will do everything for you. He has brought you into this fellowship where He allows you take part in the works He is doing. He is bringing you into conformity to the image of His Son

and He wants you to join Him in this work; to yield yourself and align yourself with what He had done and what He is doing.

What has He done? He has perfected you in the spirit, and now you must align yourself to the structure or constituent of this perfection. Your heart must become aligned to the structure of that perfection in your spirit. Your heart must be conformed to the image of his son (the regenerated you) in Christ (in the spirit). There is a structure, a constituent in Christ, and that structure expresses the nature of God. When you become conformed to that structure in your heart then you will express the nature of God in every of your actions.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (1John 3:9).

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6).

Your spirit is born of God, and as such it is constituted in a way that it cannot sin. It just cannot sin no matter what. But your flesh is born of Adam (dead man) and its structure is that of a dead man, it cannot but sin. Your soul reflects either your spirit or your flesh, or usually both in some degree. But we want our soul to be flooded with light, to reflect our regenerated spirit, the one that carries the constituent of Christ, that precious constituent that makes us incapable of committing sin. When our heart becomes align with that constituent then our flesh will begin to conform to the image of that which is born of God. So what is this constituent and how can we align our hearts to it?

That Which Constitute The Son

"Your eyes are too pure to behold evil, and cannot look at iniquity." (Hab 1:13).

This is the nature of the Father that has now been inherited by the sons. You cannot behold iniquity; that is who you are, you just cannot stand sin, it is utterly repulsive to you.

"For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus." (Eph 2:6).

"...that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet," (Eph 1:20-22).

The son is seated far above all things; above the earth and above the flesh. The son is no slave to the flesh, he cannot be ruled by the emotions and urges of the flesh, he exists far above those things. With a strong arm he brings the flesh to obedience, his will his strong and his authority cannot be refuted. He knows how to wield the authority of the throne and command obedience from his subject. The flesh is his subject; the will of the flesh, the desire, the lust and even the nature of the flesh is all subjected to him. He is born of God and cannot be ruled by that which is born of man. That trait he inherited from God is far greater than whatever trait that his flesh inherited from its earthly father.

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2Cor 10:5)

The son is not a slave to his thoughts; he could take it captive, bring it to obedience and force it to be conformed to Christ. The son rules in his members (his physical body) and crushes every rebellion. He does not pay tribute to sin, and he certainly doesn't use words like, "I don't have a choice, I just have to give in". He crushes every rebellious thought, every

rebellious idea, every rebellious desire, rebellious traits, emotions, urges, etc. He brings them all to obedience; nothing can resist his strong arm.

*"...that one 'will rule them with an iron sceptre and will dash them to pieces like pottery' --just as I have received authority from my Father."
(Rev 2:27).*

The son is not lenient with rebellion; he rules with an iron sceptre and smashes into pieces every form of rebellion. He is not afraid to use his rod and demonstrate his mighty arm. He does not liaise or negotiate with sin (consider or entertain it) neither does he make a treaty with perversion. The son cannot hold any agreement with that which is unholy.

What Is Repentance

Repentance means to turn away; it is a decision to turn away and never look back. Repentance is a decision, a firm decision that you must stand on no matter what. Just as during salvation you made a decision to believe in Jesus with all your heart, you must also make a decision to repent with all your heart. The heart is very deceptive, you might think you've believed with all your heart, or repented with all your heart, but in reality you are still holding back in a way. This is what the Holy Spirit does in our lives, he shines light on those areas where we are holding back; those areas we are nurturing unbelief, and those areas we have refused to let go and repent.

You can't just believe with all your heart or repent with all your heart in one day, it is a process. Although there are moments it really feels that you've believed with all your heart, but after the dust (all that emotional excitement) have settled down you realise there are areas in your heart where unbelief is lurking. I am comparing 'believe' and 'repentance' together so you can understand my point. You cannot repent with all your heart in a day, it is a process, this is the reason I said repentance is a decision. On that day you make a decision to repent, and that mean that from then on whenever the Holy Spirit shine his light

to some area that you have been holding back you would remember that day you made that decision and you will not resist the Holy Spirit, but immediately repent.

You see, this is the same thing we do on the day we got born again. We make a decision to believe, so whenever the Holy Spirit show us an area we have been dwelling in unbelief we repent from that immediately, we rebuke that unbelief and abide in faith. If the Holy Spirit shines his light on an area you have been holding back and you resist the Holy Spirit, then your salvation is questionable, the decision you made that day is questionable. When you made the decision on that day did you really meant it, did you submitted to the Lordship of Christ, did you really made him your Lord? If you made him your Lord then you must submit to his Spirit, you cannot resist his spirit.

"No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take back a single word I said." (Psa 89:34).

"For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." (Psa 138:2).

You see, God is looking to have sons who like him would make decisions and never turn from it. He never goes back on His word once He has given His word He is bounded by it. He wants to have sons like that, people who would make a decision and never turn away from it. So make a decision today, repent and be resolved in your heart to stand on that decision no matter what.

CHAPTER 3

Manifesting The Constituent Of The Spirit Into Your Heart

The constituent in the spirit is perfection, for Christ has perfected us in the spirit. The constituent makes it impossible for one to sin, we already have this constituent in the spirit, and now we must manifest it in our heart so it can govern the way we live our daily lives. This constituent is what I like to call the Sabbath or the Land of Sabbath. So what we will do in this chapter is learning practically to manifest the Sabbath in our heart. Instead of the word 'manifest' I also like to use the word 'cultivate', we would cultivate in our heart the Land of Sabbath and learn to dwell in it or live from it.

We are not reproducing or copying; we are reaching out into the spirit to take the seed, plant it in our heart and watch it grow into a beautiful garden as the Holy Spirit nurtures it. We would have again the Garden of Eden, but this time in our heart. However, this one will have huge fence around it and the devil can never find his way inside, it will just be you and God enjoying intimacy as you rest from all the struggle in religion and the struggle with sin.

The Mighty Walls Of Salvation

"God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son..." (Col 1:13).

"At that time, this song will be sung in the country of Judah: We have a strong city, Salvation City, built and fortified with salvation." (Isa 26:1).

"Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick," (Rev 21:17)

Salvation is our Sabbath; it is the resting place that God has made for us (Matt 11:28). We were saved (delivered) from the servitude of the kingdom of darkness and were transferred to the kingdom of the Son, the city of the living God. This city manifested in the book of Revelation and is described to have walls even thicker than that of Jericho. The walls are so great that even if all of hell is unleashed upon it, it would not even leave a crack. Our Sabbath is within these walls, and unlike the Garden of Eden the devil cannot enter, nothing of the kingdom of darkness can touch us here.

This reality is already established in the spirit but it need to be manifested in your heart. You can have it manifested in your heart; you can have these walls around your heart keeping away anything that is carnal and of the devil. It would take time to cultivate it in your heart, but if you truly desire it and if you remain persistence you will have it manifested there in your heart. Remember, we labour to enter into the rest, for the kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent take it by force. So you must have resolve and be determined in your heart to enter into this rest.

Go Get The Revelation

The first thing required to cultivate the Land of Sabbath in your heart is the seed.

"The seed is the word," (Luk 8:11). " Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1Pet 1:23).

You need the revelation of the reality of the Sabbath as it is in the spirit. You need to have a revelation of all its constituent, for example, the walls that I just mentioned above, I am sure you read it but reading it is not enough. Revelation is beyond just reading about something, you must know it beyond mere knowledge, you must be able to see it in your heart.

"And to know the Love of Christ beyond mere knowledge," (Eph 3:19).

This revelation is beyond just mere knowledge, you must know with all of your heart. You must become awoken to this thing inside you, let it be so real to you that you feel you can touch it. Yes, it must become something tangible inside of you, something living. There is a way you can catch the revelation of Christ that it just flood the whole of your being. There are some people that each time you mention the love of God their hearts skip or light up. They have so caught that revelation that it has apprehended the whole of their being. Each time a worship song on the love of God is sang tears drip down their eyes, they are lost in worship. Some it is the greatness of God, the glory of God, or the goodness of God, they have caught this revelation to the extent that it has possessed them.

There is a way you can catch the revelation of God's greatness that it feels like this greatness will crush, it has become so real to you that it overwhelms the whole of your being. Your body trembles each time these things are mentioned. True worship is born out of revelation. You can catch the revelation of the Life (Christ) to the extent that you could feel that bursting energy all over your body, you do not just know it, you are alive to it, it is a tangible thing, something real inside you. Revelation is not just a head thing; it goes beyond having head knowledge. It must become a tangible thing inside of you. The stronger the revelation is the more it could apprehend your heart and find expression in your flesh.

Below are the revelations that you must get, this book is practical, carry out the instructions given here if you want to enter into that rest and walk in victory over sin.

- **God's Love:** This is the foundation for anything Christian, to enjoy anything that is Christian you need the revelation of the love of God, you need to know it in a real way and have your heart flooded by it.
- **Jesus has put away sin once and for all by his death:** You must see more perfectly what Jesus did on the cross, how he became sin for you and died. You must get a very clear revelation of the finished work of Christ (if you already do then congratulations, move on to get the other revelations).
- **There is no sin in Christ, it is not possible to sin in Christ, and you are in Christ:** You must be able to see a world where sin does not exist. We are so caught up in this

world where we see sin all around us and we think it is normal. It has become difficult to imagine a world without sin, a world where sin is not normal, where sin is alien. If you can see this reality and truly believe it, then you can enter into it.

- **The walls of salvation that keep sin out and keep you safe with the Lord:** You must be able to see you are safe, that in Christ sin cannot touch you, and it cannot bring you to slavery or force you to do his bidding. Here you are not obligated to obey him, you are truly free. You must get this revelation in a way that you become overwhelmed with that feeling of safety, followed by a feeling of confidence that you can't be touched by sin. Confidence and courage is very important because one the devil can get fear into your heart then he can overpower you no matter the forces you have behind you.
- **In Christ You Are Dead To Sin:** It is important that you are brought to the realisation that you are dead. You died to sin and all that is carnal and perverse; you have lost the ability to respond to these things, you just don't know how to sin, for it is not in you. You have lost what it takes to sin, you are no longer wired that way, and as such you just don't how to know to do it. Every action requires some kind of energy, the introvert are not very social because they lack the social energy, not that they don't want to be social, but they just lack the energy. When you are dead to sin, you will find yourself looking at sin, even with a heavy temptation in your heart, but you realised you just can't, even if you want to, you still can't, you have lost the energy that is required to commit that sin. Yes, you can get to this place through revelation, for you are already dead to sin in Christ you only need to become awakened to it through revelation.
- **The Sabbath, the rest from the struggle with sin:** You must be able to see you are at rest, let your heart be flooded with that feeling of rest. You are free from the struggle with sin, no more struggles, the era of struggling has ended, you have now entered into the rest that Jesus offers.
- **Relationship with God and the unsearchable riches of Christ:** Now that you are no longer struggling with sin and you must have a new occupation. You can't just be in the Sabbath doing nothing; you must be occupied getting intimate with God and exploring the riches of Christ. You must get a revelation of how unsearchable are the

riches of Christ; you must see these infinite riches left to be explored by you. Like an inquisitive youngster who enters a library with a lot of interesting books, there are just so much to explore. You must feel that way, you must feel that there is so much to explore, and be overwhelmed with that feeling of excitement to explore all these riches. You should never see Christ has boring otherwise you won't know when you just wonder out (of the walls) into the flesh to have some fun. Your new fun now is within these walls, nothing outside these walls is interesting or pleasurable to you. The only thing you now find pleasurable is loving God; and the only thing you find interesting are the unsearchable riches of Christ. You must get to a place where you feel like there is just so much to explore in Christ that you don't have time for any other thing.

You must do whatever it takes to get these revelation, get books that teaches these things, get audio messages, videos, attend teachings and conferences, go into the place of prayer and ask God to give you these revelations, spend a **large amount of time meditating**, listen to worship songs to connect to these revelations and press into it, just release your passion, pursue it violently, consuming every resources you can lay your hands on. But be careful out there; let the Spirit lead you in choosing resources to explore.

