



The Place Of Absolute

Dr. Apostle Herman Bibbs

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By

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THE PLACE OF ABSOLUTE

DEDICATION

To My Entire Loving Family,

Thank you for your love, dedication and support
throughout the many years.

Eternally Yours

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward	7
Acknowledgments	9
1 The Place Of Absolute	11
2 Except You Become As A Little Child	17
3 Defining Absolute	29
4 Intimacy	51
5 Faith	61
6 Pitfall Or Pit Stop	83
7 Why This Book	89
About The Author	93
Ministry Contact Information	95

FORWARD

The pleasure of supporting and acknowledging the spiritual depths and anointing of Dr. Apostle Herman Bibbs is an honor! I have heard the depths of Revelations of the Word and the spiritual journey he reveals under the inspiration of his wisdom in the Holy Spirit. A warrior in the Spirit and an Ambassador of Good Will that encourages the believer, he is the champion of Endurance and Tenacity! God Bless You and your endeavors!

Apostle Dr. Barbara A. Jenkins

Rainbow Tabernacle of Faith Ministries, Inc.
Winston-Salem, NC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bible says there would be "a falling away." Never, in more than 40 years of ministry have I ever witnessed what's taking place in the church now. This generation need this powerful book by Dr. Herman Bibbs more than ever before.

Dr. Bibbs, in this book is drawing on his 50 plus years of experience with God. He's releasing a timely and powerful revelation on relationship and intimacy with God, I don't personally know anyone more experienced than Dr. Bibbs to deliver such a word from God to the body of Christ.

Dr. Lord M. Hunt

The contents of this book presents a revelationist truth based upon biblical support of Bishop Herman Bibbs positive exposition, "The Place of Absolute." It is a must read for those seeking the objective of spiritual and natural perfection! I highly endorse and recommend the reading of it's well written contents. Your personal desire for righteous direction will be greatly rewarded with positive results!

Dr. Eddie Jernagin, M.B.S., D.D., D. Min.

CHAPTER 1

THE PLACE OF ABSOLUTE

In every person's mind there are certain moments in time that stand out more than others. These are memories of the past that, when thought about they cause us to look back and smile with pure delight.

The words of this poem remembered from my childhood, expresses just that. "Memory" is a photograph in the parlor of the mind. A vivid picture of the past.

Words and sunshine all combine. If you want a lovely picture, do good deeds along the way. For your photograph upon tomorrow depends on how you pose today."

Looking back, I think of a time when life seemed so simple. It was a time when I felt so safe and secure. It was my fortune to have loving parents that cared for me and worked hard to make sure my childhood was one of my greatest experiences. In my mind, as I revisit my childhood, some of my fondest memories are the summer evenings my sister and I would wait for my father to come home.

Each day would begin like any other day. In the morning you could smell the aroma of coffee coming from the kitchen. Daddy, for just one moment, would sit and gather his thoughts and sip on his coffee. Then, suddenly, with haste, realizing it was time to go, he would begin to gather his things. As he rushed through the house determined not to miss the bus, he would occasionally check the schedule he kept to make sure there were no changes, for it was important to him to always be on time.

Leaving the house, Daddy would lock the door, shaking it two or three times to make sure it was locked. Then, walking down the porch, he would be on his way. The daily walk to the bus line took approximately fifteen minutes and another day of work had begun. I remember so well the smell of Daddy's cheap cigar for it seemed you could smell the smoke a block away.

As he walked in the heat of the day, he would have a big handkerchief tied around his neck to catch the perspiration falling from his face. The short sleeved shirt he was wearing would be opened in front, allowing him to feel a small breeze on a hot summer day in Kansas. After an exciting, fun filled day, in the evening at about four o'clock, my mother would call us in from a day of playful activity to bathe and prepare for my

daddy's return. After our evening bath, my mother would let us sit on the porch, cautioning us not to get dirty again. During this time, we would play various games, sometimes with my mother to pass the time, but in great anticipation we would wait to smell Daddy's cigar and catch a glimpse of him turning the corner, coming down the hill.

Finally, one of us would see him and begin to shout, "Daddy's home, Daddy's home." Immediately looking back to get approval from my mother, we would take out running to meet him. In remembering now, as I write, I can still feel the excitement, confidence and trust we had knowing that although Daddy had left, he was returning. We would sit on the porch, daily, in expectation, and my Daddy, knowing that we would be waiting, tried his best to never disappoint us. He was always there, waiting with open arms for us to run up the hill to meet him. After reaching him, we would walk by his side, feeling so confident and protected, having complete trust in Daddy's ability to protect us.

It was apparent to us that there was nothing my daddy could not do and I believed my daddy, with his human limitations, would have done his best to live up to all our expectations. We had total faith and confidence in him. Our confidence was

not based on having ever seen him defeat anyone nor did he have a great muscular physique. But the love we felt as we ran to him and his loving embrace assured us seemingly that he would be always there.

This place of assurance is the place of absolute.

The confidence that little children have in their parents best exemplifies total trust. Children go about their daily activities not thinking about the problems, needs and disappointments of life. They live so unassuming and carefree, not worrying about a place to stay or food to eat.

They don't read the newspaper or watch TV to get the latest news weather report, or state of the economy. The changes in the weather to children are only an adventure, another opportunity to play. They walk, playfully in the rain trying to catch a rain drop or taste the water falling from the sky, or playing in the snow, making snowballs to have a snowball fight or rolling the snowball, allowing it to gather snow to make a snowman. They enjoy the sunshine to the fullest no matter how high the temperature or hot the day. It is only for them, another opportunity to play.

The changes in the weather have a different effect on an adult. We many times dread the changes because we now have responsibilities. There are

very few walks in the rain just to feel the rain drops. There are very few snowball fights and building snowmen from snow seems colder, the sun seems hotter and a cool summer breeze is received with more appreciation.

Since we are now providers, supporting ourselves and our families, we take the place of our parents that have gone on before us. We work hard on a job that pays just enough and now we endure all types of weather conditions to make sure our family is being provided for.

If a mother or father is left alone to take care of their children, they will sometimes work two jobs if necessary, so that their children won't suffer. Since children cannot provide for themselves, aunts, uncles, grandparents or sometimes a good neighbor will even help to make sure children are cared for. Children never worry about these things, relying totally on their parents to provide.

If it was possible, hidden within every one of us is a desire to find the place we once had. We sit and think how blessed we were to have providers. I am amazed at the instinctual behavior of animals. A horse can be taken miles from home, yet instinctively find his way back home. A dog can bury a bone and months later, find it. I believe man is driven instinctively to find that place of

security he once had as a child. Each of us are driven, looking for that place of inner peace and contentment. The journey to the place of absolute is one you must take. For once you have made this journey, you will return over and over again, with the need to escape life's difficulties. In this place, you will be refurbished, strengthened and prepared to face each day.

I invite you to come with me to this "place of absolute."

CHAPTER 2

"EXCEPT YOU BECOME AS A LITTLE CHILD"

*"Children are the hands by which
we take hold of heaven."*

Henry Ward Beecher

In the three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the Bible shows us how much Jesus loved children. He says compassionately, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not." Then he makes a profound comparison that reveals to us a key to Kingdom Living. In Luke 18:16, Jesus Christ said, "For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Have you noticed how much easier it is to teach a child about Christ? Their eyes glistening as they listen to the stories that are really testimonies of the men and women of the Bible, believing every word. NO questions or interruptions of any kind to challenge the validity of any statement made. No wasted time spent trying to determine what is true or false.

As a child I believed totally in my Daddy's invincibility, likewise, children have no problem believing what you teach them. As we discuss

children's unshakeable trust, your argument could be that children exercise unconditional faith because they many times are not yet acquainted with the ups and downs of life. Also children are sheltered and protected, knowing that someone else will take care of their needs. It becomes so much easier to survive life's difficulties when you have someone else to handle your problems. In making this argument, you would be right. Yet, like a child, as we face the many problems of life, we find ourselves still needing to have that unconditional faith in someone.

Suppose day by day, you could be taken to a place of tranquility, where will take care of their needs. It becomes so much easier to survive life's difficulties when you have someone else to handle your problems. In making this argument, you would be right. Yet, like a child, as we face the many problems of life, we find ourselves still needing to have that unconditional faith in someone. Suppose day by day, you could be taken to a place of tranquility, where you would be so refreshed that upon your return, you could face each encounter.

