

HANDOUTS BASED ON THE NDE TESTIMONY BY PASTOR DIRK WILLNER –
SEMINAR @ TOOWOOMBA (MARCH 2009)

Topic #1: **ON SPEAKING IN TONGUES & MINISTERING ANGELS**

REMINDER FROM THE TESTIMONY:

After my near-death-experience (the experience of Heaven according to John 14:1-7) in the cardiac hospital ward on Good Friday morning, 5 years ago this Easter, the attending cardiac doctor who assessed my situation admitted me for surgery to fit a pace-maker over my heart functions. During my recovery at home, some 7 days after the incident that got me into hospital, I had two encounters with angels around my bed. They both took place, one day apart, in the afternoon around 4pm whilst I was praying to God to gain some understanding regarding my heavenly encounter during my death. Now I was given another heavenly encounter with an angelic visitation whilst being wide awake.

The first visitation was with angels sent by God to minister to me. They asked me for instructions and because I had none, nor thought that I should give them any, they asked for my extended hand. Once I gave my hand and had it placed into theirs, I began to speak an angelic language. This happened with all of the 5 angels around my bed; a different language with each one. The next day a group of angels appeared, however their appearance was very different and they filled the room with dread and fear. They were huddled together and God spoke into my mind a four part instruction as to what must be done with these kind of 'angels.' Two very different encounters: the first was on how to give instructions

to God's ministering angels; the second was on how to judge fallen angels and execute that judgment.

WHAT DO WE KNOW FROM GOD'S WORD ABOUT SPEAKING IN TONGUES?

On the day of Pentecost, God sent us His Holy Spirit, and as it rested on the disciples and filled them with His presence, they **"began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"** (Acts 2:4 NKJV). Before we go any further into this subject, notice this vitally important fact: The Spirit is the one who gives this gift and enables its use. The Living Bible translates this verse: "began speaking in languages they didn't know, for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability." The popular Good News Bible puts it like this: "They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak." When the Apostle Paul tried to teach on this topic he said: "he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries." (1 Corinthians 14:2 NKJV)

Was this just a teaching and experience of the early Christians, or did Jesus have some revelation on this gift? In Mark 16:17 we find Jesus ministering to his disciples in between two major events in fulfilling the Heavenly Father's will. After His resurrection and before His ascension Jesus gives us this Word: **"these signs will follow those who believe; in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues..."** It goes on to mention death defying activity, but concludes with this ministering activity for those who believe: **"they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."** This is a blessing that is connected with the Kingdom of God proclaimed and demonstrated by Jesus, as well as being part

of the new creation in Christ. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17 – 6:2 that part and parcel of this new creation is the work of reconciliation and restoration **“that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”** (5:21 NKJV). Speaking in tongues is one manifest sign among many that God’s work of displaying His righteousness in us and through us becomes evident, but it is difficult to identify what purpose it has or what benefit there is to the church, or even for ourselves.

The Apostle Paul enacted his ministry activity among new believers from the basis of this question: **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”** (Acts 19:2 NKJV). Paul asked further questions that opened up the topic of baptism, especially of repentance and the need to believe in Christ Jesus (v.2-4). Once they were baptized in the name of Jesus, Paul “laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” (v.6) The Apostle Peter had the same kind of reaction: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God” (Acts 10:44-46 NKJV). This was how Cornelius’ entire household was all baptized and how those who accompanied Peter knew that the Holy Spirit was at work in them.

The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers came from the declaration and promise of Jesus Himself: **“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ... you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, ... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be**

witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:4,5,8 NKJV) Paul’s advice and teaching to his student and fellow worker in sharing this Gospel, Timothy, was to : “stir up the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands” (2.Timothy 1:6 NKJV) He was referring to the power of the Holy Spirit that can remain dormant in our own spirit unless activated. When we pray to God this petition should be included: God, stir up the gift you have already given me! It is no use, dare I say that it is even wrong theology, to pray ‘send us more power down from heaven’ or ‘send more anointing;’ the reality is this: every believer is already anointed by God and empowered by His gifts. We are not deficient in the things of God within us, just dormant in revealing those things placed within us.