No Time For Yeast

“All the Egyptians urged the people of Israel to get out of the land as quickly as possible, for they thought, ‘We will all die!’ The Israelites took their bread dough before yeast was added. They wrapped their kneading boards in their cloaks and carried them on their shoulders.” (Exo 12:33-34).

It was time and God wanted His people to leave Egypt and go with Him into the land of Canaan—The Promise Land. The people of Israel had to leave, for the Spirit of God is already on the move. God stirred up such hastiness that the Egyptians who refused to let go of the

Israelites are now in such a hurry to get them out of their land. Pharaoh who refused to release them now wanted them gone as soon as possible. This is the working of God, for the Spirit is on the move.

The Spirit is always on the move, so active, always heading somewhere and doing something. The Spirit of God is a moving and active Spirit, so driven by the passion of God in the pursuit of His ultimate obsession. Yes, God is in a pursuit, He must get that which He desires and fulfill the plan He had conceived before the foundation of the world, and His Spirit is active with this passion to fulfill His plan. The Israelites became so overwhelmed with the hastiness of the Spirit that they didn't have time to add yeast in their bread.

"'Watch out!' Jesus warned them. 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees'... Then at last they understood that he wasn't speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'" (Matt 16:6,12).

"Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough?" (1Cor 5:6).

The yeast represents anything associated with deception or the "father of lie" (John 8:44). Man is prone to falling into sin and the deception of the devil. Even as Christians, no matter how we try to remain in the truth and walk in the light of God's word we often fall into the deception of the devil. God, through the history of Israel is revealing a secret to us. The Israelites were so engross with the move and the occupation of the Spirit that there was no time to add yeast, no time to even consider yeast or entertain yeast.

God is telling us today that when we are consumed with His occupation and become too busy with His business, we won't have time to indulge our flesh (for the flesh is prone to falling into deception). The only way we can have victory over sin and all the unholy indulgence of the flesh is when we get lost in Christ. We must get so occupied with Jesus, doing what the Father is doing and moving together with the Spirit. Jesus, while on earth

never sinned, and he explained that his secret was that he was always busy doing what the Father is doing (John 5:19).

Today, would you ask the Father what He is doing? Get into that fellowship with God and get so occupied that you lose yourself, and then suddenly you would realise that those sinful things you used to do you don't do them anymore. By the time you bury yourself in the things of God you will realise that a lot of things have dropped off, old habits, things you cannot do without, and even things inherent to your nature that you thought would never leave you. You realise you are a changed man; you do not even know how it happened you were just busy pursuing God, yielding to that hunger and passion that the Spirit has put in you.

The Imagination Of Your Heart

Back to the issue of revelation, after getting the revelation you create a picture out of it. The revelation itself is a picture; to have a revelation is to have the ability to see these things, you do not just know it, you see it, for the revelation is the ability to see. Gather all the revelation together and create one picture out of it. Remember I said the word is the seed, you have gotten the word, you have all these revelations, the seed is in your hand, now plant it, use it to cultivate or manifest the Sabbath in your heart. The revelations are sights (pictures), scattered pieces of the Sabbath; you must now put them together to form one whole picture of the Sabbath.

See the huge walls, see all those sins you have been struggling with behind the walls, you are safe and secure within the walls, nothing can touch you here, you are free from the stronghold of sin and perversion, and now let that feeling of safety and security flood your heart. See the beautiful garden of the Sabbath, breathe in that fresh air, spread your hands wide open and feel that rest and peace blowing with the wind, listen to the silence and tranquillity, and now see the Lord with you, he is all that matters. You are doing all these things in your heart, in the imagination of your heart; let it feel so real to you. Of course it would feel very real if indeed you've gotten the revelations that I recommended. Revelation provokes feelings or emotions, so you are not just seeing but you are feeling. This is not a

mere imagination, it is the combination or the fixing-together of all the revelation you have gotten, and this revelation is Christ (for the word is Christ).

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” (Eph 3:17-20).

This revelation is Christ dwelling in your heart, for he dwells in your heart by faith in the knowledge of him. You come to know him beyond mere knowledge and you place your faith in this knowledge of him—that is how he dwells in you. So this picture of Sabbath that you now see in your heart is Christ dwelling in you, it is the reality of Christ manifested in your heart, and since it is now in your heart, you can begin to express it in your daily life.

CHAPTER 4

Abiding In The Sabbath

Through the sacrifice of Christ we have the Sabbath in our **spirit**, and by pressing into that reality through meditation, study and yielding to the hunger and passion put in our hearts by the Spirit we now have the Sabbath in our heart (our **soul**), and now we must learn to abide in it so it can be manifested in our **flesh**. It is not enough to have it; if you do not learn to abide you might even lose it. There are those who have all these wonderful revelation about Christ and yet continue in sin because they never learn to abide in the Sabbath.

Some of us have this idea that once you have the revelation everything would just automatically work out. We think revelation is all we need; we tell ourselves if only we can just get this revelation of the finished work of Christ and become super conscious of this reality we would work in victory. What we don't understand is that one very important key is missing in that formula; we must learn how to abide. You can have all this revelation and knowledge but when temptation comes, it's almost like you've forgotten everything, you realise that before you could even consider these revelations you have fallen for the temptation. Sometimes temptation can be so strong that you've fallen for it and committed the sin before you now remember Christ. But it happens this way because you haven't train yourself to abide.

Understanding Human Actions And The Imagination

Human see things in pictures; in our interactions with the world and with other people we are constantly creating pictures in our mind. If I should tell you I have a red car, you will

immediately imagine a red car in your mind. No, you would not see the letters 'r', 'e', 'd', 'c', 'a', and 'r'. Rather your mind would create an actual picture of a red car even if that picture may not be accurate, and if I give you more detail by telling you that my car is a Jeep, you will immediately adjust the picture you already have in your mind, probably because the car you imagine before was a smaller car. You will keep adjusting the picture with every detail given to you. If I give a vivid description of my car, then you will be able to recognise it when you see it because you have already seen it in your heart.

So with every bit of information we get we are creating images in our mind, and some of these images can be very compelling—so compelling that it provokes you into action. When a car sales man wants to get you to buy a car, he tries to get you to create in your mind a very compelling picture that would provoke you to buy it. Each picture you see in your mind has an effect in your heart; some pictures are repulsive and cause you to withdraw, while some are so attractive that it causes you to develop a longing, or a desire for something. This is how the devil tempts us, he present in our hearts, very attractive pictures that would cause us to lust after these things.