Jesus, as he welcomes the children that are in His presence, seizes the opportunity to make this observation. He notes that their display of unshakable faith is one of the keys that

demonstrate our need for earthly security. So many times if we can't touch, taste or feel, we have trouble believing.

Children surrounded him and was drawn to him because they felt his love. Jesus, so touched by them, responds to the disciples' attempts to send the children away by saying, "Forbid them not." For very clearly, it is so refreshing for him to experience faith demonstrated and expressed by them.

The faith released by these children changes the spiritual atmosphere. The disciples standing in fear and skepticism, along with the many people of the various communities he ministered in was hindered, except for the children. They gravitated to him, listening and believing every word that fell from his mouth. This complete confidence created around him such an atmosphere of faith and expectancy, making it easy for him to manifest his power.

Jesus wanted the people, in particular those disciples that walked with him daily to know that this kind of faith provokes God to do whatever you believe him to do. Now, I know you may be wondering why did Jesus find it necessary to make this reference to the kingdom. Of course we all want to go to Heaven, God's kingdom. But what

does Kingdom living have to do with earthly responsibilities. Is it possible, as we have prayed for years, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven"?

What is the Kingdom of God?

There are three definitions that will help me define kingdom. First definition: A kingdom is any realm that is under the domain of or is led by a king. So this means that God owns property and he rules a group of people yielded to his authority.

Second definition: A kingdom is the realm where the will of God is fulfilled. In His kingdom we must seek God's will and surrender to it.

Third definition: It is a realm or region in which something is dominant (commanding, controlling or prevailing over all others). The word prevailing defined means to gain ascendancy (governing or controlling influence) through strength or superiority, God, Who rules is wiser, greater and mightier than we are. That is our confession. That is our belief. Consequently, we totally submit ourselves to Him. God will never work against your will, you must surrender to Him.

The Jews waited for the Messiah to come and deliver them from their oppressor. It was their belief that they would come and set up his

kingdom in this earth, overthrowing any person that got in his way. When Jesus first proclaimed that the Kingdom of God is at hand, the disciples were told to go and spread the Word and excitement filled the air.

The Jews prepared themselves for the conquering of their oppressors. Jesus then proclaims that he indeed was the King of the Jews establishing that if you followed his teachings, you would enjoy the benefits of being a part of that kingdom. They had read the prophecies and for years they had waited on their fulfillment. Now they are following this man, seeing miracles and making the conversation Nicodemus made in St. John 3:2 as he said, "No man can do these miracles, except God be with him."

Puzzled, they became inquisitive, wanting to know, as many people do today, about the kingdom. Doubt filled the air. The question on their minds was the same one asked by John the Baptist, "Is this the one, or must we look for another?"

Trying to understand the mysteries of His teachings, wanting to also know how and when the kingdom was to be set up. They listened to Jesus as he taught, gradually giving his plan to establish his kingdom upon Earth. However, it

was not to be established the way they thought, for his task was to deal first with the inner conflict and spiritual battles that men fight. This conquest was not to be an uprising, but an invasion.

Jesus had said so much at various times in his exegesis of the kingdom, each time revealing a little more about it. As we interpret his parables and the mysteries are revealed, each of them shed a little more light, giving us insight into kingdom living. As I attempt to give you a better understanding, I find it hard to narrow it down to just three references he made, but I will try.

As Jesus talked with Nicodemus, in his discourse two very important facts about the kingdom are established. In St. John 3:3 Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The see "eido" in translation means to see, perceive, behold and to know. In the Amplified, it reads, "Jesus answered him, 'I assure you, tell you, unless a person is born again (anew, from above) he cannot see (Know, get acquainted with, and experience) the Kingdom of God.'"

Being born again is more than saying a few words and doing a ritualistic exercise. It is having an experience with God that changes your heart. He enters in and begins to transform you. Taking, if you allow Him to, complete control of your life.

Now, let me make it perfectly clear that God is the only one that should have complete authority over your life. However, this is only true if you submit to him. He does not force or make you come to Him. God will not war against your will. You must totally submit, surrender and yield to His will.

The Amplified Bible says, "He cannot know, get acquainted or experience the Kingdom of God without being born again. The Expositors of the Bible, Jameson, Fausset and Brown write that Nicodemus was asking a question that he was not in the capacity to solve and that before approaching it, his spiritual vision required being rectified by an entire revolution of the inner man. When man's spirit or inner man is changed, his way of thinking, talking, acting changes and things he was unable to see suddenly begin to become clear.

Secondly, in ST. John 3:5 Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

The word for enter is "suneiserchoimai" meaning to enter together. In Revelations 3:20 Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come

into him and will sup with him and he with me." God wants to fellowship with you. He wants to be your comforter, friend, partner and companion, to literally walk by your side on this earth. He wants to be able to meet your daily need and lift you above all your traumatic encounters, taking you to a place of peace and tranquility.

Your alliance with him will strengthen your inner man, enabling you to face any problem. God wants you to know that life can become so much easier if you understand you can lean on Him.

Learning how to enter into the Holy Place, "The place of absolute is your secret, daily escape. Taking the time to open your heart to Him, expressing your greatest concerns, can be the time of release from those many things that trouble you. Each morning, by beginning your day with worship and thanksgiving for things we take for granted. Laying out to Him your daily agenda and asking for guidance, wisdom and instruction, ascending in your prayer to a place of comfort and peace gives you an advantage. This precious time spent prepares time spent prepares you for whatever you face each day.

I remember a song that I first heard as a child, "I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses," It is my practice to meet God each

morning in prayer, for I find entering into His presence early in the morning or very simply having fellowship with him allows your potential to be unlocked. It releases the stress and pressure of the day gone by and it gives you the ability to face each daily situation more than a conqueror. Suddenly, your stumbling blocks become stepping stones, your obstacles become opportunities and your defeats become victories. But in Joshua 1:8 it emphasizes day and night.

It is a mistake to take the weight of the day to bed with you. You have an open invitation to come to **"the place called absolute"** leaving the load there. That place of communion is the place he has prepared for you. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am you may be also."

Thirdly, in ST. Luke 17:21, Jesus made this shocking statement, "the Kingdom of God is within you." In verse 20 Jesus said that the kingdom of God is not based upon what you can see. It is not based upon our mental assent but rather upon that we cannot see, taste, smell, nor figure out.

The kingdom of God that we reach for, desire and pray for is already living inside of everyone that has accepted Jesus as their savior. Ephesians 2:8 "For by the grace of God are ye saved through

faith; and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God."

This Kingdom can only be seen, embraced and experienced by faith. The faith that God has placed in your heart is daring, bold, challenging and captivating. It conquers, destroys hindrances, overthrows enemies and always comes out victorious. However, the Kingdom experience must not be confused with the benefits of the experience.

In St. Luke 12:31 Jesus said "To seek the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you". Matt 6:33 says "seek first the kingdom (realm) of God and his righteousness (justification)".

The word for seek is "Zeteo" (meaning coveting or striving after continuously.) "But without faith, it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh (is continuously coming) to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder (yields a recompense for) of them that diligently (a constant, continuous effort) seek him." It is important that we know God wants us to be blessed and receive all the experience and benefits of Heaven on this earth, but we must seek to form that relationship with him that lifts us above the scope of impossibility and elevates us into the realm of expectancy.

Although the plan of success is mentioned throughout the scripture, the word "success" is only written one time. Amazingly the word is written as God speaks to Joshua about relationship. "This book of law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou shalt meditate therein day and night that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and thou shalt have good success. (Joshua 1:8 KJV) Here is where you find the keys to success in business, finance and real estate. God will speak to your mind, keeping you from pitfalls and bad decisions. But it must be for His glory. He only wants to make you a channel through which blessings flow.

"The place of absolute" is a state of mind, but so much more. It is an experience, a romance, a fascinating journey and I challenge you to take this journey with me. For once you go to this place you will find it is a place that you will revisit many times. It will perhaps, I hope, become a part of your daily routine. But how do I define absolute? What gives me the right to go there?

In the next few chapters, the answer to these questions will be explored. Foundations will be established and reason will be given for this wonderful experience. For in times like these, we

need help as we take the emotional roller coaster of life, facing the unexpected and embracing new challenges, we need security, strength and tranquility.

