



THE DIVINE INVASION

“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.” (1 Cor.15:24-25)



Introduction

The coming of the Son of God into this world is a divine invasion: the Spirit of God invaded Mary and formed a body for Him in her womb: *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God"* (Luk.1:35).

The angel announced to Joseph (Matt.1:21-23): Mary *"will bear a son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."* Commenting on this Matthew adds: *"All this took place to fulfil what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet,"* and then he quotes Isaiah 7:14: *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, *"God with us."*

"Immanuel," "God with us," God in man, the God-man: God invading a human body and manifesting Himself on earth. This is something completely new in the history of mankind, a kind of man that never existed before!

"Jesus Christ was born into this world, not from it. He did not evolve out of history; He came into history from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being, He is a Being Who cannot be accounted for by the human race at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate— God coming into human flesh, coming into it from outside. His life is the highest and the holiest entering in at the lowliest of doors. Our Lord's birth was an advent." (Oswald Chambers)

Athanasius, one of the early Church-fathers, said like this: *"Therefore He was not man, and then became God, but He was God, and then became man, and that to deify us. For as the Lord, putting on the body, became man, so we men are deified by the Word as being taken to Him through His flesh. For He was made man that we might be made god."*

The Lord stepped down into our physical, human reality to lift us up into His spiritual, divine reality. We are not *"made god"* in the absolute sense, but are made *"partakers of the divine nature"* as Peter says (2 Pet.1:3), therefore we are also called *"gods, sons of the Most High"* (Ps.82:6; Jn.10:34-36). Salvation is an act of God parallel to the miracle of the incarnation: the same Spirit that formed the Son of God physically into the womb of Mary, forms the same Son of God spiritually into our spirit through the miracle of the new birth.

"The Word became flesh..." (Jn.1:14) *"The Word"* is the Greek 'Logos' and Aramaic 'Memra', a term related to the Hebrew word 'amar', which means word, decree, or speech. More than just the words of our Creator God (YHVH), 'Memra' conveys God's many manifestations and expressions in His creation through His Words: as we see in Hebrews 1:1-2, *"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who is the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person"*

"The Word" is the full personal manifestation and exposition of the Person of God, His manifestation in a human body: *"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him"* (Jn.1:18; cf 1 Tim.3:16, some manuscripts read: *"God manifest in flesh"*), *"all the Fullness of Deity in bodily form"* (Col.2:9). So, His birth is not only an advent but an invasion – God invading the earth, by taking on a human body, to take both mankind and the earth back from the usurper, the devil!

There are two sides to an invasion: to attack and to subdue. Jesus came to attack Satan and his kingdom and to take over mankind and this earth, and to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth: *"The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil"* (1 Jn.3:8). His powerful works demonstrate the invasion of the kingdom of God: *"If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you"* (Matt.12:28).

Jesus, as the warrior of the heavenly kingdom, came to accomplish what Adam and Eve failed to do: *"God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;*

and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Gen.1:28).

A new race of men

The Incarnation is the Beginning of a completely new race of men, as Paul powerfully explains in 1 Cor.15:45-49.: *“the second man: the man from heaven, spiritual and heavenly”* – in contrast to *“the first man: from the earth, soulish and earthly”*

This is something completely new and “other” in the history of mankind: a new order of man *“not of this world”* in contrast to the men *“of this world”* as is repeatedly proclaimed in the Gospel of John: *“You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world”* (8:23); Jesus is the one who *“descended from heaven, the Son of Man”* (3:13, a reference to Daniel 7:13-14); John the Baptist declares in John 3:31-32: *“He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies”* (“from above” is the Greek word ‘anothen’ – the same word is used in John 3:3 *“to be born again”* = “born from above” – i.e. receiving divine, heavenly life).

He who is *“from above and above all”* – from another World and Reality – has *“descended”*, stepped down into our world and reality in order to invade us and lift us up to His. This is the meaning of the new birth: being *“born from above”*: it is to be invaded by His heavenly, spiritual life, to become *“heavenly and spiritual”* or as Jesus says *“enter into the Kingdom of God,”* be lifted up into the Reality of Jesus Christ (Jn.3:3-5).

But to perform this miracle of miracles, he had to become *“a life-giving Spirit”* (1 Cor.15:45) – a Spirit with power to invade and *“make alive”* the dead spirits of men (Eph.2:1-6), *“his brothers”* who were enslaved in and by the power of death (Heb.2:11-15). He had to receive *“authority over all flesh, that He may give eternal life”* to all who believe (Jn.17:2) – authority to invade us with His heavenly, divine Life!

This required of Him to break the authority and power of another spirit over *“all flesh”* – *“the ruler of this world”* (Jn.12:31), *“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience”* (Eph.2:2). The purpose was *“that He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives”* (Heb.2:14-15).

So, He had to *“descend”* even lower than into our physical reality, He had to enter into our spiritual reality: *“descend”* into Death itself, to conquer its all-embracing grip over humanity: *“He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light”* (2 Tim.1:10) and in His resurrection, He is *“the firstborn among the dead”* (Col.1:18) – *“the beginning”* of the new mankind, with authority to invade us with His resurrection spirit-life. It is *“through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* that we are *“born again”* (1 Pet.1:3).

This double descension is beautifully described in Philippians 2:5-8: 1/ *“Although He existed in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”* – This is His incarnation – 2/ *“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* – This is His redemption – and the result: *“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (v.9-11). He acquired full authority over all of mankind!

To be *“born again”* is therefore to have *“passed out of death into life”* (Jn.5:24). From that moment we are *“not of this world,”* just as our Lord is *“not of this world”* (Jn.17:14-16) and *“the world hates”*

us, just as it hated Him, because He has chosen us *“out of the world”* (Jn.15:18-21), and we are no longer constituted by *“the spirit of the world,”* but by *“the Spirit who is from God”* (1 Cor.2:12).

Exchange of spirit

To have a clear understanding, i.e. a revelation, of this fundamental change of our basic spirit-nature, is the key to a victorious Christian life. The expression *“even as”* or only *“as”* – which is only one word in Greek: *‘kathos’* – is used over and over again in the Gospel of John to express the incredible fact that we are in parity with our Lord through this divine Spirit-invasion: partakers of His spotless, *“divine nature”* (2 Pet.1:3-4) and lifted up into His heavenly reality, *“seated with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* (Eph.2:6). We are now part of the new *“heavenly”* race of men, of which Jesus Christ is *“the Head”* (Col.1:18) and His *“fullness”* is ours (Col.2:9-10)! *“As”* Jesus *“lived because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Him,”* – is invaded by Him and lives in complete dependence on Him – *“he also will live because of Him”* (Jn.6:57).

When the Holy Spirit came to dwell in us, there was a fundamental change in our constitution, we are no longer *“in the flesh but in the spirit”* (Rom.8:9), no longer *“according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”* (8:5), and this brings a total change of mindset and focus: *“the mind set on the things of the Spirit”* and not *“on the things of the flesh”* (8:5-6). We are no longer *“carnal”* and *“wordly,”* but *“spiritual”* and *“heavenly,”* no longer *“of this world.”*

Because of that, the invisible world begins to exert a tremendous attraction on our mind, and the more we respond to this attraction, the more we are invaded by the eternal glory of that world. That’s why Paul admonishes us in Col.3:1-4 to *“set our minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory”* and *“look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen”* – in other words, develop a completely new focus and mindset (2 Cor.4:16-18).

The resurrection Spirit of Christ, who *“dwells in”* us (Rom.8:11), invades our soul and body step by step until the final invasion: the glorification of our bodies at the coming of Christ: *“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself”* (Phil.3:20-21).

The transformation of our whole being

This invasion and transformation of our whole being is the intense yearning of the Holy Spirit as seen in James 4:5, *“Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, ‘The Spirit that He made to dwell in us yearns jealously’?”* The Greek word translated *“to dwell in”* is *‘katoikeo’*. It means to *“to settle down as a permanent resident in one’s own residence”* – *“to be at home”* and is a parallel to 1 Cor.6:19: *“your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you”* (the word *“temple”* means *“a shrine”* or *“sanctuary”* = the Holy and Holy of Holies in the temple – the place of divine manifestation!). Therefore, Paul continues *“glorify God in your body”* (1 Cor.6:20).

The new birth is the start of the divine invasion, but the intense desire of the Holy Spirit is to invade our total being for God, so that His glory will manifest in our physical life. This is an invasion from the inside out as Paul states in 1 Thess.5:23: *“May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* This is the work of sanctification, which is the eradication of every influence of *“the spirit of the world”* in our lives, so, that our total being comes under the full influence of the Holy Spirit. Only then will we always *“walk by the Spirit”* and never *“carry out the desire of the flesh”* (Gal.5:16), or as Paul says in Rom.8:13-14, *“put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit.”*

Our calling as *"a new creation in Christ Jesus"* is to manifest the absolute superiority of the Spirit-life in every circumstance of life.

