

His Purpose

A spiritual journey and its motive

by one of many Christians ...

His Purpose

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This book is dedicated to
everyone who will read it

PREFACE

Once, when I was walking in the garden of my heart, I found a package which had been placed there. Unwrapping it, I saw a small book full of sketchy sentences and phrases. They had been written at different times. Some of them had been collected during days which were joyful and full of love, while others during difficult and uncertain times or during normal and simple days. Putting them all together into a single pile, I noticed an image becoming visible, like a narrow path, along which I had been led all these years. Then I heard the voice of the gardener: “And why don’t you write about me and my works, what I planted and watered in your garden, and how I took care of and cultivated your heart over the years?” I thought afterwards: “Really, why shouldn’t I write about my gardener and his works, his care and his love?” After all, he is worthy of being known and shared with others.

This book is not theological teaching or the presentation of a certain doctrine; neither is it a book of fiction. It is only the response to the voice of the gardener. These sketchy sentences and phrases came from conversations with him, questions and answers, surprises and disappointments, and occasions of stumbling and getting up again.

This book reflects a desire to know more about the gardener, his works and his purpose. What has been scattered on the ground here is contained in a single, unvarnished and unedited book. Therefore, like the heart, it is not perfect, and not without error.

I was listening to his voice telling me what he wants to plant and grow in my garden, what marvellous love, faith, patience, joy and compassion he would like to cultivate here. I talked with him as the gardener, and I wanted to know him better.

Now I know who the gardener of my heart is. Therefore I want to write about him, his works and purpose, his love and the unspeakable happiness he brought into my life. Maybe after reading this book, you will have the desire to be led by the gardener on this wonderful path and to meet him personally.

“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” (*John 20:15*)

The journey begins...

How great are your works, O Lord, how
profound your thoughts!

Psalm 92:5

CHAPTER 1

Why?

Have you ever met a man who has committed all his life to a single purpose? Have you noticed how he behaves? His actions seem exciting and interesting, but unpredictable and mysterious. Sometimes you are impressed and inspired by his deeds and welcome each of his choices, but at other times you do not understand and get angry because of his strangeness and unclear decisions. Often you cannot explain why someone behaves in a certain way and you then ask yourself: “I do not understand why he is acting in such a way; what is the reason and purpose of his behaving so foolishly?” If you knew his purpose you could explain each of his choices, deeds and acts. The essential thing is to know the purpose and then everything will make sense: all actions, choices, questions and answers lead to a single point, the beginning and the end of the motives - the purpose.

But what about God; does He have a purpose? How can you pursue God’s will without knowing His purpose? How can you explain His works without understanding what He is seeking in your life? Without understanding His purpose you wander in a mysterious labyrinth, trying to guess and puzzle out the whole picture from your feelings, experiences and circumstances. One day you’re full of love, joy, gratitude and praise for the Lord, you are inspired and give Him your life, understand everything that He does and accept all His decisions, but the next day you’re confused, all your knowledge disappears, the gratitude and thanksgiving are replaced by silent rebellion against God’s illogical actions, silence and incomprehensible decisions. One day everything is according to your plan, you clearly see the Lord’s guidance, you feel His presence and blessings, you are full of faith, joy and love, but the next day you feel weak and lost

somewhere, you cannot recognize the Lord's voice, do not understand His guidance and ask if he still loves and takes care of you. You think He is angry, has changed His mind and forsaken you.

During those moments a lot of questions attack your mind: why, why, why? Why have God's promises, which He so clearly spoke into my heart, not come to pass? Why family members are not yet saved? Why is there no awakening and revival? Why do miracles happen somewhere else but not in my life? Why are there so many Christian denominations and various teachings, based on the same Bible? Why does He answer quickly some prayers, while others have to wait for years? Why are some persons healed instantly while others are not? Why do I not feel His presence constantly? Why does He wait patiently while I can not stand any more? Why does He not turn to me after I denounce Him the first time and waits till I disown Him three times? Why does He still love me when I do not want to be loved? Why do I fall down, when I think that I am standing firm? Why does He ask a question when I need an answer? Oh...if only I knew what He seeks in my life and what His purpose is?

When you look at the lives of His disciples you can notice how often they stumbled and got up again, how they looked up to Jesus but were frustrated trying to understand His actions and decisions. They went to Jerusalem to die for the king, but fled leaving Him to be crucified. They were awestruck by His preaching and performing miracles, but often didn't notice the author himself. Even John the Baptist, inspired by the Holy Spirit, confidently witnessed that this Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, but later, after being put in the prison, asked: "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (*Matthew 11:3*)

How incomprehensible and unsearchable are the judgments and decisions of God! If only I knew what His purpose is – or even if

God has a purpose? What does He seek in your life and where is He leading you? Can we understand this?

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalm 33: 11

CHAPTER 2

His Purpose

What is God's purpose? To save you and make you happy, solve all your problems, teach you to love and be patient, forgive all your sins, cleanse and justify you, teach you to distinguish good from evil, show and perform more signs, wonders and miracles, make of you a great disciple, teacher, shepherd, prophet and faithful servant, protect you from evil, heal and purify you, establish justice on the earth? This is really God's will, but what is His purpose? What is His purpose from the beginning to the end and what remains for ever in His Word? What has been prophesied and foretold thousands of years ago, what has come to pass and already happened, and what is being revealed now and what will take place in the future? Who was in the deepest place of God's heart before the beginning and who will remain there forever, where God focuses His eyes and in whom His heart delights? What unites all these things and is much more than you can think of or imagine?

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being ... (*Hebrews 1:3*)

The answer is the Son of God, His image and glory, the lamb and the lion, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the Word of God and the life - Jesus Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... (*Colossians 2:9*)

God does not hide His purpose - He accomplishes it and will carry out it forever, because God's purpose is eternal and will remain forever.

According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Ephesians 3:11*)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were **created by him and for him.** (*Colossians 1:15-16*)

Jesus Christ was, is and will be God's main purpose. The revelation of Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of everything, the axis around which revolves the entire history of humanity, its fall and salvation. He is the centre of the universe and the "big bang", the mystery and marvel to the angels, principalities and powers in the heaven. He was in God's depths before the beginning, He was promised and prophesied in earlier generations, was testified to in creation, was hidden behind the Law, was revealed in the flesh, suffered and died for you, was raised from the dead, was taken into heaven and is seated on the throne on the right hand of the Father. He was, He is and He is coming. He was revealed, He is being revealed and He will be revealed in the heavens and the earth.

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (*1 Timothy 3:16*)

Jesus Christ is His beloved one, and in Him we are beloved too. He was already far ahead before us, the firstborn. Nobody saw Him and knew Him: neither powers, nor angels, nor rulers, nor principalities or authorities - only the Father. He was inaccessible, unknown and untouchable, described as a mystery hidden for ages.

... and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. (*Ephesians 3:9*)

However, this mystery and the greatest miracle, incomprehensible and inaccessible to humans, is now being revealed and is available to everyone who believes. God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ to everyone personally. God's purpose and the greatest miracle in your life is - **the revelation of Jesus Christ in you.**

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know **the mystery of God, Christ**, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (*Colossians 2:2-3*)

Everything that happens in your life revolves around Him, is from Him and is for Him. Christ is the secret, hidden in your body as in a clay jar. God's eternal purpose is to reveal His Son Jesus Christ in you. And whatever happens, His eyes always looks at you with love, seeking to recognize in you the One who committed Himself completely into God's hands. His soft hands nourish and build you out of heavenly bread – Jesus Christ that you may grow into His full knowledge. Always look at the One hidden in your earthen vessel, because when this vessel is destroyed, you will see Him as He is. Your secret - Jesus Christ - will be unveiled, demonstrated and glorified before all creation as the true image of God - not a shadow or example, but the actual existence and eternal life.

Dear friend, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, **for we shall see him as he is.** (*1 John 3:2*)

Beloved, you participate in the greatest and most glorious process in the universe – the revelation of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit performs this work and the angels with amazement and astonishment observe His every breath in you, rejoicing and watching the immeasurable wisdom of God. He put aside his royal robes and left all His glory, took a weak human body, was subject to the death penalty, died on the cross for those who didn't love and seek Him, rose from the dead and gave Himself to everyone who believes. God took the insignificant dust of the earth, which has neither the desire nor the power to know the Creator and which is full of injustice and darkness from the very deepest pit, took out it, and put Himself within it, to remain with it forever. The miracle of the creation of the universe, the earth, sun and stars, the beauty and variety of vegetation and wildlife, the splendour of angels and cherubim is nothing compared with God's greatest miracle - the author and the reason behind the whole creation, your Saviour and your life - Jesus Christ. The whole Bible from the beginning to the end witnesses to and tells us about Christ. He was promised and visible from a distance in the Old Testament; His life, works, death and resurrection have been revealed through the testimony of the Gospels; and His glorious return and revelation is promised and sealed in the last pages of the New Testament.

The revelation of Jesus Christ in you is inseparable from His revelation in the Old Testament where God spoke and testified about the coming of Christ and prepared the way for Him. Everything in the Old Testament revolves around Him, still hidden, but approaching. Look at how He was seen from a distance in the Old Testament by God's servants and how they ministered to you preparing the way for Christ in your heart.

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

(1 Peter 1:12)

CHAPTER 3

The revelation of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

Sometimes you probably wonder: what is the point of studying the Old Testament and what is the value of reading about various rules, regulations, laws and orders, past events, people's lives, wars and traditions that disappeared many centuries ago and are no longer relevant and important today? How can all these things be related to Christ?

The entire Bible from the first to the last page prophesies, witnesses and points to only one person - Jesus Christ. It is impossible to understand the Old Testament without Christ, who is hidden behind a curtain and is visible only in images and patterns. In the Old Testament God points to images, which are witnesses of the approaching reality - the coming of Christ, and prophesies about His sacrifice, death and resurrection. All events and even lives of the God's servants in Old Testament are only shadows and images of the coming reality.

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming - not the realities themselves. (*Hebrews 10:1*)

Therefore, when you look at rules, laws, regulations and lives of God's servants described in the Old Testament as the form, you can only see the old curtain - incomprehensible and strange, which hides from you the real Christ. However, when the Spirit of God removes this curtain, this reveals invisible and hidden treasure – Christ Himself.

Have you noticed how a shadow is formed? If you put any object under the sun, it forms a shadow by obstructing the light coming from the sun. However, if you remove it, all the light reaches the ground without any shadow or interruption. In the Old

Testament God showed and pointed to images, models and illustrations, which are only copies of the hidden original. However, when the image or model is taken away, then the original appears without any veil or shadow.

They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy** and **shadow** of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain. (*Hebrews 8:5*)

First God shows an image, a shadow, but later He shows the real original item: at first He shows Adam - only a shadow of Christ; paradise in Eden – a shadow of true paradise in heaven; the tabernacle of God on earth - a shadow of God’s true temple in heaven; animal sacrifices, offerings, the sprinkling of blood, ceremonial washing, temple services, laws, regulations and orders - only a shadow of Christ’s sacrifice, His holiness, righteousness and His life; earthly Jerusalem - only the image and shadow of the real City of God, heavenly Jerusalem descending from heaven. First an example and shadow and then the real item. However, when Christ comes, the veil is removed and the shadow disappears. Now you can look straight into the light with no curtain and see God in Jesus Christ.

From the very first pages of the Bible God points to the One, who is coming. The entire Old Testament witnesses to and testifies about Christ - God’s mystery, His main promise and eternal life. By faith the earlier generations saw this mystery from a distance. By faith they ran far ahead of the future generations and saw from a distance invisible things as their eyes reached far beyond their lives. Living by faith, they prophesied and showed the coming reality. They lived in the shadow of reality, and saw it coming.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They didn't receive the things promised; they only **saw them and welcomed them from a distance.** (*Hebrews 11:13*)

Jesus himself testified that by faith Abraham surpassed many future generations and saw the coming of God's promise - Christ.

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad. (*John 8:56*)

Abraham, by the pattern of his life, predicted and prophesied the coming of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Abraham's son Isaac is an image of Christ. Isaac was born as the fulfilment of God's promise when Abraham's and Sarah's bodies were old and had passed the natural limits of the ability to have children. This event predicted the upcoming supernatural birth of Jesus. Abraham obeyed in sacrificing his only son and regained him, as from death, foretelling Christ's death and resurrection. Abraham was the first man on earth who believed that God could resurrect from death, because in obeying the command to sacrifice his only son, he regained him, as an image of Christ, by faith, seeing the risen Christ from a distance.

Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking; he did receive Isaac from death. (*Hebrews 11:19*)

By the image of Abraham's life and sacrifice of Isaac, God showed that instead of Isaac someone else would be sacrificed for you and that God Himself would take care of the sacrifice, releasing you from death.

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." (*Genesis 22:8*)

The lives of our faith patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and many others are like prophecies and references to the coming of Christ. Reading about their lives and faith and God's promises, God redirects our eyes to the main purpose of their faith - the coming of Christ as the heir and fulfilment of the promise of eternal life. God's servant Moses saw Him coming from a distance and, by faith, viewed the invisible One.

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he **saw him who is invisible**.
(*Hebrews 11:27*)

He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as a greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead for his reward. (*Hebrews 11:26*)

The entire history of the nation of Israel is full of testimonies about Christ, prophesying His coming and preparing the way for Him. The exodus of Israel from Egyptian slavery, travelling through the desert to the Promised Land, foretold your salvation and journey in Christ. God's Law given through Moses with various rules and regulations shows and predicts Christ's coming as the perfect sacrifice and purification from sins, as the high priest and intercessor, and as God's temple and its builder. The construction of God's tabernacle amongst His people when Israel was travelling through the desert to the Promised Land, predicts that God Himself will take on a human body and live in a bodily form amongst His people. The destruction of the temple in Jerusalem as a result of Israel's sin predicts that Christ will be sacrificed; His earthly body will be destroyed because of our sins and raised from the dead. The restoration of the destroyed Jewish temple in Jerusalem during the time of Ezra confirms that. It is impossible to mention all the stories and events because the entire Old Testament is filled with Christ and testifies about Him.

You diligently study the Scriptures, because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me...(*John 5:39*)

Without Christ the Law is only a set of regulations, part of the old veil. When you seek to serve God pursuing this visible form, you willingly bind yourself to external forms, rules and human traditions, throwing the veil over Christ and hiding Him. However, God Himself destroyed the ancient temple and any visible form in order that you might serve Him in Spirit, by Christ Himself, who is your life.

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to religious festivals, a new Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (*Colossians 2:16-17*)

In the further history of Israel, described in the books of Kings and Chronicles, the testimony about Christ's coming is even stronger and become a cornerstone of these books. The main axis or cornerstone is God's promise to King David about his offspring, whose kingdom will last forever. In Israel's history the dominant theme is the waiting for and coming of the promised offspring of King David.

After the destruction of the kingdom of Israel and the exile of Israel's people into captivity, the testimony about Christ becomes the main theme of the books of the prophets, where God not only shows the approaching fulfilment of the promise, but calls people to prepare the way for Christ. God announces even more loudly Christ's coming, suffering, death and resurrection.

Concerning the salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time

and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (*1 Peter 1: 10-11*)

The entire Old Testament right up to the last page is filled with Christ's fragrance, which we can smell when reading about the persecution of the prophets, the beating, suffering and death of God's servants, who by faith defeated kingdoms, extinguished fire and raised the dead. But all of them saw Christ only from a distance and rejoiced at Christ's upcoming glory, which removes any shadow of death.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (*Hebrews 11: 39-40*)

You live in the most remarkable time, because you can see Christ not only from a distance or even walking close beside you, but even more – He is in you, closer than you can see, feel or realize. All the prophets testified about this treasure; the patriarchs dreamed about it and waited patiently for it. Now this promise of God is freely available to everyone who believes. Jesus Christ - the promise of eternal life - is for you. And what a wonderful journey in Him is waiting for you. But before that, look at how wonderfully God fulfilled what earlier generations so diligently sought and dreamed about, waited and saw from a distance.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

(1 John 1:1-2)

CHAPTER 4

The revelation of Jesus Christ on the earth

The birth of Jesus and His coming to the earth was prophesized thousands of years ago and fulfilled with such accuracy that it proves the only one possible author of this miracle - God Himself. Jesus birth was miraculous because He was born not from man's seed but unnaturally – from the Holy Spirit through the faith planted in the Virgin Mary's heart. However there is more to it than that when we talk about His birth. Christ's coming to the earth in a human body is so great and glorious that we can understand only a small fraction of what it means.

