

NOW THAT I AM SAVED



BY DR. NORMAN THOMAS

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INTRODUCTION

I wrote this book for you! I remember what it was like when I made the decision to receive Christ and surrender to the will of God for my life. It was the most exciting time of my life, but there was so much I did not know about this experience. In this book, I will share some of those things with you. I believe this information is critical to your rapid growth and sustainability as a new Believer and citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Now, let me share with you my first point of advice. Ask God to reveal to you who your pastor should be. This will determine which church family you will connect with. This is important. I did not know in the beginning how much it mattered. It determines what you end up believing and what you consider possible for your life. I make this recommendation based on the following scripture:

Jeremiah 3:15 - AMPC

¹⁵And I will give you [spiritual] shepherds after My own heart [in the final time], who will feed you with knowledge and understanding and judgment.

In most cases people tend to “choose a church” based on various factors. But the scripture is clear that God’s will is that you first receive your pastor. Your pastor is a teacher that will ‘feed’ you with knowledge, understanding, and judgement (or wisdom). So, in essence God chooses your church by first gifting you with your pastor. It would also prove extremely beneficial if your pastor is one who believes and teaches regularly the ministry and the power of the Holy Spirit. We will talk about the role of the Holy Spirit in your life a little later in this book. Here is how I would pray every day until my pastor arrives into my life:

Father, I thank You for revelation regarding the pastor and local church you have given me. My pastor is a gift to my life. My pastor spiritually guides me and teaches me the fullness of Your Word for my life. Through my pastor, I receive knowledge, understanding, and judgment (or the ability to discern and apply the wisdom of God to my life). I receive my pastor and my church family by faith, now, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CHAPTER ONE

What Does It Mean To Be “Saved”?

Romans 10:13 - KJV

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Now that you have responded to the love of God toward you, you are “saved”. This word is biblically defined as the act of rescuing or making one safe, either physically or spiritually. It comes from a root word (sozo) which means to protect. In the traditional King James translation of the Bible, words such as “heal”, “preserve”, “wholeness”, or “well-being” are used to suggest the meaning of salvation.

The moment you accepted Jesus as Lord of your life and believed upon and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10), you walked into the security of God, and you were made by Him – a new creation in Christ. You became a new spiritual being – something you have never been before.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - AMPC

¹⁷ Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

Now that you are saved or rescued by God through Jesus, you will spend eternity with God. However, you must now apply your salvation experience to the remainder of your time here on earth. God has intended that your salvation renders you whole, healed, prosperous, and abundantly supplied in life.

John 10:10 - AMPC

¹⁰ The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

CHAPTER TWO

The Holy Spirit

John 14:16, 26 - AMPC

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever— ²⁶But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

The above scripture is Jesus praying to His Father for His disciples, which now includes you and I. He is praying in light of the fact that He would eventually return to Heaven and be seated in authority with the Father. He is asking His Father to send His Spirit (Holy Spirit) to assist you and I in life here on the earth. As you can see in this scripture, Holy Spirit's role in our life is absolutely amazing. Now that you are saved, Holy Spirit lives on the inside of you. However, He desires complete power of influence within you. This is accomplished as you yield to receive Him by faith, in the same way you yielded to receive Christ by faith. The more you yield to Holy Spirit, the more influence He is able to gain in your life until you reach the level of what is referred to as being "baptized in the Holy Spirit". One indicator that this has taken place is that you begin bearing the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23. Another indicator that you have reached this optimum level of Holy Spirit influence is that you begin to freely engage in what the Bible calls your prayer language, as described in Romans 8:26 and 1 Corinthians 14:15. It is also referred to as "praying in tongues" or "praying in the Holy Spirit". The fruit of the Holy Spirit and the gift of your prayer language are not separate and apart from receiving the Holy Spirit into your life. He brings all of these assets with Him to assist you here in the earth. You simply must "receive" Him and His gifts by faith.

One of the greatest responsibilities of Holy Spirit's engagement within you is to 'teach you all things' and to reveal to your spirit everything God has provided you in life, in order to prosper and succeed in every way. In accordance to the following scripture, you can see

that God has made preparations for your new life in Him that cannot be attained through your natural efforts (your natural senses), but will be 'revealed' to your spirit by Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 - NIV

⁹However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"^[a]— the things God has prepared for those who love him—¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

As you develop your relationship with Holy Spirit, you become more and more aware of God's presence in you and with you daily. So, I encourage you to begin spending time with Him and talking with Him as you would your best friend.