In this place you will find David's still waters and green pastures and when you reach this state of mind and inner peace you are in **"the place of absolute."** The spirit of humility, openness and total confidence displayed by children gives us keys that we must use. These keys unlock the door of inner peace, aiding in our journey to **"the place of absolute."**

CHAPTER 3

DEFINING ABSOLUTE

There are three words that I will use to capture the very essence of and relay the meaning of the word absolute. The three words: "Perfect, Complete and Peace," not only help to define absolute, but reveal to us the goals that be attained in our search for and the discovery of the place of absolute. We will define these words and give to you biblical reference that will aid in expressing each word's significance and purpose.

According to Webster's Dictionary the word Absolute means 1) Free from imperfection; complete, perfect, 2) Perfectly embodying the nature of a thing, 3) Absolute liberty, free from restrictions or limitations.

James writes in Chapter 1, verse 4 "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect (in translation the word perfect is Teleois, (having reached its end, matured (telos), entire (in translation holokeria, meaning sound in every part and the development of every grace into maturity), wanting nothing. James in his exposition shows us the end results of a life totally yielded to God.

The total man is comprised of body, soul and spirit. The spirit of man was originally designed by God to be the channel by which man would communicate to God. The spirit of man is not to be confused with the spirit of God, for man possesses a spirit that only becomes God's spirit when he (God) is allowed to live in it. The second section of man's trilogy is the body. The Body is where the spirit and soul of man abides. Designed by God to be the agent to implement God's plan our hands, feet and mouth become his tools if we yield them to do his work.

One should clearly understand God will not do what he has equipped and anointed man to do. The final section of man's totality is his soul or mind the mind is placed between the spirit and the body. It receives constant messages from the spirit. How a message is interpreted is based upon the knowledge that the mind has. What you have or have not been taught influences your thinking. It will hinder or help, strengthen or interfere with how you process things.

Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed because of the lack of knowledge" The definition of knowledge is acquaintance with facts, truths and principal as from study or investigation, the sum of what is known. Because the mind has so much capacity to learn, we are constantly having

experiences or opportunities that teach us. It is a continuous cycle each thing that we learn should give us a greater understanding of what we have already learned. Consequently, what I believe today will be strengthened or changed as my knowledge increases will be introduced to many new things. It should be my goal to always grow in knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah writes, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, sayeth the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil to give and expected end. The Bible literally says that God thinks in our direction. His thoughts challenge, inspire and sometimes even provoke us to do many new things. If His thoughts are interpreted right and obeyed completely, we experience only success. Success is inevitable unless, as Hosea says "God people reject knowledge." Or as Paul wrote they are "ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The Bible says that God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7) Life survival from the beginning has always been contingent on our relationship with God's spirit. Man was an inanimate sculptured piece of clay until God breathed into his nostrils His spirit. Man's complete survival is based on his relationship with God. More than

anything else, "the place of absolute" has a lot to do with how you think and process your thoughts.

Proverbs 23:7 says "For a man thinketh in his heart so is he" I wonder how many people look happy and content but in reality there is a raging war going on in their hearts. They need peace and seek it, but the perplexing problems of life make tranquility a seemingly impossible goal to attain. Notice the archaic word thinketh implies continuously thinking. As we face problems in our daily struggle to survive our minds are filled with turbulent activity, but he promises peace.

Allow me to share two translations of Isaiah 23:3. First the King James Bible, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Secondly the Amplified, "You will guard him in perfect and constant peace whose mind(both its inclination and character) is stayed on you, because he commits himself to you, leans on you and hopes confidently in you"

Immediately, we recognize that there is a partnership that must be formed between man and his maker. A cooperative effort that in accordance with Luke 11:9 requires man to ask, seek and knock continuously to get the promised results.

This commitment requires man a constant effort to keep your mind on him and not the problem. We must learn how to share our problems with God by redirecting our minds from things that trouble us and begin to meditate or focus on those things that bring success. 1Peter 5:7 casting all your cares (fears and anxieties) upon him: for he careth (is continuously caring) for you."

God wants us to take control and stay in control as we deal with every situation of life. Jesus gives us two very powerful illustrations of peace. These illustrations reveal to us the control that we have in our walk with him. For in St. John 14:12 he proclaims "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do." I have often shared these illustrations in my teaching. In both Matthew and Mark's Gospel an incident occurs.

Jesus, tired in his body, takes a nap as they are crossing the sea. While he is resting, turbulent winds begin to blow. The winds become so great until the disciples are afraid. Someone calls out, "Wake up Jesus!" Jesus is awakened, stands up and rebukes the wind and says "Peace be still" Immediately the winds calm down. This is peace after the storm, but in St. Matthew 14, Jesus sends his disciples to the other side and goes into the mountains to pray. The ship sails to the

middle of the sea, the wind begins to blow. The Bible says the winds are contrary.

Jesus, sensing their immediate danger starts walking to them on the sea. Though the waves were tossing and the winds blowing, everywhere Jesus walked there was peace. This is Peace in the middle of the storm. Two illustrations of peace: in each one Jesus is in control. He wanted us to know that we can not only have peace after the storm, but also in the middle of it Remember some storms require action – other storms require just your confidence.

The Purpose Of Meditations

Joshua 1:8 says, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth: but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." In Webster's dictionary, meditation is described as mental exercise, in this spiritual text the intensity of meditation was characterized by the moans and groans of the meditator. In your period of meditation, you refuse to think about the problem and you begin to think on solutions, realizing that God, through Jesus Christ has given you control of your mind.

Isaiah says "because he trusteth in Him" the use of this archaic word expresses that man must have a continuous trust in his maker. The psalmist writes in Psalm 1:2 "But his delight (extreme satisfaction) is in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doth shall prosper" This state of mind, this place of confidence and wholeness is where we continuously are bringing forth fruit.

Finally there is one remaining point that we must emphasize. The words that you speak are simply your thoughts expressed. I know what is on a man's mind as I listen to the things he says. I heard a preacher once give this definition for a word "A word is first an idea (definition of an idea – any conception existing in the mind), the idea becomes a thought (definition of a thought – the product of mental activity), and when the thought is uttered it becomes a word. Jesus in his teachings taught "He shall have whatsoever he sayeth.

Paul taught, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Paul also wrote, "But what sayeth it the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is the word of faith which

we preach, that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The thoughts that are in your mind when they are spoken affect the directions your life is going, Negative thoughts breed negative confessions. Unfortunately, all of us have been guilty of having negative thoughts, saying words and doing negative deeds. Eliminating negativity is a continuous job that requires a continuous effort on your part. Meditating on God's word, being surrounded by positive thinking people and taking and objective look at every situation are just a few of the things you must do. By thinking, speaking and acting on God's word, you open up limitless opportunities.

The Bible says something very powerful in Hebrews 11:3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God" Notice that the says worlds were framed. God's word once spoken, resounded over and over continuing to create. Every word of God has purpose. Once it comes out of your mouth, releases in faith, it continues to resound until it accomplishes what it was sent out to do.

Perfection

Continuously heard in describing the word "absolute" is the word "perfect." Of course the word attached to peace is easily understood and readily accepted because it is a perfect act coming from a perfect God who gives perfect peace, but say that we can find the place of absolute (a perfect place for a perfect people) seems somewhat just a little impossible.

I believe that in God there is a perfect place on this earth. Because he says I can find it, I am sure he knows the way to that place, but if you are like me, my problem is in spite of my efforts, I am not flawless. I fail. I make mistakes and some of those failures and mistakes are only a repeat of things I have experienced before. The questions are, how can we on this earth expect to find a perfect place created by a perfect God for a perfect people when we are not perfect?

In answering this question from the King James Version, Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9 "And said unto me My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me" I feel that it should be made perfectly clear that Paul is not making a declaration of defeat.

Nor is he giving justification for sin, failure, imperfections or the constant infirmities of the soul. But rather Paul is saying, I am aware of this fact: I did not merit the favor that God shows me. For in the time of my weakness he was there and only in him I am able to repent and be forgiven. In faith I am made perfect. Paul is also saying that it is apparent to him that because of God's goodness and grace he has liberty.