The Holy Spirit is the Love-fire of God, burning like a *"consuming fire"* in His *"jealous"* anger against *"other gods,"* i.e. everything that attracts and draws us away from Jesus Christ (Deut.4:23-24; 6:14-15), and every other spirit-influence upon us. We must allow this fire of Love to burn in our hearts *"burn fiercely night and day, till all the dross of earthly loves is burned, and burned away"* (AW Faber).

Heaven invaded earth

The day of Pentecost, was the day when heaven invaded earth (Acts 4:1-4)! The *"tongues of fire"* were the visible signs of the invisible invasion. To be invaded by God is to be invaded by Love, to be born and constituted of Love: *"everyone who loves is born of God and knows God"* (1 Jn.4:7-8). When we are *"born of God,"* love becomes our basic nature, just like God, our Father, and His *"beloved Son"* (Matt.17:5). Through that invasion the eternal *"Son of His Love"* (Col.1:13 literal translation) is formed in us and becomes our essential life: *"You loved Me before the foundation of the world - that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them and I in them"* (Jn.17:24-26). Just like the Son was invaded by the Love of the Father before the foundation of the world, He now wants us to be invaded by the same Love, so that His Son is formed in us.

Love is the essence and nature of a true and complete person. There is no higher reality and concept than that of personality and nothing greater and more radiantly beautiful than the Person of God: *"God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all"* – no defect or lack in His Perfect and Holy Person (1 Jn.1:5) and Jesus is His Manifestation in flesh and blood: *"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"* (Jn.1:14). And when that Love invades us, we become the manifestation of Jesus Christ in flesh and blood and we begin to radiate His glory (2 Cor.4:6)!

"Glory" – Greek: 'doxa', Hebrew 'kabod' – is a word used to describe the dignity and splendour of a true and complete person: God is *"the God of glory"* (Acts 7:2; cf Is.6:3) *"The glory of God rested on mount Sinai and to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top"* (Ex.24:16-17), and when Moses had finished building the Tabernacle, *"the cloud covered the tent of the meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle"* (Ex.40:34).

All of this *"glory"* was invested in the Son (Jn.17:22-24) and John 1:14 actually says: *"the Word became flesh and dwelt = tabernacled among us"* – He was the true dwelling-place of God and the only genuine and complete person who ever walked this earth!

The Perfect Manifestation of the Father

The Son was so completely invaded and constituted by the Eternal Love-Spirit of the Father, that He became the Full and Perfect Manifestation of His Father: *"he who has seen Me has seen the Father"* and there was an inseparable union and co-operation in person and work between the two Persons of the Godhead: *"I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works"* (Jn.14:9-11).

Who is the Son? He is the One invaded by the Father and therefore manifesting the Father: the only purpose of His life was to *"glorify"* His Father on the earth, by accomplishing the work which He had given Him to do (Jn.17:4). He lived *"because of the Father"* (Jn.6:57). *"Because of"* is the Greek preposition 'dia' = *"through, on account of, by reason of"* and expresses the deep reality of the Son: He was so fully invaded by the Father that he lived in complete dependence on Him and never did anything independently to express and realise Himself (Jn.5:19-10).

This is the secret of being a true and complete person. An isolated person, living to express and realise himself is subject to death, therefore Jesus said: *“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of (= through) the Father, so he who eats Me, he will also live because of (= through) Me”* (Jn.6:57). We can only become what we were created to be – full and complete persons – if we “eat” Jesus, i.e. allow ourselves to be invaded by Him, just as He was invaded by the Father, so that we *“will also live through”* Him, in complete dependence on Him and never do anything independently, but live only to express and realise Him.

A complete person

We must, just like the Son, be invaded by the Love of the Father, the Love that forms the Person of the Son, the Eternal Image of God in us. Then we will be *“conformed to the image of His Son, so that He will be the firstborn among many brothers”* (Rom.8:29). To be *“transformed in His image from glory to glory”* by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor.3:18), is to become more and more the true and complete persons that we were eternally planned and purposed to be!

To be invaded by Him is therefore to become like Him: a genuine and complete person. This releases *“full joy”*, the joy of Jesus in us, which is the highest possible joy: the pleasure and satisfaction of being complete – the joy of living (Jn.15:11).

But this invasion can only take place in a relationship of mutual love: *“Just as the Father has loved Me,”* and made me complete, *“I have also loved you,”* desiring to make you too complete: but this can only happen if you *“abide in My love,”* i.e. love Me as intensely as I love you (Jn.15:9).

Only if we fully respond to the attraction of the Love of our Lord, will the invasion of Love take place. Love is the door that opens up our entire being for Him. Just like the flowers turn towards the sun to drink in and be invaded by its light and warmth and thereby become the colourful, attractive plants, so must we turn to the Lord our God and *“love Him with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our might”* (Deut.6:5).

Through this invasion of Love, we become one with the Holy Trinity, and begin to know the greatest secret of the universe: *“that they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they may also be in us. The glory that You have given Me I have given them, that they may be one, just as we are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity”* (Jn.17:21-23).

It is in this union that we find the highest possible satisfaction as expressed in Psalm 63:5-6: *“My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night.”* (cf. Ps.36:7-9; 16:11). If we have not been fully satisfied by the Love of God and thereby made complete – entire and genuine persons – lust will still have power in and over us.

Lust is the sign of deficiency and incompleteness in our personality and it has to be satisfied – either by *“the Spirit of God”* or by *“the spirit of the world”*, by pure, divine Love or by impure, carnal lust. There are immense depths in man, that can only be filled by Infinite Love (Ps.42:7), and until the last aching abyss of our being has been satisfied and stilled by the steadfast love of God (Ps.90:14), we are always in danger of being overpowered and trapped by lust.

Exclusive love!

The Lord demands an exclusive love from us for Himself, because this is the only way the door can be opened up completely for the Lord to invade us and form us by His Spirit. His Lordship over us must be all-exclusive and all-inclusive: every other spirit-influence on our life must be eradicated so that the Spirit of the Lord can invade every area of our life and imprint Jesus Christ on our whole being!

The goal of discipleship is becoming like our Master (Lk.6:40) and this demands complete love-devotion to Him: *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children,*

brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (Lk.14:26-27).

Who do we come to, when we want to become disciples of Jesus? The only genuine and true man, fully constituted and formed by the Spirit of God, having absolutely no influence of *“the spirit of the world”* (1 Cor.2:12), *“the ruler of the world”* (Jn.14:30) in His life!

What is His goal? To eradicate every other spirit-influence on our lives, so that He can put His imprint on every area of our being, and we become genuine and true persons like Himself!

Therefore, we must *“hate”* every other spirit-influence and claim on our lives, every imprint from those closest to us from our birth onwards, and our *“own life also”* – the false life that resulted from these spirit-influences and claims on us! All of this must be put on the cross, so that Christ can become our life and we become alive in Him, in the same dimension of life as His.

“The love of the Father” must get such a hold on us, that every attraction to this world, every spirit-influence of the culture and environment we have grown up in loses its grip on us: *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever”* (1 Jn.2:15-17).

“The love of the Father” is His eternal, intense love for His Son and only the creative power of that love, can form the Son in us and make us complete in Him (Jn.17:26).

A new dimension of life

Through the miracle of the new birth, we have been invaded by the Spirit of God and lifted up into a totally new reality, a new dimension of life. We have been *“made alive together with Christ, raised up with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* (Eph.2:4-6). We are now *“heavenly”* people, belonging to the new *“heavenly, spiritual”* race of men (1 Cor.15:47-48), no longer *“of this world,”* but just like our Lord *“from above”* (Jn.8:23) and our calling is to live the *“heavenly”* life here in this world: live just like Jesus did.

But in order to be able to live like Him, a second invasion must take place: we must, together with the Holy Spirit, invade our soul and completely transform, *“renew our mind”* (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23), i.e. develop a heavenly mind, as Paul exhorts us to in Col.3:1-4, by setting our *“mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”* Without a heavenly mind we cannot live the heavenly life!

But our problem is that our mind has become completely *“wordly”* and *“carnal”* as we see in Rom.8:5-6: *“for those who are according to the flesh.”* What does that mean? Those who are constituted by the spirit of independence, which is *“the Spirit of this world”* (1 Cor.2:12), *“set their minds on the things of the flesh”*: i.e. they are saturated and formed by *“the Spirit of this world,”* they are worldly *“schemed”* = follow the pattern of thinking of the world as Rom.12:2 actually says.

