

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

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FOLLOW JESUS

Mini Book

Part 4

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HANDS FOR JESUS

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For a better understanding of this subject get the full book "FOLLOW JESUS."

Introduction

This book, "FOLLOW JESUS, Part 4," is a continuation of the first three books "FOLLOW JESUS, Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3." It is important that we understand what is already revealed in Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3. Yet, for those who do not have a copy of Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3, some things will be repeated in this book. As you read and study what is revealed in this book, keep in mind, we must mature in Christ Jesus if we are to Follow Jesus. We cannot remain "babes in Christ," and do the works that Jesus and Peter did.

When Jesus called His disciples, many times He said to them "Follow Me." In Matthew 4:18,19 it says, **"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers....And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

One of these was Simon Peter. Have you noticed what happened to Peter as he continued to follow Jesus? Did you know that if you will "Follow Jesus," the same things can happen in your life?

God is not a respecter of persons. What the LORD did in Peter's life, He can do in your life also. You can walk with God the same as Peter walked with God. God has a plan for your life. If you will "Follow Jesus," God will fulfill His plan in your life also.

Peter is one of many people who "Followed Jesus." You can be another one in your lifetime. You also can "Follow Jesus." There are no limits when you "Follow Jesus." The supernatural can become the natural for those who "Follow Jesus."

When you "Follow Jesus," Satan has no power over you. All the powers of heaven are working for you when you follow Jesus. You can walk in power when you "Follow Jesus."

Hebrews 13:8 says, **"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."** If we believe the Word of God, and believe Jesus, He will do the same things in our lives as He did in Peter's life.

God has not changed. God will never change. God's Word has not changed. Therefore, if we change and "Follow Jesus," we can also do the same things Jesus did and the same things Peter did. Jesus cannot lie.

Jesus said in John 14:12, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."** Are you ready to "Follow Jesus"?

Following Jesus from Your Spirit

Following Jesus from our spirit is a whole new way of living and doing the work the LORD called us to do. It is not the same as trying to serve God from our mind, according to the way many Christians try to do it today.

Let me give an example. I was teaching in a Church on a regular basis, Sundays, Wednesday evenings, and sometimes on Friday evenings every week. One person in particular started coming the first day I started speaking in that church. He said, *“He was walking by and heard the music, and something drew him to come in.”* He continued to come faithfully, very seldom missed a meeting.

I never use any notes, or outlines. Many times I had no idea what I was going to speak on until after I stood up to speak. Each time, the subject seemed to be different from the previous.

One evening this individual said to me, *“You’re always speaking at me”!* I answered him, *“I don’t know what I said that would be speaking at you, I just let the Holy Spirit speak through me.”* Then he said, *“That’s ok, just keep it up, the LORD is dealing with me.”* A short time later he came to me and said, *“I met an old friend of mine on the street one day, and he asked me for a cigarette.”* He said, *“I gave him a cigarette, and as I was walking away, I turned back and said, here you can have the whole pack.”* Then he said to the LORD, *“LORD, I don’t want to smoke any more.”* He said, from that day on he never smoked another cigarette. When he told me that, he said, *“You’re always preaching at me, but keep it up, the LORD is working in me.”*

Another time he came to me and said, *“I met an old friend and we went into a bar to have a beer. I sat down at the bar and then, I got up and left. I said, ‘LORD, I don’t want to drink any more.’”* He said he never drank any more since that time.

Then one evening he was there along with three other individuals that came on a regular basis. I knew that none of them were baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. But, until that evening, I just kept teaching whatsoever came from my spirit, and never said anything about them not speaking in tongues.

That evening, as I stood up to speak, I saw all four of these individuals sitting in the pews. I knew that none of them had the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This I knew in the natural, in my mind. Therefore, that evening I told them, I would teach on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This I said from my mind, therefore I thought it was my idea to teach on the Holy Spirit that evening.

