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July 23, 2009

**GOD is
LOVE
Mini-Book
Part 4**

Published for:

HANDS FOR JESUS
P.O. BOX 18655
MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

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Introduction

This is Part 4 of a series of Mini-books on **“God is Love.”** This series is not the same as the larger book titled **“God is Love.”** The larger book focuses upon “why God created man in His own likeness and image.”? The larger book is available by downloading from our Web sites at:

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This series of Mini-books will focus upon “God and His love for mankind.” If we do not know God by His love, we do not truly know God. **“...For God is Love”** (1 John 4:8).

For those who have not read the first three parts of this series of Mini-books, it would be very helpful for them if they were to get them and read them first. There is a lot of information in the first three parts that is not covered in this part.

GOD IS LOVE

Part 4

God's love is not the same as human love. God's love is unconditional and it only operates when God is involved. People who are not born again into the family of God do not have God's love abiding in them. Therefore, they cannot love God or others with the "unconditional love of God."

When a person truly receives Jesus as LORD and Savior of their lives they become "**born again**" of the Word and the Spirit. In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, "**Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**" In John 3:6 it says, "**...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**" By this we know that there are two spiritual elements that bring about a new spiritual birth. The Son of God (Jesus Christ), is "**the Word of God**" (John 1:1; 1 John 5:7). The Holy Spirit is the "**Spirit of God.**" Therefore, we are born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit into "**the Body of Christ**" (2 Cor. 5:17).

This is a demonstration of the love of God. God loves us so much that we are true children of God born again of God into the body of Christ. This is the true love of God making us one with God in the Spirit.

When we receive Jesus as LORD, and Savior, besides the new birth the Holy Spirit gives us "**a new heart**" (Ezek. 11:19, 36:26). The Holy Spirit also translates us into the Body of Christ, by which we become "**a new creature in Christ**" (2 Cor. 5:17). We are no longer in the flesh of Adam, but in the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 15:22).

When all of this happens in the life of an individual, we also receive "**the fruit of the Spirit,**" which is given to us by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23, Rom. 5:5). The first of the nine fruit of the Spirit is God's unconditional love. God gives us His love, to live by and obtain all that God has for us. When we walk in the love of God, God manifests His works through us.

Also, when a person is born again into the family of God, they receive the fullness of the Godhead in them. They receive the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three of these abide in every born again Christian.

But what many do not understand is that "these three" abide in us is because of the love of God that He has for people whom He created in His own likeness and image. When someone truly loves someone, they desire to be with the ones whom they love. God truly desires to be with His Children. Therefore God dwells in those who are born again.

Yet, the Devil has blinded the minds of many concerning "Christians abiding in the Holy Spirit." It is one thing for the Holy Spirit to abide in a Christian, but it is another thing for a Christian to abide in the Holy Spirit.

Before a Christian is baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit abides in them. But, they do not abide in the Holy Spirit. To abide in the Holy Spirit a Christian needs the baptism in the Holy Spirit after they have been born again "of the Holy Spirit." When a Christian is baptized in the Holy Spirit, they are "submerged in the Holy Spirit." It is not just the Holy Spirit abiding in them as it was with the new birth. But, it is "themselves abiding in the anointing, which is the Holy Spirit" (1 John 2:27).

When we abide in the anointing, the Holy Spirit teaches us all things. If we do not abide in the anointing (which is in us by the baptism in the Holy Spirit), the Holy Spirit cannot teach us all things. We need the baptism in the Holy Spirit to be taught by God.

There is only one way to be taught how to live in the Spirit, and that way is to be taught by the Holy Spirit Himself, whom God has sent to be our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader, and Teacher. Sending the Holy Spirit to teach us is a true expression of the love of God. God knows that men cannot teach men the ways of life in the Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us how to live in the Spirit.

God is love, and **“Love suffers long and is kind...”** (1 Cor. 13:4). God never forces anyone to do anything. If we want to receive from God all that He has already provided for us, we must come to God. We must be taught by God. We must live the way we are taught by God, not the way men tell us we should live.