Therefore, all the old patterns of thinking, feeling and acting must be completely broken down (2 Cor.10:4-6) and we must *“bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,”* in order to develop *“the mind of Christ”* (1 Cor.2:17), i.e. to think and react the same way as our Lord, to have the same patterns of thinking. Without *“the mind of Christ”* we cannot live the life of Christ!

Transformation of the mind

This transformation of our minds, which is so central and absolutely necessary for the spiritual life, is very heavy work. Like one who is to become a master pianist or a top athlete, we need to spend hours in intense practice, forcing our minds in new directions. This is to *“work out our salvation with fear and trembling.”* Thank God, He Himself is working in us *“both to will and to do according to His good pleasure”* (Phil.2:12-13)!

But we must determinedly *“set our mind”* and our affection *“on the things above”* (Col.3:1-3), and refuse every thought and feeling that is not *“heavenly”* – that is not according to the new life that we have received. And so, Paul admonishes us in Phil.4:8: *“whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”* We must have our *“delight in the Law (= Torah – teaching) of the Lord”* and meditate on it *“day and night,”* then only will we be *“like a tree planted by the streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers”* – in other words we will be complete persons fulfilling our calling, being a blessing to everybody around us (Ps.1:2-3)!

Our problem is twofold: 1/ We are not sufficiently taken up with the greatness of what has happened to us. In other words, we do not have a full and clear revelation and understanding of the incredible wonder of the new birth and the new life which has invaded us.

2/ We do not sufficiently understand what it takes to fully implement and put this new life into daily practice, to *“walk worthy of our calling”* (Eph.4:1), that it takes our *“utmost for His highest”* as Oswald Chambers puts it. Therefore, we do not *“press on toward the goal”* with all the energy and eagerness that Paul displays in Phil.3:7-14. Could the reason be that we do not really realize the *“great value”* of the *“pearl”* (Matt.13:46), and therefore do not throw away everything of this world like *“dung, that we may win Christ”*?

What does the transformation of our minds lead to according to Rom.12:2? *“That you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”* And what is that *“good, acceptable and perfect will of God”*? That we *“walk in the Spirit”* – fully invaded and possessed by the Spirit of God – the only kind of life that is *“acceptable”* to God – so that we *“will not carry out the desire of the flesh”* (Gal.5:16). This is *“to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called”* (Eph.4:1), that we *“walk no longer just like the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their minds”* – minds that have not been renewed, but are according to the pattern of this world, and therefore their whole physical life is marked by *“sensuality”* (Eph.4:17-19).

The invasion and sanctification of our *“spirit, soul and body”* is the rooting out of every other spirit-influence on our entire being, so that we are *“without blame”* as Paul says in 1 Thess.5:23, i.e. fully invaded, possessed and constituted by the Spirit of God. In other words: it is the full establishment of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, the invasion also of our bodies of the Holy Spirit.

A new law of life

This begins with the exchange of our basic driving force and source of action: *“the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”* instead of *“the law of sin and death”* (Rom.8:2), which is the spirit-disposition of the independent life: *“the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”* (Eph.2:2). This is the spirit of sin that was *“condemned”* (Rom.8:3), fully judged and made *“powerless”* on the cross (Heb.2:14).

The tremendous miracle of salvation is this exchange of spirit, resulting in the establishment of the fundamental life-law of Jesus Christ in our spirit: *“the law of the Spirit of life”*. This in turn demands *“the renewal of our minds”* (Rom.12:2), and the subjection of our bodies to the rule of Christ, so that *“by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body.”* Then we *“prove”* – we demonstrate – that we are *“sons of God, being led by the Spirit of God”* (Rom.8:13-14).

The divine invasion brings a clear understanding of Rom.8:1-4, which is absolutely central for a victorious Christian life – life in the Spirit, the life that the law of God, i.e. God Himself demands of us – the only life that is *“acceptable”* to Him: *“in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit”* (v.4).

But this *“walk in the Spirit”* is impossible as we have seen, unless there has been the exchange of the basic spirit-source and driving force of our life.

As sinners we were constituted by *“the spirit of the world”* (1Cor.2:12) and driven by *“the law of sin and death”* (Rom.8:2). What is a *“law”*? It is a force that is continually in action, always producing the same result, like the law of gravitation. An apple will always fall to the ground from the tree, as Newton observed, never fly up in the air. *“The law of sin and death”* is the driving force of the independent life, constituted by the spirit of sin, and it always produces sins – a sinful life with sinful actions: everything that the sinner does, even the best, is sin, because the spirit of sin is in it and *“condemnation,”* the damnatory sentence of God, His displeasure and burning anger, rests over this life.

We must understand that *“sin”* is what God dealt with on the cross, where His verdict was fully executed on this basic spirit-disposition with its driving force, when He *“condemned sin in the flesh”* (v.3), so that it was *“put away,”* cut off, annulled (Heb.9:26), in order to be replaced by a totally other spirit-disposition and driving-force.

When we accept God’s verdict on ourselves, the spirit-exchange takes place in our experience: the spirit of independence producing a life of rebellious disobedience, *“the law of sin and death”* is *“put away”* in us, and we are invaded by the Spirit of Christ. His basic spirit-disposition, the Spirit of dependence, is planted into us with its driving force: *“the law of the Spirit of life”* – the law of obedience and full compliance with the will of the Father (Jn.5:19).

Just like Jesus lived in full Spirit-union with His Father, we now begin to live in spirit-union with our Lord and as He was fully constituted by *“the Spirit of God”*, we are constituted by *“the Spirit of Christ”* and therefore, we are no longer *“in the flesh but in the Spirit”* (Rom.8:9).

Consequently, there is *“therefore now no condemnation”* on us, because we are *“in Christ Jesus”* (v.1), i.e. invaded by His Spirit and united with Him, having the same basic spirit-nature and are driven by the same basic driving force: *“the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”* (v.2).

Paradigm shift

This invasion of our lives by the Spirit of Christ brings about a complete paradigm shift in us. What does that mean? A paradigm shift is a major change in the concepts and practices of how something works or is accomplished.

Salvation, the new birth and sanctification is the most comprehensive, transformative and radical of all paradigm shifts and therefore it takes such an enormous time for our minds to take it in and to some extent understand it.

I am no longer an independent, isolated and *“self-living”* individual, but through the divine invasion, I am now a person grown together in spirit-union with Christ, learning to live in complete dependence on Him and like Him.

He, who has conquered every temptation, overcome the world and the flesh, crushed the head of the serpent and disarmed all the demonic powers, and is now sitting on the heavenly throne with divine glory and *“all power in heaven and on earth”* (Eph.1:20-22; Matt.28:18), is now my essential and real life, my reality. I have been invaded by the all-conquering, absolutely triumphant and invincible Spirit of the resurrected, glorified and enthroned Christ, with unlimited authority in all realms of existence: the new birth as we see in 1 Pet.1:3 is accomplished *“through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!”*

This is the Spirit that was poured out on the day of Pentecost and formed the triumphant Church, that we see in Acts (Acts 2:1-4; 2:32-36). Christ solemnly declared in John 14:12 that those who believe in Him will do the works, that He was doing in His earthly life and ministry and, then He added: *“and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”*

Why did Jesus go to the Father? To pour out the Holy Spirit. The invasion of the resurrected Spirit of Christ infuses into us a power with greater potentials than Jesus had during His earthly life. The

heavenly glory and ministry of the enthroned Christ is greater than anything He exhibited while here on earth and we are invaded by and united with what He is now, not with what He was then.

"Christ in me" (Col.1:27) is my earthly reality and I *"in Christ"* my heavenly reality (Eph.2:6; Col.3:1-4). Heaven and earth are now united in me, just as they were in Jesus Christ, but in an even more powerful way, because now it is no longer the Christ who must conquer, but the One who has conquered!

He is *"the Son of Man from heaven"* (Jn.3:13), manifested in the earthly reality, historically in Jesus and in present time in me. His reality is my reality and my reality is His. I am His means, His vehicle of again manifesting and performing His wonderful works here on earth and even greater.

The manifestation of the Son

God must be allowed to invade us completely and eradicate every influence of the three lusts that constitute fallen man (1 John 2:15-17): *"the lust of the flesh"* – the desire for pleasure, *"the lust of the eyes"* – the desire for possessions and *"the pride of life"* – the desire for position. Only then can His Love fully manifest the Beloved Son in me (John 17:26): it is only when I am exclusively His that I can become uniquely myself (Gal.2:20).

God demands an absolutely "all"-inclusive (all that I am) and "all"-exclusive (nothing else) devotion to Himself according to the highest law of life: *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might"* (Deut.6:4-5) – this is a union with Himself with nothing in between. Only when the Love of the Father possesses me exclusively (as is the case with His Love-born, Eternal Son), can His Spirit of Love invade me completely and manifest the Son fully in me.