Reading the amplified Bible's interpretation, we gain further enlightenment. He writes "My grace (favor, loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you, sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully; for my strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in (your) weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities that the strength and power of Christ the messiah may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!" The writer says "He enables you to bear the troubles manfully" (The word manfully means to show boldness, courage or strength. It also means to be determined, firmly resolved, set in purpose)

In the end the writer of this interpretation makes a most profound allegory. He says, "that the strength and power of Christ (thee Messiah) may rest (yes pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!"

The word Messiah (meshiach) in the Hebrew, means a consecrated person, one who has been set aside or anointed to do special work. In Daniel 9:24 and 26 the messiah is mentioned as the special one that will make a strong covenant with many. In the Greek, the equivalent word is Christos, referring to Jesus Christ, the son of God. He is the anointed or consecrated one that was sent to do a special work.

Therefore, we now understand that Jesus has made a covenant with us that in our weakness he will cover us, protect us and literally come upon us to give us power and to make us strong. (and ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." (Acts 1:8) Because as Paul writes in Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live: yet not I, but the Christ that liveth in me: and the live which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Because we have this confidence we stand boldly and proclaim as Paul did in Romans 8:37 AMP "Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through him who loved us."

Therefore in our examination of this word, I realize perfection is only a goal that I can obtain in Christ, because I am always aware of my

imperfections. It is a journey I must take by faith "the place of absolute" I seek is and must be embodied in my trust and it can only be found as I walk with him.

The Complete Man

In 111 John 2 a very familiar scripture, the writer speaks as God's apostle and he expresses God's desire. Although he says I wish, being God's vessels he shares in his wish a divine message. God is not just concerned about one part of man but all.

In writing to Gaius, John possible after receiving a message that he was ill or that he was suffering say this as I paraphrase "I know there is a combined work of your mind and spirit because your soul (or mind) is prospering. But just as your soul is prospering it is my desire for you to prosper (or have what is necessary to sustain you in life) Also for you to have health. Notice that he did not say get healed but have continuous life without sickness and disease.

This verse of scripture expresses that we are supposed to grow spiritually, physically and mentally. Our life is to be filled with happiness as we enjoy success and have a strong physical body, free of sickness and disease. Yet you wonder why aren't these things manifested in our lives.

It is important that we understand that we have a covenant, agreement or partnership with Him. God does not expect us to sit back and wait for it to drop from the sky. "Faith without works is dead.

James Allen writes in his powerful book entitled As A Man Thinketh only himself manacles man. Though and action actions are the goalers of fate – they imprison, being base, they are also the angels of freedom – they liberate, being noble, not what a man wishes or prays for does a man get but what he justly earns. His wishes and prayers are only gratified and answered when they harmonize with his thoughts and actions"

Allen continues "Men are anxious to improve their circumstances, but are unwilling to improve themselves; They therefore remain bound." We have formed habits that hinder our spiritual, mental and physical progression. We eat foods that aid in physical deterioration, we ignore signs the body gives to us that says we have had enough or gone too far. We many times handle money unwisely. We allow our greed or covetousness to entice us to buy things we can't afford. We many times surround ourselves with people who have defeated minds, never reaching up in order that change can take place. To reach the state of completion and to obtain perfection,

man is desperately searching for help. There is a definite need for someone who will help him to become wiser, stronger, more disciplined and to direct his handling of life's mental challenges.

Each day we fight continuous wars, your spirit against flesh, faith against reason, hope against despair. We are trying to find solutions to the everyday trials of life, enduring Satan's continuous attacks. Satan with his arsenal making every attempt to wear out the saints, yet somehow we tunnel through the difficulties finding occasional solutions. However the twist and turns of life will eventually lead you to what appears to be an impossible situation, something that is beyond your reach, out of your scope and too hard for you to fix.

In this temporary place of hopelessness, we feel that the pressure is too great. We say in our despondency, I can't take anymore, I can't go any further, but in this book I challenge you to come to a place of solitude, a place where pressures are released and confidence is restored.

Paul also gives this challenge in Ephesians 6:13 and 14A "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore..." One of the words in these

verses is the word withstand in translation is "Anthistemi." It means to set against. In Webster, it is defined, "To stand up against: oppose with firm determination, to resist successfully. The translation suggest that we are in a war, fighting against the forces that are out to defeat us. The forces that we fight are not those that require your physical strength, computer awareness or skills in weaponry. We are engaged in a spiritual war that affects body, mind/soul and spirit. This spiritual confrontation requires us to rely on a power greater than what we have.

In the letter to Ephesus he writes "be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10 the word strong (endumnaroo) means empowered or strengthened. God gave man a realm in which to operate in. Man was made like God. This does not only mean he has hands a mouth or a mind, but man can create, he was the computer. He also has a realm where he can perform miracles, a transplant, eye glasses, Bionic limbs and a mechanical heart to name just a few. Each generation as man advances, allows man to become more creative and as his knowledge advances those things that were impossible become possible. But there will always be things man cannot do, solutions he cannot find and questions he cannot answer. Man will always find

it necessary to call on God for even those who say they don't believe have been known in their dying breath to say "Lord, Help me."

Notice in Paul's exegesis he says put on the whole armor of God. Paul literally is saying go into war ready to fight and be prepared to face forces that will make every attempt to make you fall. Generals that were engaged in combat study the army they are about to encounter. Strategic sessions are held to review the strengths and weaknesses of the army they are facing. Strategies are devised and plans are made to take advantage of their weaknesses.

In 2 Corinthian 2:11 "Lest Satan should get an advantage on us, we are not ignorant of Satan's devices." If you have ever warred with the enemies that fight against mankind you are not ignorant of his tactics. Every enemy has weaknesses. Satan was defeated at Calvary. His war is against your mind. He wants control that only you can give him. Once you surrender your life to Christ, Satan loses control but he never gives up. He fights continuously to get the control that he once had over your life, but we know how to resist him. We know the victory is already ours. This blessed assurance allows us to stand in confidence determined and ready to face every force.

Proverbs 23:7 establishes that every person is controlled by the thoughts in his mind. Those things that are embedded in your mind will cause success or failure, poverty or prosperity, love or hate. It determines also whether you live or die. The daily attacks against your mind are continuous. Deception, temptation, doubt, fear and the problems of life war against your mind.

Paul literally challenges you to take charge of your mind. He writes, "Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things." Remember Satan is a spiritual being. The only way he enters your mind is if you allow him to come in. God nor Satan can work against your will."

Man's existence is based upon his ability to choose, but with every choice, you must always ask yourself, If I make this decision, what consequences will I face? Then the value of any decision must be assessed. Do you want to pay the price? Remember you can only be controlled if you surrender to the controller. Joshua, facing a rebellious nation said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom

you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Sometimes in our life we make bad choices . All of us have made a few.

The Bible states in Rev. 12:10 that Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Once you have fallen, Satan plagues your mind with your failures. Yes, there are consequences for each decision. Unfortunately, some of them are permanent, but many are not. If the enemy is allowed to plague your mind, rehearsing and reminding you of your mistake, it becomes a death sentence. Christ came to give life. He does not condemn you, but forgives you Once you are forgiven, you are never reminded by God again. Many times the truth is you have not forgiven yourself.

There are five things you must do daily, for once you have found the place of absolute, you must learn how to abide there.

1. Study to be quiet – I made same years ago a conscious decision. I will let nothing disturb my peace. To reach this goal, there is a daily exercise I am perfecting. I sit and literally stop talking, remove myself (mentally, if I can't do it physically) from where I am, and just be quiet. The write says study (or learn how to be quiet or peaceful. Paul writes in Rom 12:18 "If it be

possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceable with all men." Unless you practice peace, you will never be at peace. A troubled man brings trouble, a man that is at peace brings peace. Much of the chaos of this world is because men and women are not at peace. Study to be quiet.

2. Meditate – the definition give earlier was mental exercise. In studying to be quiet, you try to relax your mind. In mediation, you affix your mind on solutions. There are 7487 promises in the Bible. There are God given solutions to every situation. Begin to learn them and center your mind on your solution. Meditation causes your faith to come alive. Once this happens, making the next step is easy. Make a proclamation or confession in your time of meditation. Center on it. Be determined not to let anything else hinder your thinking. (You must take control of your thoughts).
3. Now you are ready to pray Prayer must begin with praise. God loves to be praised, not just words, but sincere gratitude for his kindness, mercy, peace, grace and salvation. Asking is a privilege he has given

us. He says to ask anything in his name and He would do it.