Speaking in tongues is the outcome of a stirring of the gift of God in our own spirit. It is what Paul advises Timothy when he writes: **“exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that is now and of that which is to come”** (1.Timothy 4:7,8 NKJV). We are familiar with the benefits of bodily exercise for health and vitality as well as the development of our soul (mind, will, emotions), but the exercise of our spirit and spiritual life is greatly neglected. The remedy for that is to be in tune with the Holy Spirit, and like the use of a tuning fork for a musician, we need to speak on the same frequency.

This revelation has been given to us in 1.Corinthians 14:14,15 **“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding.”** For Paul it was not an either/or debate, but the edification of

both the individual (speaking in tongues) and the wider church (understanding). “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.” (1 Corinthians 14:18,19 NKJV).

Consider this personal benefit: **“He who speaks in tongues edifies himself”** (1 Corinthians 14:4 NKJV); in other words, a person speaking in tongues helps himself to grow spiritually and to build spiritual strength. So the question remains, ‘why did God think it important to give us this gift?’ I believe that the answer lies with Jesus’ own ministry assignment: ‘repent for the kingdom of God has come;’ and in his teaching on prayer itself: ‘your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’ Upon His resurrection and meeting with His disciples there was a commissioning. Jesus said: **“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’.”** (John 20:21,22 also see the other commissioning accounts Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18; and Luke 24:36-49). The ministry entrusted to us as the ‘sent people of God,’ is to continue this part of the kingdom work in this world: ‘as the Father has sent me, now I send you!’ Tied to this commission is the forgiveness of sins (John 20:23) and the connection to the things of ‘heaven.’ My own understanding of the value that speaking in tongues may have for the believer is a very practical one, rather than a self-indulgent preoccupation. Here is the key verse: **“whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”** (Mark 16:19 NKJV).

When I was given the gift of speaking in tongues, God's communication as to the purpose of this gift was for spiritual battle. It had to do with sharing instructions given to the angels assigned to us, as well as the ability to bind and loose the things connecting earth and heaven. James 5:16 says: "The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect" (GNB) or **"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"** (NKJV) or "The earnest, heartfelt, continued prayer of a righteous man makes a tremendous power available, dynamic in its working." (AMP). In essence, speaking in tongues is about effective prayer; or prayer that affects the one in need to be able to experience healing and a change in circumstances.

I am mindful that the simple proclamation of the Gospel should be all sufficient for faith. But even John the Baptist (and Jesus referred to him as the greatest of all the prophets) was given evidence to support his faith by Jesus himself when he pointed out the miracles as evidence that He was truly the one they were waiting for (Luke 7:18-23). Jesus speaks to us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives and the practice of faith when He says: **"The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you"** (John 14:26 GNB).

Now to the role of our ministering Angels.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal" (1. Corinthians 13:1 NKJV)
According to the Bible, there are 'tongues of men' and there are 'tongues of angels;' that means, languages spoken and understood by angelic beings. Unless there is interpretation, the comprehension of such a language remains unknown

to the one speaking in tongues. It is like speaking in code. Such speaking is enabled by God and spoken directly as instruction to His Holy angelic host. That's the reason angels go to work on your behalf; as a result of the instructions they have received when you pray in tongues. Matthew 18:10 tells us that children have angels assigned to them and according to Hebrews 1:14 God's angels are **"spirits who serve God and are sent by Him to help those who are to receive salvation"** (GNB) or "ministering angels sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation" (NKJV). This means that God's angels are in full-time 24/7 service and the gift of speaking in tongues is somehow connected to the instructions communicated from God through us as to how and what service they are to carry out. If God's instruction to these angels is to help us, then our instructions are to direct the supernatural workings behind our ministry for the Gospel. If we are 'ambassadors of reconciliation' (2 Corinthians 5:18-21), then angels are the workforce in the embassy of the church.