Gal.2:20 involves and implies a total reverse of all my ambitions, aspirations, dreams and purposes: I do not exist for myself at all, nor does Christ exist for me, i.e. to fulfil, satisfy and realize me; I exist for Him alone: to realize and manifest Him and to satisfy my heavenly Father by fulfilling His eternal, purposes, dreams and desires!

The Son is the great love-dream of the Father: everything was created for Him; He is the Centre of the Universe, the Goal and Purpose of everything that exists and one day all things will be put under the Headship of Jesus Christ: *"the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth"* (Eph.1:10), so that everything will *"declare the glory of God"* (Ps.19; 119:91;147 etc). The creation was not primarily for man, since man himself was exclusively made for the Son, i.e. to manifest and reflect Him (Gen.1:26-27; Rom.8:29-31).

He is the Son, eternally loved and begotten of the Father. Through the new birth I too am a son, loved and begotten of the Father in present time. The same divine pleasure and power that rested over Him during His time here on earth, is now resting over me, in my time here on earth. He was and is the pride and joy of the Father, I am and will forever be the pride and joy of my heavenly Father.

This paradigm shift must entail a total switch in my entire being to my new reality, my new life-centre: from myself to Christ, so that it will truly be *"no longer I, but Christ who lives in me"* (Gal.2:19-20). My whole nervous system, my thought-life and emotional-life, my self-image and self-perception and all the resulting reaction patterns and ways of decision-making: everything must be switched from myself, my old reality to Christ, my new reality.

We have to come to the point where our personal lives and circumstances, whether good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant, do not matter to us at all, because the only reason why we exist is to manifest Jesus Christ and glorify Him, by doing the works He tells us to do, to the satisfaction of our heavenly Father.

This is such a revolutionary shift and involves such an extensive adaptation to a completely new reality, that it takes time for my whole being to digest and get used to it: to no longer live on the basis of my own limited ability and resources but on His: to live as it actually says in Galatians 2:20 *"by the faith of the Son of God!"* In other words, it is not *my* faith, but *His* – and the difference is immense!

The Spirit of Christ is *"the Spirit of faith"* – the faith of Christ, by which He lived in perfect union and complete dependence on His heavenly Father and conquered every temptation and enemy, even death itself (2 Cor.4:13). I have been invaded by that Spirit and live my life by His triumphant faith: *"the victory that has overcome the world"* (1 Jh.5:4-5), not my own. Faith is not my effort, it is Christ's life-force: *"the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus"* (Rom.8:2). This faith opens up the unlimited resources of Christ to work in and through me!

The invasion of our bodies

John 1:14 presents the challenge of Jesus Christ when He took on a human body: *"The word became flesh... and we saw His glory"*: *"flesh"* is a human body and soul not possessed by the Spirit of God and *"glory"* is a life constituted by the Holy Spirit. In other words, the Son of God had to invade His human soul and body and put every bit of His human life in subjection to the Holy Spirit.

When our soul has been renewed through the Word and Spirit of God (Eph.4:23), we have to put also our body under the rule of Christ, so that it is invaded by His Spirit and we too can *"walk in the Spirit"* (Gal.5:16), just like Christ did, so that as Paul says: *"Christ will be exalted in my body"* (Phil.1:20). One of the most important things of the spiritual life is to understand the central and absolutely decisive role and function of our bodies:

1/ From God's standpoint our body was designed for God: to be a temple for the Holy Spirit: *"don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you?"* It was designed to be His dwelling place and means of manifestation and the implementation of His will and rule on earth. This involves the honour and sanctity of our bodies – they were created for divine purposes: to *"glorify God in your bodies"* (1 Cor.6:19-20; Rom.12:1).

So, we can clearly see a double aspect of the body: the physical and the spiritual. The body is a part of the physical creation, a physical organism with purely natural functions and dependent on the physical for its sustenance like all other physical organisms. At the same time, it is a distinct, personal creation of God for His divine purposes, apart from the rest of the creation – it is not only physical, but also and even more so: spiritual, designed for the Holy Spirit.

The Incarnation is a proof and demonstration of this great purpose of the human body. The Son of God came to this earth to save and invade our bodies, so that they again could become what they were originally meant to be: *"In Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,"* – an incredible statement, but then it says: *and you have been filled in him"* (Col.2:9-10)! God in man, Deity in humanity, the spiritual in the physical: this is what it is all about – **the union of God and man!**

2/ From the devil's standpoint, the body of man is his means of establishing his rule on earth in opposition to the Creator and express his selfish lusts and desires. His goal is to pervert and degrade the body of man in every way possible: *"to the dishonouring of their bodies"* (Rom.1:24-28; Jn.8:44; Eph.2:2-3) and finally manifest his masterpiece: *"the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God, coming by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders"* (2 Thess.2:3-9).

So, a tremendous conflict is raging for the body of man: the goal of God is to glorify Himself through our bodies by manifesting his beloved Son in them through the Holy Spirit, and in this way establish His rule on earth. The goal of the devil is to get hold of the body of man for the establishment of his rule on earth and use it as an instrument for his wicked interests.

Everything here on earth centres around the body of man, because the one who rules the body of man rules the earth!

For man to use his body for the fulfilment of his own selfish desires, is to become a “temple-robber” – an accomplice of the devil (Rom.2:22; Matt.21:13), because *“the body is for the Lord”* (1 Cor.6:13-15). Therefore, the body of man is included in the Redemption – it has been *“bought with a price,”* and therefore no longer belongs to us (1 Cor.6:19-20). God jealously demands that we *“present our bodies as a living sacrifice,”* to Him so that He can invade them and make them *“holy and acceptable to God”* (Rom.12:1): manifest the glorious Person of His Son anew in a human body and use it for His glorious purpose: to defeat the devil and regain the full authority over this earth!

To understand that our body is fundamentally spiritual, designed for the Holy Spirit, is the basis for realising the incredible sanctity and beauty of the physical: invaded by heaven for heavenly purposes and having heavenly glory – and to become aware of the immense depravity of the body when invaded by the opposite spirit, reducing it to ravaging and destructive lusts.

The body was created for the Holy Spirit and through the new birth He has come to settle down as a permanent resident in His own dwelling place. And He will burn with godly jealousy until every bit of His house has been cleansed from every other spirit-influence and He possesses every inch of His rightful, earthly habitat (Jam.4:5)!

The full “personalization” of man

Man was created for the glory of God, to be invaded by His Spirit and become a full and complete person, just like God. This is what was lost in the Fall, as Rom.3:23 clearly says: *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*, as a result man has become less than a true person and doesn't know any longer what that really means.

The Fall was the attack of the *“murderer”* – the man-slayer: Greek ‘anthropoktonos’ (Jn.8:44) – on the person of man, with the view of invading him and thereby destroying his personality. The devil is a *“person-destroyer”*, which is the ultimate meaning of the Greek word ‘anthropoktonos’. He intensely hates *“the image of God”*, the persona of man, since he knows that a complete and true man is superior to him and his conqueror. So, he knows that the more he can twist, wound and wreck the person of man, the more power will he have over him.

The devil is everything opposite to God: God is a full person – the devil anti-person, God is Light – the devil darkness, God is Love – the devil hate, God is Truth – the devil lie, God is holiness – the devil wickedness, God is Life – the devil death, God is constructive – the devil destructive. And the battle between them concerns the person of man: a restored and complete person is the instrument of God – a wrecked and twisted person the tool of the devil. And we must understand that the person of man includes his whole being: spirit, soul and body!

Salvation is the mighty work of God, restoring man to the image of His beloved Son, who walked here on earth as a fully *“personalized”* man, spirit, soul and body. Through the process of salvation God is giving back to man the glory that he was originally created for, through invading him by the Spirit of His Son and uniting him with His glorious Person. The divine invasion is the end of the independent, self-life, which is the destruction of our personality, and the beginning of a completely new way of living: life in union (Col.3:1-3; Eph.2:4-6) – the way Jesus lived – which is the restoration of our personality!

This spirit-union with the Lord is a spirit-union of love, a deep and intimate relationship of persons, bringing complete satisfaction to the soul and purification of the body, accomplishing the full personalization of man: our deepest and most intense longing as expressed in Psalm 63: *“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and*

glory. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

The goal of the divine invasion is to make us "*complete in Christ*," accomplished persons (Col.1:28), the manifestation of the Glory of God: Hebrew 'kabod' meaning weight, dignity, majesty – Greek: 'doxa' meaning splendour, beauty, majesty. Both refer to the dignity, beauty and majesty of a complete person.

God, the Father, is "*the Father of glory*" (Eph.1:17), the Source of personality, who gave that glory to His Son of Love (Jn.17:24). Jesus is "*the Lord of glory*" (1 Cor.2:8), the Full Manifestation of the Person of the Father, and the Holy Spirit is "*the Spirit of glory*" (1 Pet.4:14), the Intermediary and Fulfiller of everything that the Father and the Son are.