4. Learn how to wait – patience is a virtue – Because you don't get it now does not mean it is not going to happen. The wise author of the Ecclesiastes writes, "I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, not the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill, but time and chance happeneth to them all." No one likes to wait, but as I heard one wise young woman say, everything gets better. It just takes time.

5. Talk, walk and live in expectation – I believe that one of our greatest gifts is faith. Our expectation determines how far we will go and if our faith remains unshaken there is no limit to our success. Every experience is designed to teach us trust. Two things we must understand about faith: it is substance and faith is evidence. One of the definitions of substance is something that exists by itself. Sometimes all you have is faith, for everyone and everything says it is

impossible. It doesn't make sense but down in your heart, you know. You visualize it and believe. Because faith is evidence or proof, when something is alive in your heart, don't let it die – work and work and work and it will happen.

CHAPTER 4

INTIMACY

Defined generally refers to the feeling of being in a closer personal association and belonging together. It is a familiar and very close affective connection with another as a result of a bond that is formed through knowledge and experience of the other.

Genuine intimacy in human relationships requires dialogue, transparency, vulnerability and reciprocity. Dialogue – a conversation between two or more people. Transparency – easily seen through, recognized or detected. Vulnerability – capable of being physically or emotionally wounded. Reciprocity – given or felt each toward the other. Four words that describe the kind of relationships that each of us must have to exist in life. We experience and share it with a brother or sister, a close lifetime friend or the love of our life. Yet as we ride the emotional roller coaster of life, a void is created that demands a greater relationship than man can give. The void of course is our need to experience an unconditional love.

Linda Boone writes in her fantastic book "Intimacy Life Lessons", God's desire is to not only have you experience His love, but to totally overwhelm you with His love. To have you experience it to overflowing. To have you sense, feel, taste and touch His love for you. He really wants you to experience Him!"

The intimate relationship with God and man is best demonstrated by Jesus as he prays to his father in his greatest time of need. Through prayer we share with God those things that are the sentiments of our hearts. Jesus, in addressing his Father in St. Mark, reveals his intimate relationship with Him, as he prays Abba, Father. The word Abba is an Arabic word our closest translation to that word is Daddy. This was a common word used by young children expressing the closeness of a child to his father.

In chapter 1, I expressed how exciting it was to see my daddy coming home from work. Now that I have become a father, I realize to this day, although all my children are adults, the tremendous joy and sense of value a father feels each time his children says daddy. To me, no words can justly express this joy. However I have also has the misfortune of losing a son. No words can express the hurt I experienced standing there helpless, unable to alter his destiny.

Can you imagine God with the ability to change the course of destiny, refusing to do so because Jesus was the sacrifice for mankind. My hurt, although it remains to this day, was only a glimpse of the hurt God must have felt. God cared so deeply for his only begotten son. This intimacy can only be shared by a child and his father and until Jesus died he was the only legitimate child of God on this earth. The only one that was human and divine.

One of the definitions of the word divine is proceeding directly from God. By now you are probably saying, but I thought we were all children of God with the right to approach him as our father. Is it true a true statement that every person on earth is a child of God? What does the Bible say about it? Psalm 51:5 "Behold I was shapened in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." Paul writes in Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as for by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned."

The Bible says we are born in sin. This separates us from God. Jesus was born of the Father, being the only one who was born without sin. He came to this earth experiencing the temptation of man yet without sin. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our

infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15 KJV) This makes Jesus the only legitimate son of God. The only one with the right to say Abba, Father. But in Romans 8:15 Paul writes, "For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again in fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father. The Spirit itself bears witness with out spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children then heirs, heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ, if so be we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together, for I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waited for the manifestation of the sons of God."

Man was doomed to die separate from God. Unless something would happen to alter this fate. Paul poetically writes in Romans 8, "But commanded has love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He had never sinned, literally became sin, all the sins of the world were laid upon him. The weight so heavy, it is understandable that he cries to remove this bitter cup. In this most challenging time of his humanity he comes to the garden to have a private talk with his father. He has not

changed his mind for he knew this was his purpose from the foundation of the world. But several things are happening in this powerful time of prayer.

God, I believe, is wrestling because he must make a decision. He has never been apart from his son, but he must leave him. He who had the ability to alter time and change the course of history must let his only begotten son die. So God and the Holy Spirit withdraw themselves from him immediately. As they withdraw, Jesus for the first time feels the total weight of the sins of the world, past present and future.

Sweat, like drops of blood fall from his body. The medical name is hemahydrosis when stress so great blood vessels burst and you sweat blood and water. Jesus in human existence felt forsaken for he later cries, dying on the cross, "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me." God knew that he must allow him to make the sacrifice, for without this intervention, sin would destroy mankind.

Man had failed so miserably at his many attempts not to sin and because of his sinning, man could not redeem himself. However because God loved man, not wanting any to perish, he offers a way of escape. But in order to do that, he needed a

sacrifice, so Jesus offered himself. But didn't Paul say that we have the right to say, "Abba Father" and isn't this a response that can only come from a birth son? If Jesus was the only begotten son how can this be? This is the mystery. In explaining this it will help if you understand the definition of the word "begotten."

We find in our understanding of the Greek text that in translation, it is a monogenes word. This means that this word has two meanings.

One interpretation suggests that it means the only one, but Paul writes in Hebrews 11:17 that Abraham when tested was willing to give his only begotten son. Isaac was not his only son for there was Ishmael. However he was the only son of Abraham and Sarah meaning that he was the son of promise or covenant.

The greater understanding comes in exploring the compound Greek word "monoas-genes." The first syllable is mono, translated only. The last syllable is the word genes (genos) translated means class or stock, so Jesus was the only son of God begotten in the flesh. But he is also the first of a class of sons begotten by the Spirit. Jesus' sacrifice made it possible for those that believed to be spiritually transformed or reborn. We by

faith are also sons of God with all of the rights and privileges of Jesus, the only begotten son of God.

It must also be noted that Abraham's willingness and obedience caused God to act. When God looks back in retrospect and saw Abraham who had received the promise, willing to offer his only begotten son, God would not interfere for that would make the one who received the promise greater than the one that gave it.

Several things must then be understood concerning "Abba, Father":

- 1) It is a very endearing term that shows the relationship between a young child and his father.
- 2) It bears a greater weight because the only one that can quickly get the attention of the father in using that term is his birth child.
- 3) consequently it was necessary for Jesus the only begotten to die opening the door to a new class of people.
- 4) Jesus' death and resurrection from the grave, his sacrifice gives us the right to be born again.

5) God then by spiritual rebirth becomes our legitimate birth father. Giving us the right to address him as Daddy.

Now in understanding this we realize that the Bible does not support that all of us are God's children. But, it establishes this fact that only those that are born again are legally a child of God. Therefore we can go to him boldly to obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.

This transformation opens the door to a wonderful, intimate relations with him. Chritos Yannaras writes in variation on The Song of Songs, "The word 'God' defines a personal relation not an objective concept. Like the name of the beloved in every love. It does not imply separation and distance. Hearing the beloved name is an immediate awareness a dimensionless proximity of presence. It is our life wholly transformed into relation" It is not something that is created in the mind of man but is a real experience, an intimate experience built on my love for him and his love for me.

John Deere says it best, "I want passionate feelings to characterize my relationship with the Lord Jesus. Of course, I want to be perfectly obedient to the lord, but I want the obedience to

THE PLACE OF ABSOLUTE

spring out of a passionate love for him. I want to obey Jesus, not simply out of discipline or duty or because of some reward or fear of punishment. I want to serve him simply for the joy of being able to please the one I love so much. If discipline is what ultimately drives us in our pursuit of Jesus, eventually we will give up that pursuit. But a man in love, or a woman in love will never quit... I want my life to be characterized by an unrestrained affection for the son of God"

CHAPTER 5

FAITH

"For by grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

Edged in my heart is a phrase said to me many times by my mother. "Prayer is the key to the kingdom and faith unlocks the door.: It would take many years for me to discover how valuable those words were to me.

The Bible says "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6 KJV)

In our search for solutions, directions and tranquility we will eventually begin to realize that there is a need for a power greater than we are to help us handle the ups and downs of life. After making many attempts to do it without His help, we will eventually turn to God. How long it takes for us to get to him solely depends on how soon we realize we need him.

