

DIVINE LIFE BROUGHT TO THE BRANCHES FROM THE VINE

Jesus Christ is the true Vine, brought down from heaven and planted in the earth. He was a faithful and true witness. Nothing in Him to create a feeling of strangeness or disappointment in the heart of God. He was true to God, true to His own nature, true to His environment and to the sons of men. But the principle truth is that, as a Vine, He is true to those who are associated with Him as branches, so that they might bring forth fruit.

“He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit” (John 15:3).

“Bear much fruit, so shall you be my disciples” (John 15:8). That branch is a true disciple of the vine that bears much of the fruit of the vine. We are the true disciples of Christ when His character manifests itself in our lives. What the sap of the vine is to the branch, the Spirit of Christ is to the Christian. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc. Because the

Spirit Himself is all this, when He has free access into our hearts, and full control of them, His own personal characteristics will appear as fruit in our lives.



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ISBN 1-879854-00-7

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From the Vine to the Branches Flows

DIVINE LIFE



FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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by Demos Shakarian

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**DIVINE
LIFE**

BY

**DEMOS
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INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, I have shared many of the thoughts God has put on my heart by writing a series of ministry booklets.

My first booklet, "A New Wave Of Revival...the Vision Intensified," shared how God was going to have a special people, a PREPARED people ready to serve Him in POWER, and willing to participate in this final hour of endtime spiritual history. In that booklet, I declared that God clearly was not done with Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International - that He had a NEW WAVE of revival prepared for us, a revival that would sweep in miraculous waves of witnessing power all over the globe for God's glory.

That ministry booklet was written...

before the Berlin Wall came down,

before the Iron Curtain melted,

before the Eastern Bloc countries broke the shackles of Communism and formed their own governments,

before the new Russia of President Mikhail Gorbachev started to evolve, and

before the sudden shock of the Middle East War exploded in January, 1991, causing hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and billions of American dollars to be quickly dedicated to a conflict few expected to materialize even a few months earlier!

Since the publication of "A New Wave of Revival," the Fellowship has seen the virtual explosion of new chapters in Brazil, South America and Europe, clearly fulfilling God's promise of a NEW WAVE of His witnessing power.

And, right at the end of 1990, we planted our first FGBMFI chapter in Armenia - an event which would have been an absolute impossibility at the time "A New Wave of Revival" was written, and an event that clearly shows the

powerful role God intends for the Fellowship in the immediate future!

The next book I authored as my ministry to you was entitled "A New Wave of Revival...in Your Finances." In that book I specifically addressed the lack of proper biblical balance in the myriad of popular prosperity teaching that seems to ignore the vital need for RELATIONSHIP with God before any of the biblical promises concerning finances would come into fruition.

I sincerely believe this book has helped many businessmen and families to understand His principles for a balanced and proper walk in the challenging area of Christian finances.

Now, more than ever, with signs of recession hitting the United States, this book is still a vital tool for anyone who wants to know what God says about the financial steps you need to take to receive all He has for your family and business - no matter how bad world circumstances might appear!

Then came "Behold the Glory of God," declaring that a new wave of God's glory would soon sweep the earth in this endtime hour, permeating our Fellowship meetings and conferences. When the Eastern Bloc countries literally became free - in an instant - we were all reminded that nothing is too big for our God. He can overcome every situation, no matter how impossible it seems. In places where we once thought it was impossible for God's glory to shine, He is now radiating His love.

Today, God is setting the stage for a new wave of His Shekinah Glory to literally sweep across the entire continent of Europe, and the other nations of the globe! We have seen His Glory sweep through many of our recent meetings, including our outreach to Armenia at the end of 1990.

But know this - the greatest miracle wave of God's glory is yet to come - and He can unleash it in an instant,

just as He instantly transformed the Eastern Bloc countries from Communism to freedom!

In my last booklet, "The Ultimate Dimension," I shared with you who I believe God's anointed people will be in our endtime generation, how they will be prepared, and how they will walk in awesome power to manifest God's will in these final days before Jesus comes once again.

That walk seemed so magnificent, so staggering that I called it "The Ultimate Dimension."

Today, after continued and intensified prayer and fasting, I must confess to you that "The Ultimate Dimension" was just the beginning of a much deeper life that I now understand God has for you. "The Ultimate Dimension" set the scene and prepared the way for the book you are holding in your hands today..."Divine Life".

This book, more than any other I have ever written, tells how God gives us the incredible privilege of walking in a personal, intimate relationship with Him, a holy oneness with God that, once your spirit begins to comprehend it, will change the way you live, and revolutionize the way you make your business and personal decisions.