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Gen 3:6).

That tree and its fruits has been there all these while yet Eve never saw that it was good for food, or pleasant to the eyes, or something to be desired to make one wise. Satan did nothing to the fruit, he didn't make it appear more beautiful or attractive, the fruit was exactly the way it has always been. What the devil did was change the picture of the fruit in her heart, he made the fruit look more attractive in her mind eye, he targeted the imagination of her heart and manipulated it with his words, and suddenly that same fruit that Eve have been ignoring all her life began to look so attractive that she feels that it has wisdom written all over it.

Yes, just manipulate the picture in his heart and you can make him do anything—that's man for you. Most time the things we are tempted by do not worth it, and sometime we even know that it does not worth it, but we have this picture in our heart and we have become very restless. Therefore it is important we learn to guard our heart, keep things out, and take control of our imagination.

The Power Of The Eye

Even Jesus affirms that the eye (both the physical and the eye of the mind) is powerful and it determines whether a person is good or evil and perverse, it also determines whether a person would end up in hell or in heaven. Whatever your eye is accustomed to looking at determines the kind of person you are, because every action you take is influenced by what you are looking at.

“Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is darkness, how deep that darkness is!” (Matt 6:22-23).

“Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad your whole body is filled with darkness. Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.” (Luk 11:34-36).

When your eye is filled with Christ, then the whole of you is filled with Christ, this is the secret of attaining maturity and living a Christ-filled life. Whatever you do your eyes affect the whole of you, so if you want to attain anything such as living above sin then you must work on your eyes. I am not just referring to your physical eyes but also the eye of your mind, work on the imaginations of your heart and the pictures that present itself in your mind. If you can master the eye, then you will take control of all your members (your whole body and being).

Casting Down Imaginations

We are not like dead men that just go with anything presented in their heart. We are sons, we are seated far above all things and this includes our flesh, hence we have authority over this flesh, we have authority over our minds. You are not to accept every imagination that presents itself in your mind, because once you accept it, it will start working in your heart, provoking you into certain actions.

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (2Cor 10:5).

The scripture says we should cast down imaginations that are not in alignment with the knowledge of God. Christ is the word, the revelation of God and the knowledge of God, so any imagination that is not in alignment with Christ cast it down, rebuke it, refuse to accept it, block it out! Take charge of your heart and guard it, for you are the sons of God and you have the authority. At first it might be difficult, but as you practise it, you will get good at it. We can develop the culture of casting out these imaginations; through constant practise you can get to a place where your mind just automatically cast out certain imaginations. The mind can be programed like a computer, it can develop a certain attitude, but this requires consistency in the practice.

The only reason that a Christian, with all the authority that God has given, still accepts wrong imaginations is because you have not truly repented. If truly you have made the decision to turn your back away from all that is not acceptable to God then you will pick up your authority and use it. Nobody said it will be easy, but Christ wants a bride that would be able to wield authority. You can't reign with Christ when you do not know how to wield authority. And if you do not learn it now, when will you learn it?

Bringing Your Mind To The Obedience Of Christ

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (2Cor 10:5).

That verse went further to say we are to bring every thought to the obedience of Christ. When your mind is in obedience to Christ, then your thoughts and imaginations will be in obedience to Christ. Bringing it to the obedience of Christ means making it be in alignment with the reality in Christ. The imagination of the Sabbath is in alignment with the reality in Christ, remember you created this imagination out of the revelation of Christ and his finished work.

Now if the human actions are governed by the imagination of the heart, then casting down every rebellious imagination and replacing it with the imagination that is in obedience to Christ will cause your actions to be in obedience to Christ. Yes, you are to rebuke any imagination that is not of God and then fix your mind on the Sabbath, let the Sabbath rule your heart, let it govern your actions, and you will find yourself doing works of righteousness.

Fix Your Eyes On Jesus

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;” (Heb 12:2).

I believe this very statement is the definition of Christianity; the Christian faith from start to finish is all about looking unto Jesus, fixing your eyes on him. There is not a time we should not look unto Jesus; everything we do should result from our eyes being fixed on him. I have explained that the picture you are looking at in your heart is responsible for your actions. As Christians every of our actions should spring forth from looking unto Jesus, our actions should be provoked by what we see in Christ. Even Jesus while on earth lived this way.

“Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.” (John 5:19).

His eyes are fixed on the Father, and whatever he sees of the Father he does. Our eyes are to be fixed on Jesus, and our actions should be provoked by what we see in Christ. So that picture of Sabbath you have in your heart is Christ and you are to fix your eyes on it. As we interact with our world different pictures and imaginations are presented in our minds, you are to cast down every imagination that exalts itself above the knowledge of God and fix your mind eye on the imagination that is gotten from the knowledge of God. You are to bring your thoughts to the obedience of Christ by fixing your mind eye on the imagination that is completely in alignment to the reality in Christ. Yes, you withdraw yourself from that picture the devil and the flesh is giving you and you fix your eyes on the Sabbath, for this is how to live the Christian life.

You are not to start struggling with that picture, holding on to it while trying to prevent it from sparking certain desire in your heart and provoking you into certain action. Sadly that is what most of us do, instead of rebuking the picture you permit it and begin to fight and struggle with the desire and actions that it is trying to provoke in you. Can't you see that the sinful desire and action is result from of that picture you are entertaining? As long as that picture is there that desire will be there, and you can fight it all you want but you are only deceiving yourself.

While some would embrace the picture and fight the desire and action, others would embrace the picture and the desire that comes with it and then start fighting the action it is suggesting. You are nurturing the desire yet struggling not to carry out the action, isn't that deceiving yourself? They would say, “As long as I have not carried out the action I have not sinned.” That's not true, the moment you embrace that desire you are guilty of the sin.

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call

someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell... You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matt 5:21-22,28).

"Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart." (1John 3:15).