However, instructions always stem from a point of understanding, and if Scripture is clear in stating that speaking in tongues is imparted as a gift which bypasses our mind (by which we learn and gain understanding) then the understanding of such instructions to angels must come from a source beyond us. I have learnt many 'languages of men' and I am fluent in two of these. This has required years of learning and exposure, engaging my ears and mind to master such a language in order to be understood and to understand. But it is different whenever I practice speaking in 'languages of angels,' because **"my spirit prays, but my understanding remains unfruitful"** (1 Corinthians 14:14).

God's word reveals that the benefit of prophecy (speaking in the language of men) is profitable for believers, but tongues (speaking in a language of angels) are as a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:22-25), but ironically only in as far as a public display of it will result in ridicule: **"they will think you are crazy."** (1 Corinthians 14:23). Personally, my practice of this gift is a private part of my prayer life. Don't get discouraged from praying in tongues if you have become aware of your own speaking gift just because what you are saying doesn't make a lot of sense to your mind. God's word doesn't exclude us from gaining insight, rather, it's a gift that cannot be learnt by the mind, but which God nevertheless provides for a special kind of communication with God. Understanding of what is going on is not prevented, **"So anyone who speaks in tongues should pray also for the ability to interpret what has been said"** (1 Corinthians 14:13).

It can be said that in today's information overloaded culture that 'words may fail us.' In our attempt to share the Gospel, our words are often ignored, drowned out, rejected and people 'just don't get it.' Here is where speaking in tongues and ministering angels can help us to reach those who do not believe. Romans 12:2 reminds us that the real issue facing us is the transformation of the mind; in particular, to have the mind of Christ. The transformation of the person's mind about faith in Christ is part of a spiritual battle, not an intellectual debate. No one is 'changed' by a good logical argument and comes to faith through reasoned persuasion. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within and upon their heart as well as the witness given by believers serving from the basis of their faith (James 2:14-20) which resulted in this experience of the early church, **"and each day God added to the number of those who are being saved"** (Acts 2:47). People's lives are transformed when our own faith-life displays a changed-life.

Jesus said that we will be witnesses for Him. That has a dual meaning; on the one hand it means to 'make a confession of our faith,' on the other, it's about God's actions displayed through the believer to demonstrate the work carried out by the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues and the role of ministering angels are to build us up in faith and to prepare (make receptive) the ground for the seed of God's Word. Like in the parable of the seed that fell on fertile ground (Mark 4), the idea was to see a spiritual truth from the basis of an everyday practical example. In Hosea 10:12 we are told: **"sow to your righteousness ... and break up your fallow ground."** Praying in tongues fertilizes the ground and makes it receptive for the work of the Holy Spirit to bring forth the fruit and harvest of the seed of faith.

In actual fact the word used in the Bible for this activity is 'to edify' (1 Corinthians 14:4) which can also be translated from this Greek term to mean 'construct' or 'build.' Furthermore, Acts 20:32 explains this to us: **"And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you and inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself"** (NLB). This strengthening of the inner person (Ephesians 3:16), I believe, has to do with the empowerment from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) to enable our effectiveness in prayer for healing and miracles to become evident in people's lives. That is how it will be a sign to unbelievers that God's work will accomplish even the impossible.

Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God was accompanied by the tangible manifestation through miracles and healings. Much of Jesus' teaching on prayer was to enable his disciples to become effective in manifesting faith as demonstrated as a blessing shared with others. While we are on the subject of prayer and the inner man, let's also consider 2 Corinthians 4:16 which says, **"Even**

though our outer man is perishing; yet the inner man is being renewed day by day.” This development is vital for our ongoing ministry. We need this renewal on a daily basis precisely because of the human context and dilemma – our fallen, rebellious, and decaying world (Romans 1-3). So the outer man looks and sees what is, but the inner man is blessed with vision to see as how things might be, could be, and with God’s blessing can become. **“We do not look at things which are seen, but at things which are unseen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal”** (2 Corinthians 4:18).