"Divine Life" was birthed out of continual prayer, long-term fasting, adversity, and severe attacks in my own life, particularly over the past two or three years. By seeking God with a renewed fervor, He gave me a new peacefulness...no matter how hectic outside circumstances may seem around me.

When I had my stroke, I was searching God for many answers. When you are flat on your back, you search. It was a time when the world situation looked very bad, and frankly, it still does not look any better. I was very concerned and burdened because we were not winning souls and getting the job done for the Lord in the dimension and scope that I had hoped.

One day I was in my living room praying, crying out to God, "Lord, You promised that You will give us the power to do these things, to meet these challenges."

In a way, I suppose you could say I was complaining to God.

"Lord, where is the power and anointing we need to do the work necessary to get the job done?"

His reply was quick, and the loving rebuke of a caring Father.

"Look, My Son, I've given you everything I can give you. I have given you HIS authority, and His anointing. There is nothing else you need to do the job. Take His authority and go forward.

"I have given you everything I can give you. I have given you My precious Son, and He's given you His life. I have given you all I can.

"Go now, go ahead and fulfill the vision I have entrusted to you."

From that moment of prayer and encounter with God, He began to birth in my heart the first steps of how to walk in His power and His authority, in His divine life.

And now, after a few more years of prayer and seeking God, this book, "Divine Life," describes the awesome personal relationship the very God of the Universe desires with us. Through this book, you will realize that God has given you a miraculous heritage of HIS power and authority, and He intends for you to fully use His spiritual gifts in these final hours of spiritual history.

The "Divine Life" is the biblical plan that God Himself birthed to mold you and God into a single, holy unity!

What a sacred privilege!

I sincerely pray the message in this book greatly blesses you.

I further pray that He would, by whatever means, help those of you who are still living divided lives to see clearly how He claims you WHOLLY for Himself, and how the wholehearted surrender to abide in Him alone brings joy unspeakable.

Demos Shakarian

THESE PRECIOUS WORDS FROM JOHN 15:1-12 ARE YOUR KEY TO DISCOVERING HOW TO WALK IN THE MIRACULOUS AND AWESOME PRIVILEGE OF DIVINE LIFE!

PLEASE READ THESE VERSES CAREFULLY, SEVERAL TIMES, BEFORE STARTING CHAPTER ONE.

"I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my

Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

CHAPTER ONE

THE PERSON GUARANTEEING A PROMISE GIVES THE PROMISE POWER!

If a pauper on the street came up to you and said, "Hey buddy, when I die, I am going to leave you one billion dollars in my will," the chances are you would smile as you walked past him and moved on, never expecting for a second that you were about to become a billionaire.

Why?

Because the man who was the source of the promise, the man standing behind the promise with his personal guarantee, did not have credibility! He was a poor man on the street wearing tattered clothes, and you could have no logical reason to believe that this poor man controlled a billion dollar fortune.

Today, many Christians unknowingly approach the awesome promises of God with the same scoffing skepticism and disbelief as they do the street pauper.

Most of us can trust in Jesus to some extent.

We anxiously look forward to His grace to pardon our sins when we fail.

Most of us can even trust God enough to hope and pray that He will be available for us with His enabling power when we desperately need His help to fix our business, to mend our family, or to save our loved ones.

But, our trust in Him at this point is usually rooted in desperation, not in faith.

And most of us, in an honest attempt to walk in a less self-seeking relationship with God, consciously try to obey Him and His commandments.

But very few Christians have come to realize the FULL POWER of Christ to FULFILL HIS PROMISES.

We fail to grasp who stands behind the words in the Holy Bible with HIS personal guarantee...the very Creator of the Universe who wants to bestow upon us the FULL POWER of His promises, and seeks a total and complete oneness in His relationship with us.

In this book, "Divine Life", I'd like to take you on a journey of spiritual awareness and exploration - where we will search through the parable of John 15:1-12 to uncover an intimacy of fellowship with Jesus Christ that wholly includes a miracle oneness of divine life with God Himself!

To me, this powerful parable is one of the most life-changing in all of scripture! This one verse alone could produce volumes of divine revelation:

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In this book, I'd like you to seriously consider what Christ really meant by the words "abideth in me, and I in him." After our exciting journey, I believe you will be absolutely awestruck by the world-changing potential Christ offers to you in this promise.

KNOW WHO IS MAKING THE PROMISE

Before you can appreciate the full impact of the words of Christ, I believe it is first imperative that you come to a renewed understanding of precisely WHO CHRIST IS - you must know in your heart of hearts WHO is making the promises to you, WHO it is making the guarantee that what He says will come to pass!