But then, without me thinking of what I was about to say, these words came out of my mouth *“Tonight, every one of you will leave this place speaking in tongues.”* That statement did not come from my mind, the words just came out of my mouth, without me intending to say that. When I heard myself say that, my mind did a flip (if you know what I mean). In my mind, I said to myself, why did I say that? I felt that I should correct that statement, and say “some of you will leave this place speaking in tongues.” I didn’t believe “in my mind” that, everyone would receive and speak in tongues that evening.

Yet, knowing the words did not come from my mind, but simply came out of my mouth, I didn’t say anything contrary to what came out of my mouth. If it was the LORD that put the words in my mouth, then everyone would leave that evening speaking in tongues. Therefore, even though my mind did not believe they would all receive the Holy Spirit that evening, I just went on and taught on the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

After I finished teaching on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I then went and laid my hands upon each one, one at a time, and prayed with them. Every one of them received the baptism in the Holy Spirit that evening, speaking in tongues. When the meeting was over, I was still amazed myself, that they all spoke in tongues.

Following that meeting, we gave each one a set of New Testament Cassette Tapes. I instructed them that they should listen to at least one tape every day, and while they were listening to the tape they should pray in tongues at the same time.

A few weeks later this same individual came to me after service on a Sunday morning and said, "*Merle, I don't know what is happening, I play a cassette tape and pray in the Spirit at the same time. And then I cry like a baby... I'm an old man, I never cry.*" The LORD was working with him, changing his life. Many changes were made in his life, while I was teaching, without any notes, or outline, just letting the Holy Spirit put the words in my mouth.

God wants to teach His children and work in their lives according to His ability. All He is looking for are those who will be faithful to listen to their spirit and be led by the Holy Spirit.

FOLLOW JESUS

In studying the Scriptures, especially the Gospel of John we will find many statements made by Jesus that can help us greatly to understand what Jesus was speaking of when He said to some of His disciples, "Come, Follow Me"!

In John 8:26 Jesus said, **"...I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him."** In John 8:28 Jesus said, **"...I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."** In John 12:49 Jesus said, **"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."**

From this we could say, Jesus only spoke the Words that His Father gave Him to speak. Or we could say it was the Father in Jesus that was giving Him the Words to speak. In John 14:10 Jesus said, **"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."**

Now look at what Jesus said in John 7:38, **"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."** Surely, Jesus was not speaking of liquid water flowing out of someone's belly. NO. Jesus was talking about the Word of God coming out of our belly, not our mind, but our spirit which is in our belly.

The Apostle John made it clear that Jesus was talking about a work of the Holy Spirit within us in the next verse, saying, **"(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)"** (John 7:39).

This type of operation by the Holy Spirit within Christians should be normal in our lives. This type of speaking as the Holy Spirit gives us the utterance should be in our everyday lives.

This should start happening in our lives the day we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. On Pentecost day in Acts 2:4, the disciples began speaking in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them the utterance. In other words, it did not come from their mind, it came from their spirit which is in their belly.

Once God starts a good work in our lives, He desires to continue it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6 says, **"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."** I know that there are some who will say, "You took that out of context." Say what you will, but the Bible proves that when God starts a good work in our lives He intends to continue it until the day of Jesus Christ. We are the only ones who can prevent God from doing His will, and His good works in our lives. It is all up to us, not the Devil, and not God. We make the choice if God can continue doing His good pleasure in our lives.

Let us look at some other Scripture verses that speak about the same thing. That is, the Holy Spirit in us giving us the Words to speak from our spirit, where He dwells. In 1 Corinthians 12:3 it says, **"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."** God expects all Christians to be **"speaking by the Spirit of God from within us."** This is to be the normal way Christians minister to each other.

When we do any type of ministry work, it should be the Holy Spirit in us giving us the Words to speak, actually, speaking through us from our spirit out of our mouth. In doing so, it tells us, when

we are speaking by the Spirit of God from within us, no one can call Jesus accursed. It is not possible for anyone speaking under the unction of the Holy Spirit to curse Jesus.