CHAPTER THREE

All Things New

2 Corinthians 5:17 – TLB

¹⁷ When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

Now that you are saved, all things are new! I know that sounds unreal, considering the fact that you don't necessarily look new or feel new right at this moment. Remember, this scripture is not talking about your natural (external) man, but your spiritual (inside) man. As far as God is concerned, you no longer have a past. The old you no longer exists and the only person God knows is the one you have become. Because of your decision, God has decided to forgive, remove, and forget your sins **forever**! The Bible speaks of God separating you from your sins as far as the east is separated from the west.

Psalms 103:12 - TLB

¹² He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.

What an amazing provision from the Father! Here is what it means. He did not say "as far as the north is from the south" because there are points at which the north and the south meet. We call them the north and south poles. But there is no such thing as an east or west pole. In other words, you can go east **forever** without ever running into west. The only way for you to encounter west while going east is for you to turn around and go the opposite direction. Well, the same is true regarding you and your sins. If you keep your heart toward God (even when you don't always get it right), you will never run into the judgment of sin again. In this book I am going to show you exactly how to do that.

One last thing on this subject of being a new person in Christ; the reason this is possible is because of how you were created by God from the very beginning of time.

Genesis 1:26 - NKJV

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

After God created the earth and all living creatures on the earth, He created you. Notice how He created you – "in Our image and according to Our likeness". That means you are not a basic mammal creature like animals. No, God created you in His class and then gave you dominion **over** the animal class. So then, you are not in the animal class of creation, you are in the God class of creation. The Bible says that God is a Spirit (John 4:26). Because that is true, then it means that you also are a spirit being. You are more spirit than you are human. The word "image" here means exact duplicate of kind, mirror reflection of the same, and a true genuine copy.

When you made your decision to accept Christ into your life, your spirit (the real you) was made new. Your spirit is the most superior part of you because it was created first and created most like God. Your body came later.

Genesis 2:7 - TLB

⁷The time came when the Lord God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And man became a living person.

So you existed in spirit form long before you ever existed in body form. Never live your life by the terms of your natural man. You are created to live life on the basis of what you *believe* (from your spirit-man) and not based on what you see, feel, and think (from your human part). God communicates only to your spirit. This is the part of you that was made new. Now you must allow your new self to transform your thought patterns, by hearing and acting on the things that God has spoken about you in His Word.

CHAPTER FOUR

I Am Good To God!

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 – Message Bible

²⁰God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you. ²¹How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

You and I are God's greatest and most prized creation. Jesus is the Father's plan to ensure your redemption from sin and its power over you. Jesus became the bridge that settled the differences between God and man forever, by surrendering His life as the ultimate sacrifice. Because of this, His Blood is the payment (atonement) for our sins. It is through that Blood that God chooses to see you and I as perfect, from this day forward. Now, you and I have the right to plead the Blood of Jesus, receive the forgiveness of the Father, and engage the work of repentance (which is the continual renewing of our minds by the Word of God). This keeps us in the position of right standing with God.

1 John 1:9 - TLB

⁹But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.

Never allow the enemy (satan) to manipulate you from this position of right standing with the Father. He knows that if he can convince you in your mind that you are no longer "right with God", then he can also talk you out of all your benefits of being saved. Remember, *you are good to God!*

CHAPTER FIVE

The Benefits Of Being Saved

Psalm 103:1-6 - NIV

¹Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

²Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

The Bible is full of benefits and privileges for those that love and trust God as Father. The above referenced scripture is a list of only a few of those benefits that come with being saved: forgiveness of all my sins, health in my body and mind, redemption from eternal condemnation (hell), overwhelming kindness and mercy, gifts of good things in life, longevity, strength, and renewed youth, the guarantee of justice in life, and so much more, as Psalm 103 continues. The benefits of salvation are provided freely by God, but without the active meditation of the Word that produces belief, you can't translate them into your reality. In other words, if you don't believe in these benefits and take active possession of them, your life will seem as though these promises, benefits, and privileges do not exist.

The Bible speaks of these benefits in three major categories. The first one is the deliverance from the authority of sin and access to righteousness through Christ which produces righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - TLB

²¹For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!

The second one is freedom from sickness, disease, premature death which produces health, renewed youth, and long life.

1 Peter 2:24 - CEV

²⁴Christ carried the burden of our sins. He was nailed to the cross, so that we would stop sinning and start living right. By his cuts and bruises you are healed.

The third one is the rescue from poverty and lack, with access to prosperity and well-being in life (abundance of all things good).