Before Jesus birth, it was impossible for man to approach close to God because no man could stand before God in a human body, look at Him and stay alive. God's glory and man standing beside it is unthinkable in the Old Testament because it would mean instant death for any human being. In the Old Testament it is written that before God's glory descended on Mount Sinai, the Lord commanded it to be fenced around so that no human or animal could come close to Him and die because before His glory there is the presence of smoke, lightning, earthquake and fire, which consumes anyone coming close to God.

Mount Sinai was covered with **smoke**, because the Lord descended on it in **fire**. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain **trembled** violently... (*Exodus 19:18*)

In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, God's glory is described. It is not the real glory of God but only a vision and image given to the prophet. God's glory in this vision is surrounded by a windstorm, cloud, lightning and fire.

I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north - an immense cloud with flashing lighting and surrounded by brilliant light. The centre of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures... (*Ezekiel 1:4-5*)

God desires to have a close relationship with man but He could not approach him in a way that would allow man to remain alive and untouched by the fire and enormous power which surrounds the Sovereign of the universe. Therefore, in order to protect man from death, in the Old Testament God covered His Glory under a veil and hid man so that the latter wouldn't die from the consuming presence of God's glory. When Moses prayed to God to show His glory, the Lord hid him in a rock and covered him with His own hand, so that the presence of God's glory wouldn't destroy Moses.

“But,” he said, “you cannot see My face, for no-one may see me and live.” Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.” (*Exodus 33:20-23*)

Does God desire man's death or does He not want to show His glory? Why could not even such a humble, wise, obedient, faithful and dedicated servant of God as Moses, full of faith and the fear of God, see His face?

God is inseparable from fire. The New Testament says that our God is a consuming fire (*Hebrews 12:39*). He is surrounded by such a huge power and flames, that the storms, earthquake, strong wind and lightning, which consume and swallow any

impurity, the slightest shadow of sin or injustice, go before Him. Before He appears any sin and the smallest remnant of darkness is destroyed by the fire. No one can pass through the circle of fire and flames, which surrounds the Sovereign of the universe, and look at His face. Even the angels stand in His presence before this unbreakable and impassable wall but can not go through and look at what is inside it – inside God’s heart and His depths. If you want to look at His face, you must first meet a hurricane, a windstorm and an earthquake and pass through the fire and flames. How could you remain alive having a sinful nature? Fire and flames are not God’s accessories, which He can leave, take off or extinguish. All this is God Himself. He is inseparable from the fire. Where He goes, there is fire. In front of Him appear hurricanes, storms, earthquakes, flames and smoke, fire and lightning, which warn about His coming. However, beyond this wall of fire and flames, smoke and lightning, beyond this enormous and insuperable power, there is something else – not to be seen, but what the prophet Elijah heard. It is a quiet and gentle voice ...

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful **wind** tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an **earthquake**, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a **fire**, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (*1 Kings 19: 11- 13*).

Someone amazing and glorious is in the depths of the Father. Someone, who knows Him, loves Him and is one with Him, lies in His heart. This is the Word of God and the source of life.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (*John 1:1*)

In the deepest places of God lies such a great wisdom, grace, love, sacrifice, purity, light and righteousness, all the beauty of the universe, about whom nobody has known or has seen - neither angels nor men. How can this be revealed and make available to humans? How can eternal life, hidden in the depths of God, be given to man who is so full of darkness and separated by the impassable wall of fire, which would destroy him together with the sinful nature and impurity within? How is it possible to give the eternal life to you and at the same time to keep you alive, standing before God? How can God reveal Himself and give what is hidden inside Him, but is protected by the wall of flames and fire - a life full of grace and mercy, sacrifice and love? If He moved towards you, even before He started approaching, the windstorm and the hurricane would reach you first. Even before you saw it, the fire, lightning and flames would destroy you. O... how I am separated by the insuperable gap, an impassable wall...

And yet how deep is His wisdom, how magnificent are His decisions and how great, loving, self-denying and self-sacrificing is His heart! He paved the way for you to have eternal life, hidden in Him. He sent the Word of God and the source of life, through whom all has been created, to the earth, in order to give eternal life to everyone who believes. The Word of God left His glory and the depths of God's heart, passed through the wall of smoke, flames and fire, left behind the cherubim, who surround and protect God's glory, and out of unreachable light and faraway eternity, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through faith, was hidden and planted in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He was

clothed with a visible and weak human body like an earthly tent or curtain, and hid there all the fullness of God. He came from an unreachable distance, beyond the limits of the universe and descended so low, to reach the lowliness of sinful man.

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. (*1 John 1:2*)

That which had been hidden in the depths of God, beyond the wall of fire, now walked on the earth. It was possible to see and touch Him and to stay alive. That which was the dearest and most precious thing to the Father, He gave to you, separating Himself from the precious stone, kept within until then.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. (*John 1: 1-2*)

What delight, admiration and marvellous enjoyment, caused by God's decision and His act of self-denial, filled the heavens. Choirs of angels do not cease to worship God and to celebrate the man's salvation. All the time angels were standing in His presence and did not know what a great treasure and God's life was hidden in the depths of God beyond the wall of fire. But now, they were so amazed, seeing Jesus Christ – the eternal life and Word of God, walking on the earth in a human body, declaring God's salvation, healing the sick, expelling demons and working miracles and wonders. Now they ministered to God's beloved one, who built for Himself a bodily tent and lived among people. He, through whom the heavens and the earth were created, left everything, putting on human weakness and becoming dependent on the Father.

What an incomprehensible and wonderful life walked on the earth, what a great light and the fullness of God dwelt beyond

the bodily curtain, but this light and life was so different and incomprehensible to humans that they didn't recognize Him.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. (*John 1 : 10*)

Jesus and His deeds and teaching were strange and contrary to human nature, impossible to copy or replicate, and there is nothing to compare with them, because no one lived and taught as Jesus did. His heart burned in a way that brought fire to the human hearts rather than burnt the bodies. Many did not understand His deeds, teaching and parables. But an unexplained thirst drew them towards God's life, hidden beyond the bodily curtain, so that they followed Him, forgetting everything. However there were those who were offended by Him, especially among the scribes and religious people. Their eyes saw only the curtain – Jesus body – and could not penetrate deeper. They didn't see the eternal life covered by the veil and didn't follow the footsteps of Abraham who surpassed many generations by faith seeing from a distance the fulfilment of God's promise.

Even the disciples of Jesus did not understand Him. In trying to bring down fire from the heaven on those who did not accept Jesus, they saw revenge but not grace (*Luke 9: 54*). In the woman who poured on His head the most expensive oil, they saw a waste of money, but not love (*Matthew 26:7*). During Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, they sought the King, glory and recognition, rather than self-sacrifice and self-denial (*Mark 9: 34*). They did not understand parables, they disputed about who was the greater, they criticized others, and they were jealous of each other. But despite this, they followed Him because something drew them to Jesus, like a gentle and quiet voice, the same as that heard by the prophet Elijah, and like a divine aroma and flavour which draws the hungry and thirsty to the source of life. The

disciples were attracted to Jesus, admired Him and desired to live like Him; they sought to understand and copy Him, but again, they were always failing to grasp what he said. They tried but never understood what was in Him; they sought with all their strength but couldn't find it. However, despite all their failures, the life of Jesus drew them towards Him...

How can we get what Jesus has? How can we live the same life as He lives? Despite tremendous efforts you cannot copy or replicate His life. How can we get this live and satisfy our thirst?

But again, you can joyfully exclaim: how deep is God's wisdom and how merciful and generous is His heart! The only way to get what is in Jesus is to break His body and to pour out the eternal life - to tear His body like the cloth, to pour out His life like the blood and water.

Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.
(John 19: 34)

God accomplished all this by His own decision and free will. He gave His only begotten Son over to death for our sins, letting His body be broken as bread is broken into small pieces, so that His life might be poured out and be accessible to you. He destroyed His temple, the body of Jesus, in order to build the new one as the resurrected body of Christ, which is not earthly anymore, but a heavenly temple. At the time of Jesus death the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, and out of the Holy of Holies poured the grace of God, which in the Old Testament was available only to the high priest (a prophetic image of Jesus). Now God's grace has become available to you.

... by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ... *(Hebrews 10: 20)*

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (*Mark 15:38*)

However, how can His eternal life reach and fill me, how can I climb up to heaven and meet the Father, how I can go through the fire and flames and see Him who loves me? Put your trust in Him because reaching out to you from faraway and taking you out of the deepest pit, He knows how to keep and bring you to heaven because, once He has grasped you, He will never leave you.

Everything that Jesus accomplished on the earth is immeasurable and magnificent: His birth, His life on earth, His death and now ... His resurrection and return to the Father.

I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”
(*John 16: 28*)

His return to the Father was not a simple return to the place where He was before. His return to the Father saves and crowns you because He returned not for Himself but for you. Or... can you imagine how the Father waits for the beloved son and how His servants, angels and archangels rejoice and marvel at meeting Him in heaven? Imagine a multitude, myriads of angels and cherubim, standing in the presence of God before the wall of burning fire and flames and seeing from a distance the return of the Son of God. But what is this? The angels are amazed and surprised as they see the coming of the Son of God in a resurrected human body. He went to the earth alone, but has now returned in a human body. The human body has never been in the heavens, has never even come close to God, but now goes through the smoke, clouds and windstorm, approaches the lightning, flames and burning fire and passes through it, returning

back to the Father - to the deepest place of God, to the centre of His heart presenting His sacrifice for our sins - His precious blood. Jesus returned to the Father in the human body and with His blood suppressed the fire, which demanded the death of the sinner and made a free way to the Father for those who will follow Him. Jesus in His human body brought you up to heaven.

How great and glorious is the revelation of Jesus Christ in the heaven. Jesus' return to the Father is the greatest event and source of amazement for all creation in the heavenly realms. God's wisdom, love, sacrifice, self-denial, grace, mercy and righteousness shine in such brightness, so obviously and strongly, that the new song doesn't cease before God's throne.

And they sang a new song: " You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation... (*Revelation 5: 9*)

God's glory and eternal life, previously hidden, is now revealed, known and clearly shown once and for all, because God wanted not only to give us His Son, but to share with us His glory as well. O...how great is our God and the Saviour. The way to the Father is free and this way is Jesus Christ.

But this is not all. Eternal life is poured out, the way is free but how will His life reach me, and how can I receive Him? There is still someone whom the world does not know, but who took the Word of God at the start of this journey, reduced Him to the size of a mustard seed, brought Him to the earth and sowed Him in Mary's heart. There is still someone, who was always with Jesus, who guided and strengthened Him, anointed Him and performed miracles, by whose power Jesus was resurrected and taken up to the Father, and who Jesus promised to send to His disciples after

the resurrection. It is the God – the Holy Spirit without whom it is impossible to know Jesus, and to follow and abide in Him.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. (*John 14: 16*)

Before you start the journey to heaven, it is necessary that the same Holy Spirit takes the poured out eternal life and through your faith plants it in your heart. Only the Holy Spirit can plant His life - now not in Mary's heart but in yours, not the earthly Jesus, who died, but the resurrected one, who is in heaven. The Holy Spirit brings to you the smallest seed you can imagine. It is only the size of a word. You cannot even see, touch or feel it. But if you say "Yes" to His gift as Mary said "Yes" to the will of God, then the Holy Spirit sows the word of salvation in your heart. Then the most amazing journey begins in your life – the journey to your Father, through the free way and opening in the wall of fire.

...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith...

Ephesians 3: 17

CHAPTER 5

The revelation of Jesus Christ in you

The revelation of Jesus Christ in you is the incomparable treasure, the miracle and the path you are following. The eternal life which walked on the earth, once covered with a bodily veil and hidden in Jesus Christ, is now available to you. The indescribable and divine life is now hidden and planted in you. The life of Jesus, His thoughts, behavior, feelings and deeds are in you. His holiness, righteousness, love and mercy, humility and self-denial, devotion and the power of God is planted in you. But there is an even greater and more wonderful thing - His death and His resurrection lie in you, planted by the power of the Holy Spirit and being kept and sustained in order to be revealed in heaven and on earth. This treasure is so great and deep that astonishment and marvel fills the heavens looking at God's wisdom and works performed in you through Jesus Christ. The fragrance of Jesus now is not next to you but rather in you. Gods seeks in your life to smell the fragrance of His Son, the fragrance of Jesus coming out from your heart.

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. (*2 Corinthians 2:15*)

Do you think that God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ placed you back in the Garden of Eden, with the same status in which Adam and Eve lived before their sin, with the same level of relationship with the Creator which they had before the fall? If only you knew how deep the heart of God is. What He gave you cannot be compared with what the first Adam had because he was only a shadow of Christ. Adam had never been in heaven but lived on the earth in the Garden of Eden while Christ

brought you before the throne of God, to the heavenly paradise. Adam never had the knowledge and revelation of God within but communicated with God watching Him. However you are God's temple because God Himself lives in you. God created Adam when He touched him and Adam became a living soul; however you were not only touched by Him but rather filled and placed in Him, becoming not only a living soul but the life-giving spirit in Jesus Christ.

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. (*1 Corinthians 15:45*)

Probably you sometimes look at the miracles rather than at their author. Then everything you seek is only multiplied loaves of bread and signs, which are very important, but nevertheless, they are only signs of His presence and not Him. In the book of Revelation, in the letter to the church at Laodicea, He says that He is standing at the door and knocking.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. (*Revelation 3:20*)

This letter is addressed to the believers, to His Church. Jesus, whom they know and whom they serve is nearby. To the Christians at the church in Laodicea it was enough to see Jesus somewhere nearby with His signs and miracles; however they didn't look for the greatest miracle – the revelation of Jesus not only nearby but rather within – in their hearts. They were lukewarm – neither hot nor cold. Without Jesus in you it is impossible to be hot as only Jesus can bring the fire into your heart. Maybe because of that they were lukewarm - always close to Jesus but not allowing Him to step into their hearts. However Jesus is knocking at the doors of the heart and desires to come in rather than to stay nearby, so that He can make you hot and

fruitful. Although the Laodicean believers apparently had everything, they lacked the most important - the revelation of Christ within.

Therefore nothing is more important in your life than the revelation of Christ in you. It is a personal relationship with Jesus, which is possible only through the Holy Spirit. It is so simple that sometimes it is even difficult to believe and accept it. Often is easier to accept faith that leads to healing, driving out demons, preaching salvation, and overcoming the enemy, but it is difficult by the same faith to let Jesus come and possess your heart. The revelation of Jesus in you happens by the same faith, by the same mustard seed, by the same decision of your heart, by the same word "Yes" spoken in your heart in response to His voice.

When you read in the book of Acts about the early church, you can see what great miracles and demonstrations of the power of God took place there. Here you can read how Stephen, full of faith and God's power performed great signs and miracles among the people. However, there was something more in him than signs and wonders; there was someone who was the author of these miracles. You can see it when Stephen was stoned for his testimony of Jesus.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**" Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**" When he had said this, he fell asleep. (*Acts 7:59-60*)

Where has all this already been seen? Where does this fragrance and aroma come from? You can notice almost the same in Jesus, who prayed to forgive His murderers and who sacrificed Himself for others.

Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**” And they divided his clothes by casting lots. (Luke 23:34)

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.**” When he had said this, he breathed his last. (*Luke 23:46*)

Did Stephen copy the behavior of Jesus? Is it possible to do this by human effort? A thousand times, No! But here you can see the greatest miracle – Jesus, who walked on this earth, now living personally in Stephen’s heart. Jesus life, poured out on the cross, now acted in the same way in Stephen who accepted His life.

This is a real living Christ and the true church, His bride, where you can see and recognize the real Jesus. His revelation is mysterious and incompressible to the world, hidden in your clay jar, but is so real and true to you because it is a personal revelation to you. This way is narrow and invisible, a way which others cannot see or evaluate, but it is the only and the safest way to heaven, to your Father. The Holy Spirit is going to reveal in you His death and His resurrection, so that, being in Him, you can ascend to the Father. The amazing and the most important journey in your life is beginning ...

I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.
(*Philippians 3:14*)

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

Galatians 3: 10

CHAPTER 6

He will destroy your righteousness

The beginning of the journey... Just thinking about it, joy overwhelms the heart and a smile appears on the face. Do you remember the moment when you said “yes” to God’s gift - Jesus Christ, when the Holy Spirit took away the huge and heavy burden of sin and guilt, how He filled your heart with unspeakable joy, love and peace? What a wonderful beginning of the journey, how real His presence and blessings, how clear the guidance of the Spirit, what a devotion to Him, how many miracles and amazing “coincidences” which so overwhelmed the heart. At that time it seemed that you could embrace and love the whole world and even the trees and the birds seemed more alive and filled with the same joy. Do you remember what a divine love filled your heart and how you desired to be with Him all the time, to serve Him, to give yourself to Him completely and unconditionally, to make every effort to please Him and become better ...

But how often on this journey is our attention attracted to a place to stop which has the name “Become better!” What an appropriate place to stop, when you are trying to please Him and improve yourself. This stop on the edge of the way seems so tempting that just for a moment you turn to the side of the road and stop. But the longer you stay there, the more beautiful and safe it seems to you, and the more right it feels to be there, so that finally you do not want to go further. From this stop it seems so strange to see those who are still continuing their journey and are on the road. Having begun with the Spirit, you now turn towards the flesh where there are so many works of self-righteousness, which never end but rather hold you back for a long time.

This stop held back some Christians in the Galatian church. Paul wrote to them showing how blessed they were at the beginning, how strong the love and how sincere the care for others were in their hearts, how deeply they loved and how exceedingly was God's love poured out through their hearts.

Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. (*Galatians 4:14*)

But after a certain time something changed in their hearts, this divine love, unconditional devotion and sincere care for others disappeared and was replaced by opposition and distrust. Paul, who was so loved by the Galatians and for whom they cared so much, suddenly became distant and hostile, not righteous, holy or spiritual enough.

Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? (*Galatians 4:16*)

The stop "Become better!" misleads you when you try to please the Lord by your own efforts and works. It pushes you off the road, forcing you to go by your own strength. You start to do good works in order to become better, to become more righteous, but you fail. Why? On the contrary, when you do good works in order to become righteous or someone better, a different fruit grows - self-righteousness. At the beginning it looks so attractive and you do not notice what kind of fruit is growing in your heart, but slowly on the surface of your life emerges self-righteousness. Gradually you begin to judge those who do not perform works and you become offended at their behaviour; you start to value yourself more highly than others, measuring your progress and making a "spiritual" career. At first these seem to be only innocent and irrelevant thoughts, but if you continue to "work", a growing gap arises between you who

“work” and others who “do not work” until finally, you become hostile to those who “just believe” in Jesus.

However, the gap and the distance between God and you increase as well. It seems you put in so much effort and do so many works but nothing changes. Whatever you do, it is still YOU who do, and it is YOUR righteousness, YOUR works and YOUR results. Slowly there emerges the image of normal and moral man. Instead of the revelation of Christ in you, what emerges is a repainted image of yourself. You become a self-righteous, moral man, keeping all the traditions and regulations like a repaired old Adam, an image and a reflection of your improved self, driving away others who do not want to become like you. Why, when Jesus returns to the earth, to some He will declare:

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'
(*Matthew 25:12*)

The Father will not recognize in them His son Jesus, who he wants so fervently to reveal.

At the stop “Become better!” your helper, the counsellor and the guide - the Holy Spirit, is replaced and substituted by another companion – “Condemnation”. You judge and condemn those who do not “work” but at the same time you carry a burden of tension, fearing to make any mistake, fearing to lose the robe of your self-righteousness and good works. The condemnation of the Law and the works of self-righteousness follow you everywhere you go. The commands “do” and “don’t”, “authorized” and “not authorized”, “must” and “mustn’t” begin to guide and lead you while the Holy Spirit, who reveals Jesus Christ, remains near waiting for you on the road. You lose sight of Him, as if a veil covers Him and His glory. You don’t see Jesus but rather yourself - a nice, fair and honest person, painted in white. However this is just YOU...

Condemnation is the constant companion at this stop: either you condemn others who do not work or you condemn yourself for your failings. Condemnation rather than grace and forgiveness become your constant companion. This stop gradually turns into a prison where you serve continually for your own righteousness.

But God is faithful and He brings you back to the right way, where you started your journey. How? Sometimes it is so painful, because He destroys the stop “Become better!” - destroys what has anchored and held you. At this moment you do not understand what is happening in your life, why everything is falling apart, everything you have built and were so proud of, everything you were able to boast about silently before others. Suddenly you become weak, having nothing to boast about and standing among the ruins of your self - righteousness. The Lord destroys your works of flesh and your confidence in yourself. However, after the destruction of the old temple, the Lord rebuilds in the same place, in your human body, the spiritual house for true worship and service.

“We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'" (*Mark 14:58*)

You pass through the mountains of your self-righteousness which the Lord destroys. If you have already seen these ruins, rejoice because on these ruins God will rebuild the spiritual house for the true worship and priesthood, the house for spiritual gifts and sacrifices. Fear not because He not only builds, first He destroys.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10

CHAPTER 7

He will restore and hold you

Often, when the Lord destroys what you have built in the flesh but not in the spirit, you stumble and become disappointed and even angry. At such times a lot of questions and objections rise in your heart and a secret “rebellion” appears in you, who have worked so hard and now see everything has collapsed. The heart becomes tired, cold and slowly fills with apathy. You do not understand the Lord and do not feel His presence: on the contrary, the emotions of the world come to life and draw you to do some “works” in the world. Secretly in the heart you get angry and rebellious against the Lord. “Why have you destroyed and broken down everything I have built and for which I have striven so eagerly?” You gradually enter the valley of darkness where there is only emptiness and meaninglessness. If you are in this valley, do not be afraid, because a lot of great servants of God have been there but the Lord found, rebuilt and strengthened them.

Many men of God went there and passed through the ruins of their work, but finally received God’s help and restoration. In such moments the enemy tries to close the way to God’s grace, whispering in your heart that God will never forgive and love you after failure, sin, darkness and worldly lusts. The enemy tries to steal your faith in Christ’s sacrifice and forgiveness. Being unable to deny and hide Christ’s sacrifice, he targets to your faith in Christ’s forgiveness.

In the Bible you can find that in the lives of the patriarchs, great servants of God and men of faith, there were such big failures that we wonder how God wanted, and was able, to forgive them, to lift them up and restore them. The most striking example in the Old Testament is King David. After magnificent victories of

faith, recognition and God's glory David not only committed the sin of adultery with his servant Uriah's wife, but also organized his murder by other people's hand in order to conceal his sin. And yet he remained before God - distressed, guilty, naked, repentant, weak and chastened but still before God.

Because of your wrath there is no health in my body,
my bones have no soundness because of my sin.
(*Psalm 38:3*)

God destroyed his righteousness, humiliating David, but after the big fall came the great restoration, blessing, confirmation of His promise, the birth of Solomon, and preparation for the construction of God's temple in Jerusalem. What a great blessing David experienced coming out of the valley of darkness when he exclaimed:

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose
sins are covered. (*Psalm 32:1*)

Would the righteous, who doesn't need God's grace and forgiveness, exclaim this and be filled with such a joy? Could the light of God's mercy and love shine so brightly in those who don't need any mercy or forgiveness?

The example of the Apostle Peter shows how big his failure was and how great was his restoration and God's grace, forgiveness and reinforcement which followed afterwards. Peter truly followed Jesus, left everything for Him and was even willing to die for Him. However he relied on his own strength and had his own vision about Jesus mission and ministry, building up everything on the single principle of "Jesus - King and Saviour of Israel". He could sacrifice everything for this vision and "project" that Jesus would be glorified and revealed as the King in Jerusalem. Jesus' warnings about His arrest, suffering, death and resurrection didn't reach Peter's heart but rather were

strange parables, perhaps having symbolic meaning. With such a burning heart Peter swore during the last supper that he would follow Jesus, even to death. Even after Jesus prophesied and warned him about his denials, Peter swore his faithfulness to Him. O... how big sometimes is our self-confidence and dependence on our own strength!

But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same. (*Mark 14:31*)

However, what Peter did not even want to think about happened. He publicly denied Jesus three times. It was then that darkness, condemnation, guilt and despair surrounded Peter's heart. It became even stronger when Jesus was crucified - the one whom Peter loved so much and for whom he fought and strove, the one to whom, it seemed, there would never be an opportunity to say "forgive me" and to correct such a big failure. After his denial, the condemning voice quoting the very words of Jesus, but not in the same spirit, attacked Peter's heart:

But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. (*Luke 12:9*)

Although Peter wept bitterly, the darkness didn't leave him. Now the enemy's target was Peter's faith - whether he would give up and leave Jesus, now not physically but in the heart, or keep the faith, accepting forgiveness. But the Lord gave Peter a solid ground to believe in His forgiveness because another voice reminded him of Jesus words spoken before His death.

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (*Luke 22:32*)

Only faith in His sacrifice keeps you standing or lifts you up after falling - not faith in your perfection and faultless behaviour but faith in His words declaring forgiveness. Although Peter's faith was stretched, he remained with Jesus. How big a restoration, reinforcement and fulfilment followed afterwards. Shortly after his denial he preached boldly to thousands and publicly testified about Jesus before the same scribes who had condemned Christ. During the following Easter Peter was thrown into prison and bravely waited for a possible death sentence, although a year ago, at the same time, he had denied knowing Jesus. What a big change and what a wonderful restoration of God. One who disgracefully escaped and abandoned Jesus, was now strengthening others, exactly as Jesus had predicted.

Many of God's servants pass through this valley and see the ruins of their self-righteousness and self-confidence. The secret of their greatness is not how low they fell, but from what a deep pit God pulled them out. Today there are many of God's children who are in a deep pit, far away from God, and are considered as "having no future". But God will find them, restore them and forgive them. Therefore never judge and condemn them because the upcoming restoration will be greater and bigger than their failures and mistakes. Their restoration rather than failure is the secret of God's glory in their lives.

It doesn't matter where you are now or how deep the pit you are in. He can and wants to pull you out, restore, reinforce, and keep you, and cause you to stand at the last day blameless and without any spot. Whenever happens, never believe that the way to Jesus' mercy and forgiveness is closed. Stay with Him despite what you see, how you feel or what you are: dirty, poor, faint-hearted, dry or empty.

What an amazing journey awaits you after you have seen the ruins of your self-righteousness because now God Himself will build you up. You'll be surprised how softly, marvellously and easy the Holy Spirit builds.

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26

CHAPTER 8

You need the Helper

After passing through the valley of darkness and the ruins of your works of self-righteousness you come out of it weak and without self-confidence. Your strength is lost, your eyes are no longer judging others and your steps are slow and crippled. You are searching hopefully for somebody you could trust and rely on when you hear in the heart the familiar soft and gentle voice: “Now you will need a helper”. Suddenly you realize that you can not walk alone anymore because your leg is broken and you need a crutch: the shoulder of the living God. What a magnificent moment when you understand this because now your hand is ready to grasp the Holy Spirit, the real Helper, Counselor and Teacher. Only He, the Holy Spirit, can reveal in you Jesus Christ because only He knows Jesus and He alone can reveal Him as the truth and life in you. He does not inform you about Jesus, He makes Him real - the truth and the life.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (*John 16:13*)

This great moment happened in Jacob’s life as well. He kept on fighting and wrestling with God, trying to reach His blessing and the promise by his own strength and understanding, until the moment when, once again, trying to protect himself and his family according to his own plan, he fought with an angel of God all night. And when the angel saw that Jacob is not going to give up, he injured his leg and made him lame.

So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. (*Genesis 32:24-25*)

From that moment God changed Jacob's name, calling him Israel. From that time on, when he could no longer rely on his own strength, all the rest of his life he relied on and put his trust in the living God – the Savior of Israel. When you come out of the valley of darkness, distressed and weak then you become really strong because you walk not by your own strength but as a lame person, relying on His hand. What a strength and power, what a help and comfort opens before your eyes because now you rely on your God - the source of your strength. Maybe in others eyes you look weak, crippled and not “spiritual”, but you now know who gives you strength to walk. Now you are led by the Holy Spirit who is your greatest treasure and achievement after the valley of darkness.

What a big treasure the Holy Spirit is. No one knows Jesus, if He is not revealed by the Holy Spirit: He can not be revealed by your mind, nor your good works and will, nor the most sincere and persuasive arguments and miracles. Only the Holy Spirit knows Him and can fill you with His knowledge. He is not just a substance, and absolute, goodness or love. He isn't impersonal fog, wind or radiance. He is a real third person of God, God the Holy Spirit, who searches and knows the deepest things of God.

But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (*1 Corinthians 2:10*)

In the New Testament it is written that when Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus into the temple, no one recognized Him because He seemed like a normal baby, no different from others.

But the Holy Spirit knew what sort of a baby was in the hands of Joseph and Mary. At that time there were many scribes, priests, religious and ordinary people in the temple but only Simeon and the prophetess Anna noticed this baby since it was revealed to them by the Holy Spirit.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (*Luke 2:25*)

No information, arguments, human wisdom, experience, miracles, good deeds, desires or persuasion can reveal Christ Jesus to you. Only the Holy Spirit can take the seed containing the Word of God, carry it through your body and soul, sow it in you heart and make Him truth and life. Even having Jesus standing beside you wouldn't help you if He was only beside you. The disciples of Jesus had been walking with Him for three years, listening to Him, learning, and seeing various miracles and signs, His resurrection and ascension to heaven. However after all these things they remained weak and didn't understand His words. Even during the last supper they argued about who was the greatest among them: they did not understand Jesus warning about His arrest, suffering, death and resurrection and when Jesus was arrested they ran away and left their teacher alone. Even seeing the resurrected Jesus their hearts remained weak. For forty days they had seen the resurrected Jesus but still remained slow to believe and hard-hearted, hiding out of fear, angry and distrustful. It seemed that after such an experience, after living together with Jesus for three whole years and after seeing Him resurrected they should have been able to live as Jesus lived. However, until the day of pouring out upon them of the Holy Spirit, they remained weak and unable to have that life which their teacher had. A ministry which copies or replicates the life of Jesus without the Holy Spirit, even if you were able to see Him resurrected and to stand beside Him, is unfruitful. Without

the Holy Spirit eternal life is impossible. Therefore Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for His Father's promise and not to preach until the Counselor and the Helper had come, without whom it is impossible to have His life and revelation. A copy never works.

But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit comes** on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (*Acts 1:8*)

What a tremendous change took place after the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Shy and weak before, they became brave and faithful, having no fear to preach or to die for Jesus. They became able to live the life of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit that was in them. Jesus, who for three years was beside them, now dwelled in them, hidden in their bodies, as in clay jars.