Our desire for help causes us to ask with his promise it would be given, seek and you will find and with determination we knock and soon we find that doors begin to open. Immediately upon finding Him we begin a journey of knowledge and experience that intensifies with our desire to know more and more about him. For in our search we make a wonderful discovery that he has always been there knocking at the door of our heart waiting to fellowship with us.

John writes, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me." (Revelation 3:20 KJV)

Webster defines faith as: 1) Firm belief in something for which there is no proof 2) Complete trust 3) Something that is believed especially with strong conviction.

I now understand that the journey of life is one of faith, for no goal can be reached, no success can be guaranteed, and most of all no life can be changed without it. The guarantor of our faith is God. Our convictions are sure and our confidence grows daily as he proves he never fails. So much has been written on the subject of faith. Consequently for many this chapter will only serve as a reminder. The message of faith can not be

preached too much, for the world stands, develops and is continuously progressing because of it. Every understanding of God that we have, our strong confidence in Him, and our knowledge that he is faithful can be summed up in one word "faith".

C.S. Lewis writes, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, because by it I see everything else."

The biblical definition of faith is, now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that things which were seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:1-3 KJV)

To help us better understand, we read in the Amplified, "Now faith is the assurance (confirmation, title deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things {[we] do not see and the conviction of their reality (faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the sense) For by faith (Trust and Holy fervor born of faith) the men of old had divine testimony borne to them and obtained a good report. By faith we understand that the worlds (during the successive ages) were framed (fashioned, put in order and equipped for

their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which were visible." (Hebrews 11:1-3 AMP)

In the latter part of the third verse we read, "That the worlds were framed by the word of God". The successive age refers to the period of time in which God rules. The Bible says, "That God is from everlasting to everlasting." (Psalms 90:2)

So the Bible makes it clear God rules forever, everything begins and ends in God. During this time man and the world has developed in many ways. We have survived every attack, battle and war because of our faith. Every person looking back at lean years, hard times and impossible situations must realize that faith brought them through it. However, we deal with many afflictions of the soul because there are people and things that we have put our trust in that have failed.

The lessons which involve the uncertainties of life have many times been hard to learn. But the testimonies are conclusive. Only God never fails. Life presents many problems. The question of why never seems to be really answered, but God divinely causes your stumbling blocks to become stepping stones and your disappointments to become opportunities.

I have not always understood this, but if it does not work out, it very simply was not in His plan. So, don't fret, for God always has something better in store for you. Many things you will not understand, other things you will find hard to accept. The strength you need and the courage to stand can be found in the place of absolute. So we are being fashioned, put in order and equipped by our faith.

As you pray in faith, centering yourself in his will, God begins to develop you. Everything that happens, exists or stands, that is truly successful must be in accordance to his will. I have learned the quick answer to prayer comes when I pray yielded and willing to submit to His will. But what is God's will and how do I know? Finding the will of God is a life time journey for he can not be revealed in one lesson or time of prayer. For to know him can only be achieved as you embark on a continuous love affair with Him.

You must become so engrossed in your relationship with Him that no day is complete until you spend time together. Our need to hear from Him, feel His presence and talk with Him becomes the most important part of your day. Your continuous life of prayer and study of his word allows you to learn his character, mannerisms and his ways.

He reveals to you something new about himself each time you spend time with him and your cry will be "that I might know him." But in answering the question, "How can I know God's will?" I must make this very clear, true knowledge of Him can only be obtained if there is a spiritual transformation that causes your mind to become new.

Paul writes: "I appeal to you therefore, brethren and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, Holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God which is our reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age) [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs] but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of our mind. [by its new ideals and its new attitude] so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]" (Romans 12;1-2 AMP)

The author of the letter to the Roman Church expresses that our body should say, be and demonstrate worship to God by yielding ourselves to total worship. Our mind then can be renewed

giving us the ability to distinguish what is the Good, acceptable and perfect will of God. As the potter does the clay, God shapes us until we resemble Jesus, the son.

John writes. "Beloved, now we are the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure." (1 John 3:2,3 KJV)

Sovereign Or Decreed Will

The Bible says that there are two wills of God, the first being his sovereign or decreed will. God is sovereign (supreme ruler) nothing happens unless God allows it to happen. This mere fact has been one that has troubled me for some time.

First like many of you, I have said if God is sovereign (and I completely believe he is) why doesn't he put a stop to certain things? Could a just God allow men to do things that he hates? The answer is given to us as the Bible illustrates God the father and his son talking in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus, has accepted God's will for him to die, but both of them are dealing with separation. God as a father, did not want his son to suffer the agony of death or submit to the penalty for sins he did not commit, for in order to

take our sins , Jesus must suffer and die immediately, causing them to be separated. Never from the beginning of time had they been apart but sin separates you from God. In the design from the beginning of time, it was God's sovereign will that Jesus would die to save us. Nothing could stop, hinder or change this sovereign will. God, who has the ability to change all things would not because this was the decision of " the council of his own will."

Isaiah prophesied, "yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him. He has put him to grief and made him sick. When you and he make his life an offering for sin [and he has risen from the dead in the time to come] he shall see his [spiritual] offspring, he shall prolong his days and the will and pleasure of the lord shall prosper in his hand." (Isaiah 53:10 AMP)

The fulfilling of God's plan encompasses things that we do not want to accept but you must have faith that everything is working together for your good. Remember God does not encourage or entice anyone to sin, but knows that man has always been plagued with his transgressions yet we must know that when we sin, we have a just God that will forgive. This does not give us a license to sin, but instead it reveals to us God's mercy. Times, seasons and many occurrences will

not change that. Learning to accept God's will many times will take much prayer. I prayed many times because I did not understand or found it hard to accept God's will for my life but God helped me as I met him in the place of absolute.

Daniel writes, "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing and he does according to his will in the host of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay his hand or say to him what are you doing? (Daniel 4:35 AMP)

If we could have had an opportunity to participate in the designing of our life, things would have gone a totally different way. Our journey in life would have been filled with happiness and many of the choices we made would have been different, with things always working out. There would have been no hurt, abuse, bad mistakes, bad marriages and bad career choices, but God reigns supreme and there are many questions that cannot be answered. It is important that you face this reality! The confidence that we have in God takes people and things that were seemingly destined to fail and causes them to be successful. Daily, my confidence is renewed and my faith strengthened because I have learned that he is helping to develop me in the place of absolute.

Finally, there are people living in the prison of the past because they have not learned how to handle bad experiences. You are guilty of holding grudges and you fight anger that has now become wrath. (wrath definition: strong stern or fierce anger, deeply resentful, indignation) (indignation: anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment) This deep rooted wrath has caused you to become cold and your heart has become darkened. This feeling that you justify because you have been hurt repeatedly causes you to shut out your brother or your sister. Although you were wronged, God is also concerned about your response to that wrong. God has placed every person in your life for a reason and your pride causes you to miss the benefit of that relationship. We embrace those that agree with us and reject those that don't but everyone is placed in your life to help develop you and you to help develop them.

Paul writes, "Be of the same mind, one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits, Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath

for it is vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hungers, feed him, if he thirst, give him drink for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:16-21 KJV)

It seems unusual that in telling you not to do evil for evil, Paul would say by doing so it would be like heaping coals of fire on his head. In explaining this idiom, it would help you to know Paul is quoting from the Old Testament scripture in Proverbs 25: 21-22 which ends by saying, "And the Lord will reward you." God of course is not going to give a good reward for an evil deed done to your neighbor. The idiom is an old Jewish saying. It was a normal practice for the women to carry things on their head. A neighbor needing to borrow would be shown kindness and the item needed would be shared. If, of course, true love is in your heart, if the person in need was your enemy you would still share with them. The various things shared, many times would be carried on their head. These acts of love, generosity and kindness continuously to your enemy begins to break them down like coals in a fire, for coals are a form of rock, a hard substance formed from decayed plants and animals. (it is not a mineral) it was a good source of heat because

when it is ignited, fire breaks it down. The fear of being used is no longer there when I do things from my heart. Looking not for man to reward me, but God.

By being angry and unforgiving you have become a prisoner of your past. The continuous war causes your heart to: become hard. In the place of absolute there are healing waters, a refreshing spring of peace that as you bathe in the presence of his anointing, you are cleansed from all bitterness and hurt. Releasing you from the prison of the past to a life of total victory, allowing you to spread the peace because you have peace within.