The new birth is an invasion of my spirit by "*the Spirit of God*", through which God becomes the Father of my spirit (Heb.12:9; 1 Jn.3:1), and I His beloved child. This means the transformation of my basic spirit-nature: my spirit is constituted by Love, the spirit-nature of God (1 Jn.4:7-8).

Jesus is the Lover and Shepherd of my soul (1 Pet.2:25) and the invasion of my soul by "*the Spirit of Christ*" transforms my soul and I am filled with the joy of Christ, who was full of the joy of the Spirit (Lk.10:21; Heb.1:9), the joy of living, of being a genuine and unique person (Jn.15:9-11).

"*The Holy Spirit*" is the Sanctifier of my body and when He has invaded my body and made it His rightful residence, it is marked by holiness and purity.

This is the divine metamorphosis that transforms "*the old man*" – the ugly caterpillar into a beautiful and colourful butterfly – "*the new man*" (Eph.4:22-24)!

The Transformation Accomplisher

Hebrews 2:9-11 provides us with some glorious insights into the basis for the divine invasion and metamorphosis: our transformation into the likeness of Christ, the Image of God.

The goal of God the Father is to "*bring many sons to glory*" (Heb.2:10), by transforming us into the Image of His victorious Son, who is presented to us in the verse before as the one who went through humiliation and "*the suffering of death*, but now is "*crowned with glory and honour*." He is the Medium and Accomplisher of the glorious purpose of His Father, called "*the author of our salvation*."

"*Author*" is the Greek, 'archegos', meaning "the first to lead, an originator, the first in a long procession, a file-leader who pioneers the way for many others to follow". The word is also used for the founder or prince of a tribe. What this meaningful expression says, is that our Saviour, the beginning and head of the human race, is the one who in and through Himself carries all of us, all of humanity to salvation, to glory, by "*sanctifying*" us, i.e. redeeming and purifying us from all the destructive effects of the Fall (Heb.2:11). As Oswald Chambers beautifully states: "Jesus Christ travailed in Redemption to redeem the whole world and place it unimpaired and rehabilitated before the throne of God."

In Heb.2:12-18 it is explained what this meant for our Saviour: He 'took hold of' (Greek 'epilambanomai' v.16) human nature: "*flesh and blood*" (v.14), being made "*like His brothers in all things*" (17), and had to go through all the sufferings and temptations that meet humans in this sin-filled earth (v.18), and go through it all victoriously, keeping Himself undefiled and "*without sin*" (Heb.4:15)!

What is so important to understand is that our Lord took on unredeemed human nature, which is the meaning of the word "*flesh*" (Jn.1:14), and invaded it during His earthly life with heavenly life, Holy Spirit, so that He at the end of those 33,5 years could declare to His disciples: "*the ruler of this world is coming* (to confront me face to face, spirit to spirit on the cross and try to finally conquer me), but "*he has nothing in Me*" (Jn.14:30). There was absolutely no spot, nothing for the author of sin to lay hold on in "*the Author of our salvation*" – otherwise the outcome would have been disastrous!

Then He had to go a step further: allow Himself to be invaded by the spirit of sin, the poison that had invaded mankind, carry it up on the Cross as a condemned criminal, and engage in an intense life-and-death battle with the forces of destruction so *“that through death He might render Him powerless who had the power of death, that is, the devil”* (Heb.2:14-15).

Hebrews 5:7 reveals that in this perilous struggle *“He offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death.”* You can read these anguish-filled prayers in many of the Psalms, especially 38 and 69. Then it is added *“and he was heard because of his reverence.”* The word for *“reverence”* in the Greek is ‘eulabeia’, meaning *“a taking hold of what God calls good”*, from ‘eulambano’ meaning *“to aggressively lay hold of what is truly worthwhile, what someone personally holds sacred. ‘Eulabeia’ is illustrated by a person carrying a priceless Persian vase across the room – which will always be in a ‘devout’ (respectful) fashion”!*

Our Saviour laid hold of human nature, the priceless vessel, intended for the glory of God, and carried it through the stormy waters of death and destruction, refusing to let go, *“obedient unto death”* (Phil.2:8), rose triumphantly, entered into the Holy of Holies, and presented Himself and thereby all of humanity *“without blemish to God”* (Heb.9:11-14). *“And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him, the source (or ‘the cause, the originator’) of eternal salvation”* (Heb.5:9). The perfection of *“the author of our salvation through suffering”* (Heb.2:10) is the perfection of man: *“For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified”* (Heb.10:14).

When we are born again, we are invaded by His triumphant, glorious Spirit and become *“sons of glory”* – partakers of that perfect salvation, the manifestation of His victory, the fruit of His toilsome labour, making Him abundantly satisfied (Is.53:11-12).

The power of the Cross

The basis and power of this divine invasion and transformation of our whole being is the Cross of Jesus Christ: *“the power of God to us who are being saved”* (1 Cor.1:18; Rom.6:6; Gal.6:14). It is the dividing line between the *“old”* and the *“new”* (2 Cor.5:17): *“the old man”* and everything included in him: everything that we inherited from Adam, and *“the new man”* and everything included in him: everything that we inherit from Jesus Christ (Eph.4:22-24). Every moment of my life, as I look to the Cross of Jesus (Jn.3:14-15; Heb.12:2; Is.45:22), I am cut off, severed, from everything that belongs to my old reality: everything that I am in myself, whether good or bad, and I am immediately invaded by my new reality: everything that I am in Christ and Christ in me.

This is a continuous and dynamic exchange made possible by what Paul says in 2 Cor.5:21: *“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”* I must learn to live in this dynamic exchange, the power of the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, moment by moment: *“it is a perennial, perpetual and eternal beginning; a freshness all the time in thinking and in talking and in living, the continual surprise of the life of God.”* (Oswald Chambers)

This is to live in the reality of Phil.3:12-15 constantly, moment by moment, determinedly doing *“one thing - forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead”* and *“press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* – getting hold of Jesus, my one and only reality and being transformed into his beautiful image second by second.

Every moment then, is a moment of salvation: of victory, *“always”* being lead *“in triumphal procession in Christ”* (2 Cor.2:14), and a moment of renewal: a totally new and fresh beginning with completely new assets and possibilities. It implies always dying out of oneself and entering into the resurrection newness of life in Christ (2 Cor.4:10-11), constantly putting of the old and clothing oneself in the new – an unbroken, divine process of transformation through the powers of Redemption.

Living like this, I am always, every moment and every second, 'teleios', "*complete in Christ*" (Col.1:28). It is not a state of being but a dynamic process of renewal and transformation, "*being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, from the Lord, the Spirit*" (2 Cor.3:18), until the final transformation and glorification of our bodies at the return of Christ: "*who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself*" (Phil.3:20-21)!

The secret is "*fixing our eyes on Jesus*" (Heb.12:2), which actually means "to look away from all else at, to fix one's gaze upon" - and as we read in Is.45:22 "*Turn to (turn toward, look to, face) me and be saved!*"

Self-consciousness and self-occupation is our defeat, Christ-consciousness and Christ-occupation is our victory.

The devil is constantly working at getting us self-conscious by reminding us of our mistakes, weaknesses and sins – or the opposite blowing up our successes and achievements, making us forget that everything is from God – and thereby getting us occupied with ourselves.

We must determine to constantly look away from ourselves, no matter what, and fix our eyes on Christ as our everything and only-thing. Then He can and will invade us with His almighty and always victorious Spirit and lift us out of ourselves.

To look away from yourself and your circumstances to Christ and become consciously occupied with Him is to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh*" (Rom.13:14), to "*put on the new man*" (Eph.4:24) in other words, to be invaded by Him, spirit, soul and body, so that He becomes – as He truly is – my "spirit-reality", my "soul-reality" and my "body-reality": my total being invaded and constituted by the Spirit of Christ.

Invaded by the resurrection life of Jesus Christ, we are immortal, indestructible and invincible (2 Tim.1:10; Jn.11:25-26)!

An Invasion of Love

The Divine Invasion is an Invasion of Love, of the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Love. The Love of God is the creative-begetting-formative Spirit-power of God, making us His love-offspring: as John so beautifully says in 1 Jn.3:1, "*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*" "*His children*", "*sons of glory*" (Heb.2:10), just like the Son of His Glory: complete and genuine persons, reflecting the Glory of God (Jn.17:24).

"*Glory*" is the expression and manifestation of a complete and genuine person. And the full description of that is Gal.5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit, and 1 Cor.13:4-8, the description of true love. Both of these passages of scripture are a description of the character of the Complete and Genuine Person, Jesus Christ, and of everyone, like Him, who is born of the Father.