God has given us **“His Word”** and the **“Holy Spirit”** that we can know the truth and abide in Him (in God). As we abide in God and live according to the instructions God has given us, we will succeed in life. Everything we have need of will be provided by a working of the Holy Spirit within us.

Even though God’s love is unconditional, the way we receive from God is conditional. God tells us His conditions in His Word, so we can receive and benefit from all that God has done for us.

There are two major conditions set forth in the Word of God that we must learn and follow. One is, **“...the just shall live by faith”** (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). The other one is, **“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”** (Ga 5:25).

It is interesting to notice that both of these conditions operate from our spirit, not from our natural mind of the flesh. Our natural mind will not agree with walking by faith or walking after the Spirit. Our natural mind still wants to be in control of all that we do. When we are in control of what we do, we are walking by sight and not by faith.

There is a connection between the flesh and the Spirit. We have a physical body and also a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:44). Our spiritual body and our natural body normally go together, but not always. When our natural body dies on this earth we will go to be with the LORD in our spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:44) Therefore, our natural body and our spiritual body can be separated at times, and we can still remain here on earth.

I experienced the separation of my natural body from my spiritual body one time. In 1979, on a Sunday after Church I sat on my living room davenport, and suddenly, I found myself in the sky, standing on a large white fluffy cloud. I was shown my personal wealth and accomplishments, and the attempts of others trying to gain personal gain and reputation. During that time, I saw a bright light shining down from heaven and a voice spoke to me, saying, *“all of this will pass away, the only thing that will matter is your relationship to Me.”* I knew that was the voice of the LORD, but I did not see Him at that time.

This experience took at least fifteen minutes. During that time my youngest son came into the house and tried to talk to me, asking for the keys to my vehicle to get my tools to fix his bicycle. When I did not respond to him, he then took the keys out from my pocket and went and opened my vehicle. Then he returned and tried to awake me again to tell me he had gotten the tools from my vehicle, but he could not get any response from me. He put the keys in my pocket and went out to work on his bicycle.

After I was back in my body, I saw my two boys working on their bicycles and I asked them, **“how did you get the tools out of my vehicle?”** Then they told me what happened, and how my youngest son asked for the keys but could not get any response from me when he first came, and

again when he brought the keys back.

These kinds of experiences are not unusual for Christians. Many Christians have had all kinds of experiences “out of their natural bodies,” at times in their lives. In another case, a person in the ministry received a letter from a woman who said, while she was in a hospital he came into her room and prayed for her and she was healed. When this individual had received the letter, he checked his past travels and found that he was in Florida at the time this woman said she was healed in the hospital in a country in south Asia.

Quite some time later he was in that country and the woman met him and took him to the hospital where she was healed, and he talked with the doctor that attended to her at that time. The woman was healed according to the Doctor and it was not anything the Doctor did to bring about her healing.

What is happening in the spiritual realm is beyond human understanding. God is using Christians in many ways that they cannot understand in their natural mind. Therefore, we need to be taught by the Holy Spirit to understand spiritual things.

In John 20:29, Jesus said to Thomas “**...because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**” If Christians want to be blessed, they must believe without seeing. The Holy Spirit works in our lives according to what we believe, not according to what we see with our natural eyes. God is moved by our faith, not our natural abilities.

In Philippians 2:13 it says, “**...it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**” From the time we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is working in us to do the will of God. He knows how to work all things together for our good (our good is the perfect will of God). When God’s will is being done in our lives, it is the Holy Spirit working all things together for us (even without our understanding).

Years ago, shortly after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, I decided I wanted to go to a meeting that was being held not too far from where I lived. I closed my business early that evening to get to the meeting. I arrived just as the praise and worship was ending.

Shortly after I arrived the person ministering called me up. He began to speak to me concerning the work I would be doing in the ministry. I had no idea what was about to be revealed to me at that time. When I decided to go to the meeting, I did not expect to be called out and spoken to by the minister in charge.