Perhaps sometimes you think, "If I could walk with Jesus and see Him as the apostles saw him, and if I could see Him resurrected at least once, it would be enough for me to be able to stand firm, to pass through the biggest problems and tests or to convince the hardest sceptics". Although it is so precious and beautiful, it would not help you at all, if you didn't let the Holy Spirit come into your heart and guide you. Or maybe you wonder, "If I could see just one great miracle, it would strengthen my faith and bring me close to Jesus". However miracles do not reveal Jesus, but only the Holy Spirit does that. A lot of people saw His miracles, the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, and watched as blind eyes were opened, as the lame started to walk, and the deaf to hear, but all that didn't give them the benefit of knowing Jesus, because the same crowd, which welcomed Him during His entrance to Jerusalem, only after a few days shouted, "Crucify Him". Judas Iscariot walked with Jesus for three years, saw all His miracles, listened to His sermons, and watched Him praying

and praising His Father, but remained greedy in his heart and betrayed his teacher.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings you to Jesus, places you in Him and carries you to heaven. No one else can make it. From the very moment when you invite Jesus into your heart and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit, you're not alone - the Helper and Comforter is with you. What a wonderful work the Holy Spirit performs in you. He wants to reveal Jesus Christ in you – God's beloved one. Since that moment and forever you will need a Helper, Comforter and Shepherd. Trust in Him because He can hold, maintain, strengthen, build up and present you without shame or blemish before God's throne.

Once you have passed through the mountains of self-righteousness and come out of the valley of darkness, after you have become weak and lame, you're on the road with the Helper, Comforter and Guide - the Holy Spirit.

He quietly whispers in your heart: "Do not be afraid, follow me".

The journey continues...

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.

Psalm 37:5

CHAPTER 9

Entrust yourselves to His work

Now you walk not by your own strength but by His, who leads you. More often you look at your guide, learn and listen to Him, marvel and give thanks because the Holy Spirit pours out into your heart so much help, comfort and strength. Now you realize that a mutual relationship based on love connects both of you. More and more He pours out God's love into your hearts and heals old wounds. In astonishment you notice that God's love, which you accept, produces in your heart the same love for Jesus. After a while a strange thirst arises in you, so strong and deep that you come near to Him. And this is exactly what the Holy Spirit does in you. He gives you a thirst for Him and fulfils it. He digs the deep well and fills it with water.

He desires your complete surrender to the Lord - without any conditions, prejudices, ulterior motives, and calculations. He produces this thirst, whispering into your heart: "Surrender to Him and give yourself unconditionally, forever, for eternity, not counting how many years you have lived or what glorious or painful experiences you have had, without fear for the future, without any plans, projects and imaginations. Surrender just out of love, poured out into your heart.

Cast your cares on the Lord, and He will sustain you,
he will never let the righteous fall. (*Psalms 55:22*)

In the past you surrendered to Him with certain reservations and conditions. You submitted to Him on condition that He will give revival, use you mightily for His glory, make you a well-known preacher and pastor and save your loved ones, that He will give you a nice and happy family, a good job, that He will purify you and teach to do miracles, that you will feel His presence and hear

His voice constantly and clearly. The list of your pre-conditions was so long that you continually delayed complete surrender and commitment to Him and waited for something – you waited for the fulfilment of these conditions. Maybe in your heart you are still thinking: “I am not pure and holy enough. First I will wait until I become more spiritual: only then will I be able to submit to Him completely because now my heart is still not ready, I am not worthy ...” The Lord certainly can give all that but it shouldn’t be the motive to surrender. The only reason to surrender to Him is love - love without any conditions or prejudice. You have this love as it was poured out into your heart through the Holy Spirit. And that’s all you need.

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (*Romans 5:5*)

Do not be afraid to entrust yourself to Him completely and permanently as you are – with all your weaknesses and failures. You will be surprised what He can do in your life.

The Holy Spirit comforts and encourages you reminding you again and again that only He can fulfil what was promised - to reveal in you Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, and make you one with Him. Surrender yourself to His guidance, even with all your weaknesses and unfulfilled dreams. Say “Yes” to this guidance and give the freedom to the Holy Spirit to do what you can not achieve by your own strength. All He wants is to hear your word “Yes”, the agreement and decision of your heart. Don’t be afraid if you’re not holy, wise or perfect enough but look at the one to whom you surrender. Your submission and obedience opens the door for the Holy Spirit, who alone can lead, teach and work in your life.

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.
(*Acts 5:32*)

How He is pleased and rejoices when you submit to God's work, already completed two thousand years ago but being revealed in you now. Do not be in opposition to Him, trying to build up yourself in Him, which is something only the Holy Spirit understands and is able to do. Trust in Him and surrender into His arms, as strange and simple as it is. You can only build the old tent, which He has already destroyed.

If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a law-breaker. (*Galatians 2:18*)

He does not want just to inform you about what happened two thousand years ago but to make it true and real in you. Abide in Christ and trust in Him, surrendering completely into His hands and you will see how the Holy Spirit reveals His work in you. This is God's work and it is so easy and simple. He will teach and lead, strengthen and comfort you, in order to reveal Christ in you - till the Morning star rises in your heart.

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and **the morning star rises in your hearts.** (2 *Peter 1:19*)

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. **I am** the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright **Morning Star.**"
(*Revelation 22:16*)

Trust in the Helper and Guide overwhelms your heart and you start to see things previously unseen. Where there was no way

through, you now notice a path; where there was no hope, you now discover a way out. The Holy Spirit really starts to guide you.

The journey continues ...

Because those who are led by the Spirit of God
are sons of God.

Romans 8:14

CHAPTER 10

He will lead you

When you surrender completely to the Holy Spirit, He starts to lead you. When you walked through the mountains of self-righteousness and by your own works tried to please God, you worked and planned, sweating and driving everything by your own efforts. The main thought at that time in your mind was: “What shall I do in this situation, what shall I do with this ministry or what shall I do with this man or with this weakness?” These questions haunted your mind and restrained your will. If you “worked” another question followed: “Am I doing right?”

But when the Spirit begins to lead you, you hear these questions less and less, your mind becomes clear and quiet, and in your heart you start to hear the gentle and soft voice encouraging you to go on, whispering: “Only believe!” You need answers less and less because your heart fills with faith, not knowing the answers to many questions, but rather seeing nothing but Jesus. Now it is enough to see just Jesus. Now you’re really guided by Him.

But where does the voice of the Holy Spirit come from, from which place does He talk to me? If only I could clearly see the vision in which Jesus would say: “Do this, and do that”. And, if only a prophet of God would come and clearly declare where should I go or what should I do. If I could only hear His voice clearly and firmly, without any doubt speaking into me! Have you ever dreamed about a voice from above, a voice coming from somewhere outside, which would announce you the will of God? But what does God’s word say about that?

But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is,

to bring Christ down) or, ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you: it is **in your mouth and in your heart,**” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ...<> (*Romans 10:6-8*)

This voice and His guidance is much closer than you think, it is not just close to you or beside you. It is even closer – it is in your heart. The Holy Spirit dwells in your heart and leads you from inside. This quiet and gentle voice now comes not from outside but from within – from your heart. Your teacher and guide is always with you. The most beautiful language, the most powerful arguments, the wisest words and most sincere feelings cannot penetrate to the bottom of your heart and convince and reveal Jesus Christ. Do you remember how you disputed, trying to convert others and convince them with most sophisticated and persuasive words, but how often you were disappointed, failing to reach their hearts and unable to touch them by human effort. There is only one who passes through the bodily wall and reaches the heart.

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as this anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit - just as it has taught you, remain in him. (*1 John 2:27*)

Things you learn from the Spirit remain in you and change your life, but what you learn from man stays in your mind for a while only as information, unable to change your heart. That does not mean that you do not need teachers, prophets, other God’s children or even unbelievers. God’s Spirit can take the word from a child or a very stupid man, hide Himself behind it and bring it into your heart. Therefore, often He makes you dependent on others in order you search for guidance and seek His answers, not looking at the form or judging within: “God can

use and speak through this man but not that one”. However, the Spirit will always take the word and sow it in your heart. Only He can do that.

Walking on the mountains of your self-righteousness you were guided by commands, rules and orders like these: “do it – don’t”, “shall – shouldn’t”, “authorized – not authorized”. You were so accustomed to be guided by such commands that even from the Holy Spirit you expect and wait for similar orders coming from outside. Often you are confused and frustrated, thinking that the Spirit leads through various commands and orders, and you abandon the real and true guidance of the Holy Spirit, who seeks to fill you with the life of Christ. Commands and orders, like an echo from the Law, want to restrict and hobble you, but the life-giving Spirit desires to lead you through the life of Jesus and fill your heart with Him. Orders and commands always maintain a distance between you and God, the one who gives the command and the one who performs it. However, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the distance decreases until it finally disappears. The guidance of the Spirit overwhelms your mind, feelings and will until, filled by the Holy Spirit, you start to believe and act on the basis of what is burning in your heart. Under the guidance of the Spirit you surrender and are carried by the wings of the Holy Spirit, trusting in His teaching and guidance. Then out of your heart starts to flow the river of living water.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.
(John 6:63)

But what exactly does this gentle voice say within you? Can you hear anything? Do you hear something you’re afraid of and do not want to happen? Or can you hear your own voice? How can you know whether the voice really is from the Holy Spirit? You can always open the dictionary and check the meaning of the words heard. Yes, the language of the Holy Spirit has a dictionary

and this is the Bible - the complete and comprehensive dictionary of the Holy Spirit. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is inseparable from the Word of God. He does not speak on His own but takes the word from Jesus and declares it to you.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. **He will not speak on his own**; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (*John 16:13*)

When you despise the Word of God and search only for the Spirit you fail and plunge into the world of “emotional experiences”, “secret revelations” and a number of voices which gradually lead you stray, away from God’s grace and His children. Feelings become your guide: “I want to feel good, to be happy, to feel His power and presence, His special blessings. I always do and go where I feel good and I feel blessed. I just want to feel good”. This becomes your guide.

The Holy Spirit doesn’t speak on His own but takes only from Jesus, bringing it into our hearts and making it truth and life. Going into a “super” spiritual world or becoming a “super” spiritual person, looking for special revelations or particular emotional experiences can take you away from the basic truth - complete surrender to Christ, love for Him, service to others and God’s power.

That’s why you need the Word of God. Remember, never read it alone but read it together with the Holy Spirit because only He can reveal to you what is hidden behind the letters. When you study the Word of God without the Spirit, you study only the words themselves, which does not help or give anything of value. That is just an exercise of the mind and the pleasure in your own wisdom. The Bible then becomes a beautiful and interesting book, a pleasure for your mind. No doubt the Pharisees and the scribes knew the letter of God’s Word in a way that probably

only a few could know it nowadays. It is possible to know everything about Jesus but not to recognize Him when He comes, without a glorious appearance, a halo and a cloud of glory, but with a towel to wash the feet. The Word without the Spirit is only your wisdom, which pushes away the real guide and teacher.

So that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom,
but on God's power. (*1 Corinthians 2:5*)

Even the devil can quote God's Word. He tempted Jesus quoting Bible verses but in what spirit were these words spoken?

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. **For it is written:** ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “**It is written:** ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (*Matthew 4: 6-7*)

The temptation and response to it, both were based on God's Word. You can find written in the Word of God “rejoice” (*Philippians 3:1*) but you can find written as well “mourn” (*James 4:9*). In which spirit is the word spoken? Who is behind these words? Whether these words are filled with love, reinforcements, encouragement, faith, joy, desire to serve others, inflame the heart and lift up your hands, strengthen your knees, or cleanse your heart and bring you close to Jesus? Or maybe the same words bring into your heart the condemnation, depression, judgment of others, self-righteousness and subservience to sin? You know that the letter without the spirit kills but the word spoken by the Holy Spirit strengthens, raises up and gives life – the life to love and believe.

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
(1 Timothy 1: 5)

You need both, God's Word and the Spirit. They are inseparable, so if you choose only one of them you quickly go astray, to the right or to the left, while the Lord wants you to lead in the middle of the path protecting you from the roadside dangers, depths and slips. Jesus said to the scribes that they needed God's Word and God's power, which is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? (Mark 12: 24)

Continuing the journey, you observe your guide walking in the centre of a narrow path in front of you. Before, you were easily led astray to one side of the road or the other. Now you see the narrow path, in the middle of the road, made clear by your Helper, Teacher, and Comforter. He really protects and takes care of you. But you are curious as to how He knows the path and how He leads you.

So, how does the Spirit really lead? Can I help Him in leading me? The guidance of the Spirit is through the life in the Spirit. His actions do not depend on your behaviour but only on God's Word. Rather, your behaviour is the result of the promptings of God's Spirit, and His Spirit is free and sovereign. If you expect that He will work because you are good and behave correctly, you are wrong. He is not restricted and dependent on you. You are dependant on Him and your behavior is only the consequence of your belief, obedience and devotion to Him.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5: 25)

The guidance of the Spirit rises in you the desire to serve others, to believe and to love, the desire to sacrifice, to share and to be fully submitted to the Lord. But His guidance is always contrary to selfishness, the ego, self-righteousness and other works of the flesh. In your life there will never be a day when the desires of the Spirit and flesh match, allowing you to say: “This time God allowed (authorized) me to act selfishly (usefully). It was the will of God because I feel His peace and there is no contradiction in my heart. He takes care of me and wants me to accept His blessings. This time, both spiritual and fleshly desires agreed and went hand in hand. Thanks be to God”.

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. (*Galatians 5:17*)

The flesh and the Spirit always oppose one another. If you try to focus on fighting against the fleshly desires and restricting yourself by various prohibitions and penalties, then you will not stand for long because it's not the Spirit who is leading you but it is your desire to punish and restrict yourself. In this case you fight alone with yourself. Many religious and ascetic people, trying to detach themselves from the worldly and fleshly desires and to distance themselves from relationships and various temptations, bind themselves with a variety of self-limitations and prohibitions focusing on the fight against the flesh. The guidance of the Spirit is completely different. It directs your eyes to the desires of the Spirit and replaces the commands “shall, must” with the desire “I want to, I love, I believe”. Deep spiritual desires are within you. If you find them and live according to the Spirit, you will forget the other nature and automatically will not live according to the flesh because it is impossible to live at the same time according to two opposite desires. Do not be afraid to seek the Spiritual desires hidden in you. The desires of the Spirit are so real and strong that you will not be able to resist them –

just find them. The Spirit prompts you to love, He brings you closer to Jesus, strengthens your faith, gives joy and complete peace of mind, and teaches you to serve others, by these promptings. Forget the fight against the flesh and carnal desires because they are not worthy of your attention – just live by the Spirit.

The guidance of the Spirit always focuses on Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes Him the truth and the life in your heart in order that you can know Him. It is an exchange of life with Him, not an exchange of information about Him. You accept His life, not information and you give Him your life. In your prayers you do not just inform God about your problems but rather give to Him your heart and surrender yourself entirely into His hands. Talking with Him in prayer, reading God's Word and waiting for the Spirit's promptings and encouragement, you wait and receive not new information but His life itself.

It is so wonderful to listen to your Guide's promptings because you grow in His knowledge. The guidance of the Spirit becomes so personal and intimate that you begin to recognize His voice from far away.

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (*John 10: 27*)

How far you have been led by the Spirit, and how much you have learned. You trust more and more in Jesus and see Him more clearly.

The journey continues...

We live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

CHAPTER 11

He will strengthen your faith

You walk slowly and carefully as a lame man but seeing Him you notice how strong and quiet your guide is. Where does such strength comes from? Suddenly the thirst arises in your heart: “Lord, strengthen my faith”. You want to walk with the same strength and confidence as your guide. Even before you ask the same gentle and quiet voice directs your eyes to the one who is the cause and the beginning of your faith, the rock and the stronghold - Jesus Christ.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith... (*Hebrews 12:2*)

But how can the revelation of Jesus Christ reach you, how is the Holy Spirit able to transform God’s Word into truth and life? Everything is so wonderful that it can happen only in one simple way – by faith. Yes, by the same faith by which you accepted forgiveness and received the gift of the Holy Spirit, by the same faith by which you received comfort and support, spiritual gifts, healing, by this same faith you will be resurrected from death the last day. By the same simple faith the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ and His fullness in you.