The Bible states that God is Spirit (John 4:24) and that the realm in which God operates, as well as that of His holy angels, is in the spiritual (unseen to our physical eyes). The realm of the spirit, however, is the place of influence over the physical. Jesus gave us already this understanding when He said to seek first the Kingdom of God, and then all these other things will be added to us. So when Jesus came to declare: ‘the Kingdom of God has come,’ then the physical reality around Him began to change – taking up the new reality of heaven.

That is why Ephesians 3:10 reminds us that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in heavenly places. Little wonder that the devil and the fallen angels are confounded and confused when we speak in other tongues. What a gift, and indeed what a privilege, it is to have the tools of God’s Word and the means to apply it in the spiritual realm that can overcome the powers of darkness in people’s lives. We speak forth the instruction given to us by God in tongues, and God’s Holy angels carry it out and bring it into reality.

My understanding of this has lead me to conclude that we can indeed challenge, overcome, and destroy the works of the devil based on the victory of Christ on

the cross, in the power of His Holy name, and by speaking forth the mysteries of faith based on the authority Jesus has given to us (Matthew 28:18-20).

Ministering angels are either employed or remain unemployed by the instructions they receive. Whereas once we were considered 'lower' than the angles, through Christ's redemption we are now placed 'above' the angels – giving instruction to the Holy angels to bless with the blessing of God, and to destroying the works of darkness, even to the point of directing judgment upon the demonic.

But more on that in our next session.

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Topic #2: **ON BINDING THE DEMONIC & WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH**

REMINDER FROM THE TESTIMONY:

The encounter with the angels during my recovery time at home occurred both times as a result of prayer. My prayer in particular was to gain understanding of my NDE vision of heaven, yet God saw fit to answer with yet more revelation. The first group of angels appeared powerful, like warriors. Their presence around my bed seemed purposeful, task oriented, and authoritative. The only thing that I heard them speak was to inquire about what instruction I had for them. To receive those instructions, they asked me to place my hand into theirs upon which I began to speak in an angelic language. There were five angels seeking such instruction and the same occurred with each one of them. In the end I had spoken five different angelic languages. They then left.

The next day a bunched-up group of angels, in appearance very different from the first encounter, enter my room during my prayers with God. Their presence seemed spiteful, angry, violent, and menacing. Their appearance was dull like parchment paper, whereas the group of angels from the previous day all stood tall, confident, independent, and sparkled with energy. God then spoke into my mind a four part instruction on how I was to deal with these fallen angels.

1. To mute them – to prevent their speaking
2. To bind them – to prevent their influence

3. To isolate them – to prevent their replacement
4. To send them to Christ for the proclamation of judgment

Once I followed these four points, the fallen angels were seen no more.

WHAT DO WE KNOW FROM GOD'S WORD ABOUT THE DEMONIC AND HELL?

John 10:10 shares with us an insight that sums up the entire human experience between Satan's agenda and God's invitation. **"The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows"** (AMP). We also read that Jesus came for a very specific purpose: **"The Son of God appeared for this very reason, to destroy what the devil has done."** (1.John 3:8 GNB)

There are two further passages of Scripture that we need to set up before we go any deeper into this topic. Again we are staying with the Apostle John who gave us such profound insight into heaven and hell (I encourage you all to read all of John's writings – from the Gospel, to his epistles, and to include Revelation). In the chapter that opened to us Christ's revelation of what He is doing at this very moment, let's turn to John 14 (read the first 7 verses), but now to an awesome verse spoken over us by Christ Himself: **"I am telling you the truth, whoever believes in me will do what I do – yes, he will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask for in my name"** (John 14:12,13). But if that isn't enough to build your confidence, then just hear and believe this: **"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"** (1.John 4:4 NKJV). We were not made for destruction, neither is it God's intention for us to

join in the same fate and destiny assigned to the devil and the demonic hordes. Jesus has come to firmly establish salvation as the means for us to receive His blessing; with the ultimate blessing being: **“so that you will be where I am”** (John 14:3). Jesus is preparing a place for us in His Father’s house!