Jesus Christ came from "*the bosom of the Father*" (Jn.1:18), where He was born of the Eternal Love of the Father before this world was created. The purpose of His coming here was to bring man back to the place where He, the Eternal Son, became what He is and which is the only place where man can become what he was intended to be. That's why Jesus so eagerly prays in John 17:24: "*Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*" And the only way to get there is Jesus Himself, as he declares in John 14:6.

The entire Person of Jesus Christ and every word He spoke was a manifestation and expression of that Love, permeated with the Spirit of Love, having one goal: to draw man to Himself, like bees are drawn to the beauty of the flowers to suck in their nectar, and unite us with Himself as we respond to the drawings of Eternal Love.

Our response to His words is faith in the Father, who sent Him, and that response immediately opens up our innermost being to be invaded by *"Eternal Life,"* the Spirit of Love, and that moment we pass *"from death into life"* (Jn.5:24). Immediately we are united with Christ in His resurrection and *"seated with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"* (Eph.2:4-6) and our *"life is hidden with Christ in God"* (Col.3:1-4). That's when we finally arrive where we belong: in *"the bosom (the arms) of the Father."* There we are kissed to life by our over-joyed-eternally-love-sick-expecting Father, who immediately throws a great welcome-banquet for us, and all of heaven resounds with rejoicing (Lk.15:20-24)!

As we continue to respond to the love of the Son, *"praying in the Holy Spirit"* (Jude v.20-21), we *"abide"* in His Love, the Love of the Father (Jn.15.9), and the Lord continues to reveal *"the Name of the Father"* to us – the Eternal depths of His Love – and the divine invasion goes on, forming the beautiful Person of the Son in us: *"I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them"* (Jn.17:26). This is how we are *"transformed into His image from glory to glory"* through *"the Lord, the Spirit"* (2 Cor.3:17-18).

The substance of a true person is love: *"God is Love"* – a Complete and Genuine Person – and only His Love, can make us the same (1 Jn.4:7-8), make us *"perfect,"* complete like the Son (1 Jn.4:17). A complete person is marked by *"boldness"* – complete assurance and confidence, *"the spirit of adoption"* (Rom.8:15-16), *"a spirit of power and love and a sound mind"* (2 Tim.1:7). This is *"perfect love"* that totally extinguishes *"fear"* – the sense of lack and incompleteness (1 Jn.4:18). It is the result of having been invaded and assured by the love of God and *"dwelling, abiding"* in that Love: *"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him"* (1 Jn.4:16). Then *"we know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers"* (1 Jn.3:14).

The goal of the Love-invasion of God, of His Spirit, is to make us like God, loving: *"if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit"* (1 Jn.4:12-13). His Spirit, His Love, His divine nature, has now become our nature!

Created for Love

Man was created and designed for Love and only Eternal, Infinite Love can satisfy and make us complete: *"How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them to drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you"* (Ps.36:7-10, 16:11; 63:1-6).

One cannot overestimate the need of emotional, love-saturated satisfaction in a human heart, in order for his whole being, every complicated and intricate system in body, soul and spirit, to function with harmony, resulting in joy, spontaneity, creativity and well-being on all levels.

The opposite, emotional starvation and lack, results in enormous disturbances and blockages in all systems of the organism: spirit, soul and body, resulting in inhibitions, fear, inability and illness, reducing a person to a low-energy-being.

When *"the love-tank"* is filled, energy flows out into the whole organism and activates all systems as Jesus says in John 7:38-39: *"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this he said about the Spirit."*

The spirit-flow in the *"spirit-system"* is basic and fundamental to all other flows and systems in the human organism. It gives life to everything else, activates and strengthens all other functions and organs in the human body, because its basic constitution is spiritual, as it was created and designed for the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20).

The Fall was a disaster for the whole man, not least his body. Salvation is the restoration and healing, the renewing of the whole person, including the body.

The engine of this whole process of restoration and renewal is prayer: love-communion with the *"Fountain of Life"* – the Fountain of Love (Ps.36:9; Is.12:3). Therefore, Jude admonishes us: *"praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God"* (v.20-21)

Only a person satisfied by the Eternal Love of the Father (1 Jn.3:1), is a complete and unique person, who can conquer the devil!

The Serpent-head-Crusher prophesied in Gen.3:15, the Lord Jesus Christ, was a person, born and satisfied, fully fashioned and constituted by Eternal Love (Jn.17:24), and that's why none of the temptations of the Evil one had any power of attraction or impact on Him. That's why He could boldly say, before going to the Cross: *"The ruler of this world is coming and he has nothing in Me"* – no "hook", nothing to take hold off and therefore no authority, no power or influence over Him (Jn.14:30).

It is personal deficiency and lack that constitute the hook for the attractions of Satan, making man a victim of temptation, trapped and caught by lust. A fully love-satisfied person has no lust. He is a devil-conqueror and Jesus came to make us just that!

But our problem is that the greatest and most unattainable of all knowledge – not theoretical, but personal and intimate – is the knowledge of love – not human, so called love, but true, Divine Love. That is the knowledge of what it means to be a genuine person, born and fashioned by *"the Love of God – the Spirit of God – the Glory of God"*.

The loss of this *"Glory"* (Rom.3:23), implied such a lostness, such an alienation from this greatest of all realities, that it is impossible for us to embrace and comprehend it. Paul describes fallen man as *"alienated and hostile in mind"* in Col.1:21. The word "alienated" in Greek means to be estranged and shut out from fellowship and intimacy with God and belonging to another – the devil – and therefore man is also, as Paul says *"hostile in mind"* – inimical to God, just like the devil, because he has been invaded by his spirit (Eph.2:2; Jn.8:44; cf Rom.8:7)! And in Eph.4:18 Paul declares: *"They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart."*

That is the reason why it takes such an incredibly long time for the Light, the Truth, about this greatest of all realities to break through into our hearts and minds with the most wonderful of all revelations: *"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him"* (1 Jn.3:1). When we *"know"* – are invaded by – this greatest of all powers and realities (1 Cor.13:13), we also *"know"* who we are: *"children of God,"* born of His Love, complete and genuine persons!

But anyone not born into this reality, has absolutely no possibility of knowing it!

Invaded by the Holy Spirit!

The Divine Invasion is everything that is included in the new birth and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, bringing us into full spirit-union with Jesus Christ and thereby a manifestation of His wonderful Person, a reflection of His Divine Glory – everything that is meant by being a genuine and complete person.

Man was created and designed for the Holy Spirit, and without Him, we don't know and cannot know what a true man, a genuine person is, nor are we able to live a genuine and true human life. As Paul says in 1 Cor.2:11: *"For who among men knows the things of a man except the man's spirit within him?"* But our spirit cannot *"know"* this reality unless it is activated and energized by the Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit that lifts us up to a dimension of life that is truly human – the life that *"the Son of Man"*, Jesus Christ, manifested!

We must understand the absolute IMPOSSIBILITY of the Christian life. It is a life on a level totally UNATTAINABLE for us, in a reality INACCESSIBLE to the human mind: *“The natural (lit. “soulish”) person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person discerns all things”* (1 Cor.2:14-15). It is a super-human, super-natural life, attainable and made possible only through the invasion of the Holy Spirit of our entire being. The impossible is made possible only through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Without that supernatural empowerment, we will live the Christian life on a low and unworthy level, vainly trying to accomplish it through our natural capacities!

The Christian life is impossible for anyone to live except Christ Himself. His teachings are for the life that He puts into us. When Jesus becomes our life, through the invasion of the Holy spirit, He will live His life in and through us. The Divine Invasion alone lifts us up above our inability, into a dimension where it is divinely possible to live a life no human is capable to live by himself. The truly Christian life is life on the highest dimension possible, it is high-power-life, that releases us from our low-level, body-conscious life and makes us spirit-conscious – Christ-conscious – and therefore Christ-like!

The Incarnation, Redemption, Ascension and Glorification of Jesus Christ had only one aim and purpose: the Divine Invasion, the baptism of man with the Holy Spirit, as clearly seen in John 7:37-39: *“Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts,” - thirsty for the only thing that can enable us to live the life we were created for – “let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’”* – the result of the Spirit-baptism: fullness of life, the joy of becoming a complete person! Then John adds these important words: *“Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

This becomes even more clear, when we read in Acts 1:1-9, that the last words our Lord spoke, just before His ascension, were about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit: *“for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now”* (v.5), and then *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”* (v.8). Immediately after these words He was taken up into heaven and vanished.

When we read the words of Peter about the fulfilment of these words on the day of Pentecost, it becomes very clear from these words, that what happened on that day, was the proof that Jesus Christ, the crucified one, is now the exalted, almighty Lord: *“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”” Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified”* (Acts 2:32-36)!