Again in 1 Corinthians 12:3 it tells us that it is not even possible to glorify the LORD Jesus Christ, unless it is given to us by the Holy Spirit. Yes, many can speak idle words, but to truly say “Jesus is LORD,” it takes the help of the Holy Spirit. This is not talking about those who are speaking from their mind, it is talking of those who are speaking from their spirit by the unction of the Holy Spirit.

There are many people admitting publicly, and privately that Jesus is LORD, but it is not coming from their heart, it is coming from their mind. Even the demons will confess Who Jesus is. In Mark 1:23,24 there was a man with an unclean spirit. The spirit cried out, **“Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God”** (Mark 1:24). If demon spirits can confess that Jesus is Who He is, so can people.

But, 1 Corinthians 12 is talking about Christians. It is to be a normal thing in a Christian’s life to be speaking by the Spirit of God from within us.

In 1 Corinthians 12:10,11 it says, **“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues...But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”** None of these gifts of the Holy Spirit work without the Holy Spirit. Every true manifestation of all nine gifts of the Spirit work by the Holy Spirit **“as He wills.”**

In 2 Corinthians 5:19 it says, **“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...”** This is what Jesus was saying in John 14:10. This is what the Word of God tells us. It is God in us doing the works. It is never to be us doing the work without the help of the Holy Spirit in us.

It should always be normal for a Christian to speak from their spirit, Words that are given to us by the Holy Spirit within our spirit. In 1 Corinthians 14:14 the Apostle Paul wrote, **“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”** Praying in the spirit comes from our spirit, not from our mind. This was always that way. Anyone who tries to pray in the spirit from their mind is not receiving their information from God. That is not the way God does things.

Let’s look at another verse of Scripture that very few Christians understand. In 1 Corinthians 14:1 it says, **“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”** What many believe is not what it says in this verse. When it says **“but rather that ye may prophesy”** it means, **“But rather that you speak by the unction of the Holy Spirit.”** Charity is love. God is Love (1 John 4:8). You cannot have God without love. All the gifts of the Spirit operate in Love.

The true meaning of the word “prophesy” is “speak by the unction of the Holy Spirit.” If anyone is not speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit, it is not true prophecy, it is of the flesh, and not of the Spirit. Speaking from our mind is not “true prophecy” (Jer. 14:14, 23:16).

Peter made a statement in 1 Peter 4:11, **“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”**

Just like Jesus said of Himself. He does not speak, unless He first hears from His Father. We are to get our information from the Holy Spirit from within our spirit before we speak **“...let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”**

Those who are led by the Holy Spirit will do as Jesus did. They will not speak from their mind things concerning the kingdom of God (reign of God). They will trust in and rely upon the Holy Spirit within them to give them the words to speak. When they have not received a Word from the Holy Spirit they will not say anything (John 8:6). When they hear from the Holy Spirit within them, then they will open their mouth and let the Holy Spirit speak from their belly (their spirit within them).

The words they speak will not be according to man's wisdom or knowledge, but the wisdom of God by the unction of the Holy Spirit within them. The answer Jesus gave the Scribes and Pharisees in John 8:7 did not agree with their idea of what Jesus should have said. But it did agree with God's plan from the foundation of the world. God is not out to destroy the lives of those who have been taken captive by the spirits of this world. God is interested in setting them free of the spirits of this world.

Jesus made a number of statements concerning what Christians are to be doing, and how to do it. In Matthew 10:19,20, Jesus instructed His disciples concerning speaking when someone comes against them. Jesus said, **“But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak....For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.”** This does not only apply to when you are brought before Governors and Kings, but when ever anyone tries to condemn you for preaching the gospel.

We are never to defend ourselves from those who come against us. We are to let the Holy Spirit within us do the speaking. God will put the words in our mouth when it is time to speak.

Speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit within us is the same as prophesy. It is the Holy Spirit giving us the words to speak. Numbers 22:38 says, **“And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.”** Christians are to only speak the words that God puts in our mouth. Christians do not belong trying to defend the Gospel, or explain why God is using them to preach the Gospel of the Grace of God (Acts 20:24, 1 Cor. 15:1-58).

