

MOVING FROM *LETTER* TO *LIFE*

BEYOND DOCTRINE

TOLU
COLE

BEYOND
DOCTRINE

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JESUS IS BEYOND DOCTRINE

Many of us think of all kinds of things and experiences when we hear the word doctrine, but before you go there, here is what I mean by doctrine. I mean the fundamentals; the a, b, c of the knowledge of God and the realm of the Spirit.

Every development must begin with the a, b, c. The Bible talks about “the elementary doctrines of Christ”, and how that “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine”. This fundamental is what Peter called “the pure milk of the word”. This is what Paul was referring to when he said to some: “I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal” (*1 Corinthians 3:2*). The solid food of the Word can only be discerned spiritually, not carnally (*1 Corinthians 2:14*). These spiritual understandings are many times imparted, not only instructed. They are wisdoms of the heart, skilfully woven in righteousness. They are revelations and lights. They enable us to be more

effective in the service of God and the establishment of His kingdom and glory here on earth, and deeply in the souls of men.

But before we learn to live in accurate spiritual discernment of hearing God accurately and witnessing Him accurately, we would be trained by doctrine. Because of this, a large part of the professing Church stays too long in doctrine and teaching, while refusing to flow in the prophetic witness of the Holy Spirit coming to them through those teachings.

The reason for doctrine is to enable us to be led by the Holy Spirit, and not false spirits, so that we can follow and glorify Jesus Christ, not another Jesus. It's all about simple devotion to Jesus. The faith is not a formula, nor is it first a system, but an outflow of a life that's United with Jesus Christ in eternal fellowship.

When we focus on doctrine beyond the person of Jesus, we arrive at dead religion. But when we allow the right doctrine from the right Scripture, the Bible, to lead us to Jesus through faith, inspired by the revelation of the Holy Spirit, then, we have real communion with Jesus

and God, and we are living beyond doctrine. By living beyond doctrine, I don't mean living outside doctrine, but I mean living the reality of which the doctrine speaks.

The doctrine is a teaching about the realm of the Spirit, and it is the Holy Spirit Himself who now brings us into, and helps us walk in those realities.

My prayer for you is that everything you've ever learnt in the mind, becomes real to you today, that the eye of your heart is flooded with revelation, in order to possess Jesus, and put Him on, in our inner man. May we receive light concerning Jesus, His presence, His name, His Word, His power, His body, and His kingdom in Jesus' name.



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How to read and practice Scriptures exactly. That's what yields the life of the Scriptures, because the life of the Scriptures are in the Spirit.

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:12-17,

Only the Bible establishes doctrine for us, because the Bible testifies of the doctrine established by the apostles. Paul once said **“For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.”**

2 Corinthians 11:4, showing that Jesus must be proclaimed in the way the apostles proclaimed Him, through their doctrine. Whenever we read the Bible, we are developing skill in our inner man and practice in regards to the doctrine of Christ.

One of the major points to note is that Scriptures are inspired of God, and they are the speakings of God. The Bible is the Word of God. That's one very important thing to note and always be conscious of. When we know and are conscious of this, it ceases to be a religious book to us, but a holy and spiritual book. This means when we are reading the Bible, we take it as the HolySpirit speaking to us.

Yet, this is one level of the HolySpirit's speaking. Most of what the HolySpirit says to us, He wants to show us, so that we don't only hear and see with our physical ears and eyes, but with our spiritual ears and eyes. In the vision that Jesus showed John for the churches, He kept reiterating that **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"** Revelation 2:7A. The Spirit is the Master coach. We have also read Paul praying that the eyes of some people's understanding be enlightened so that they may possess spiritual knowledge. So then, there's the first level of hearing which is for our mind, but for it to enter our wills, it

has to be converted by the HolySpirit from mind-to-spirit, and then, spirit-to-will. This is the working of the indwelling Spirit of life in us, working freedom. This is the working of spiritual life within us. This is what it means, I believe, to be instructed and trained in righteousness, so that we can be fit for every good work. The secret of good works, greater works and godliness is the HolySpirit and the discipline of the HolySpirit. Consecration is the discipline of the HolySpirit in uniting us with Jesus Christ. When we consecrate to Jesus Christ, we do it in the person and through the power of the HolySpirit, and when we abandon ourselves to the HolySpirit's direction by taking in His scriptural teaching and doctrine, the HolySpirit also begins to reproof us, and correct us, and train us in righteousness, so that we would be wholly yielded and fit, as vessels to be used of God.

This is when we can say the aim of doctrine and teaching has been accomplished or is being accomplished in us. This is the profit that Paul was speaking about. Our functioning in righteousness is the profit that Jesus is looking for. Jesus is raising men and women, who, in faith, can walk with the HolySpirit. The more our landscape is full of such men and women, boys and girls, the more the kingdom of God spreads and the glory of God shines. Our intimacy with God is not complete

without dominion. Part of what life is, is dominion. God is king, and of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end.

So then, the doctrine and the teaching, is all the theory there is, because it shows us the scope and the hope of our calling. By doctrine, we can wear the helmet of salvation, yet, we must allow the Holy Spirit who authored the doctrine, by whom we began, to help us in continuing, until we lay hold of the possession or our inheritance through the wisdom of faith. Many times the wisdom of the Spirit is prayer, or meditation, or prophesying, or listening, or acting or singing! Whatever it is, it's this wisdom of the Spirit that is most important. That's what doctrine leads us into, and continues to lead us into.

So then, doctrine is the teaching of the Spirit in the Bible, and this teaching is to make us wise through faith in Jesus Christ, who is our Savior and Lord, helping us out of situations and making everything work together for our good, as we trust Him. In this way, we live by Him. And as we continue living this way, He continues to be more and more precious to us. This is why we would be so excited to see Him, and long for His appearing, because He has become our everything and our life.