While he was speaking to me, he said, “*Brother Merle, the ministry work the LORD is calling you to is not what you think. It is not like anything you know about. When it happens, you will know it is the LORD. You will know what it is, there will be no question.*”

I did not have any idea of what type of ministry work I would be doing until the following Sunday night about 1:00am. I awoke with a great desire to write. It seemed I continued to write and write with no desire to stop.

Before this time I had never written any books, and had never thought about writing books. The idea never came to me until that Sunday evening when I awoke about 1:00am. From that day forth, even until now I have written more than 100 books. The anointing to write has continued for more than twenty-five years.

God’s will for our lives may not be known until the anointing comes upon us. When the anointing comes, we know it is God and not ourselves. It is not something we wanted to do, but something we enjoy doing because of the anointing within us.

All we are is a vessel for the Holy Spirit to use to do the will of God here on earth. It is not by our ability, but by the ability of the anointing within us. When the anointing flows you know it is not you. All you need to do is move, or open your mouth and the Holy Spirit will take over. It is not the natural man, it is the anointing within you that does the work.

God is our Father, and God is love. God does things in our lives without first asking our permission. Just like a good father does for his children, God does things for us long before we know what He is doing.

A good father will always want to encourage his children and let them know he cares about them. God does things in our lives to encourage us and let us know He loves us. God uses us in many different ways, that He can establish His works in our lives to help others.

God is love, and God's love in us always prefers others before ourselves. God prefers us before Himself. God could do things without involving us. But, God prefers to use His Children to work through them to accomplish His will here on earth.

This is the true love of God, working through others to accomplish His will. As it says in Philippians 2:13, **"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."** God loves us so much that He wants us to be a part of what He is doing here on earth.

Understand, God did not ask us what He should do before He created all things in the beginning. We did not know when we would be born into this world. We did not know what country we would be born in or who our parents would be.

But what God did do when He created mankind was that He created us in His own likeness and image so that He could work in us and through us to make all things work together for our good (Rom. 8:28).

That is love, the kind of love God has for those who love Him. God is for us not against us (Rom. 8:31). Being for us, God works from within us to do His will. From our spirit, God gives us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

When we have peace in our spirit, we know all is well between us and God. But, when there is unrest, or a sick feeling in our spirit we know that God is letting us know that the demonic forces of this world are trying to deceive us. This is one way God helps us and leads us in the right direction in our lives.

Another way God works for us and helps us is in bringing to remembrance those things He has already taught us. Jesus said in John 14:26, **"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."**

Throughout the Gospels Jesus taught a lot of things that we need to understand and remember. The Holy Spirit within us will bring these things to our remembrance, that we can have victory over the works of the enemy in our lives. Let me give an example of the Holy Spirit bringing to remembrance what Jesus taught.

In Luke 18:1 it says, **"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."** In this parable, Jesus told about a widow who continually came to a judge asking that he would avenge her of her adversary. The unjust judge said, **"because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me"** (Luke 18:5).

Then Jesus said to his disciples, **"...Hear what the unjust judge saith...And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?...I**

tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:6-8).

When Christians understand this parable, then the Holy Spirit can bring this to remembrance when we have situations in our lives that just seem to take a long time to get results. Some teach that if you pray more than once, you are not praying in faith. Yet, Jesus never said that. Jesus Himself prayed twice for a man who was blind Mark 8:22-26.

Praying is not always asking God to do something. Praying includes demanding that something is done to correct a situation in our lives. It is not wrong to continually demand healing in your body until you receive total restoration of whatsoever you have need of. You can command healing in your body in the name of Jesus. Healing is rightfully yours by the stripes that Jesus bore for us. Sometimes we continually command healing until the condition is restored. The Holy Spirit will remind us at times to continually command healing in our bodies.

Let me give just one example of a time I was reminded to continually command healing in my body. One morning after getting up, while I was taking a shower, I noticed that when I was washing my leg, I did not have any feeling in my leg bone between the knee and the ankle on my right leg. It felt like the bone was dead. Yet, I did not have any lack of circulation in my foot. Therefore, I thought it was not a blocked blood vessel. I didn't know what it was or why I did not have any feeling in that part of my leg.