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... (*Ephesians 3:17*)

Now the Lord encourages you to walk by faith. How much you can archive and receive by faith – even everything! God responds to faith, which can be expressed by a request (*Mathew 7:7*), by pleading, begging or calling (everyone, who begged only to be able to touch Jesus was healed – *Mathew 14:36*) and action (the lowering of paralytic man from the roof in front of Jesus – *Luke*

5:19). Faith in Him can do everything (everything is possible for one who believes – *Mark 9:23*). By faith God gives the forgiveness of sins, saves and cleanses the heart, sanctifies, and resurrects from the dead. By faith we have the access to God's grace.

Through whom we have **gained access by faith** into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. (*Romans 5:2*)

Small faith keeps you from moving ahead, therefore the Spirit, seeing your doubtful walk, wants to strengthen your faith in order that you can follow Him wherever He goes. When Peter received Jesus' word commanding him to walk on the water, he walked only half of the way because he started to doubt and therefore started to sink. Big faith looks only for little things (Lord, just say the word – *Mathew 8:8*), but small faith demands big things and signs (give us a sign – *Mathew 12:38*). Small faith is full of fear and doubts in Jesus while big faith is always full of trust in Him. How often you want to have faith as big as a mountain in order to move a mustard seed. Then you are pumping the emotion of faith, pushing and sweating in front of a problem which is only of size of the mustard seed. But the only thing you need is faith the size of a mustard seed. When you turn you eyes from Jesus and look at your problem, it becomes big and fearful while God's promises appear small and inaccessible.

When you start looking at your problems the Guide asks: "What do you have?" However, instead of answering the question you start to name what you do not have and say how unprepared and weak you are. The list of things you do not have is so long that He waits until you finish. Afterwards He asks once again: "Yet, what do you have?" Than you look around and, not seeing faith like a mountain, show Him only the small mustard seed. It is so small that you cannot touch, feel, understand or even see it clearly. But once again the gentle voice raises the wings of your

faith whispering, “It’s enough”. Yes, if you have faith only the size of a mustard seed, it’s enough for you to move the mountain.

He replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move... (*Matthew 17:20*)

Suddenly the great tension and burden falls from you and a peace of indescribable lightness fills your heart. You do not need to pump up the emotion of faith anymore because you just know you have faith the size of a mustard seed which outweighs the whole list of your weaknesses and problems.

Faith always notices small and irrelevant things and turns them into big and important ones. Often you expect to serve God by great and big things: you plan enormous projects and works but sometimes forget the couple of fishes and few small loaves of bread that you have. When Jesus taught people all day long, the disciples asked the Lord to let them go in order that they could buy food. However Jesus’ response was strange and unexpected.

But he answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “That would take eight months of a man’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?” (*Mark 6:37*)

Hearing the response “You give them food to eat”, perhaps you would start to think about great projects and plans. The disciples of Jesus started to think about how to supply this enormous crowd with food and were ready to launch the biggest humanitarian operation forgetting one apparently irrelevant thing – the couple of fishes and some loaves of bread. How often, starting to implement big plans and projects you get tired and exhausted and finally see that you do not have enough resources

and strength to continue and finish these big plans and to solve all the problems. Then Jesus draws your attention to small things, which do not seem relevant or related to your big plans and initiatives. The only thing you need to do is to give to Jesus these small things you have. These small things in your hands remain small and not useful but when you give them to Jesus, something changes. In the beginning you could be even more surprised and even scared as you see Jesus breaking these small things into smaller pieces and they become even smaller than before. You blush in front of the crowd thinking: “Now I have got myself in trouble, now I am stuck, nothing will happen.” But at exactly this moment the miracle happens. Whoever takes a small piece – it is enough. It’s enough for everyone. These pieces are small but never run out until finally everybody is blessed and satisfied.

What small thing do you have which you can give to Jesus? You received everything from Him, so what can you give Him? The only thing you have is your weaknesses. But the Spirit prompts you to give yourself as a small fish into His hands in order that He, through the revelation of His death in you, may bless others.

When you walk by faith, Jesus’ eyes are always focused on you because He looks for those who have faith. The Lord always notices and recognizes faith. God always responds to faith, which is not faith in circumstances, emotions, feelings, experiences and strengths, but faith in Him – “Have faith in God”.

When Jesus **saw their faith**, he said to the paralytic,
“Son, your sins are forgiven.” (*Mark 2:5*)

Everything you receive, inherit and get is by faith, but what is faith?

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
(*Romans 10:17*)

Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. Obedience, which has nothing to do with your opinion and emotions, is what the Lord looks for. But how nice it would be to have the emotions and special feelings of faith, which you used to pump up, protect, stimulate and cultivate before. However nowhere, either in the Old Testament or in the New Testament, does God speak about emotions and feelings.

Observing the lives of Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, the prophets and others of God's servants, you do not notice even the slightest hint of what emotions they felt when they believed. Do you think Abraham had nice and special emotions and a heart "without problems" when he travelled three days to sacrifice his only son Isaac? Do you think Joshua entered the Promised Land with great emotions and excellent feelings? And do you think our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ went to die on the cross, relaxed and with special feelings of faith because He knew that he would be resurrected? God never focuses and points to emotions or wants to give special feelings. He didn't even mention how all His servants felt when they believed. One thing you can see – the obedience to His message.

Faith is the decision to obey Him. Say "Yes". Say "Yes" to God's work completed two thousand years ago. Say "Yes" and receive the guidance of the Spirit and revelation of Jesus Christ in you.

When God created the heavens and the earth, mountains and oceans by His word, He spoke the word and it happened. He didn't need the oceans and mountains to accept and obey His word. They didn't have the choice. However you are different. You have free will. In order for the Holy Spirit to sow God's Word in your heart it is necessary to have your permission, your

agreement and acceptance of His word, your decision of “Yes”. Therefore you are called a co-worker of God because you participate with Him in the process. Your decisions and response of “Yes” to everything God does in your life is your part of the work. The word belongs to God, the faith to you. When Mary heard about God’s plan for her life she said “Yes” to His word, accepted it and obeyed. When Abraham heard the call of God to leave the country and to go to the strange land, he didn’t resist but rather obeyed and accepted what God had foreseen for Him.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. (*Hebrews 11:8*)

In the New Testament it is written how the Lord asked the blind man whether he believed that Jesus could heal him. The blind man didn’t consult his emotions and feelings because probably he would have been disappointed. He was still blind and didn’t see anything. However he cried out: “YES”. He didn’t resist what God was able to do in his life: he accepted and received it.

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “**Yes, Lord,**” they replied. (*Matthew 9:28*)

O... how strong your heart becomes when you say “Yes” to everything that God says. This faith is like a magnet to which the Spirit attaches God’s works. It is like a river, which flows and cannot freeze over. You do the works not because you want to become somebody. He is in you and performs His works.

Following after Him you cannot turn your eyes from Him anymore and you marvel how strong He is. Looking at Him you

do not stumble anymore and have great confidence and trust in Him. It's as if His force and strength become yours.

Once again you hear the gentle and soft voice whispering: "Follow me and I will reveal in you His death and resurrection".

The journey continues...

...becoming like him in his death.

Philippians 3:10

CHAPTER 12

He will bury you in Him

Do you remember when you walked on the mountains of your self-righteousness and passed through the valley of darkness? Then your visible works of self-righteousness were destroyed, yet the invisible source, “I”, of these self-works remained in you, wanting to be active and do something. That’s why the Holy Spirit strengthened your faith and focused your eyes on Christ in order to lead you closer to His sacrifice, nearer to His cross. Until this moment you walked quietly and in obedience but somehow now you begin to resist, argue, and ask your guide: “I already know that Jesus died for me, cleansed me and forgave me, I know that I have got His eternal life only because of His sacrifice, I know His love and sacrifice are so precious to me”. But the guide just smiles and doesn’t hear the objecting coming from you: “I do know everything about His sacrifice and I always give thanks for it; after all, Jesus loves me!”

Closer and closer the Holy Spirit leads you to Jesus’ cross. He will drive you so close that you become fearful and scared. In astonishment and fear you ask about His intentions: “What does this all mean, what are you doing?” However after making you stand so close to the cross, the Holy Spirit does not stop. Oh, what horror and fear penetrates your body, but deep inside your Spirit rejoices, gets stronger and becomes alive as never before. Somebody old and awkward has been brought near the Cross and even immersed and buried within it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

For we know that our old self **was crucified with him** so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. (*Romans 6:6*)

Now the Holy Spirit destroys not your self-righteousness but your old self, “**I**”, putting him directly on the Cross. Everything was done long ago, so how it is possible that after so many years Jesus sacrifice is so real and effective. You feel and see how your old self dies in Him. Christ’s death precedes His resurrection, and the revelation in you, made by the Holy Spirit, follows the same order. First death and then resurrection, first sowing, then reaping, first weakness, then power, first the old Adam and then the resurrected Christ.

Nothing is so important to God as to reveal in you His son Jesus Christ but before His revelation your old self must die. How often have you agreed with that and wanted to do it by yourself, as soon as possible. I’m dying by my own efforts and still remain “**I**” - dull, restricted, religious and bound by various commands “no”, “shall not”, trying to cover myself by good works and a “normal” character. But there is only one death and only one resurrection – Jesus Christ. There is no other way to die and destroy the old self. Only one way – the revelation of His death and resurrection by the Holy Spirit, who makes it true and alive in you.

If you still struggle with yourself, trying to close and separate yourself from others, putting every effort into achieving what can only be accepted as a free gift and with the help and power of the Holy Spirit, then you will be covered by a religious form of outer clothing in the eyes of others but will be left naked in His presence because God will not be able to recognize in you His Son Jesus Christ, who delights His heart. When you hear somebody telling you that to be like Christ is easy you just smile at him, remembering numerous efforts and failings, promises made but broken, as well as the ruins of your self-righteousness. However, if another voice keeps saying that it is very difficult and requires enormous effort, time, sweat and discipline in order to be even a little bit similar to Jesus - do not let this bigger deception hold you in prison. To be a similar to Him is not

difficult, it is IMPOSSIBLE. That's why there is only one way and one solution. The Holy Spirit will reveal in you His death in order that through His death your old person (the old self) could be buried with Him, while the new person is resurrected in Him. Once again you need to say "Yes" and trust in His work. Let Him work in you.

However, how does the Holy Spirit reveal Christ's death in you, how does He work? Suddenly you begin to feel the emptiness within and can't hear your guide's voice: it is as if He has disappeared somewhere. What should I do? This question now comes from your old self, who wants to be active and effective, doing everything and anything, but not dead. But the Spirit again waits for your permission and your decision, "Yes". He will do everything and will immerse you in His death together with Him, so do not resist – all you need to do is surrender - surrender as a branch of the vine and whisper to Him, "Yes, I believe".

You desperately search for Him but cannot find Him. Somebody in you cries out: "Where are you? Why have you left me? I no longer have works of self-righteousness, I have learned everything, I understood, I obeyed, I will be good and will follow you everywhere, I promise, **I ... I ... I ... I ...**" You realize that on the Cross together with Him your old self doesn't get any response because he is left together with Him to die.

Being in Him, you see how the Holy Spirit puts to death in you everything that is old: His death affects your mind, feelings and will – it affects your entire old man.

Before your eyes pass the old "spiritual" dreams: "**I**" am a servant of God, "**I**" am meek and humble, here "**I**" suffer for God, here again "**I**" am so full of spiritual fruits, "**I**" preach, "**I**" am a loyal instrument of God, here God powerfully works through "**me**". However the Holy Spirit slowly puts to death your old man and his dreams whatever they are and you become

disappointed in “**I**”, “**in me**”, “**through me**”. Your old man sinks into His death, he becomes irrelevant and not important anymore.

Your efforts to escape and somehow to be useful and productive do not work anymore. Your efforts and old will, with the name “Now I will be good, now I will do what God wants, I will be committed to Him”, fall apart. You thought that this seed was good and a good tree would grow from it but how often have you become disappointed with yourself and finally realized that what the word of God says doesn’t grow from this seed. Why? There is only one good seed - Jesus Christ. Only from Jesus Christ can a good tree grow. Only His death bears fruit and only His resurrection gives new life.

Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit, (*Matthew 7:17*)

How deep is God’s wisdom and how marvellous is His miracle. The event and His work completed two thousand years ago is real and active in you now. The hope of resurrection starts shining in you.

... to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death** (*Philippians 3:10*)

After a while, you hear once again the gentle and so awaited voice: “Take up this cross”. Do I need to carry this cross, how will I be able to carry it? But your guide, even before you think about it, whispers: “Do not be afraid, just believe”.

The journey continues ...

Who led them through the depths? Like a horse
in open country, they did not stumble.

Isaiah 63:13

CHAPTER 13

Do not be surprised if He leads you into the wilderness

Now you have realized that following after Jesus you feel something on your back as the light burden. You feel this burden but cannot figure out where such lightness comes from? Then you notice Him, who helps you to carry the cross with the crucified old self. Every day you carry it and do not understand why this cross gives you strength instead of heaviness or where this force and strength, which brings inner freedom, comes from. Before, you were so afraid to talk or even to think about self-denial and crucifixion of your old self. It seemed so hard and impossible to do this, so you tried to avoid and by-pass this topic or delay it for “better” times because you were trying to accomplish it by your own strength. But now, when God’s Spirit has immersed you into His death and placed this burden on your shoulders, you began to feel such a flush of strength and a deep breath of freedom in your heart because His cross sets you free from your old self with all its weaknesses and heaviness.

Carrying the cross, your steps become stronger, and more space becomes available for the Spirit in your heart. This free space is prepared for your Savior in order that He can fill your entire being with His life. When you look at your guide you are surprised and amazed how much He has done and how easy He makes God’s Word the truth and the life in you. You hear the words of Jesus brought to you by the same gentle voice:

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and **follow me.**” (*Matthew 16: 24*)

Suddenly, a thirst to serve God in the Spirit rises in your heart. Then you just smile, looking at you guide, because you know that He gave that thirst and you're sure that He will satisfy it. Now the guide will teach you how to serve God in the Spirit. But where will He lead me? I hoped that He would give me the opportunity to serve and to preach the word of God, but instead you see that He leads you into the wilderness - to teach you to serve God and to strengthen you.

“What? Strengthen in the wilderness, where it is impossible to survive, where there is nothing except sand?”, you cried to the Lord. “But I am here, in the desert”, you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. “Here I will teach you to follow the pillar of cloud and to gather manna, I will build in you God’s new tabernacle and will teach you how to serve Him in Spirit. I will give you strength to fight and will prepare you to receive God’s power, so that you can enter into the Promised Land, defeat the enemy and remain standing. I will accomplish everything and will teach you. I will detach you from the world, so that you forget your past and focus your eyes on the Promised Land. But the most important thing is - you should meet your Savior here. Yes, you have to meet Him personally, here in the wildness”, whispered the Holy Spirit.

In your deepest imagination you thought that the desert would be full of anxieties, emptiness, challenges like a very unwelcome place, but the Spirit says: “The desert is a place where God reveals Himself, where you have a personal encounter and His revelation, where you develop a close relationship with Him, where you understand His call for your life and learn to serve Him in Spirit. It is the place where the way for the Lord is being prepared.”