Just as you cannot believe the promise of the pauper on the street because you do not have faith in his ability to deliver a billion dollars to your door, many Christians are operating in a "pauper mentality" when it comes to God...they fail to recognize the total and complete ability of God to fulfill the promises He makes!

As you discern in your spirit the FULL REALITY of who is speaking the promises to you, I believe you will be much more receptive to the promises themselves.

Who is making these awesome promises, and who desires this intimate relationship of John 15 with you?

God Himself!

The invisible God who through the miraculous incarnation became visible through Jesus Christ is declaring that He wants an intimate and personal relationship with you...as intimate and as closely tied together as a vine is with its branches!

To help you realize the awesome significance of the person who is making the promises to us, the Lord has led me to heighten your awareness of just who Jesus is by sharing with you here who the prophets said Jesus would be, and who Jesus himself said He was.

By doing this, I believe the Holy Spirit will build your faith in THE ONE making the promises as you read some of the major things said about Jesus in the Holy Bible.

In this chapter, I will detail approximately ten percent of the prophecies written about Jesus in the Old Testament (there are over 200), and fulfilled in the New Testament. I pray the cumulative weight of these faith-building scriptures will be a powerful witness to both the believer and the non-believer concerning the overwhelming proof concerning who Jesus is!

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH

Let me first begin by sharing with you some of what the prophets said about Jesus in the Old Testament, and how those prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament.

WHAT THE PROPHETS SAID

1. HE WAS TO BE OF DAVID'S FAMILY
The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:6-7
The Fulfillment: Matthew 22:42-46
2. HE WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN
The Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14
The Fulfillment: Matthew 1:23
3. HE WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM
The Prophecy: Micah 5:2
The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:6
4. HE WOULD SOJOURN IN EGYPT
The Prophecy: Hosea 11:1
The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:14
5. HE WOULD LIVE IN GALILEE
The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:1,2
The Fulfillment: Matthew 4:14-15
6. HE WOULD DWELL IN NAZARETH
The Prophecy: Isaiah 11:1
The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:23
7. HIS COMING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY A HERALD
The Prophecy: Malachi 3:1
The Fulfillment: Matthew 3:3
8. HIS COMING WOULD RESULT IN THE MASSACRE OF BETHLEHEM'S CHILDREN
The Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15
The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:18
9. HE WOULD PROCLAIM A JUBILEE TO THE WORLD
The Prophecy: Isaiah 58:6
The Fulfillment: Luke 4:17-19
10. HIS MISSION WOULD INCLUDE GENTILES
The Prophecy: Isaiah 42:1
The Fulfillment: Matthew 12:18
11. HIS MINISTRY WOULD BE ONE OF HEALING
The Prophecy: Isaiah 53:4
The Fulfillment: Matthew 8:17
12. HE WOULD TEACH BY PARABLES
The Prophecy: Psalm 78:2

13. HE WOULD BE DISBELIEVED AND REJECTED BY THE RULERS
The Prophecy: Psalm 69:4
The Fulfillment: Luke 20:17
14. HE WOULD MAKE A TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM
The Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9
The Fulfillment: John 12:13-15
15. HE WOULD BE LIKE A SMITTEN SHEPHERD
The Prophecy: Zechariah 13:7
The Fulfillment: Mark 14:27
16. JESUS WOULD BE BETRAYED BY A FRIEND FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER
The Prophecy: Zechariah 11:12-13
The Fulfillment: Matthew 27:9-10
17. HE WOULD DIE WITH MALEFACTORS
Isaiah 53:9
The Fulfillment: Luke 22:37
18. HE WOULD BE BURIED BY A RICH MAN
The Prophecy: Isaiah 53:9
The Fulfillment: Matthew 27:57-60
19. HE WOULD BE GIVEN VINEGAR AND GALL
The Prophecy: Psalm 69:21
The Fulfillment: John 19:28-19
20. THEY WOULD CAST LOTS FOR HIS GARMENTS
The Prophecy: Psalm 22:18
The Fulfillment: John 19:24
21. EVEN HIS DYING WORDS WERE FORETOLD
The Prophecy: Psalm 22:1
The Fulfillment: Mark 15:34
22. NOT A BONE WOULD BE BROKEN
The Prophecy: Numbers 9:12
The Fulfillment: John 19:36
23. HIS SIDE WOULD BE PIERCED
The Prophecy: Zechariah 12:10
The Fulfillment: John 19:37
24. HE WOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD THE THIRD DAY

The Prophecy: Psalm 16:1-11

The Fulfillment: Acts 2:25-32

25. HIS REJECTION WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY
THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND
THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The Prophecy: Daniel 9:27

The Fulfillment: Mark 13:14

OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE!