It's hypocrisy! If you know it is a bad thing why not fight it all the way? Why nurture the desire at all, or even accept the picture. Humans are only concern about physical things, so they don't feel they have done anything bad until they actually carry out the action physically. But God is greatly concerned about the heart; He is concern about what you do in your heart. Why did you accept that picture, why did you give yourself to that desire? You should guard your heart, reject every picture and cast down every imagination that is not Christ, but do not leave your mind idle afterwards, fix it on that which is in Christ.

The Power Of The Pictures

Each picture comes with a certain desire, and once you embrace a picture and fix your eyes on it your heart becomes flooded with the desire that comes with that picture. Then immediately there is a war in your heart, and at some point you will end up giving yourself to that desire and sin is then conceived in your heart. If a picture that provokes anger appears in your mind, and you didn't rebuke it but entertain it, it would unleash a horde of firing wrath into your heart, it will take your heart captive, and cause you to take actions that you will later regret.

Just as these bad pictures come with bad desires, the picture that is in alignment with Christ comes with its own desires. When you withdraw from the bad pictures and fix your eyes on the Sabbath, allow yourself feel that rest, let your heart be flooded by that feeling of safety and security in Christ, be apprehended by that confidence that comes with the authority that you have as a son. You are seated far above all things, you are no slave to your flesh, feel that power, let that confidence flood your heart.

The mistake that some people make is that they will be looking at the picture that brings sin while telling themselves, "I cannot sin, sin is dead, this... and that..." You are only deceiving yourself, you must rebuke that picture first and replace it with the picture of the Sabbath that was gotten from the revelation of Christ, then fix your eyes on that which is Christ, fix your eyes on this Sabbath and allow your heart be flooded by the feelings and desires that resides in the Sabbath. Once these things flood your heart then you will want to do works of righteousness rather than commit that sin.

The battle is won in the heart; once you have lost the battle in the heart, then you have lost completely. Therefore we should pay more attention to the heart, be attentive enough to know when a wrong imagination or picture has presented itself to your heart, and start fighting right from that moment, don't wait till it has unleash a horde of sinful desires into your heart.

The Lands And There Realities

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Gal 5:16-17).

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Rom 8:6-8).

There in the Christian lies two realities; there is the carnal man, and then the indwelling Christ, or as Paul puts it, there is the flesh and the Spirit. We are to walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh; to live by the indwelling Christ and not by the carnal man. So how do we live by the indwelling Christ (the divine nature of God in you)?

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth

fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:1-5,8).

"For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death." (Rom 7:5).

When you abide in Christ, you will bear living fruits, fruit of the Spirit. But when you are in the flesh, you bear fruit unto death—these are two realities. When you are in Iceland, you will experience the cold life over there. You will have to dress in certain ways, and you will be forced to live a certain lifestyle. But when you are in tropical Africa, it is a completely different reality, you will wear different clothes than that in Iceland, you will live in a different way. When you abide in Christ you are forced to experience a different life. It comes naturally; you will just find yourself acting in certain ways because of the reality in this Land (Christ).

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him."(1John 3:5-6).

This Land (Christ) has no sin in it, so when you are in this Land you can't sin, it's not possible. You cannot be experiencing the scorching heat of Sahara when you are in Antarctica. Sin only exists in the flesh, the land of the carnal man, and when you abide in that land you will experience sin and all kinds of perversion. And the only way to stop experiencing it is to move to the other Land (the indwelling Christ).

As long as you are in the flesh sin will come hard after you. You can choose to stay there, fighting the sin and eventually be taken captive, or you can choose to escape to the Land

where sin does not exist, yes the Land of your deliverance (salvation). In the previous chapter I explained that Christ dwell in your heart by faith in the knowledge of him. The Land of Sabbath as manifested in your heart is composed of the knowledge of Christ; it is Christ dwelling in you.

You are to abide in this land by fixing your eyes on it, throughout the day your eyes should be fixed on Christ (both the revelation and the person of Christ). However, as you continue to interact with this sinful world, unholy pictures will rush upon you (remember I said pictures are how you interact with the world), and it can be so overwhelming that you lose yourself in all that and wonder off into the flesh—all of these might happen quite unconsciously.

Unholy pictures brings you into the flesh, it causes you to experience life in the land of the flesh with all its sinful desires and temptations. Immediately you realize this, escape back into the land of your salvation—the Sabbath. Just as unholy pictures brings you into the flesh, the imaginations that are products of the reality in Christ will bring you into the Spirit, into the indwelling Christ, that Land where you experience the reality of rest from sin. You don't have to deny the reality in one land in order to experience the reality of the other land. You don't have to deny the existence of heat in order to experience the cold of Antarctica. If you want to experience the cold of Antarctica simply move over there. You can't be in the Sahara and hope that if you keep telling yourself, "heat does not exist, heat does not exist", then suddenly you will stop feeling the scorching heat—it's just foolishness.

If you want to experience a different reality, then move to a different land. I am saying all these because of those who are busy telling themselves that sin does not exist, hoping that if they say it long enough, it will stop existing for them. Yes sin does not exist in Christ, but as long as you are in the flesh sin exists and it will harm you, you need to get in the Land of Sabbath. The way to enjoy victory over sin is not by murmuring words to yourself, you need to learn to abide in the Sabbath.

We do not know how to abide in Christ, we find ourselves in the flesh and we don't know how to shift back to the spirit and experience the reality there, as a result we have Christians who will remain in the flesh and be battling with sin, and they become boosted up with pride because of the seemingly success they have, not knowing that they are already defeated. Then there are those who will remain in the flesh and be busy denying that sin

exists; foolishly burying their head in the sand and living a pretence world. No, escape to the Land of your salvation and abide there.

We are not called to fight with sin or deny that sin exist, we are called to abide in the Sabbath, remain within the wall of salvation. Victory has been won already, you need not win another victory, just abide in the victory that Christ has won for you.

CHAPTER 5

Flourishing In The Sabbath

We have learnt about the Sabbath, how to have it manifested in our heart, how to abide in it and escape into it, and now we would look at how to prosper in the practice of abiding in the Sabbath. It is one thing to have something, while it is another thing to prosper in it. We want to come to a place where we are rich with the riches of Christ, prospering in the exploration of his riches. I promised that this book would be short, and it is already getting longer than I expected, so let's jump right into it.