But not everyone believes what Jesus has said or wants what Jesus has done for us. Even though we know that it is God’s will that all people would be saved, our free will (choice) can actually override the will of God and deny ourselves salvation and the experience of heaven. The demonic don’t want to go to their eventual doom on their own. Right at the beginning of God’s creation, Satan enlisted Adam and Eve into his cause of rebellion, and ironically ensnared us into his destruction from which there is no escape by our own means. Without Christ, we are fried!

Salvation is ... escape from death, the devil, and our own destruction. So what do we know about death and hell, biblically speaking, that is? Without salvation where do we go once we are dead? No one has given us a credible answer to that question except Jesus Christ. Our understanding of this subject has been defined by the Son of God, the Messiah, the one and only Savior (Luke 16:19-31).

In the Old Testament the world of the dead was called ‘Sheol’ (used 65 times to describe the place of the grave or the state of the dead). This is not to be confused with the place of the ‘lake of fire,’ or ‘the pit’ which is what we normally associate with the concept of hell. In the New Testament the place of the dead is called ‘Hades’ (used 42 times). Both ‘Sheol’ and ‘Hades’ refer to a temporary place whereas hell is a permanent condition. The word used for this place of punishment reserved for the fallen angels is ‘Tartarus’ (occurs only once, 2.Peter

2:4) and is usually translated as the 'deepest abyss.' Jesus used the word 'Gehenna' when talking about this permanent place of the damned (11 times). James also used this term (James 3:6) and spoke of its torment and un-quenching fire. This idea of a place defined by fire, dread, disease, and torment is connected to their observations from the rubbish dump outside Jerusalem (Mark 9:48).

Unfortunately all translations of the Bible use the one word 'hell' to describe all of these variations without distinguishing. Jesus' own teaching about the rich man and Lazarus and their different outcomes reveals three areas: the place of torment, the abyss (an un-passable gulf), and paradise (Mark 16:19-31). The angels seemed to have their work assigned at the moment of death in carrying Lazarus into the comfort of Abraham. This heavenly experience is described as a place of great joy, companionship, rest and refreshment, and fellowship with those who have gone there before us. Very little is shared about the abyss except that it cannot be crossed over, however it is apparently possible to see across it to the other side.

In this un-passable gulf we have the deepest, bottomless pit, known as the abyss (Revelation 20:3). Jesus only shares with us about this place as a means to warn us and indicates that it is a real place (not a figment of our imagination). The rich man in Jesus account of these two people, died and opened his eyes in hell; it was immediate and without delay. Both the rich man and Lazarus are conscious of their surroundings and aware of what is going on. The rich man is also constantly reminded of what he has rejected and is now eternally missing out on (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:13). Scripture itself supports the immediate experience of the life after death; as a blessing for all who put their faith and hope in Jesus (Acts 2:25-

28) – God’s answer to our human dilemma (John 3:17-21). Jesus affirmed this to the thief on the cross who asked to be remembered by him, **“I promise you that today you will be with me in Paradise with me.”** (Luke 23:43 GNB)

The way to heaven has been made possible through Jesus Christ – who has gone through death to set up the way to eternal life (John 14:6). Only by Christ can we enter into the Father’s house (John 1:12). At the stoning of Stephen he was given a glimpse of heaven to share with his accusers **“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw God’s glory and Jesus standing at the right-hand side of God. ‘Look!’ he said ‘I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right-hand side of God!’”** (Acts 7:55,56 GNB)

So when we die ... we go to a place where the dead exist (Proverbs 9:18)
... wicked are removed from God (Psalm 9:17)
... we depart from this life (Psalm 88:3; Genesis 44:29)
... our soul goes there (Psalm 89:48; 86:13)
... believers go to a desirable place (2 Corinthians 5:8)

With this in mind, then how do we understand our role to bind the demonic?