All of these Old Testament prophecies, and their subsequent fulfillments in New Testament scriptures, clearly demonstrate that Jesus Christ was the Son of God!

Centuries before Christ was born...His birth and career, His sufferings and glory, were all described in detail in the Old Testament. Christ is the only Person ever born into this world whose ancestry, date of birth, birthplace, birth-manner, infancy, manhood, teaching, character, career, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection and Ascension were all PRE-WRITTEN in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born!

Further, there are a number of OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES which foretell His divinity: Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:6; Jeremiah 33:16; Zechariah 12:8.

Jesus Christ was both man AND God - God incarnate, the Creator of ALL things, the Preserver of ALL things, and the sole giver of eternal life!

In the New Testament, it was abundantly clear from those who walked and talked with Jesus that they, too, recognized Him as the DIVINE Son of God.

Mark called Jesus "The Son of God" (Mark 1:1), as did John (John 3:16,18), John the Baptist (John 1:34), Nathanael (John 1:49), Peter (Matthew 16:16), Martha (John 11:27), the disciples (Matthew 14:33), and Gabriel (Luke 1:32,35).

Jesus is himself called "God" (John 1:1). God himself called Jesus His own "Beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17). Even evil spirits called Jesus "The Son of God" (Luke 4:41).

Neither Jesus himself, nor the Scriptures, leave any possible doubt as to the nature of the person of Jesus...

**HE WAS THE DIVINE SON OF GOD,
THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE,
AND HE IS THE ONE MAKING
THE PROMISES FOR YOUR LIFE!**

Why do non-believers make it so complicated?

Why not accept the record just as it is written?

If Jesus Christ was only a good man, He can do nothing for us, except to set an example. If He was really God, He can be to us both a Saviour and an example.

The amazing fact to recognize here is this: the complete story of Jesus' life, its main features, events, and accompanying incidents, even in the minutest detail, is plainly foretold in the Old Testament Scriptures, and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Only one man in the history of the world has ever had explicit details given beforehand of His birth, life, death, and resurrection - and they were given centuries before His birth! Nowhere in any of the literature of the world, secular or religious, can we find a duplicate to the astounding miracle of the pre-written life of Christ!

NAMES AND TITLES APPLIED TO CHRIST

Let your spirit absorb the magnitude of the titles applied by scripture to Jesus Christ. He is called...The Christ, The Messiah, Saviour, Redeemer, Wonderful Counsellor, Faithful Witness, The Word of God, The Truth, The Light of the World, The Way, The Good Shepherd, Mediator, Deliverer, The Great High Priest, The Author and Perfecter of our Faith, The Captain of our Salvation, Our Advocate, The Son of God, The Son of Man, God, The Holy One of God, Only Begotten Son, Mighty God, The Image of God, Everlasting Father, Lord, Lord of All, Lord of Glory, Lord of Lords, Blessed and Only Potentate, King of Israel, King of Kings, Ruler of the Kings of the Earth, Prince of Life, Prince of Peace, The Son of David, The Branch, David, Root and Offspring of David, The Bright and Morning Star, Emmanuel (God with us), The

Second Adam, The Lamb of God, The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, The Alpha and the Omega, The First and the Last, The Beginning and the End, The Beginning of the Creation of God, The First-Born of All Creation, The Amen.

And that same awesome and loving God is THE ONE Who stands behind and guarantees His promises to you.

That same awesome and loving God is THE ONE Who wants to have a divine life relationship with you, and gives you the scriptural path and promises you need to follow so you can experience divine life.

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and the first and the last"
(Revelation 22:13).

CHAPTER TWO

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF

In the last chapter, you read what others said about Jesus. To help you further visualize the POWER OF THE PROMISES OF GOD, let us look at what Jesus said about himself.

In the fourth chapter of John, we see Jesus going to Jacob's well to get a drink of water. He was met there by a woman from Samaria; she was surprised He would even speak to her because *"Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans"* (John 4:9).

But Jesus said to her,
"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water" (John 4:10).

Here, Jesus is simply telling the lady she does not realize the WHO to whom she is speaking.

Jesus proves Who He is by telling her she has had five husbands. She then observes that *"I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things"* (John 4:25).

"Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he" (John 4:26).

You see how important it is to know who is speaking?

If the lady had fully grasped to whom she was speaking from the initial moments of their encounter, she would have immediately fallen on her knees, repented of her sins, and asked for eternal life!

WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF THE PERSON MAKING THE PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE AS BOTH JESUS AND GOD, A CREATOR WHO HAS ALL POWER IN THE UNIVERSE TO FULFILL HIS PROMISES IN YOUR LIFE, THEN YOU TOO WILL ACT UPON HIS PROMISES WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE, AND BEGIN TO WALK IN DIVINE LIFE.