The Will Of Command

I believe life is about choices. God placed within us His character. In the garden we thought only as God thought. Adam's fall from grace opened the door to a new nature, one of evil, not of good for the first time man is faced with the need to make the decision continuously of what is right or wrong.

God being sovereign and knowing man would fall, placed within man the ability to make choices. Make no mistake the decision to disobey God was man's. From Eden to now, man has instinctively searched for a way to go back to the place he was.

But, the place of Eden is no longer there for God has provided a better place.

The author of the Hebrews again writes, "These people all died, controlled and sustained by their faith, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of [God's] promises, only having seen it and greeted it from a great distance. By faith and all the while acknowledging and confessing that they were strangers and temporary residents and exiles upon the earth (Genesis 23:4 and Psalms 39:12):

Now, those people who talk as they did show plainly that they are in search of a fatherland (their own country) if they had been thinking with [homesick] remembrance of that country from which they were, emigrants, they would have found constant opportunity to return to it, but the truth is that they were yearning for and aspiring to a better, more desirable country. That is, a Heavenly [one] for that reason God is not ashamed to be called their God [even to be surnamed their god – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob] for he has prepared a city for them (Hebrews 11:13-16 AMP)

Man through the ages have been challenged with various choices of good and evil. The commands God have given us, we have found it hard to

follow and obey. In his mercy he has sent many prophets to warn us of failures we have made, seeing man's difficulty in making the right choice,

God sent Jesus to set us free from the past failures and mistakes. Leaving us a comforter, the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to help you if you listen and obey to make the right choice. Make no mistake, there are consequences for every decision made, but God will not force you to do it His way. Every command he has given, you must make the choice to obey or not to obey. God's patience and endurance is continuous. He is long suffering but for all of us there is a day when mankind will be judged. Man will only be able to blame himself for the choices he has made.

Joshua speaks boldly to Israel "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 KJV)

The sovereign will is what God has determined from the beginning of time. There is no choice. It will be done His way. Now there is a part of God's sovereign will we are allowed to see. This

revealed or command will are the things he asks us to do. These are the guidelines for our life. God giving us the choice to obey or not. By being willing to surrender your life or as Paul says, "presenting your bodies a living sacrifice," submitting to His will becomes an easy task. This causes things to become so much easier and prayers are answered much faster as you yield to him in the place of absolute.

Time should not be wasted seeking his sovereign will for many things we encounter will be based upon our faith in Him to control the future, but we must spend time seeking his grace to obey the revealed commanded will of God. Remember your walk with God is a faith walk as you seek him believe that he will reveal to you things according to the "council of his own will." Paul proclaims "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestined according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. (Ephesians 1:11 KJV)

The things you must do to be yielded to his will begins with your willingness to submit. He will not force his will on you, but patiently waits for you to say yes. Don't become discouraged about your failures, mistakes or sins. He is just to forgive you so you must move quickly to repent and continue on remembering this word from God., "

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6 KJV)

We are people of vision and sometimes all we have is a word from God, but our unshakeable confidence in his word will stand sure. Paul encourages us as he writes: "Do not therefore fling away your fearless confidence for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward for you have need of steadfast patience and endurance so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God and thus receive and carry away (and enjoy to the full) what is promised." (Hebrews 10:35,36 AMP)

Many dreams have disappeared and visions not accomplished simply because people did not have patience and endurance. Our confidence is in God's word for this world's feigning until the end, God's word will stand. The Bible compared to the columns of books that have been printed is a small book but everything that is, was and will be is expressed in God's word. The Bible says that the world was "Framed by the word of God."

Through the ages, God has always had a preacher, his messenger to proclaim the truth. these servants of the Lord have all been given a message that ministers to the needs of that

generation. The truth preached has been designed by God to strengthen, enlighten and reveal his covenant with man. Jesus prayed,, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." (John 17:17 KJV)

There are several things I want you to remember about God's word:

1) God's word reveals and seals his covenant with man. Two words translated from the Hebrew text increase our understanding of the power of the word covenant. The word "Benefit" is translated 260 times. Covenant – it means that there is a mutual agreement between two. Each person must keep their portion of the agreement. If anyone fails to do so the covenant is broken, releasing the other one from any binding responsibilities. When used between God and man, the covenant was sealed by the blood Jesus shed on Calvary. The word "Dabar" in Hebrew for covenant emphasizes the grace and authority of God to keep his promise. If man by faith will keep his word to God our faith says God will or because of his covenant is obligated to keep his promise. However we must always remember it is because of his unmerited favor that we have been given the opportunity to be in covenant with him.

2) every word spoken has purpose. When the word is released at any time it has purpose. Although you may have heard it 100 times, when you hear it again it is sent by God to minister to you. If that word continues to grow in you it will resound until it does what God has intended it to do.

"For as the rain cometh down and the snow from Heaven and returneth not thither but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud that it make give seed to the sower and bread to the eater so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10,11 KJV)

What we believe is not based in what we have experience with our five senses, but rather the faith is based upon what I cannot see naturally. My faith is based upon the word that is in my heart. Faith is proof positive. It may not make sense or look feasible, but we believe . How do we acquire this faith? Romans 10:17 answers "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 KJV) Faith cometh (is continuously coming) by hearing. It is so important that you realize what you hear is making a deposit in your inner man, Negative

words filled with doubt and unbelief (doubt and unbelief – is based upon a need to see something before one can believe) hinders your faith.

Our faith is strengthened as you hear the word, preached and interacted with person of like minds, who talk, live and demonstrate the word. It is impossible for you to have real faith if you have difficulty believing in an invisible God whom you have never seen, that has the ability to do anything.

Faith is based upon the word of God. The more you hear it preached and see it demonstrated your faith will grow. Earlier in this book, I shared with you that God has given you control of your mind. As you take a stand in faith there will be many mind battles. Remember your mind is a battlefield where enemies of your faith try to confuse, discourage or hinder you, but your routine visits to the place of absolute will cause your strength to be renewed, your courage to be fortified and your determination to be maximized, learning how to please God in your character, talk and disposition (disposition is state of mind regarding something, inclination) requires continuous communion with him. It also requires an unshakable faith in him and his ability to do all that you ask. In Hebrews 11:6 (KJV) we read, "but without faith it is impossible to please him, for he

that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

The word diligence is characterized by steady earnest and energetic effort. Your walk with God must be an unfaltering walk where many steps of faith will be taken.

"Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark" Rabindranth Tagore. I have been amazed as I hear people say that they are so disturb because they are in the midnight of their life or their darkest hour.

If they understood time it would become so plain and easy for them to understand that midnight only lasts one minute or sixty seconds. Once the clock has made its rotation, it's morning. The new day is not at first recognized because there is no daylight, but is only recognized by the one that understands time. Whether you understand time or not will determine if you remain in the darkness of past mistakes, failures and disappointments. The problem is not that God has not forgiven you but, you refuse to forgive yourself. As you are making this journey it may still appear to be dark. I challenge you to become enlightened and arise to the light of your understanding and faith in God.

What I offer you is a continuous experience that will bring you daily joy, new inspiration, Godly motivation and self control. You will be always elevated to the rim of expectancy. Each morning you will awaken ready to accomplish those things you believe for.

Nelson Mandela who is to us in this time a living example of patience faith and trust writes: " I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way leads to defeat and death." Nelson Mandela; A Long Walk to Freedom, Autobiography of Nelson Mandela.

Giving up is a simple act. Quitting only takes a moment when your mind is made up to do so, but the determination to stand may seem to have you waiting a lifetime. Be encouraged and be confident. You have a time that will present opportunity to you.

The preacher of Ecclesiastes writes: "I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift not the battle to the strong. Neither is bread to the wise nor riches to men of intelligence and

understanding nor favor to men of skill, but time and chance happen to them all." (Ecclesiastes 9:11 AMP)

CHAPTER 6

Pitfall Or Pit Stop

To review, from the beginning of time God has established his sovereign will. Things that God has ordained to happen will happen. However, from his sovereign will he has given to us commandments to live by. When we study God's word they are revealed to us and if obeyed these standards they will enhance our life. However he does not force his will upon us, but instead he has given us the ability to make choices.