“a voice of one calling in the desert, **Prepare the way of the Lord**, make straight paths for him.”
(*Mark 1:3*)

The desert is a spiritual school, the most amazing place for your spirit, but wildness and emptiness for your flesh, which doesn't have anything to do or to learn, except to die. John the Baptist heard the voice of God in the desert, the prophet Elijah had a personal revelation of God and saw His glory in the desert, Moses experienced a personal encounter with God also in the desert. "You have to meet the Lord here", repeats the Holy Spirit.

The Lord said that the Spirit does not always lead you to serve and to work for God; sometimes He leads you into the desert. The Holy Spirit leads you now into the desert, away from the world, so that you can meet the Lord personally and be strengthened. In the Word of God it is written that He gave the streams of water in the desert for His people – in the extreme desert where there is no possibility of finding water. You come to the desert led by the Spirit but you will come out of it in the power of the Spirit, in the same way that Jesus did. Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit but returned from it in the power of the Spirit.

At once **the Spirit sent** him out into the desert ...
(*Mark 1:12*)

Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit**,
and news about him spread through the whole
countryside. (*Luke 4:14*)

But how you can become stronger in the desert? On the contrary, with every step you seem to flag more, because the thirst and feeling of emptiness become bigger. You are already walking the third day without water and confusion arises in you: "What I am doing here? Nothing happens in my life, there is no God here, I do not see any signs, miracles or even the slightest action of God, I am so tired of the routine, people, friends, everything. Everyday I go to work or to church, I talk with my

brothers and sisters, but everything remains the same, nothing changes. Where is my Lord? Where are those promises and miracles? He promised to strengthen me, but I feel so weak, and I do not know how long I can stand like this.

In the afternoon of the third day you notice that your guide stops by a rock. You feel that everything is over, you cannot stand anymore, you have reached your limit, a point beyond which you can not go further and survive without water and where your faith is so dried up that it has almost failed. You are so thirsty that you fall down and start crying to God, you pour out your whole heart, its confusion, frustration and weaknesses. Out of the depths of your heart arises the thirst and longing for the true God - His blessing and His presence. Your whole heart, dry and infertile, weak and doubtful, is poured out in front of this rock. Your strength is gone, you lie near the rock and one thought comes into your mind: "I have failed. I will probably not come out of this wildness. His real presence is probably not for me: it is not for me to know God as others knew Him. I am so tired. Probably my destiny is just to remain here and to wait the end".

When you had completely submitted and surrendered, your guide struck the rock with His stick and to your surprise, water gushed out of this rock. Just a minute ago you were so empty, defeated and failed, but now out of the depths of your heart erupts the real presence of God, His blessing and strength, so that the desert becomes a wonderful place and you are filled with joy, thanksgiving, gratitude and love. Water in the wilderness! Now you can exclaim, "My God - my rock". He always was close to you, always walked besides you and never left you. Wow! How real and alive is this water.

He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas. (*Psalm 78:15*)

Your heart drinks and is refreshed, and fills with joy and gratitude. You stand up in strength. “This is marvelous and so wonderful.” Such thoughts cannot leave your mind.

After your heart had gained this new strength, the guide stopped and asked you to start searching for water and to dig a well in order you could have water anytime. You need to dig a well. The Lord teaches you to search and find water in the desert so that you will be dependant only on Him. Only if you have your own well will you be able to expand and conquer the Promised Land. Isaac spent time in the wilderness digging wells in order to survive, and not only to survive but also to expand.

He moved on from there and **dug another well**, and no-one quarrelled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, “Now the Lord has given us room and **we will flourish in the land.**” (*Genesis 26: 22*)

There is a time when your heart is not satisfied by water from other sources. The Lord often removes other sources from you so that you can find your own source and dig your own well. You cannot be strong, if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, if He doesn't reveal Himself personally in your heart, if you do not spend time having a close relation with Him and growing in His knowledge. There is a time when you drink from other sources. Maybe you often run from one meeting to another, from one church to another, listening to all God's anointed preachers, go to various conferences where the power of God is manifested powerfully, browse the Internet looking for something new, and listen to testimonies of how God's power changed other lives. This is the time when you drink and get strength from other wells. But the Lord does not want you to be like a sheep without a shepherd for ever; instead He wants you depend only on Him - a well of living water. That does not mean that you no longer need other preachers, conferences, meetings and churches, because the Lord uses them mightily and feeds His

children. However, do not spend all your time running to and drinking from other sources; do not allow the well of your personal relationship with the Lord to be backfilled because without Him you can not survive. Be dependent only on His word. Dig your well inside your heart so that you will always be filled and fed, not dependant on circumstances or running away to Egypt for survival.

When you find water in the desert and dig your well, the Lord wants you to be filled with it in order that He can transform it into wine. When your old self has been crucified and is being carried every day, it is like an old wineskin, not suitable for new wine. But your new wineskin is still empty. In the desert you experience the deep emptiness of the new wineskin that the Lord wants to fill with water.

And no-one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins. (*Mark 2:22*)

In the wilderness He wants to separate you from the world, not in the body but in the heart, from the negative impact of the world, from its way of thinking with its pessimism, disbelief, criticism, nihilism and all that depresses and undermines the wings of your Spirit. He wants you to keep your new wineskin away from the world's impact and fill it with the word of God. He seeks to fill your entire being - mind, emotions and will.

In the desert the Lord teaches you to gather manna every day, so that you may live and be strong by His word. You begin to gather His words into your heart every day in small portions. You find it on a daily basis, but then you start to think: "How long can I go on eating the same, every day the same manna. Lord, give me meat (wonders, events, miracles and special emotions)". But your guide, as usual, points to a small portion of manna. You

feel disappointment that God does not respond to your supplication and prayers for His signs and wonders, actions and power. You become a little angry and stop gathering manna. But after a while you become so hungry that run back to your portion and eat, are refreshed and regain your strength.

Sometimes it is so difficult to understand why nothing changes, why you have to continue to live each day almost the same as the one before. Perhaps you could accelerate your growth and reach your spiritual maturity faster?

Thinking about it, you decide to gather as much manna as you can in order that it will be enough for a long time. You begin to gather large portions, swallowing handfuls, trying to eat everything. However you notice that everything not eaten drops and rots. Sometime it happens in your life, when you want to do everything in one day – to read the whole Bible and to pray till you are exhausted. But He wants you to be faithful, so that you will come to Him every day for the portion of manna prepared for you and will grow and become dependent on the word of God, which falls down from heaven every day.

In the desert you follow the pillar of cloud and fire, gather manna, search for Him and learn to serve Him in the Spirit. It happens that you desire great and obvious manifestations of God's movement and activities, His concrete commands and specific directions - what, where and when to do. But instead you hear silence or are driven back to your own well. Therefore learn to gather manna every day and be dependent on Him.

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (*Deuteronomy 8:3*)

The Spirit brings you into the wilderness that you may learn to serve Him. When God commanded Moses to lead His people from slavery, He led them into the wilderness so that they would learn His law, commands and statutes.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that **they may worship me.**” ’” (*Exodus 9:13*)

In the desert the Lord revealed Himself to people and taught them how to serve Him. Here He revealed them how to build the tabernacle, gave the commandments and taught them to search, know and obey His voice. In the desert the Spirit teaches you how to serve Him, not in the flesh but in the Spirit. Before coming to the desert, the Israelites did not have the tabernacle, the altar, the commandments, the Law - only the pillar was in front of them. However at the end, coming out of the desert, what a big change we can see: the tabernacle of God is set up in the camp with continuous sacrifices to God; people are being taught the law and everyone knows his place and how to serve according to the duties assigned; the priests, dressed in special clothes, carry the ark of the covenant. These are only a few images from the Old Testament because these days the Spirit teaches us in the desert to give spiritual sacrifices to the Lord and to serve Him and others with our hearts.

In the desert the Holy Spirit teaches you to fight and prepares you to conquer the Promised Land. Before, you were unstable and were falling and rising according to your emotions and thoughts, again and again, every day. But now He keeps you by the power of the Spirit and you follow Him regardless of your emotions, your feelings and your own wisdom. But why do you sometimes face resistance and obstacles. You think: “If it is the will of God, than everything should flow smoothly and without

any problem”. However in the desert you meet obstacles, resistance, opposition, disagreement, disaccord, different circumstances which do not correspond to the will of God revealed to you. Then you must fight in order that you can learn how to use the armor of God. In such times you notice how your guide stops, steps back, stands beside you and fights with you, allowing you to meet the enemy face-to-face so that you can extinguish the emotions and thoughts which come from the enemy with the shield of faith, and so that you can use the sword of the Spirit, praying, asking and receiving, so that you can declare God’s promises and His word under ambience of war.

... (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience) ... (*Judges 3:2*)

How much you have learned from your teacher, comforter and helper. Now He leads you up to the hill so that you can see the Promised Land from a distance. He shows you the promises which you have forgotten, refreshes and strengthens them, focusing your eyes again in order that your heart would be on fire with the vision which you received at the start of this journey.

After He taught you to be dependant on His word, to fight and to serve Him, after He refreshed you and showed you the vision and your call, He leads you to the Promised Land. You remember the way He guided you, and your heart fills with gratefulness, joy, faith and love. Once again you exclaim not “What should I do?”, but instead: “I believe; lead me to the Promised Land as you have promised in your word.”

Suddenly everything becomes quiet. You wait for your guide to appear and to lead you into the Promised Land. And you wait, but He doesn’t appear. You have already been taught to not trust in your own strength but always to follow Him and wait on Him, and so you wait. But something has changed. The pillar, which

was always in front of you in the desert, has gone. You cannot see the guide in front of you. Where is He? “Lord, do I have to go into this land? Why do you not give me the order? I cannot go without you.” And you continue waiting.

Then you realize that the leading of the Spirit in the desert and going to the Promised Land is different. In the wilderness you followed the pillar of fire and cloud, gathered manna every day, and learnt to know His voice.

Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night **to shine on the way they were to take.** (*Nehemiah 9:19*)

You used to see the pillar of fire and gather manna every day. But now the pillar has gone and the manna has ceased to fall. However, something remarkable happened during the journey in the desert. Have you read how the Israelites entered into the Promised Land? Instead of a pillar of cloud, in front of them went priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant, as if God's presence and guidance had shifted and remained on human shoulders. Since that moment your guide is not somewhere in front of you but rather in you.

At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today. (*Deuteronomy 10:8*)

Coming out of the desert the guidance of the Spirit moves to the temple, built in you during the journey in the desert. What wonderful things happened to you - as if the guidance that was external and worked through the visible circumstances, now

becomes internal. Then you start to move to the Promised Land. The pillar moves into your heart where the Ark of the Covenant, Jesus, is placed. Guidance by circumstances is replaced by guidance by faith. The Guide is hidden in you: you do not see Him in front but hear His voice within.

The guidance of the Spirit becomes so personal that you begin to realize that only at first was your teacher holding your hand, when you came back from the valley of darkness. But now, He has become part of the new self – rooted, grown and walking together. He has filled that empty space left by your old self. Now in this place someone else sits, like someone raised from the death. Thinking about it, you hear the words spoken by your guide: “Follow Me and I will reveal the resurrection of Jesus Christ in you.”

The journey continues ...

... having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

CHAPTER 14

He will raise you and hide you in Him

You start moving to the Promised Land. Everywhere you go, your guide goes, every step you take towards the Promised Land, your guide also takes. You walk together as your steps become His steps. Nevertheless, you do not see Him in front, you hear His voice more clearly in the heart whispering: “Look at Jesus, how wonderful He is”. Your Savior and your Life becomes clear and bright in your heart. You can see Him as clearly as the apostle John saw Him in the book of Revelation. You see His devotion as the golden sash around His chest, His love as the burning eyes and His peace as the white hair. Looking at Him your heart is overwhelmed with the same image and the Holy Spirit makes this image the truth and life in you.

With every step Jesus becomes more real, greater and brighter, but when you look at your self, you become smaller. You decrease but Jesus increases and grows.

He must become greater; I must become less. (*John 3:30*)

You feel weak and incapable, but when you raise your eyes and look at Him, everything changes and becomes real and alive. Jesus’ death becomes real in you - an internal circumcision, being accomplished and revealed only by the Holy Spirit. He encourages and whispers: “Step forward, do not be afraid, just believe”. He wants to reveal the resurrection of Jesus because without death there is no resurrection. Only those dead and buried in Him will be resurrected with the new life.

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. (*1 Timothy 1:16*)

But how can the Spirit reveal Jesus and make Him visible in you? Jesus desires to be revealed when you enter into different and strange situations. Often you thought that if you are in Him, then everything would be fine and go without any problems; all circumstances would go hand in hand with His will and you would always be visibly blessed. But how can the Holy Spirit reveal His patience if there is nothing you need to wait for patiently? How can the Spirit reveal His love, if there is nobody around you who doesn't love you? How can He reveal Jesus' grace, if you do not need mercy and you are perfect in your own works? Everything is given to you in Jesus Christ, but needs to be revealed. The Holy Spirit can do everything, therefore He leads you (even if you think it happens accidentally because you do not see the visible blessings) into different situations and trials. But when you fall into these strange and unforeseen situations, the Holy Spirit doesn't stop acting but, on the contrary, the most important part and work of the Holy Spirit begins as He reveals Jesus in you. The Word becomes the truth and the life. It is the goal where the wonderful Holy Spirit leads you, as only He can take things from Jesus and make them life in you. There is no other way, no method, no efforts, no theory – only the Holy Spirit, who searches the deepest parts of Him, takes them from Him, and plants and reveals them in you.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (*Galatians 2:20*)

Suddenly you desire to tell somebody about Jesus - about Him you love, whom you follow, by whom you live and who is in you.

You just start telling others about your life as He is your life. How strange that when you talk, somebody recognizes Jesus and His aroma, although everything you say is just your life. Yes, now Jesus really is your life... Now in these words there is life – planted, revealed and made truth by the Holy Spirit.

When you witnessed before about Jesus, you gave only information and a description about Him. Such stories went only as far as their minds, and after facing countless and sophisticated arguments fell to the ground. You tried to tell people about a Jesus who was far away but not in your heart. He was somewhere in the Bible, somewhere two thousand years ago; He was somewhere in famous preachers or in others of God's great servants, He was somewhere in books, articles and conferences, and He was even somewhere on the Internet. When you shared with others about this distant Jesus, you were alone. However, when the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus in you, you speak the truth and the life. You speak not alone but together with the Holy Spirit. In the same way the apostle Paul spoke, because he preached Jesus, who was revealed in him.

But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me his grace, was pleased **to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him** among the Gentiles,... (*Galatians 1:15-16*)

What Jesus did Paul preach? He preached Jesus who was living in him. After you finish speaking about Jesus, you notice how the audience drinks this water. You are surprised and even perplexed, not understanding why they do not notice you and do not ask questions about you. They take the fruit from you, but do not pay attention to you. Do you remember how often you thought how God would use you and would work mightily and how others would be amazed and surprised and would appreciate you? You waited for that so much (secretly), but now you see

how the audience eats the fruit but does not notice you, your journey, your fallings and risings, your difficulties and victories.

Than you ask the guide: “But where am I?” “You are hidden in Him. When you look at Him, you see His righteousness, love, joy, peace, which you got from Him. You look at Him, and He looks at you. This is the true love because only this love can keep your eyes fixed on Him”, you hears the soft answer.

For you died, and your life is now **hidden with Christ in God.** (*Colossians 3:3*)

You are hidden in Him, He protects you against pride and selfishness, holding and clasping you with weakness and simplicity. Raise your eyes and look up to where you are hidden in Him.

What a wonderful journey, and it continues...

And this is my prayer: that your love may
abound more and more in knowledge and depth
of insight...