I was speaking in a Church one Sunday morning. In that Church, sitting in the last pew was a young woman with two small children. She was visiting with a couple who went to that Church regularly. Yet, she did not want to sit with them, so she sat in the last pew.

When I started speaking it came to me to speak about the difference between born of the flesh and born again of the Spirit (John 3:6). The one thing I said, that was a little different was, when I started speaking I asked the question, “who was Adam's mother”? This got a lot of attention from everyone there. What is he talking about?

As I continued to speak, the Word of God kept coming from my spirit. I went through a lot of Scripture to show the difference between born of the flesh and born again of the Spirit.

All the time I was speaking, this woman in the last pew would sometimes be looking straight ahead and a smile on her face. Then she would bow her head, putting her hands over her face. This continued on and on throughout the service.

This woman caught my attention, yet I could not understand what was wrong with her? I don't know how many times I saw her with a smile on her face, and then shortly after covering her face with her hands and bowing her head down toward the floor.

When I came to the end of the time I was speaking, I mentioned that after I was through, if anyone wanted prayer they should come up and someone would pray with them.

Immediately, after saying that, this woman got out of her pew and came to the front by the pulpit in a hurry. I didn't know why she came. But seeing her come in such a hurry, I asked her "What can I do for you"? She said, "*I need to be born again*"! "*Would you pray with me*"?

Why was I teaching on that subject that morning. I did not know I would be speaking on that subject that morning. I very seldom know ahead of time what I will be speaking on. I let it all up to the Holy Spirit what He wants me to speak on. And also what He wants me to say.

What I found out after the meeting was that this woman was from out of State. She went to a Church in her home town that never explained why a person must be born again. When she heard what I was saying, the Holy Spirit was working with her, revealing things to her that only He and her knew about herself.

When the Holy Spirit is working, He knows what every person knows, and also what they do not know. He has one main purpose for those who are not born again. Sometimes He needs to get them away from where they are used to going, just so He can have someone tell them the truth concerning what they need most in their life.

I believe that she came to that city to visit her friends and she ended up in that Church, that Sunday morning, all by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

What I taught on was mostly for that one individual that God loved, and the Holy Spirit wanted to bring her to the place where she understood and knew she needed to be born again.

God has a plan and a purpose for every person born into this world. But sometimes God needs to get them in a place or position where the Holy Spirit can use someone who is willing to let the Holy Spirit have His way. I believe there are many people in Churches today that are not born again.

Jesus said in John 6:44, "**No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...**" That young woman needed the Holy Spirit to draw her all the way from another State, so she could be in a Church on Sunday morning where the Holy Spirit was in control of the meeting.

Oh, how important it is to let the Holy Spirit speak through us from our spirit, and let God do His will in the lives of those in whom we minister to.

I believe that if I had done like many others and made up a sermon for that day, and made an outline of what I was going to say, and then preach it from my mind, that woman would have gone home without becoming born again. What I spoke in that service that day was what the Holy Spirit needed to have her hear, so He could work with her.

When she received the LORD as her personal LORD and Savior, it was not a work of man. I did not do it. It was a work of the Holy Spirit, drawing her to that church, then putting the words in my mouth so that she could come to Jesus and become born again.

When we understand, God is not looking for those who are highly intelligent in what they have learned and what they think they know. God is not choosing those who think they can do the work of the ministry themselves, without relying totally and completely upon the Holy Spirit to work from their spirit, putting the words in their mouth. God wants to do His will in everyone's life by the

power of the Holy Spirit working in them and through them.

Philippians 2:13 says, **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”** Something came to me one day, and I have said it many times since. Why are Christians making it so hard for God that He has to “work” in our lives, just to do His good pleasure? Why don’t we make it easy for God and let Him do what He wants to do? Why not let God do things His way, instead of trying to get God to do things our way?

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