After taking my shower I started to pray in the Spirit, and ask the Holy Spirit what is causing the problem in my leg. For some reason or other, I did not seem to get a clear answer as to what the cause was. I kept commanding healing in my leg, but nothing was happening. Then I mentioned it to a brother in the LORD and he called a chiropractor friend of his and mentioned it to him. His friend said to tell me to put a cold pack on my back. I didn't do that, but that evening as I was laying in bed on my right side, and I began to turn over to lay on my left side, as I turned there was a sharp pain in my back just above the pelvic bone and a loud pop sound. By this I knew, the problem in my leg was caused by something in my lower back.

I began commanding healing in my lower back. I did not just command healing once. I commanded healing a number of times, for days. It seemed nothing happened at first. But I continued to command healing in my back every day. About a week later I noticed that the area where it seemed the bone in my leg was dead began to have feeling again. Every time I thought about that bone in my leg, I would command healing in my lower back. After about a month everything was back to normal. There was total feeling in my leg. I did not go to a doctor or chiropractor and I did not take any medication. I just continually commanded healing in my back until I had the evidence that I was healed.

This was not the first time I had to command healing in my lower back. Years ago, one day when I was getting out of bed I had pain in my lower back. I knew that there was something wrong with my lower back, so the first thing I did was I asked the LORD to adjust my legs and pelvic bone for me. As I asked the LORD to adjust them, I watched and my legs went out and back in again and the pain was gone. The next day, the same thing happened, I had pain in my lower back again. So, I asked the LORD again to adjust my legs and pelvic bone for me. This time I did not see any change, but the pain did leave my back. Shortly after that, I had pain in my lower back again. This time, I laid my hand upon my lower back and commanded healing in my lower back in the name of Jesus. Within a day or two all pain was gone. I went for years without any pain in my lower back.

Then in the spring of one year when the temperature started getting hot outside I decided to put in my window air conditioner. When I was lifting it up to put it into the window, I got pain in my lower back from lifting with my back rather than with my legs. The first thing I did was put my hand on my back and commanded healing in my lower back in the name of Jesus. The pain did not leave immediately, but I knew the name of Jesus worked and I went about doing what I needed to do to finish installing the air conditioner. Sometimes, when the pain was still there I would put my hand on my lower back again and command healing in Jesus' name. Within a few days my back was completely healed.

The Holy Spirit within us will help us to remember what we have already been taught, and not to let someone tell us that we need to go to a doctor or chiropractor every time we have pain somewhere in our bodies. Jesus took all our infirmities, sicknesses, and diseases upon Himself for us. By His stripes we are healed (1 Peter 2:24).

God is love, He loves us so much that He has given us His Holy Spirit to help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us. The Holy Spirit abides in our spirit, working in us to do the will of God. From within our Spirit, the Holy Spirit brings to our remembrance those things that Jesus has already taught us.

Jesus said in Mark 11:22-24, **"...Have faith in God...For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith...Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."**

Therefore, the Holy Spirit reminds us that we need to speak to the things in our lives that hinder us, or cause problems. As we speak to the circumstances in our lives, God empowers our words that whatsoever we say will come to pass. We must believe we already have them before we pray. Then, when we pray we will receive them.

Yet, this does not change what Jesus taught in Luke, Chapter Eighteen. Mark 11:22-24 works in some instances, and Luke 18:1-8 works in other instances.

There are many things that Jesus taught that we need to be reminded of. As an example, in John 14:13,14, Jesus said, **"...whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son...If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."** This is asking in Jesus' name that we might receive whatsoever we have need of.

Another example is in Mark 16:17,18, where Jesus said, **"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."**

If we listen to the Holy Spirit within ourselves, we will know when to use many of the different teachings of Jesus on how to overcome the works of the Devil in our lives.

Let the Holy Spirit within you help you to know what to pray and how to pray. But, remember, Jesus taught that men ought always to pray (Luke 18:1).

For additional help in understanding the teaching of the Holy Spirit in our lives, download the free books, **"Taught by God,"** and **"From My Spirit,"** from our Web sites at:

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