Philippians 1:9

CHAPTER 15

He will grow God's love in you

Going further you begin to see what He is performing in your life. It is so amazing to see how the Holy Spirit reveals the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in you. Before you couldn't even think it is possible. The story about Jesus, His death and resurrection becomes your favorite topic and the most beautiful story. When you talk, you notice how God's power works in other's lives. The crucified Jesus carried in you has the same power as two thousand years ago, and a word about the cross always acts as God's weapon.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (*1 Corinthians 1:18*)

Admiring the works of God, you get involved in the ministry and start to run faster and faster. The speed becomes so great that you hardly can breathe and soon get exhausted. "Why does God not give me more strength and power?", you think. Suddenly inside your heart you hear the voice: "Stop". "What, how? Now, when there are so many thirsty and hungry people around me, when I see how God's power is changing their lives and performing miracles?" You balk at that strange idea. But the same thought comes again asking you to stop and have a rest. "But Lord, it is your work and there is no time for the rest as so many do not know the truth around me. In addition, I remember, when I stopped on the road at the stop "Become better!" and how much time I lost there." You try to justify your actions. However the same voice inside you continues to ask you not to rush. Although you do not understand why, you stop and listen to the warning of the Holy Spirit.

How many great, powerful and anointed servants of God ran and rushed despite the warning of the Holy Spirit to have a rest. Therefore they got exhausted and shortened their life and ministry. Never think that it is you, who save others and perform the miracles. Trust in Him, because He is the Savior. Do not underestimate the rest of the Lord, designated for you in order that you can gain strength and be refreshed, spending time only with Him and staying for a while just at the feet of your Lord. The Sabbath rest is given for you, so that your first love will always remain hot, that you may get rest and peace in Him. The crowds followed Jesus, but sometimes He withdrew to remote places to pray and have close communication with the Father. When His disciples returned from the villages, He told them to have a rest and go to a remote place. Why? Even His work and miracles cannot substitute for a personal and close relationship with Him. Love for Him grows not as a result of a multitude of works but it comes from Him.

When Jesus spoke to the first of the churches in the book of Revelation, He had one thing against it - this church had lost its first love. When you read about the works done by this church, you even get envious of the patience, wisdom and faith they had. However the most important thing, the first love, had been nearly quenched. The first love is very important to Him. You can be attached to visions, ministry, God's work, miracles and power, but you cannot put them in front of the first love. The love for revival, miracles and other manifestations of the Spirit shouldn't become more important than the first love for Jesus. Why does Jesus give a warning about that? Is it wrong if we thirst for miracles, God's power, works and the ministry?

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. (*Revelation 2:4*)

You might ask, "Isn't good to desire miracles and revival in order that a lot of people might be saved and thousands might hear the

Word of God?" Yes, it is extremely important. But Jesus said that only the first love can bind and keep you in Him. In the Gospels it is written how Jesus entered into Jerusalem. The disciples thought that it was time for the Scriptures to be fulfilled and the King of Israel to be revealed. The crowds and multitudes welcomed Him rejoicing and praising Jesus. This was the greatest revival in Israel, but many went after revival and not after Jesus. Only a few days later, the same crowd shouted: "Crucify Him." Why? Because Jesus turned to a different path, not the one the revival was moving along. Therefore, it is so important to love Jesus with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength, because when the time comes to choose, the first love always chooses Jesus.

You live in the last times, when God's incredible power is being manifested. But this is only the beginning. In all churches around the world the Holy Spirit speaks about the immense and powerful pouring out of the Spirit, about the time of incredible wonders, miracles and God's glory that is coming. You live in the eve of the greatest harvest, when the amazing revival, never seen before, will descend upon the body of Christ – His Church. Every child of God, small and great, will see and experience such a presence and power of God that you can not even imagine or think about it. It will be amazing and a wonderful time; it will be a church walking in His fullness. But why did Jesus say that we should watch, and what is it the fullness of Jesus?

Perhaps at the height of this great awakening you will hear the same soft voice, saying: "Follow me." Do not stop, wherever this voice leads you. Do not bind yourself to the rejoicing crowds, stadiums and halls full of people. That does not mean that is not from God - it will be glorious, and you will experience and participate in this great harvest. He will use you mightily, as He will use each of His children. He will rejoice in His glory because it will be from Him. However, there is no full revelation of Christ without His sufferings and His cross. There is no glorious

entrance to Jerusalem without His rejection and scorn. The Word of God declares that in the last times the fullness of Christ will be revealed in His church. Therefore do not be surprised if a great rejection will follow the great awakening. Not only the healings, miracles, opened eyes and ears, great signs and wonders, but also the scars of Christ and cuts on His back will be revealed in the church. The fullness of Christ, His power and His sufferings will be revealed in the church during the last days. As the first church experienced God's miraculous power and the share in Christ's sufferings, even more the church of the last days will experience Christ in His fullness.

Once again you feel how your heart burns with the first love for Him, with the same love you had at the beginning of the journey. You look at the trees and birds and it seems that they rejoice in God as you do. You want to share this love and serve with it to others.

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather **serve one another in love.** (*Galatians 5:13*)

Suddenly, in the middle of the ministry, you hear a voice: "Take care of the Lord's affairs." "Oh, how wonderful this encouragement is. Thank you Lord," and you begin to serve even more. But after a while the same voice whispers to you: "Take care of the Lord's affairs." Then you stop and think in surprise: "Yes, Lord, and that is exactly what I am doing - I am serving." But the feeling that He wants to teach you something doesn't leave your heart.

Yes, I serve, but do I share with others what I have? Yes, I serve, but do I lead others closer to Jesus? Yes, I get closer to Him, but do I want others to come close and even overtake me in their relationship with Jesus? Do I want others to be closer to Christ, and have more love, to be stronger and bear more fruit than I

do? Or maybe I look like the one who grows alone and only takes care of his own spiritual state, not encouraging others to get as close to Jesus as He wants them to be?

Then the Guide asks again: “Do you truly want to be the last?” “Well, Lord, I want to be the last, but later ... you will make me the first in your kingdom, won't you?” you hear your own thoughts. And then you realize that you are just taking care of your own business, of your own spiritual growth, using the ministry for your own purposes and interests, with the main goal of how you might become closer to Jesus, forgetting others and their true interests. But what then does it mean to take care of the Lord's affairs, of His interests?

The Lord desires that you take care of others, sharing with them the real meaning of the cross, love and faith, sharing not by words only, but by real life. He wants you to become truly the last. Do parents dream that their children would be more beautiful and would achieve more than they did? Do they give everything they have in order that their children become better, stronger, happier? However, today there are few real spiritual fathers whose children have more than their parents and are even stronger in His wisdom and knowledge. The Lord showed the wrong ambitions, to climb up on the stage and be famous, to do great things and be very spiritual, developing my own spiritual career. All this is not from His Spirit. Instead, He wants you to take care of others, serving them, in order they might be better, greater and closer to Jesus, that they might have more knowledge and spiritual fruit and be more advanced and more zealous than you.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said: “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.” (*Mark 9:35*)

When you see God's works and the first fruits in your life the same gentle voice asks: "Do you want to go further?" Oh, yes my Lord, but what is further on? "Follow me and I will make you fruitful," responds the Holy Spirit.

The journey continues ...

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:10

CHAPTER 16

He will make you fruitful

Walking along the narrow path, your heart fills with love, joy and peace. You feel His presence and see how the Holy Spirit is working in your life. His promises seem real as your heart is overwhelmed with the Word of God and your faith is focused on Him. You are surprised how He has already changed you and made you a totally different person - a person you couldn't become by your own merits and efforts. While you rejoice at His works and strength, you hear the voice of your Guide asking: "What do you want to do with that?"

At first you do not even understand this question and continue to thank Him for everything He gave you, the new life and His promises, but again He asks: "What do you want to do with the new life?"

"What does that mean – what I want? Lord, all I can do is to enjoy and give thank to you for the new life, filled with love and joy. It is your gift and your work. I could not achieve it with my strength, so I will be grateful to you for the rest of my life. Thank you, Lord." But your Guide asks again: "But do you want to be fruitful?"

Who does not want to be fruitful? After all, I always imagined myself fruitful: full of joy, God's grace, mercy, wisdom and strength. I saw myself standing on the stage and preaching to the crowds. Everyone who looked at my life would see how I succeed in everything I do because my work is anointed, my family is happy, I have a wonderful job and a house, I preach, I wear a nice suit and tie, I put hands on the sick and the Lord heals them, I am surrounded by wonderful friends who are supportive and encourage me, and the smile never disappears

from my face. I am so happy and full of fruit. What a beautiful image, what a wonderful dream and it has finally come true. It is so good to see His blessing and care. But why do I feel alone, as if something is missing in my life, as if I am a seed without fruit, a seed alone?

I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (*John 12:24*)

The Lord always raised and strengthened me, He taught me and filled my heart with His Spirit, in order I might become the seed in His hand. The time came to sow and to produce fruit. What did Abraham do with the fulfilled promise of God, with his first and only son Isaac? What did the apostle Paul do with the new life given from the Lord? What journey of faith did Abraham go through before he received the promise of God – his only son Isaac? He loved him, took care of him and had a great joy because of God's gift. Isaac was the only, dearest and beloved son in whom he put all hope, because in him God promised to multiply and increase Abraham and bless all nations. However, when Isaac grew up and became the most important thing in the life of Abraham, God asked him to sacrifice his son. Why? Because the seed had matured and the time came to sow so that Abraham could be fruitful in all the nations. Only when Abraham obeyed and was willing to sacrifice his son did the fruits start to grow and did Abraham become the father of many nations.

The Lord will ask you what you want to do with the new life, with your heart filled with love, joy and faith. How do you want to live now that you are cleansed, strengthened, comforted and equipped with His power? Now you feel happy and are enjoying God's grace in your life. But the Lord waits for your response and the decision of your faith. Do you want to be fruitful, and what do you want to do with all you have?

The Lord wants you to be able to offer the new life to Him and become a living sacrifice, spending your life for others, so that other people around you become happy and fruitful in the Lord. You offer not your old life, but the new one - the cleansed, enriched and resurrected life in Jesus Christ. Abraham offered not Ishmael, but Isaac. He offered God's promise – the new life which was in Isaac. If you really desire to be fruitful, then He will encourage you to sow what you have received. You offer and give your life to God as the new and resurrected life, as the new creation, revived and cleansed, because the Lord accepts only pure sacrifices. You do not sacrifice your old life, because the old life has been punished and crucified in Christ, but you offer the new and resurrected life. Jesus was resurrected, not for Himself, but for others. He became the chief priest for ever. Jesus did not need the resurrection for Himself, but He accomplished it for you, so that you were raised in Him as well.

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life**; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
(Romans 6:13)

You stop and ask: “Lord, but this is not according to my imaginations, my dreams and my calling, because when I share the life with others, I feel as if I am getting empty and weakened, as if I am losing the fruit you have grown in me. When you come and see me empty, you will probably be disappointed. I'm afraid of being weak and empty ...”

And yet it is only your imagination which delays you from sowing. How often you make a mistake in assessing the sowing and reaping. You agree enthusiastically to sow and expect to harvest, but you look wrongly for harvest in the same place – below the surface, under ground, where the seed is dying. Sowing

and harvesting takes place in different places. The Lord sows in you, but will reap in others. The seed falls and dies in your heart, but the harvest grows somewhere else - in others. In the parable about the servants who were given the talents, you see that the one who received only one talent, hid it because of fear. Here the Lord explains, why so many are unfruitful. They mix up the places for sowing and harvesting.

“Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, **harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.**’”
(Matthew 25:24)

Because of fear of looking unspiritual, weak and humiliated, you can bury the talent given by the Lord and keep it hidden in your heart. You expect that when the Lord returns, He will find it and will be satisfied. Maybe you think to justify yourself by saying: “Behold, Lord, I am still full of love and joy, which you have given me; I still give thanks and praise you and I am filled with the Spirit - I have kept it all. Many around me notice that I am a spiritual person, full of knowledge, strength and power. This is so beautiful and shining, like a talent. Behold, Lord, you have given me that, here it is – I give you back everything, nothing is corrupted or changed; I have preserved everything”. However, why will the Lord not be pleased? He will come to your neighbors, friends and others you have met, and will search for the love, which He planted in you, for the strength, faith and compassion that have been poured out on you. Why do these others not have the same love, joy and peace you received from the Lord?

You might answer: “Lord, look, they do not believe and are dirty, unable to love or to know the joy of salvation and the power of the Spirit, which I so carefully preserved.” But the Lord will show that He sows in you, but reaps in others. For Him what is

important is not what you have and how you look, but how much you have given. You can look very bad, like a dying seed, which is withering and becoming weak and small, but somewhere else - on the surface of the soil, will be fruits, maturing in others.

Have you noticed what seed, from which crops grow, look like? When you sow a seed, it falls into the ground and softens releasing the small shoot. This shoot feeds only from the seed. The seed gradually decreases, withers and becomes small. It looks worse and worse – not the same as it was before sowing. Now it looks dry and useless. However, from this seed, somewhere on the surface, the small shoot is sprouting, while later appears the stem, the ear and finally, the hundredfold harvest. The secret and the cause of the harvest is the death of the seed. Do you imagine how Jesus looked on the cross, what the dying seed looked like and what life flooded out of it into you? You are the fruit of His death.

You see the dying seed and the abundant fruit in Paul's life as well. You probably think how wonderful it would be to see Paul now, to listen to his sermons and to experience the power of God. But it would be difficult to recognize him, because you imagine him as a great speaker, confident and a strong man of God, whose every move is apparently blessed and anointed by the grace and glory of God. However at that time others didn't see Paul like that. In Paul's life there was a lot of persecution; he suffered several ship wrecks; often he did not have enough to eat; he was in poverty, ill, and worked at night. Now perhaps you would say that he lacked faith in God, who provides everything. He was not a good speaker and in many cases preached the Gospel with fear and trembling. Sometimes he was accused of not being "spiritual". Many had doubts about Paul's ministry and asked him to prove that God was speaking through him and using him. Paul somewhere said that he became the rubbish of the world so that even other churches began to laugh at him, questioning his apostleship, and at the end of his life deserting

him. It seemed that all his work was for nothing. Only now you can see Paul in the light of the God's Word, because you know how he was approved and assessed by the Lord. However during that time he did not seem very "spiritual". There wasn't anything special or significant in his appearance and there were no signs which would show God's opinion about Paul. These signs and the evidences were in others. At that time Paul looked like a dying seed bearing the death of Jesus Christ in him, while the power of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ worked in others.

The dying seed always looks stupid, weak and despised, but look at the fruits that grow in others - wisdom, strength and honor.

We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ!
We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured,
we are dishonoured! (*1 Corinthians 4:10*)

He was the seed that fell on the ground and became weak, exhausted and worn out. The death of Jesus was active in Paul, in order that the life of Jesus might grow and increase in others. Even you are the fruit of Paul's ministry. See the Spirit, who stands behind His word – the Spirit of love, devotion and life, who takes from Him, works through Him and leads to Him.

The most wonderful thing that happens in your life is when the death of Jesus and His resurrection are revealed in you. However the secret of fruitfulness is that the death and resurrection take place in different places.

So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. (*2 Corinthians 4:12*)

How did Jesus look on the cross? What did the seed of God look like?

But what a strength and power was poured out from this seed. Have you noticed what a life appeared in you because of the death of Jesus? What a love, joy and peace were given, sprouting out of God's seed. How terrible was His death on the cross, but how wonderful the life that appeared in you.

The death of Jesus is the power of God in your life. Do you want to carry the dying seed of Jesus in you? Do you want this seed to work in you? This does not mean that you can achieve this by your own works, devotion or sacrifices. No! It is the same seed of God – the death of Jesus, which works in you.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (*Galatians 6:14*)

What a powerful manifestation of the Spirit comes out of the death of Jesus. As you bear it in you, you spread His fragrance and aroma. Paul preached Jesus not by words, but by the demonstration of the Spirit coming out of the death of Jesus. Paul already knew that the letter of the Scriptures doesn't bring life. Therefore he decided to be foolish and unwise but to preach the life coming from the cross of Christ.