2 Corinthians 8:9 - TLB

⁹You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus was: though he was so very rich, yet to help you he became so very poor, so that by being poor he could make you rich.

Each of these categories are symbolic of major covenant exchanges that occurred between God and mankind through Christ when He was crucified on the cross. To not be aware of your benefits in this new life with God is to live life on the earth without the conviction necessary to reach your destiny. Learn more about this in my book, *Think Abundance*.

CHAPTER SIX

The Kingdom Of God

Mark 4:30-32 - NIV

³⁰Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

Now that you are saved, it is critically important for you to understand what it means to be a part of God's kingdom. Mark 4:30-32 truly captures the essence of what it means to live with this understanding. We know that this is of high importance to God, because it's all Jesus taught when He was on the earth. When a seed enters the ground, it basically inserts a culture into an environment with the intent to transform it by changing the landscape as it grows. As the seed expands its reach and as it bears its fruit in this new environment, it creates transformation on several levels. In the scripture we just read, you are the seed that God is planting in the earth – starting with your immediate environment. You will grow, expand, and bear fruit that exemplifies the culture, nature, and morals of God in your world of influence. Your life will provide a culture of refuge and provision for those that will benefit from the fruit you bear.

In the kingdom of God we come to understand *why* we are saved. It might surprise you that your salvation is simply not so that you endeavor to die and go to heaven. While we do look forward to eternity in heaven, we must understand that eternity starts now with your salvation. Eternity is not a place as much as it is a way of life that comes without the limits of natural living. A major reason for your salvation is for the purpose of producing *good works* (the works of God). These good works are what we refer to as your kingdom assignment.

Ephesians 2:10 - AMPC

¹⁰For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Embracing your kingdom assignment is a large part of living a kingdom life. This is where you surrender to God's way of doing and being here on earth. But, this is not how we are trained by the systems of this world. We are taught basically to do things our own way for the sake of getting ahead in life or 'making a living'. But once we allow God to reveal to us our kingdom assignment, we discover that our living has already been made. This revelation of kingdom assignment comes to us as we "seek first the kingdom of God".

Matthew 6:25,33 - AMPC

²⁵Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life greater [in quality] than food, and the body [far above and more excellent] than clothing?
³³But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

The Kingdom of God and its operations are supernatural in nature. When asked about it, Jesus explained it to be a culture that is imparted into those that are saved. You and I become carriers of this kingdom (culture, values, morals, principles) on the earth. We impose the will of God in all situations, circumstances, and events by virtue of this kingdom within us. We produce Godly outcomes, enjoy total and complete provision, advance beyond natural limitations, and defeat satan's agenda for mankind as we allow this kingdom to be released from within us.

Luke 17:20-21 - KJV

²⁰And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: ²¹Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Power Of Water Baptism

Colossians 2:11-12 - AMPC

¹¹In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). ¹²[Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead.

This scripture (Colossians 2:11-12) references water baptism while also comparing it to the covenant act of circumcision. Circumcision served as a religious rite of passage for the Israelites. It also signified the beginning of covenant between God, Abraham, and his descendants. This was all before Christ. Now that you are born again, this physical symbolic act is no longer necessary for you to engage covenant relationship with the Father. Your relationship with the Father is now under a new covenant administered by Jesus Christ, through the shedding of His Blood on the Cross. This is a type of *spiritual circumcision*.

Today, water baptism (which is full immersion into a body of water) is the ordinance that Jesus left for us that outwardly expresses the inward experience of salvation which is done in His name – the Name of Jesus (which is the Name of the Father, the Name of the Son, and the Name of the Holy Spirit).

Matthew 28:19 - KJV

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus is not making reference here to multiple names (plural), but one name that is above every name – Jesus!

Acts 2:38 - NKJV

³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Philippians 2:9-11 - NKJV

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

There is power in the name of Jesus. When you are water baptized in Jesus' name, you allow the power of His name to release its authority over that baptismal experience. It can make all the difference in your life. This is the same power that delivered so many people from sickness, disease, addictions, and demonic possession during Jesus' ministry on the earth. That same power is available to you today through his name. So, I encourage you to get baptized by your local church and receive this empowerment into your life.

CONCLUSION

My prayer for you is that you allow this book to begin your journey in your relationship with God in a very strong way. Remember, allow God to lead you to your pastor and your church where you will continue to receive teaching and training in the ways of God and His kingdom. You are on your way! You are royalty now in this new family and the Father has planned on your success! Now take the time to read the second book in this package, *The Power of Focus*. This book will teach you how to advance and hold with resilience that which you've received in Christ. Enjoy!