Growing Conscious Of The Happenings In Your Heart

The secret to prospering and flourishing in the practice of the Sabbath as explained in this book is to become very conscious of the happenings in your heart. It is clear that God cares a lot about what is in the heart than the physical appearance (1Sam 16:7); if this is true then we ought to be concerned more about the heart and the things going on there. As humans we can get so carried away and overwhelmed by all these things we see going on in our physical world that we ignore what is going on in the heart. We do not realise how things are coming into our hearts and what we are doing with them. So it is so easy for our heart to deceive us, you will think everything is fine and all right, and you will not notice your heart holding on to that perverse thing.

A true spiritual man doesn't get so overwhelmed by the outside world that he fails to recognise his heart and its interactions with the spirit. The hearts of many of us are so influenced and controlled by our interactions with the physical world, but that's very carnal.

As Christians, we are called to live from above, to manifest heaven (which is in the spirit) on earth. You cannot manifest something that you are not conscious of, something that does not influence you. I wrote a lot about these things in my previous book, "Christ; The Christian Spirituality". Please get the book and read it; I believe it will greatly help you understand these things and practise them.

You grow more conscious of your heart through practice, yes practice. It might be difficult at first and you might want to give up; you might find yourself failing and failing, often so lost in the overwhelmingness of the physical world that you completely forget that you are practicing being conscious of your heart. Yes, it can get really frustrating, but that's just life, that is how we learn. We keep trying and trying, growing each time, and with persistence, courage and a positive attitude we come into mastery. Mastering anything in this life is not easy but that will not stop us from not developing any skill in life. How would you survive without developing yourself? If this is true of the natural world, it is also true in kingdom matters.

Most often we are so quick to give up on the things of the Spirit, but you must get rid of that attitude and be full of faith, be hopeful, be confident, this is who you are, you are a spiritual man, born of the Spirit, you are not carnal, press into the reality of who you are. Become so conscious of your heart that it becomes easier to guard it, preventing it from being influenced by the things of the world but the things of heaven.

Dealing With Temptation

So what do you do when temptation comes? If you have been reading this book carefully, you would have gotten an answer to that. Temptation comes as pictures presented in our minds, once you entertain it, accept it and allow it enter into your heart it fills your heart with sinful desires.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” (Rev 3:20).

Just as Jesus is knocking at the door in the verse above, temptations comes knocking at the door of your heart through the pictures presented in your mind. You are not to begin struggling with these pictures or thoughts, trying to attain some kind of victory. Whatever victory you need have already been provided by Christ, all you are to do is come into that victory, come into the Sabbath and rest. You come into it by firstly rebuking that sin provoking picture, and please do not spend so much time rebuking, it is unnecessary, the flesh is very tricky, you might say to yourself, 'let me rebuke this thing first', and from rebuking you are tempted to fight, struggling to win a battle that has already been won. You have authority as a son; use that authority to command immediate evacuation.

You need not wait till that picture has totally fled, just accept by faith that it is gone, and then move on to fix your eyes on Christ. Bring in that picture of the Sabbath that I asked you to create out of the revelation of Christ, and fix your eyes on it, let yourself be overwhelmed with the reality of it. Be overwhelmed with that feeling that you are dead to sin, you have lost the ability to sin, you don't know how to respond to sinful desires, you have lost the energy that it requires, you simply can't, you are no long a slave to sin, you are free now, and how sweet is this feeling of freedom, you won't trade it for anything in the world. Look around you and see the walls that surround you, no sin can get you here no matter how powerful it may be, you are at home, you are safe, feel rest overwhelming your heart, and then look at the One with whom you are at rest with. Yes, look at God, he is all that matters, focus on relationship with Him, how much he loves you and how much you long for Him, just enjoy Him and love Him back.

The Sabbath was created for our enjoyment, that we might enjoy this sweet relationship with God. In this Sabbath there is love everywhere, all over the air, just breathe in sweet love and it would flood your heart. And whatever that temptation may be, it is overtaken by that love; if it is anger, it will turn into love and forgiveness becomes easy, if it is jealousy, envy or hate you will feel love for that person and you will want the best for him/her, if it is lust for a person it would turn into the Father's love, and you would be like, 'Awww, look at Daddy's sweetheart'.

Connecting with the heart of the Father concerning a person might even cause you to get a prophetic word for him/her, or you might desire the salvation of his/her soul, you might grow a real concern for this person, and rather than being filled with perverse thoughts you are filled with genuine love and concern about the real person, not just the physical appearance, but the heart, the soul. If it is lust for a thing you are suddenly filled with satisfaction, for God's love for you is enough, it is everything. If it is pride it just fades as you begin to put others first, considering them, growing a concern for them rather than just yourself, caring about others, about their feelings and loving them. Whatever the temptation may be it can be overtaken by the reality in Christ and the love of God, then you must walk in that reality and express that love.

As you practise this much often, you can get to a place where your eyes is so fixed on the Sabbath that you do not see any other thing. Temptations are dancing before your eyes but you do not see them, you don't even notice them, you are just caught up in the reality of Christ, ravished by the love of God. However, these things would take time to master, it takes skills to quickly shift into the reality in Christ and abide in it, but thank God skills can be developed. So go ahead and begin to develop that skill, labour to abide in the rest (Heb 4:11).

Don't Leave A Vacant Space

Something you need to note is that you are not to leave a vacant space, and that is why the Sabbath is there. Some people can become so good at rebuking sin and casting down imaginations that they start feeling all powerful, and then they relax. Yes, there is the temptation to just relax and rest in your ability to rebuke sin, we are not called to rest in our abilities, we are called to rest in the Sabbath that God died to give us. You are not to cast down the wrong imagination and relax, you need to withdraw into the Sabbath, fix your eyes on Christ. You cannot express Christ until your eye is fixed on him, and the Christian life is a life of expressing Christ.

This thing is not all about defeating sin, and once you have defeated sin you are satisfied, no! Some people only care about getting rid of their guilt, but it is much more than that, the cross has already gotten rid of our guilt, we are not striving for victory over sin just so we

can get rid of our guilt. What we really want is to become who we are, we are sons, and sons live above sins, that is why we are striving for this thing, we want to be free to be who we are. So after we've cast down these wrong imaginations we get occupied with Christ in the Land of the Sabbath, enjoying a relationship with God. It is dangerous to leave a vacant space, Jesus spoke about the danger of leaving a vacant space.