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (*1 Corinthians 2:2*)

How can you move on in such a way, how is it possible to get the strength and ability to become a seed which bears so much fruit? Thinking about it, you notice how the Guide has put on you a brilliant, shining sash. "O Lord, what a beautiful sash, exquisitely embroidered with gold and silver thread, shining so bright – it must be a very important and precious thing," you thought.

“This is a sash of love, designed to serve others, to wash and towel their feet,” you hear His voice reply.

But who can wash and towel feet with so luxurious and brilliant sash? A simple cloth should be used for this purpose. The feet are not clean and this sash may become dirty?

When you serve others, you serve with the most expensive things. What are the things that are the best, dearest and most precious to you? Serve others with them. In serving, you should bow before others and touch their feet. You may seem ridiculous and feel not respected, but not in His eyes, because before Him it is the most precious service. Jesus wore this sash on the earth and gave us an example how to serve others. His life was the most precious, expensive and dearest thing, and He gave it to you. Therefore do not be afraid to share the most precious things with others. Not the visible things, but rather the unseen are precious, and these remain forever.

As you are girded with this sash, you start to climb up the narrow path to the top of the mountain.

The journey continues ...

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:8

CHAPTER 17

He will glorify Jesus

Climbing up the mountain you begin to hear a song glorifying God. It is so beautiful that you ask the Guide, where it comes from. He smiles and replies that it is from your heart. But I am climbing in silence and am not singing any song or praising God? “The life laid on the altar glorifies God,” a gentle voice replies.

Usually you understand worship as thanksgiving, playing and singing at the beginning of the service, or as praising the Lord in prayer. It is wonderful and it pleases the Lord when you praise Him, sing and give thanks. But this is not the only form of worship which pleases the Lord. Worship can fill your whole life, every hour, minute and second. But how is it that I cannot worship, sing and give thanks without stopping?

In the Gospels there are not many places where we can see how Jesus worships the Father, but one verse particularly reveals to us what worship of the Father is and how He can be glorified.

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him.” (*John 13:31*)

In this verse Jesus says that the Father is glorified in Him now: not in the future, but now. What is this moment? He said these words when Judas Iscariot went to betray Him. Jesus brought His life and put it on the altar before God. The surrender, devotion and the life laid on the altar glorify God. Songs, words, prayers and thanksgiving are only a part of your life and an expression of what is in the heart. Your life in Jesus Christ glorifies God, it smells and gives off a fragrance acceptable to

Him, commemorating the sacrifice of His Son. Everything you do for Him, glorifies His name. Your life glorifies God – life which speaks from your altar – Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament you can notice how the patriarchs, every time they heard the word of God or were saved from their enemies, built an altar and put an offering on it. The Bible describes with detail and precision how the altar should be built. If you want to give offerings or sacrifices, first you should build an altar – and not in any way, but exactly according to the shown pattern and specific requirements. In order for the altar to be acceptable to God, the priests of Israel had, according to the Law, to sanctify and consecrate it for seven days with the blood of animals.

For seven days make atonement for the altar and consecrate it. Then the altar will be most holy, and whatever touches it will be holy. (*Exodus 29:37*)

Only after that was the altar acceptable for offerings and sacrifices. When Israel passed over the Jordan, the Lord commanded them in commemoration of this event to build an altar from twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. In another place the Lord commanded an altar to be built of unhewn stones, so that no artificial tool would touch the stone and no sound of construction work would be heard. When the prophet Elijah summoned all Israel to decide who the real God was, the first thing he did was to restore the altar of God from twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

Why was there so much emphasis on the altar? Even Jesus draws our attention to the fact that the altar is more important than the gift, because anything that touches the altar becomes one with it. If the altar is holy, then the offerings is holy as well.

Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? (*Matthew 23:19*)

Jesus is your altar – holy, and sanctifying everything placed on it. When you give your heart and life to Him and live for Him, then you touch Jesus, who sanctifies you. Your life is sanctified by Him and you become one with Him. The altar and the offering become one - acceptable and holy to God. Everything you do in the name of Jesus, what you do for Him, through Him and for Him, becomes holy and acceptable to God. Your life laid on the altar gives off a pleasant fragrance and aroma to God. He smells the aroma of the beloved Son and remembers His covenant made with you by the blood of Jesus Christ.

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him. (*2 Corinthians 2:14*)

The Lord also says that it is not works, offerings or visible things that are important, but the heart. It is not what you give and offer that is important to the Lord. Do you think He lacks money, which you give, or that He needs gifts, or that He wants to take something away from you? Your heart is like an altar on which you put various gifts and offerings, works and activities. It is not these works that are important but your heart, which is the altar to God.

When Jesus saw a poor widow donating only two pennies and the rich men who gave large sums of money, He said that it was the widow who gave the most. Do you think the amount of money and the scope of the work was important to Jesus? No, He saw not an offering but the altar. He saw not the works but the heart which sanctified the work. There is invisible money which pleases the Lord and this is the currency of the heart.

Climbing up to the mountain and walking by His strength, you have already passed dangerous places, cliffs, plains and hills. He not only kept you but gave you the sash of love, taught you how to serve others, strengthened your faith, filled your heart with love, taught you how to sow, and promised a big harvest. “O Lord, please raise up the harvest in others, let others become rich,” you whisper in your heart, after learning the new lesson.

Suddenly you realize that you do not want to be alone in heaven and cannot imagine yourself with Jesus without other travellers and strangers you have met on the journey and whom you served. Heaven without them is unimaginable because you want to be there together with them. Now He really makes you rich.

The journey continues ...

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy ...

Jude 24

CHAPTER 18

He will present you blameless and without spot

During the journey you noticed other travellers passing by: some of them were going on a wide and comfortable way while others were on a narrow and meandering path leading through the mountains and valleys. When the storm came it touched everyone, and when the heat beat down, it affected everyone. Often you didn't see the difference between those who were going on the wide road and those on the narrow road. Sometimes you even started to doubt if the Lord was leading you, because you hadn't noticed the difference between the travellers passing by and having fun and those who were diligently pressing on and keeping going on the narrow path. However one thing was obvious: every time danger or trouble came into your life, you continued to go ahead regardless of stumbling or feeling lame. You stumbled and were lifted up, you got tired and were reinforced, you lost your way and you were found, you became weak and you were strengthened. It seems that His victory was always in you.

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not
abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2
Corinthians 4:8-9)

Once I couldn't understand why there was no visible blessing. I became concerned that somewhere I had missed the voice of the Holy Spirit and lost Him, and that many things I was doing for nothing and that I was just wasting time in vain. But the Lord spoke to me through the simple phrase written by a millionaire: "The grief and the sorrow after the loss of a baby was like the destruction of the house". And then I remembered a particular verse from the Scriptures about the houses - one built on a rock

and the other on the sand. The house built on the rock did not fall when a large storm came but the one that was built on the sand collapsed and its fall was dramatic. In the life of believers and unbelievers there are similar events, storms, losses, trials and sufferings. They touch everybody's life: the life on the narrow path and the life on the wide road.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
(*Romans 8:18*)

But the biggest difference is that in a life without Christ, together with the storm come grief, depression and the “end of everything” – the house falls down. It seems that there have been so many efforts, strivings, expectations, fighting, and now the life has come to an end – it was all in vain. A sense of emptiness and futility overtakes a person who just recently seemed to be happy. However, if your life's foundation is Jesus Christ, regardless of what events or storms come, there will remain in you the Life – Jesus Christ – and no grief, depression, sorrow or pain will destroy your house. How often you can observe the different condition at the end of the journey between those whose life is Jesus Christ and those whose life is themselves. Why does a man without Christ at the end of his life feel as if he has lost everything, all that he acquired over a lifetime, fought for or tried to possess, but a man who has lost himself for Jesus Christ feels as if he has gained something? How precisely does this fulfil the Word of God.

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. (*Matthew 16:25*)

What you have spread and scattered for Jesus, He gathered and put in the safest place in heaven. According to the Word of God, on the last day everything hidden in your clay jar will be made

visible and what is hidden in heaven will be revealed. The revelation of the greatest mystery is coming. Your invisible path will become visible and you will see, face to face, your Saviour, the Life and the Way.

The Lord promised that whatever is His is yours too. You already see how this becomes true in your life on earth but an even more wonderful revelation awaits you in heaven. This is the most remarkable and glorious event in your life. His promise that He will make you stand before His throne without any spot or shame is unshakable. Hold on to it and go forward until you see Him face to face. It is not your works and the mistakes you have made or the achievements and stumbling you have passed through that will bring you shameless in front of Him. He will make you stand before Him without spot and shame by His own power because you will come before His throne full of gratitude, joy and praise, boasting only in Him, who gave Himself to you forever.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (*Ephesians 2:6*)

This hope directed to Him strengthens you. You get new strength to climb up the mountain and your eyes of faith can go through the heavens and see Him sitting in the glory.

The journey continues ...

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:8

CHAPTER 19

Jesus Christ - God's endless revelation

Going further, you take a look at your clay jar: it looks shabby, damaged and weak. Every day you observe new scratches and cracks on it. It looks as if just a little poke would be enough to cause the jar to break. But you feel that the jar is more likely to break from the power which is in you. Sometimes you feel as if this power within could overflow from you. This is the same power which raised Jesus Christ from the dead. This power will raise you up as well. You observe how your jar is getting weaker every day but inside everything is being refreshed and renewed. And suddenly you think: "What is the end of my journey?"

Your Guide confirms what is already in your heart: "There is no end as there is no beginning - there is only Jesus Christ in you and in heaven. You want to see Jesus and His voice, which guided, led, taught, comforted and loved you for so long during the journey. Now you not only desire to hear His voice but to see His face. What is He like?"

The revelation of Jesus Christ is so great, inexhaustible and endless that it is impossible to describe or imagine it. The Word of God says that you will see Him sitting on the throne on the right hand of the Father. But you will see Him not only on the throne - you will see Him in you as well. During your journey He is hidden in your clay jar but when this jar is broken, Christ in you will become visible to all. Adam was created in the image of God from dust when God touched him. You're created in Christ and therefore you are a Son of God.

You will see Him sitting on the throne on the right hand of the Father and coming out from your broken jar. But where will you be? You will see yourself dropping your old jar and being clothed with a new heavenly body and sitting on the throne together with Christ. This is a big secret because it is the fruit of Jesus' prayer: you shall be in Him and He in you. Now it is difficult to understand these things but it is easy to believe.

On that day you will realise that I am in my Father,
and you are in me, and I am in you. (*John 14:20*)

But an even bigger event awaits you in heaven. Jesus and His beloved bride, the Church will be revealed for the entire heavenly creation. And you're a part of this event. The love that is being poured out through the Holy Spirit into your heart and the response to this love points to the upcoming wedding feast of Christ and His bride - complete unity of Christ and you.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (*Revelation 19:7*)

The apostle Paul compares the relationship between Christ and the Church with earthly marriage, which is only a weak shadow of the unity of Christ and His Church. Christ and the Church will not just become united, they will be one. Where Christ goes, there will go His Church. Where the Church is, there will be Christ. The glory of God, love and dedication will be revealed in heavens, crowning the work of God.

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
(*Revelation 21:9*)

You will be able to see thousands in heaven glorifying God and declaring to the all creation: “Just have a look at how beautiful the bride is, she is so rich, wearing a white veil and jewels. Nobody can compare with her. This beauty is given to her by the bridegroom - Christ”. The glory of Christ and His true beauty will be seen in the Church. Everyone who looks at her in the heavens will be amazed at her beauty and glory. They are the redeemed of Christ, sanctified and beloved. The Bride will pronounce: “Look at my Savior. He chose me, washed me, enriched me and made me beautiful”. Christ and His bride will go hand in hand. They will never leave each other, because they are so strongly connected by love.

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
(*Revelation 7:9*)

The complete revelation of Christ will publicly condemn the devil and his fallen angels in front of all creation. You might imagine God's court as a force and power through which justice is implemented. But the justice of God is different. His work comes before the court and cancels any argument and doubt about His justice and righteousness making every tongue silent. The Word of God says that every knee will bow before His throne and every tongue will confess that He is Lord, the just judge and the only God. Prior to the judgment, the Glory of God will be revealed publicly – Jesus Christ, whose existence and work means the condemnation of the devil. Why?

The Word of God reveals that Satan before his fall was a beautiful and powerful angel of God, an angel of light, standing close to God. He was so beautiful and was walking in such a glory, that he decided to be equal to God. So pride was found in

him, resulting in him being thrown down from heaven. He sought fame and power. He deceived man and deprived him of his power on earth. But Satan didn't know God and did not see what was beyond the wall of fire, beyond the justice demanding the punishment and death of the sinful man. He couldn't even think about the existence of God's love, dedication, self-denial and grace. God himself has paid the price for the sins of all people, punishing His own Son, and has rescued a fallen man who was without hope in the deepest hole, purifying, sanctifying and giving him the Holy Spirit. Moreover, He has exalted man in Christ and placed him on the throne together with Christ.

Accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you,
in order to bring praise to God. (*Romans 15:7*)

What Satan, having fallen, desired, and tried to gain by force and power, God himself gave as a gift to man, who was not worthy. He paid the price of death and gave eternal life irrevocably. The fullness of God and His character is now being revealed in such a light that all heaven looks at it with amazement and astonishment, thanking and praising God. They worship and sing to Him: "This is the God, who freely gave eternal life and glory to fallen man raising him up, washing him and bringing him near, giving him power, strength and His glory. He gave all He has – He gave Himself?. What the devil couldn't even imagine or think God gave as a free gift to man, who is unworthy and weak. O, what evidence of God's love, what justice and condemnation on the fallen Satan and his angels. What glory to God and praise to the Lord!

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (*Revelation 12:10*)

The unseen mercy of God, His grace, forgiveness, commitment and humility, and all His beauty became visible and was revealed in Jesus Christ. This beauty became available for you as well - forever.

God's glory does not stand in the same place - it grows and expands. It's like a "big bang" expanding the universe and penetrating everywhere. The heavens and the earth will be filled with God's glory. The whole universe and the heavenly creation wonder when they see God's boundless wisdom and the treasures of His love. In the beginning they saw God as "I am" but now they see the Father; before, they heard the Word of God, now they worshiped the Son of God, the lamb and the King, Jesus Christ; before, they saw the Holy Spirit - now they see the Comforter, Teacher and Guide; before they saw fallen humanity but now they see the beautiful bride - His church. And what a privilege is this grace of God to you. You not only see it - you are and will be there. The revelation of Jesus Christ's will be in you forever.

"Lord, how much I would like to see it," you cry out in amazement. The gentle and quiet voice whispers to you: "Only believe."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" (*John 11:40*)

The journey continues...

EPILOGUE

After you have read this book you will probably ask: “Where are the miracles of the Lord? Where is the great power of God and the mighty manifestation of the Spirit?” God’s miracles happen every day and you will surely see more of them. However the goal of this book was not miracles, preaching or teaching of any theological doctrine. The goal of this book was Jesus Christ – the greatest and the most exciting miracle in your life.

Now you know who the gardener is. You can find many books about His miracles, deeds and works in the lives of other people or in various parts of the earth and in different nations. You can read many books and hear testimonies of how He healed from deadly diseases, delivered from sickness, poverty and depression, forgave sins and poured out His love, joy and peace to various people. You can even read the entire Bible, visit great and anointed servants of God and hear how He works in their lives. You can know everything about the gardener, but you will still be lacking one thing – you have to meet Him personally.

Do not look at Him from a distance, but invite Him to come into your heart. I do not know how it will happen, but if you invite Him – He will surely come, show you the way and lead you to the Father and eternal glory.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. (*Revelation 3:20*)

Now it is your turn to say – “The journey continues...”

One of many Christians

His Purpose

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