Each choice made carry with it a consequence. Man fights a continuous war between good and evil, finding it impossible for him to keep those commandments without the help of The Holy spirit. Paul writes, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless, I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in my and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20 KJV)

Needing his guidance, we can obtain it as we seek him daily in the place of absolute. The time spent in the place of absolute becomes an anticipated part of every day. Making the right choices are

guaranteed if we follow every command. The scriptures, God's covenant with us, gives this written guarantee. The author of the Proverbs writes, "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:6 KJV)

The Psalmist writes, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in his way, though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young and am old yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." (Psalms 37:23-25 KJV)

What does it mean that "The steps are ordered (disciplined or arranged) by the Lord?" This continuous or cautious walk ensures less mistakes and more victories. David, now an old man thinks back and concludes: God always comes through, but unfortunately, none of us completely follow this advice for there is always something that is done without prayer, spiritual council or God's okay.

The word of God clearly states, "In all your ways acknowledge him." We make mistakes and blunders simply because we don't always follow the plan. The mistakes can be devastating, causing you to shed many tears and experience many wasted years, yet how these things effect

you depends on you and your mental attitude. Hear God's promise, "For a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again." (Proverbs 24:16 KJV)

Two choices

The scripture says "For as he thinketh in his heart so is he (Proverbs 23:7 KJV). The poetic author James Allen writes "The outer conditions of a person's life will always be found to be harmoniously related to his inner state... Men do not attract that which they want, but that which they are." James Allen, *As A Man Thinketh*.

You shape your destiny by the choices you make. Here is the question: Have you allowed your failure to be a pitfall or a pit stop? James Allen draws the powerful conclusion as he writes, "A particular train of thought persisted in, be it good or bad, cannot fail to produce its results on the character and circumstances. A man cannot directly choose his circumstances but he can choose his thoughts and so indirectly, yet surely, shapes his circumstances." Exerts from *As A Man Thinketh*

We fight a continuous battle in our minds, consequently we are the in results of our way of thinking. Why is relationship so important and how does or will it affect my life? Allow me to

answer: the reason our relationships are so important is because we cannot underestimate the power of influence. Not realizing that we are influenced by our associations, we often become surrounded by negative people and our lives become affected. Influence defined is, "The capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force in or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc. of others."

People that you are around influence you. The illustrations used to describe how we are daily influenced by our association is also a principle of the spiritual. As we develop a relationship with God, we are influenced by our daily association with him. The more we are in his presence, the more we begin to think like him. We take on his character, becoming more and more like him. Our daily visit to the place of absolute changes us in every way. The Bible says we become new creatures. Consequently, the choice about the mistakes in my life are influenced by my association. I must decide, is it a pitfall or a pit stop. What is a pitfall and how does it apply?

A pitfall is defined as "a trap, snare, specifically a pit, flimsily covered or camouflaged and used to capture and hold animals or men." Choosing this place says that you have by your thoughts been

captured and held in the same place because of your choice.

James Allen again, writes, "A man's mind may be likened to a garden which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild. But whether cultivated or neglected, it must and will bring forth. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless weeds and seeds will fall therein and will continue to produce their kind." James Allen, *As A Man Thinketh*

So, if I choose to mope, walk in anger, be unhappy and generally live in defeat, if I surround myself with people who continuously deposit into my spirit negativity, that same hurt, bitterness and anger, it will produce seeds of the same, ultimately destroying who I am. I, through my thinking, become trapped and non-productive, reproducing seeds that effect everything I do. But there is a second choice – the positive state of mind says this is only a pit stop; a temporary deviation from a direct or usual course.

When racing a car, the drivers depend upon mechanics, people to change the tires, etc., in order that his stop can only be temporary. In our spiritual life, there are times we get into trouble, a sin, failure or fall. Often the devastation hits hard. We lose things, we hurt others and Satan laughs.

But your association with God strengthens and encourages you, heals the inner man, enabling you to return stronger and be more determined to reach the finish line.

Now ask, if you have fallen, what will your choice be? **Pitfall or pit stop?**

CHAPTER 7

WHY THIS BOOK

I believe that we live in a very crucial time and the continuous demand to make decision after decision creates a chaotic state. These decisions made in chaos effects mankind in business, finance, culture, government, schools and unfortunately, churches. We must reevaluate our decisions, making adjustments and allowing the Spirit of God to have preeminence. Each decision made affects not only this generation but further generations also because our children are depending on us.

We must realize that we have fallen, renew our fellowship with Christ and begin to discipline our lives, walking into total obedience to Him. I believe our personal relationship with God also changes our character. We indeed become new creatures in our way of thinking, in the things we do, habits and practices we form. As we surrender to his will we must return to the original plan of God for man cannot nor will he exist without God.

We try so many things, attempting to find solutions to combat the problems sin has

invented, yet we fail to realize our only hope is surrendering to the will of our creator.

This book was designed to make you aware or remind you that He is your personal savior, for the revival must begin in you. When was the 1st time you spent time with the Lord or have you ever spent time with him? Is that time spent occasionally or is it consistent? Or is that time just to ask for a blessing, a miracle or another opportunity or does The Holy Spirit have time to minister to you?

The Holy Spirit does more than grant request. He wants to minister to the inner man. It's Christ's desire for you and Him to form a beautiful relationship, where you can sing, "He walks with me and he talks with me and he tells me I am his own."

You can daily have your load lifted. You don't have to carry it alone. Your pressures can be released for he knows your desires and if you delight yourself in him he will give you the desires of your heart. He will never disappoint you.

In Chapter One, the excitement I felt when I saw my daddy coming down the hill as I shouted with joy, will be yours as you shout, "I will look to the hills from which cometh my help. All my help cometh from the Lord.

This place of peace and happiness is waiting for you, my friend, as I welcome you to **“The Place Of Absolute.”**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Founded by Dr. Apostle Herman Bibbs, Repairers Of The Breach Ministries has survived many attacks and trials during its ministry.

Through the Apostle's leadership, R. O. T. B. has ministered to the city by radio, powerful tent and church revivals and Rhema Release (a conference that was held once a year in the month of October throughout the nineties.) Rhema Release became a tool to bring ministers and musicians into Birmingham, Alabama to bless the people. It was an outreach ministry that has touched many communities, with programs that fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and ministered to the young.

In 1998, the church facility was totally destroyed by a tornado and in the early part of 2000, Apostle was physically attacked with kidney failure. With God' help through it all, the ministry has survived. Now with a new resilience, he has continued to press forward. In 2007, with a kidney gift from his daughter Leanita, along with the work of the medical science community and most of all the power of prayer, he has recovered to do a greater work.

Through much consecration and prayer, failures have become stepping stones to success, successes that have become a great source of encouragement to many souls. Standing on the promises of God, the Apostle presses onward believing that the latter days shall be far greater the former.

His dedication to further educate himself has afforded him to receive a Master of Theology degree from Jacksonville Theological Seminary on May 26, 1996. Later in early 2000, he received his PH.D from Tabernacle Bible College in Tampa, Florida.

The continuous studying of God's word has made him a highly sought after Speaker, as well as a respected Pastor. His wife of 41 years, his children and grandchildren help him to even minister to world. Surrounded by a faithful group of pastors and ministers, he endeavors to carry the gospel to the masses and strengthen the body of Christ.

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Psalms 91:1 says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide (remain stable) under the shadow of The Almighty." Reading this book will give you vivid insights towards realizing the essence of being in the wonderful presence of God.



Your soul will be awakened, inspired and refreshed as Pastor Bibbs presents authentic spiritual truths that have been tried by fire and proven in the crucible of his very own life and ministry. You too will be enabled to arise from any adversity or negative situation as you learn to fully embrace

The Living Christ, stand on His Word, grow in faith and press towards victory.

Dr. Apostle Herman Bibbs encourages all readers to search the scriptures, for in them you'll find LIFE, in the person of Jesus Christ. You'll experience an intimate fellowship with The Holy Spirit and elevate your understanding of God's Almighty Power and as you learn to rest in His Everlasting Arms.

GREAT JOY WILL BE YOURS, AS YOU SHOUT AND LOOK TO THE HILLS FROM WHICH COMETH OUR HELP, FOR ALL OF OUR HELP COMETH FROM THE LORD. THIS PLACE OF COMFORT, PEACE AND HAPPINESS IS WAITING FOR YOU, AS I WELCOME YOU TO "THE PLACE OF ABSOLUTE."

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