“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.” (Matt 12:43-45).

When you cast down an impure imagination and leave the place vacant and clean, then more will come, evil ones worse than before. If you are feeling all powerful and still continue in casting down these other ones that came, it will only multiply and keep multiplying till you are defeated. No matter how strong you are, without the Sabbath you will surely fall, don't rely on your own strength, escape into the Sabbath and abide there. I asked you to create an imagination out of the revelation of Christ for very important reasons; you should not cast it aside saying in your heart, “I don't do imagination, that's childish”.

Just as the impure spirits that were cast out must be replaced with the Holy Spirit, the impure imaginations must be replaced with a holy imagination, that which is of Christ. Do not be deceived, we all live by our imagination, and that's just how humans were designed, we interact with the outside world through pictures formed in our minds. There are always pictures, you are always imagining things in your heart, and you must accept this as a fact and take control of your imagination in order to ensure that your eyes are filled with light so that the whole of your being would be filled with light.

Avoid Excuses, Procrastination And Casting Blames

I know how it feels to be entangled in a sin, we tend to procrastinate and give excuses, saying things such as, “Well, I will deal with the sin, but first let me do this... and that... Let me attain this... When I have enough time to concentrate and focus, then I will deal with it... Oh, I need to keep up with the lie until...” No, you must deal with it now. We tend to run away from our problems; we don’t want to muster up the boldness to face these things. This sin issue is not a thing you should procrastinate, for now is the hour of salvation (2Cor 6:2).

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and every expression of evil, and humbly accept the word planted in your heart, which can save your souls.” (James 1:21).

Accept these words now and start practicing them for the salvation of your soul; the salvation is already perfected in the spirit but you need it to be fully established in your soul (your heart). The Sabbath as describe in this book (both the revelation itself and the imagination created out of that revelation) will help establish this salvation in your soul. There is work to be done on your soul for salvation and it requires accepting the word, so accept it now, embrace it with joy and start practicing these things, salvation is now, there is no time for excuses.

There is also no time for throwing blames, saying things like, “It’s not my fault, it’s the nature of my job, it’s my country, I have to eat, and I have to survive... It’s the government, it’s my teachers, it’s my parents, it’s my wife/husband, and I just don’t have any choice.” Let’s not deceive ourselves, there is always a choice, we just don’t want to make the hard choice so we flow with the current and say, “I don’t have a choice”. You are not to compare yourself with somebody else and say, “This guy is doing it, and he is a pastor... It’s all a lie, nobody is perfect.” Once the Holy Spirit has shine is light on something in your life, and is calling your attention to it, demanding that you turn from it, don’t argue and don’t give excuses, just repent and rest in the Sabbath.

Repentance And Determination

Now you know what to do, would you do it? Would you turn away from your sins and start working toward experiencing life in the Sabbath? The things of the flesh can appear sweet, pleasurable and quite comforting. It is more convenient to settle in the wilderness, there we have the grace of God, Manna falls from heaven and nobody is fighting us, demanding the land where we lay our heads. Yes, it is much easier to settle with sin and tell yourself that grace is covering you, but we are called to experience the Christian life in the Sabbath, and if you have accepted the Christian life, then you have accepted the call to strive, fight and labour to enter into the Land of Sabbath and settle there.

You made a decision that day you gave your life to Jesus, you made him your Lord and saviour, you turned away from your sins, so stand on that repentance. I had explained that repentance is making a decision to turn away from sins immediately the Holy Spirit shines his light on it. I know there are sins that we do not know about; as you continue to maintain that close walk with the Holy Spirit he would shine the light on these sins so you can see them and repent from them. Repentance involves hardening your heart towards these sins.

So you learn to rebuke the imaginations or pictures that bring about these sins and then harden your heart towards them. The more you harden your heart the more the surrounding walls are reinforced, for you are to remain within the walls of the Sabbath. How then do you get to this place where your heart is hardened towards sin and you are left to enjoy the Sabbath? You start with a determination in your heart every morning when you wake up; a determination to abide in the Sabbath no matter what. When I just got born again, every morning I would determine in my heart not to commit any sin that day, but then I realised that it only made me sin-conscious.

We want to be Christ-conscious not sin-conscious, Christ is the Sabbath (Col 2:6-7), and so we would wake up every morning with a determination in our hearts to keep our eyes fixed on Sabbath throughout the day and harden our heart against anything outside the Sabbath. Our goal is to ensure that the walls of Sabbath are reinforced in our heart so that we are free to enjoy this wonderful Sabbath that God has given us. Although the walls in the spirit are perfectly strong and impenetrable, but we want these things manifested in our hearts. It

is not enough to have it in the spirit; we must have it alive in our hearts exactly as it is in the spirit. The walls in the spirit are impenetrable therefore we must have impenetrable walls in our heart. We must have a heart so harden to sin that it has become impervious to these sins.

You wake up every morning with a determination to abide in the Sabbath and throughout the day you are training your eyes to stay fixed on Christ, for he is all that matters. As you practise this your mind will become so fixed on Christ that you even when sin provoking pictures are dancing before your eyes you do not see them, you may be look at them but all you are see is the Sabbath. The human eye is like that, you can be look at something and yet not see it; there are times that your mind is so fixed on a thought and then you are looking for something on the table and you can't find it, the thing is right there before your eyes yet you keep looking for it. Our mind eye can be super fixed on the Sabbath (on Christ) that we do not notice the sin provoking pictures or events dancing before our eyes.

Fight Each Battle Like It Is The Last

This is part of the determination that I discussed above; you must have resolve in your heart like a soldier in battle. One deception that the devil puts in our head is the thought, "Just give in today, then tomorrow you can repent and start fighting it... Just today, only this once, yes one more time, this last time... this would be the final one... no, this one is different... you can always repent and start anew". No, do not give in to such deception, instead respond this way, "Just today, let me walk in victory today... if only I can stand in victory this once". Fight each battle like it's the last.