Since the purpose and fulfilment of the Redemption is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we cannot know and understand the reality of the Redemption – the greatest of all realities in this age – nor can we become its proclaimers, until we have received this endowment and have been *“clothed with power from on high”* (Lk.24:49). Only that makes us *“witnesses of these things”* (Lk.24:48) – the things that Jesus mentions in verses 46-47: *“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”*

His witnesses

The great work of the Holy Spirit is to invade us and make us witnesses of Christ wherever we go:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Oswald Chambers remarks: “Not witnesses of what Jesus can do – that is an elementary witness – but *‘MY witnesses.’*” We are to be witnesses of the beautiful Person of Christ, spreading *“the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God”* (2 Cor.2:14-17). Paul is referring to a Roman General, who is carried around on the shoulders of conquered soldiers in a triumphal procession as his captives, while they swing incense-filled pots for his honour, shouting his praise.

If we have not been defeated by Christ and become captives in His triumphal procession – His victory over the self-centred and ever self-pleasing adamic-man, and consequently have died out of ourselves, living only to manifest and realize Christ, to the satisfaction of the Father – if we have not been completely invaded by the Love of God, so that the depths of our being have been satisfied and there is no more the least need for the approval and admiration of men – we will inevitably be living to please ourselves, not our heavenly Father. We will be *“peddlers of God’s word,”* (2:17), always looking for some personal gain and favour.

When the only reason why I exist is to please my heavenly Father, no matter in what circumstances He places me, I will be a witness of the sweetness of Christ, no matter what happens to me.

Only passionate Jesus-lovers, who like Mary, pour out the precious ointment, everything they are and have, over Christ, are His true witnesses. We read in John 12:1-11 that *“Mary took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed Jesus.”* And the result? *“The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume”* (cf. Matt.26:6-13)! The value of that ointment was a worker’s salary of a whole year! Mary had been so conquered and captivated by the glorious beauty of His Person, that she poured out the most precious thing she had, the ointment that she had saved for her wedding day, on Jesus. And when we have been captivated and invaded by Him and have become saturated by His Spirit, we will become *“the aroma of Christ to God,”* always spreading *“the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere”* at our own expense.

What was the secret of Mary? She was so powerfully attracted to the Person of Christ, that as soon as He came to visit, she went and *“sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching”* eagerly drinking in every word (Lk.10:38-42), with the same thirst for the Lord that we see in Psalm 63: *“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.”*

It is this steadfast “beholding” the face of Christ, that will transform us into mirrors, reflections of His glory (2 Cor.3:18). That’s why Christ prays: *“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me”* (Jn.17:24). We must continue to look into that face, until we are so captivated by His beauty, that we are invaded and united with Him, drawn into the Trinity. *“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”* In that union with the Trinity, *“the glory”* of Jesus will invade us and become the mark of our lives and make us true witnesses, convincing the world of His reality: *“The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me”* (17:21-23). What will convince the world? Our powerful preaching? Signs and miracles? No, Christ-like love-filled lives!

When we are attracted and captivated by the Person of Christ, our lives will become a powerful attraction to Him, His witnesses!

Then we will not *“proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”* (2 Cor.4:5-6).

“The saint who is intimate with Jesus will never leave impressions of himself, but only the impression that Jesus is having unhindered way, because the last abyss of his nature has been satisfied by Jesus. The only impression left by such a life is that of the strong, calm sanity that Our Lord gives to those who are intimate with Him.” (Oswald Chambers)

This is true power-evangelism!

The breakthrough of the Spiritual

Man was created to live in the visible world, but receiving the source of his life from the Invisible Reality, represent that Reality in the visible, created world, having the Invisible as the foundation and focus of his life: to live as a spiritual being in the physical world, ruling over the physical by his spiritual faculties.

But when the deceptive words of the devil concerning the forbidden fruit, *“God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,”* took hold of the mind of Eve and the “sweet” poison of independence began to work in her, the physical reality suddenly started to have a powerful attraction on her: *“The woman saw that the tree was good.., it was a delight to the eyes”* (cf 1 John 2:15, 16). Her mind submitted to the bodily senses, *“The tree was desirable to make one wise,”* and the physical senses overpowered her mind, desire rose up inside of her and *“she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate”* (Gen.3:5-6).

Now the physical reality began to totally dominate their natural senses and their spiritual senses “died out”, since they had been cut off from God and the life-giving flow of His Spirit on them as well as its influence on their physical senses (Eph.2:1-3).

The tragic result of the Fall: man has become totally earthly minded, shut up in the physical, temporal reality.

The “Man from heaven” came to break up this bubble, so that we, like Him, can live with an “open heaven” – in unbroken contact with God and the spiritual Reality again (Jn.1:51)!

Our problem is that the beauty and attraction of the physical reality has so overpowered and captivated our senses, that it is impossible for the exceeding beauty and glory of the Spiritual Reality to break through and so overpower and captivate us, that its attraction becomes greater than the immediate physical, unless God does a powerful work in us. The dominion of the physical must be broken and the Spirit of God must invade and energize our spiritual senses, so that we are dominated and led by them.

This involves an identification with Christ in His death and resurrection: *“always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh”* (2 Cor.4:8-11). We must allow God to take us through every painful death-experience necessary for the physical to lose its powerful attraction on us, so that the Spirit of God may *“enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we can see”* (Eph.1:17-18) and our focus no longer is *“the things that are seen but the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal”* (2 Cor.4:18).

On our part, we must through hard and incessant labour, refocus our mind and fix it on *“the things above”* (Col.3:2), imprinting the important truth that the visible things are *“temporal”* and the invisible *“eternal”*!

It is a long and arduous battle to become truly spirit-conscious and spirit-oriented. We have to consciously turn our mind and attention to the Invisible, by taking regular times of prayer and worship and *“meditate on His Word day and night”* (Ps.1:2). Slowly, slowly our spiritual senses are sharpened and the Invisible world begins to attract us more and more.

As we go on, we begin to discover and enjoy the incredible beauty of the invisible world and the communion with the Invisible One, as He draws us stronger and stronger into His Presence and invades us with His Love.

It is then that the battle becomes really intense as all the powers of hell unceasingly and relentlessly work on our natural senses, trying to attract and draw us back to be overpowered by the natural sense-world again!

But if we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus, *“submit to God and resist the devil”* with perseverance and *“draw near to God”* (Jam.4:7-8), *“the things of this earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace”* – as that beautiful song says!

The Satanic Invasion

An invasion from hell is going on and will increase in the end times until the master piece of Satan, *“the man of lawlessness”* (2 Thess.2:3) will step forth – therefore, we as the people of God MUST allow ourselves to be invaded by heaven, so that we can stand strong and *“shine as lights in the world, in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation* (Phil.2:15).

Because of the Fall man has become *“alienated and hostile in mind”* (Col.1:21). Estranged and shut out from fellowship and intimacy with God, man now belongs to another: the devil, and therefore he is also, *“hostile in mind”* – an enemy of God, just like the devil, because he has been invaded by his spirit (Eph.2:2; Jn.8:44; cf Rom.8:7)!

“Alienated from the life of God,” men have become *“darkened in their understanding”* (Eph.4:18). Estranged from God and no more knowing who God, His Creator is, man has also become estranged from himself, not knowing any more who man is, i.e. not knowing any more what a true person, created in the image of God, is!

And as man has become hostile towards God, he has become inimical to himself and unwittingly works on his own doom and destruction (Eph.4:22; Ps.92:6-7; 94:13). A Swedish professor of the New Testament put it like this: *“Man has turned away from God and thereby embarked on the path to his own doom. He has said no to God and wants to get something of his own, which can be nothing but self-destruction. Because God is the one in whom life consists (Col.1:17), the will to independence becomes a will to self-extinction and death - a perverse will to annihilation and self-destruction.”*

This is perhaps most powerfully expressed in Romans 1:21-28. Turning away from God, Paul says, man became a fool, an idol-worshiper, which led to a perverted understanding of himself and of morals: *“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error”* (v.24-27). What Paul here depicts as a perversion, today has become accepted behaviour in nation after nation!

In the following verses Paul describes the complete break-up of society, which we are daily witnessing: *“They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them* (v.29-32).

We must understand that the great God-hater also is a man-hater, called *“a murderer”* – a “man-killer” by Jesus (Jn.8:44). He absolutely hates *“the image of God”* and wants to pervert it as much as possible and finally introduce his complete perversion of man: the antichrist mankind, the antitype of the Christ-mankind. The peak of this will be *“the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God”* (2 Thess.2:3-4). In Revelation 13 he is portrayed as *“the beast”* who will *“blaspheme the name of God”* (v.5-6).