In a word: intercession. Christ has gone back to heaven, not only to prepare a place for us, but to intercede for us at the throne of God. Jesus gave us His word that we are to do the very things He has done whilst ministering among His disciples. He has given us His word that the action of healing and driving out demons is the activity that will follow those who believe. We are to continue bringing the reality of God’s Kingdom to benefit those in need, in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the authority of Christ (Matthew 28:18; Zechariah 4:6).

During Jesus' on-the-job training of his disciples there were numerous encounters where either demons were cast out directly or the damage they had caused and the curse of decay in our world, including our own sinful actions, were confronted by the coming of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the person was healed. All four Gospels are preoccupied with this experience of Jesus' ministry.

Those that witnessed such events were either shocked (usually expressed with rejection of Jesus activity among them) or they were in awe (leading to faith). The account of one of these journeys through the countryside tells us of an encounter with two men riddled with demonic presence within them. Jesus cast a thousand of them out and the men were healed and restored. On many other occasions freedom from such demonic harassment or inflicted disease lead the person to a pronouncement of faith; as it was also with the demons who pronounced their knowledge of who Christ was. The only ones, who didn't recognize who Jesus was, and what He came to do for people, were the town folk who urged them all to leave their territory. (Matthew 8:28-34)

Jesus ministered with an acknowledgement of the reality of the demonic and the task to drive them out, even though it seemed difficult for the disciples on one occasion (Matthew 17:14-20). But Christ's teaching on this subject gives us clear insight into the spiritual realm in which they operate. **“When an evil spirit goes out of a person, it travels over dry country looking for a place to rest. If it can't find one, it says to itself 'I will go back to my house.' So it goes back and finds the house empty, clean, and all tidy. Then it goes out and brings along seven other spirits even worse than itself, and they come and live there. So when it is**

all over, that person is in a worse state than he was at the beginning. This is what will happen to evil people of this day.” (Matthew 12:43-45 GNB)

In Matthew 12:22-32 Jesus teaches us that Satan’s kingdom is a reality and that the only way to overcome its influence and power is by **“God’s Spirit, who gives me power to drive out demons, which proves that the Kingdom of God has already come upon you”** (v.28). Herein lies the connection of why God says for us to drive our demons; it is because the Kingdom of God has come upon you!

Basically, I believe that as we come further under the influence of God’s Kingdom, the more such an influence will overflow from us and infect those around us with its blessing. The early part of the ministry recorded for us by the Apostles, was to minister from this reality to the point that for both Peter and Paul healings took place in amazing circumstances.

Look again at Jesus’ actual ministry (Matthew 15:29-31) and then compare that to Jesus judgment on those who rejected his invitation to come under the blessing of His Kingdom’s reign (Matthew 11:20-25; 13:53-58). The key component in every lesson Jesus taught his disciples is that of faith (Matthew 8:23-26). Faith seems to be the currency of Heaven that releases what has already been provided by God and manifest its reality in the physical world we live in. In the same way that we use money to purchase what we desire or need, for ourselves or for others, faith connects us with the will of God to bring about the Kingdom of God among us (“your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”). Faith seems to move the Holy Spirit and gains Jesus’ highest praise to do what might be considered impossible within normal earthly and physical terms (Matthew 8:5-13).

Human need should move us with compassion, just as it was for Jesus. But what moved heaven upon earth was His faith and faithfulness. Whenever we are given any treasure from heaven, like the four part process of binding the demonic that I highlighted at the beginning, then it is given for the sole purpose that it might be used so that “your Kingdom come and your will be done!” Jesus taught his disciples to pray. They had prayers before they asked Jesus to teach them. However their own prayers had no power, just petitions and platitudes. As they were watching and learning from Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, the disciples asked this to be given something they saw exercised by Jesus: “Lord, teach us how to pray!”