The thought of living a sinless life can be very overwhelming, "Is it possible? To keep fighting and fighting temptations and never make a mistake once, is it possible?" Forget about all that, focus on one battle at a time; just one battle, that very one in front of you, if only you can stand in the victory of the Lord just this once. Yes, "Just this once, just this once", and then step by step you have gotten to a place where your heart has become hardened to these sins and you are just busy enjoying Sabbath.

Like they say, 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step', if you are thinking about how far a thousand miles is you will become too stunned to take a single step, you might even give up, telling yourself that it is all pointless. But if you could focus on one step at a time, "Just this once", and then you will find yourself there, at the very end of a journey that seem impossible.

So develop that mentality, "Just this once, if only I can remain standing just this once". Fight every battle like it is the last, for we are not fighting to win we are fighting to remain standing on the victory that Christ have already won for us.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph 6:12).

Refreshing The Revelation

One final thing I would like to add is that you must learn to sustain the revelation of Christ that you've gotten. Remember that everything is based on the revelation of Christ, this whole Sabbath thing is build on the revelation of Christ, and just as memories fade away over time, revelation can also fade away over time. We take pictures and keep souvenirs to perverse memories; in the Old Testament God asked the people to celebrate events, hold feasts and have certain holidays, He also asked them to erect rocks, make altars, and do all these things just to preserve certain revelation of Himself.

In the Old Testament, they carry out their worship on the altars and these altars are erected at the revelation of God. The Altar of worship always spring forth from the revelation of Christ. The first time altar appeared in the Bible was when God unveiled His supremacy to man. Man had gone astray; they had rebelled against their Creator and they were living their lives for themselves. They had no regard for the One who created them and they did whatever they like with their lives. Then God came and reminded them He created them and their lives were in His hands. He did this by wiping them away from the surface of the earth, sparing only a family to be a witness of His supremacy, and then Noah erected an altar.

The altar was erected out of the revelation of the supremacy of God. The second time altar appeared in the Bible it stated;

“Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” And Abram built an altar there and dedicate it to the Lord, who had appeared to Him.” (Gen 12:7).

Here is God revealing Himself to Abram and giving him a word, and what did Abram do? He immediately built an altar there, dedicating it to the Lord who appeared to him and to the word that the Lord gave to him, so that each time he sees that altar or carries out worship on it, it would be in remembrance of that day that God appeared to him and gave him a word. After that, the word altar appeared again in the Bible when God revealed Himself to Isaac and gave Him a word, then Isaac built an altar there and worshiped God.

“The Lord appeared to him on the night of his arrival. “I am the God of your father, Abraham,” He said. “Do not be afraid for I am with you and will bless you. I will multiply your descendant, and they will become a great nation. I will do this because of my promise to Abraham, my servant.” Then Isaac built an altar there and worshiped the Lord.” (Gen 26:24-25).

Notice that it is the same word that God gave to Abraham, but this word has become a personal revelation to Isaac because God spoke it directly to him, and as a result he must build an altar from this revelation and worship God on it. Worship is what I am trying to get at, I am not saying you should start building physical altars everywhere, no that is the Old Testament, our covenant is a spiritual one and does not involve building physical altars, rather we come to Mount Zion, into the heavenly Jerusalem where Christ himself is the altar. The point I am driving at is that you do not just worship God simply because you are in a church service and it is worship time, or because everybody is doing it. Worship has to come from the revelation that God has given you.

Worship is based on the revelation of Christ, and each time you carry out this worship you are doing it in remembrance of that revelation. As you are worshipping you are fixing your mind on this revelation, magnifying it in your heart, allowing your heart become so flooded by it that you even become drunk in the spirit, burning with the passion of the holy fire of the altar. Practising this would help to make that revelation fresh again in your heart like the day you got it. The stronger that revelation is, the clearer you can see it in your mind eye, and then it becomes easier for you to abide in it.

Those revelations that make up the Sabbath, you cannot afford to allow it fade, it must be kept fresh and new in your heart always, otherwise you will lose hold of the Sabbath. So develop a habit of worshipping God in remembrance of these revelations, do it as often as you can, let the revelation of Christ always be alive in you and you will continue to walk in victory.

CONCLUSION

Beyond The Sabbath

The Christian life is beyond just living above sin, there is so much more riches in Christ that you ought to be exploring. I mentioned that one of the secret to living above sin is being occupied with Christ, exploring his riches. You need a close walk with him where he presents the cross to you and teach you to live the crucified life, and you need to know the indwelling Christ. Christ lives in you and you must be awakened to his person and not just some revelation of him. Revelation is nice and good but you need to know this person as a tangible thing, living in you.

“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” (1Cor 1:24).

When you come to know him as a person, a tangible thing inside you, then it becomes easier to grow into oneness with him; oneness with the power of God, the wisdom of God, the righteousness of God, the nature of God, the knowledge of God, the glory of God, and the whole fullness of God. Yes, we can come into oneness with the fullness of God in a real way. I am teaching a course on **Oneness With God** and it is a very practical one, if you want to join it is completely free, you can reach me on Whatsapp; +2348103727677 or on Facebook; [facebook.com/david.emechete](https://www.facebook.com/david.emechete)

Although it is free, but it is not for everyone, for you must have a teachable spirit and an intense hunger for the deep things of Christ. It will radically revolutionise not just your

Christian life but your whole life, so if you are not ready to have things change don't bother joining. May we continue to grow in all the riches of Christ!

Centrality And Supremacy Of Christ

There are many ways out there, many religions or method, there are many things that 'works', depending on what you define as 'work'. Just because something is working doesn't make is Christian, if you are after what works then you don't necessarily have to be a Christian. But if you are a Christian and you want to remain a Christian, then you must be after that which is Christian, and that which is Christian is that which has Christ centred and supreme. He is the one who fills all in all, but first he must fill his body with himself (Eph 1:20-22). If he must be Lord over all, then he must first be Lord over his body. So we must have Christ not just at the centre of all things Christian, but he must fill all in all, and we must also have him Lord and supreme over all that is Christian. Until we have this, we have not truly practiced the Christianity that is after God's heart. You can be a part of the mission to see Christ centred and supreme in all things Christian by subscribing to my blog and helping to spread the message @ hiswordxray.com

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