There will be a main person, the Antichrist, heading up this final rebellion and together with him a whole perverted mankind, the antichrist mankind with his mark: 666 (Rev.13:16-18). What is the meaning of 666? 6 is the number of man in the Bible and 3 the number of God. So 666 is man exalting himself to be God, the final fulfilment of the great deception of the great liar: *“you will be like God”* (Gen.3:5)!

Satan has been working on that since the Fall and we are speedily approaching the introduction of his end product.

But Paul says in 2 Thess.2:3 *“the rebellion comes first,”* before the Antichrist *“is revealed.”* The word in Greek is ‘apostasis’ which can be translated *“apostasy”* – a falling away from the truth or *“rebellion”* - a defection or departing from truth. Apostasy has to do with what happens in the Church and rebellion with what is happening in society, and apparently both are taking place alongside. And what does it lead to? *“Lawlessness”* – the breaking down of the ordinances of God for life (Ps.2:1-3)! And some of the most destructive aspects of this are the breaking down of the moral boundaries set by God for sex, marriage, family life and gender.

When God created man in His image, He made them *“male and female,”* and together they make a complete reflection of the Person of God, man as a unique masculine person and woman as a unique feminine person, because God includes both the masculine and the feminine aspects in His divine personality: He is the Father-Mother-God.

The uniqueness of the man is inseparably connected to the uniqueness of his body, constituting the masculine framework and identity and the uniqueness of the woman is inseparably connected to the uniqueness of her body, constituting the female framework and identity.

This is highly questioned in the so-called gender research and we are witnessing an explosion of gender dysphoria, transgenderism, homosexuality and lesbianism in our days, creating great damage to individuals and this will ultimately result in the collapse of society, paving the way for the Anti-Christ.

Never in the history of mankind has there been a greater need than now of men and women, with a strong identity in Christ, standing on the unshakable Truth of the Word of God and having been invaded by the Holy Spirit!

The Ultimate!

The ultimate goal of Satan is the Antichrist-man, the ultimate goal of God is the Christ-man. If we don’t discern the Ultimate, we will be caught up by secondaries!

Who is the Ultimate? – the Final Goal and Purpose of everything and everybody, the *“Most High”* mentioned in Psalm 92:1 *“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High”!*

We find the answer in Phil.2:9-11: *“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

And Paul claims in Eph.1:9-10 that one day everything will be submitted to His Lordship: *“He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him,*

regarding His plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth."

But who is He really?

Hebrews 1:3 says, *"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."* And in John 6:57 Jesus proclaims, *"As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me."*

Jesus Christ is the perfect Manifestation of the Father! The only explanation of His life and ministry was the Father. And the secret of it all was His total dependence on and submission to His heavenly Father, the Source of His being.

"As – so." We must become the manifestation of the Son, just as He was of His Father. The Son must become the only explanation of our life and ministry.

How can that be? We must *"feed on"* Him, i.e. His Word, and thus open up our entire being to be completely invaded and saturated by His Spirit, so that we are united with Him as He was with His Father, because His words are *"Spirit and life"* (Jn.6:63).

As we learn to live in total dependence on and in full submission to Him, He will become the Source of our being, *"our Life"* (Col.3:4), and then it will become true that *"as he is so also are we in this world"* (1 Jn.4:17): Jesus our life, our reality, the substance of our being, the only explanation of who we are and what we do, just as the Father was the only explanation of the words and actions of the Man Jesus (Jn.14:9-10).

What was the mark of this Man, Jesus Christ?

Unbroken communion with His Father: *"And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him"* (Jn.8:29), a life of prayer: *"Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray"* (Lk.5:16).

The mark of the Spirit-invaded man is worship and prayer: *"be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father"* (Eph.5:18-20). When the Spirit flows through our entire being like *"rivers of living water"* (Jn.7:38-39), it will lead to unceasing joy, prayer and thanksgiving: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit"* (1 Thess.5:16-19)!

We have seen that the spirit-flow in the "spirit-system" is basic and fundamental to all other flows and systems in the human organism. It gives life to everything else, activates and strengthens all other functions and organs in the human body, because our basic constitution is spiritual: we were created and designed for the Holy Spirit and without Him we are incomplete.

Jesus came to make us complete through a powerful process of restoration and healing, the renewal of our whole being. The engine of this whole process of restoration and renewal is prayer: communion with the *"Fountain of Life"* (Ps.36:9; Is.12:3). Therefore, Paul says that God's basic will for us *"in Christ Jesus"* is that we should *"pray without ceasing."*

If prayer ceases, the basic flow stops!

And what is the motivating force for unceasing prayer? The Ultimate – reaching the Goal and Destiny of our existence: becoming *"complete in Christ"* (Col.1:28; Phil.3.7-14)!

Unceasing love-communion, *"face to face"* with the Lord (Ex.33:11, 2 Cor.3:18), leads to the Divine Invasion – the sanctification of our entire being (1 Thess.5:23-24) – the eradication of every influence of impersonal spirits and our full personification through the Spirit of God, which means complete likeness with Jesus Christ!

All this takes place in the *"inner room"* – the secret place of prayer (Mt.6:6)!

Psalm 27:5

“For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.”

Psalm 17:8

“Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.”

Psalm 31:20

“You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues.”

Psalm 32:7

“You are my hiding place; You keep me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance.”

Complete!

In the Spirit-union with Christ, we become genuine persons – and a complete person does not sin! The great enemy of God and man came to injure and break down our person, to make us his victims: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”* (Jn.10:10). An incomplete person is a slave of lust, because of deep inward emptiness. Jesus came to restore, heal and make us complete, *“I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly.”*

“You give them to drink from the river of your delights. For with You is the fountain of life” (Ps.36:8-9). The more we know of the pleasures of the Spirit - the deep satisfaction of becoming and being a true person - the more the pleasures (and lusts) of the flesh and the world lose their powerful influence over us. This is *“putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit”* (Rom.8:13).

The more the inward reality grows and is established, the less the outward reality will control and direct our lives (2 Cor.4:16-18; Col.3:1-4).

That’s why Paul prays in Eph.3:16-17 that the Father *“would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, being rooted and grounded in love.”*

This beautiful prayer contains several important truths:

1/ *“The riches of His glory”* is a description of the Father as a full and complete person, and He “grants” this fullness to us through *“His Spirit,”* the essence of His divine Person. But He can only do so by means of His Son as Jesus says in John 17:22, *“The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them.”* Christ, the complete Person, is full of the Holy Spirit, the Glory of God. He is the Mediator and the Spirit is His means of making us complete.

2/ At the same time Christ Himself is that completion: *“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”* The Holy Spirit forms Christ in us: *“He will glorify Me,”* Jesus says in John 16:14 *“for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you.”* Paul expresses the same wonderful reality with these words: *“For in Him (Christ) all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete”* (Col.2:9-10).

3/ This becomes our reality when we are strengthened through His Spirit in our *“inner man,”* that is our spirit. These words contain a very important truth: the core of our personality is our spirit, which implies that as persons we are fundamentally spirit, just like God (Jn.4:24)! Even more revealing are the words of Paul in 2 Cor.4:16 where he compares *“the outer man”* which is *“wasting away”* with *“the inner man”* which is *“being renewed day by day.”* The argument is that our deepest reality as persons is our spirit. Man was essentially created for the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit in our spirit that constitutes our psycho-physical life, our identity as unique men and unique women, and without Him we cannot be truly human, that is, genuine persons.

4/ For this to take place we must be *“rooted and grounded in love.”* The life of the Spirit flows into us in our love-relationship with the Lord. The love-relationship of the Son with the Father made Him the

Complete Person and therefore He appeals to us: *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love"* (Jn.15:9).

The son, born of the Father, was a sin-destroyer: *"The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was revealed: to destroy the works of the devil"* (1 Jn.3:8), and *"Whoever has been born of God does not sin. . ."* (1 John 3:9). Commenting on this word Oswald Chambers says: *"Am I seeking to stop sinning or have I actually stopped? To be born of God means that I have His supernatural power to stop sinning. The Bible never asks, "Should a Christian sin?" The Bible emphatically states that a Christian must not sin. The work of the new birth is being effective in us when we do not commit sin. It is not merely that we have the power not to sin, but that we have actually stopped sinning. Yet 1 John 3:9 does not mean that we cannot sin - it simply means that if we will obey the life of God in us, that we do not have to sin."*

A fully Spirit-formed person is a truly free being (2 Cor.3:17-18) - released into the freedom of the Spirit, the pleasure-filled enjoyment of being a complete person in Christ, the Complete Person! *"I am God Almighty, walk before me, and be blameless,"* God said to Abraham (Gen.17:1). *"Blameless"* is the Hebrew word 'tamid' meaning complete and entire, sound and wholesome, unimpaired, having integrity! All this is realized in our love-relationship with the Lord: *"walk before me, and be complete."*

The Divine Invasion makes us complete!