“For this reason we have always prayed for you” writes Paul to his congregation **“ever since we heard about you. We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will, with all the wisdom and understanding that his Spirit gives. Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds, and you will grow in the knowledge of God”** (Colossians 1:9,10) He further adds, **“He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven”** (v.13,14).

What gives us the right even the suggestion that all of this is possible for us today? Let’s hear again from the first Epistle of John: **“because you are strong; the word of God lives in you, and you have defeated the Evil one”** (1.John 2:14 GNB) and further on: **“We know that we have left death and come over into life; whoever does not love is still under the power of death. There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear; because every child of God is able to defeat the**

world. And we win the victory over the world by means of our faith. Who can defeat the world? Only the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

(selected verse, 1.John 3:14; 4:18; 5:4,5)

In my own ministry activity, I now consider the spiritual activity behind the scene to be far more significant. The victory won in prayer is the victory realized in a person's life; even to the raising of the dead. Every activity that we read about in the life of Jesus and the disciples should be considered the norm for the ministry within the church. What is often considered supernatural or perhaps even unnatural, is simply the spiritual realm intruding into our physical experience. When Jesus won the victory on the cross over Satan's stronghold, and rose again as proof that it has been accomplished, he entrusted his disciples with this new reality: 'all authority has been given to me in earth and in heaven.' Then he proceeded to give it into our administration of this reality: 'therefore, go and make disciples ...'. These new disciples are to do just as they have done, bringing people under the influence of the Holy Spirit enabled by the forgiveness of sins!

Martin Luther concluded that when Jesus taught us to pray 'your kingdom come,' that in actual fact God's Kingdom will come on its own accord whether we do something about it or not. But the point of this prayer is to proclaim: 'may God's Kingdom come among us today!'

So let it be. Amen.

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Topic #3: **ON REPENTANCE & GOD'S PLAN FOR US**

REMINDER FROM THE TESTIMONY:

During my recovery time I had three impromptu conversations initiated by God where He shared with me on separate occasions a message about His plan and purpose for our life. The first was about God's design for our life, like an architect's blueprint for a house. If we ignore it then the house we build will look a mess and nothing like the design intended for us. To build our house according to God's design the key that helps us to understand His blueprint is the Word of God; not just the study of it, but the practice of God's Word. The second conversation had to do with the ability of how to 'get-a-grip' on life; especially the life God intends for us to enjoy. The key was in our hands (notice your hand and the fingers): the thumb was identified as the work of the Holy Spirit under whom the other four parts are placed in cooperation to 'get-a-grip.' Those four parts are: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength" (Mark 12:30). The third conversation dealt with the access we give to the devil as related to the Ten Commandments. But how in baptism we come 'under new management' (we come under the King's Domain – Christ's rule) and are given an open door to heaven. We are still blessed with the freedom of choice (the exercise of our own free will) but, now in the power of the cross and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can actively close the doors to Satan's right of access to

our lives. This new life we have in Christ enables us to live in a kingdom way: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). On this understanding we hear Jesus’ commendation: “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” (Mark 12:34).

HANDOUTS BASED ON THE NDE TESTIMONY BY PASTOR DIRK WILLNER –
SEMINAR @ TOOWOOMBA (MARCH 2009)

Topic #4: **ON APPROACHING GOD & HEARING HIS VOICE**

REMINDER FROM THE TESTIMONY:

The very brief time I had at the doorstep to the Father’s Heavenly Mansion (John 14:1-3) and the heavenly experiences I had during my recovery made a deep and lasting impression on me. I began to see prayer from a different perspective; that our prayers are actually to place ourselves in line to receive what God sends us as His answer, rather than petitioning or persuading God to act. I missed hearing from God with those surprising conversations. Normal life was returning. My longing to have ongoing conversations with God was answered with a revelation based on the temple design God gave Moses during His journey with His people. Here God began to share with me the significance of the curtain in the temple that was torn apart at the very moment Christ died for our sins. We now have access to God’s holy presence. The amazing gift celebrated on Good Friday.

Further notes are available upon request: dirk.willner@lca.org.au