No wonder Paul said to some believers; **“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”** Colossians 3:3-4. As we consecrate our entire lives to Jesus Christ, and trust Him to be all to us, He is sure to be all to us through His appearing. For we will see Him, Hallelujah.

He is the end of the doctrine, He is the maturity. Going beyond doctrine (*Hebrews 6:1*), is going to Him. He is maturity (*Ephesians 4:13*). Simple faith, whole faith, holy faith, sincere faith, in Him is maturity.

THE CHRIST

“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ...If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God”

Colossians 2:17, 3:1

When we read the Scriptures, we would see an account of God's dealing with men in different dispensations, leading up to the dispensation of the law. All these are shadows and unclear portraits of realities that belong to Christ.

These realities are for those who become United with Jesus Christ, and live under His royal covenant and life. There are things of Christ, and these are things above. These are things beyond. These are things of authority, things of supreme pleasure. Things at the right hand

of God. Things of reigning. Things of dominion. These are the things we seek to understand, be conscious of and manifest.

THE BLOOD

“how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God” Hebrews 9:14

One of the supreme things of Christ is the shed blood of Christ, that was carried by Jesus in His body when He walked the earth. This precious, unstained, sinless and righteous blood was shed on the cross of Calvary as a payment for the sin of the whole world, and a propitiation to God, satisfying the demands of God’s righteousness forever. This was made possible through the Holy Spirit, empowering Jesus to

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act in the position of a priest, presenting His own blood to God, before God's throne, after dying. It's this blood that's forever at the throne of God, speaking, cleansing and baptizing the spirits, souls and bodies of men and women, boys and girls, through the administration by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel.

It's this speaking and cleansing of the blood of Christ that breaks all the bondage of sin, and self in the soul, empowering people to serve the living God, through intimacy and oneness with God in righteousness.

Wow. What a blessing. We've overcome by the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ is a spiritual thing. Very precious. Very precious in the eyes of God is the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

THE CROSS

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” Galatians 6:14

Another thing of Christ is the cross. In the realm of the Spirit, the cross is a doorway into God Himself. The Holy Spirit holds the cross, the open cross, for anyone that is willing to enter. This is why the Word of the cross is preached, once anyone accepts it, hallelujah, immediately, they enter in. They become citizens of God, partakers of the divine nature, and eternal power. We also become citizens of heaven, since heavenly places are in Christ Jesus.

Immediately, we see that we are beyond this present world, and that we have what's more valuable than this present worldliness. It's be-

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cause of this treasure, that we give things up for the surpassing value of knowing and manifesting Christ (Philippians 3:7-11).

In the Spirit, the cross of Jesus Christ is so glorious because this is how we entered into the realm of God, and this is the foundational principle that we live by in the realms of God. The cross is what communicates to us the spirit of humility, the spirit of faith, the spirit of obedience, and the spirit of service.

The way of the Spirit in this present life where mortality still exists is the cross. This is what Jesus meant in John 6:38, and what Paul speaks of in Galatians 6:14.

THE DEATH

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin” Romans 6:5-6

The death of Jesus Christ put an end to the reign of sin through our old man. Sin's dominion has been broken by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. When Jesus died, He included you and I in that death, meaning that the reign of sin over us, spirit, soul and body has been broken. Hallelujah, “the body of sin has been brought to nothing”, and if so, we are no more enslaved to sin. We owe sin nothing. We do not have to sin. Sin doesn't please us anymore because the root of sin has been removed in us, so the fruit has nothing to stand on.

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This also means the accusations of Satan cannot stick. The methods of the world will not work for us because we are not part of them. The limitations of the world and strongholds are also useless with us, because we've journeyed beyond this present world in Christ. All the memories of our past and pangs of the old man is also broken because we were included in the death of Christ.

In summary, the old man, and the entire system of worldliness and carnality and powerlessness has nothing on us because we've been removed from it, by grace, and through faith, humility, prayer and obedience, we've walked away from the old man, and we've silenced the old man. "For one who has died has been set free from sin" Romans 6:7. Praise Jesus.

THE BURIAL

“having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead” Colossians 2:12

Baptism is another spiritual thing and another reality of the Spirit that's been given for our advantage. Baptism is an 'intensifying of union' of us and God, and of our human things and God's divine things.

In this baptism, we experience several deaths and resurrections at the same time, through faith in the powerful working of God. Baptisms are both baptisms with the Holy Spirit, baptisms of the Holy Spirit, baptisms of fire, baptisms of power, laying on of hands, ordinations, and water baptisms for public profession. They are all things in the Spirit for the purpose of intensification.

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They require us to believe God alone, and they give us experiences with the power of God. God's power endues us, clothes us and baptizes us. The power of the Holy Spirit communicates the death and resurrection in a realm way, helping us know and understand what "death and resurrection" means and is, to us in different situations. This is true life and true faith. It's living by the power of the Spirit of God.

This is what burial and baptism is all about. When Jesus was buried, He entered into the realm of the spirit, to go and reconcile some things (1 Peter 3:18-22). Baptism is an intense work of reconciliation in the realm of the spirit, effecting some separations and some unions needed for the fulfilling of God's mind and will, in people's lives and in different prophetic seasons.

THE RESURRECTION

“We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him” Romans 6:9

The resurrection is the realm of Christ. This is the realm beyond death. This is the realm where death is perpetually defeated. Truly, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, because he or she has entered another realm of possibilities. We have to believe this. Faith is the air we breathe in Christ, and this faith is that we've been eternally changed. It's by this faith we daily apprehend the things of the Spirit in Christ. The realm of Christ is the realm of eternal life. It's the place where eternal life is what's obtainable.