Even if you have been a Christian for fifty or sixty years, it is still possible to become complacent and forget the spiritual significance of WHO Christ is!

As you read this book, I pray the Holy Spirit helps you to recognize in a new and deeper way that Jesus Christ has both the nature of man AND the son of God, the Messiah, the Creator of the Universe, Who came from the Father, and God the Father is the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Recognize, receive and believe WHO is making the promises. THEN, you can recognize, receive and believe the promises themselves! And start to walk in divine life and fellowship.

Intertwined intimately with the vine.

With branches that produce fruit.

Jesus Christ is God...WITH US, IN UNION WITH US!

To further build your faith concerning the giver of these promises in John 15, I would like to share with you some of the things Jesus said about himself. I believe you will be spiritually overwhelmed by His own clear statements concerning His deity.

Remember, you are in Christ Jesus. Your whole Christian life depends on the clear consciousness of your position in Christ.

Your union is not only with Christ, but is the work of God himself! If it is of God alone that you are in Christ, then God Himself, the Infinite One, becomes your security for all you need or wish in seeking to abide in Christ.

After you read these powerful passages, I pray you will be moved by the Holy Spirit to declare, "I must shout to all the earth with renewed vigor, 'Jesus Christ is God!'"

I pray any skeptic reading these scriptures will recognize that Jesus is God. Prophets said He would die and rise; be born of a virgin; suffer beyond recognition.

Now, let us see what Jesus Christ had to say about Himself.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF

I AM THE TRUTH (John 14:6).

I AM THE WAY (John 14:6).

I AM THE DOOR (John 10:9).

MAN COMES TO THE FATHER BY ME

(John 14:6).

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

(John 6:35).

I AM THE LIFE (John 11:25).

I AM THE RESURRECTION (John 11:25).

HE THAT BELIEVES ON ME SHALL NEVER

DIE - HE HAS POWER OVER DEATH

(John 11:26).

I AM THE MESSIAH (John 4:25-26).

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS I AM

(John 8:58).

HE THAT HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE

FATHER (John 14:9).

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

(John 10:30).

ALL POWER ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN

HAD BEEN GIVEN UNTO ME

(Matthew 28:18).

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE

END OF THE WORLD

(Matthew 28:20).

Who else could have said such things about himself? Of whom else could we say them?

His categoric and amazing statements about himself infuriated the rulers, and they attempted to mob Him (John 8:59). Aside from the statements on the preceding pages, Jesus made other claims for himself and His divine origin.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
 (John 8:12).
 I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD (John 10:11).
 I AM NOT OF THIS WORLD (John 8:23).
 ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY
 (John 8:56).
 SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, HE CHALLENGED,
 THEY BEAR WITNESS OF ME (John 5:39).
 THE FATHER, HE HAS BORNE WITNESS OF ME
 (John 5:37).
 MY WORKS BEAR WITNESS OF ME
 (John 5:36).
 I DO WORKS THAT NO OTHER MAN DOES
 (John 15:24).
 BELIEVE IN ME OR DIE (John 8:24).
 YOU ARE BLESSED TO SEE THESE THINGS
 (Luke 10:23-24).
 I AM WISER THAN SOLOMON AND GREATER
 THAN JONAH (Matthew 12:41-42).
 I AM OMNIPOTENT (Luke 4:39).
 I AM OMNIPRESENT (Matthew 18:20).
 I AM ETERNAL (John 1:1).
 I AM UNCHANGEABLE (Philippians 2:6).
 I AM FROM ALL ETERNITY (Hebrews 13:8).
 BEFORE MY INCARNATION, I WAS IN THE
 FORM OF GOD (Colossians 2:9).

DO YOU KNOW JESUS?

Through the first two chapters of this book, you have read about the genuine prophecy in the Bible - prophecy that PROVES beyond all doubt that Jesus of Nazareth is the predicted Messiah.

And, you have read that Jesus Christ himself, and those who knew Him, viewed Him as both man and God.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, once said to Jesus:

"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2).

The answer Jesus gave to Nicodemus is the same answer He would give any person reading this book today.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I saw unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 4:3).

Maybe you are reading this book, and you do not yet know Jesus as your personal Saviour, you have not been "born again" from your old man into the divine life that God intends for you.

If that person is you, and you want to experience a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, the Bible sets out six simple steps for you to take.

THE SIX STEPS TO SALVATION

1. **Acknowledge your sins**
"God be merciful to me a sinner"
 (Luke 18:13).
2. **Repent of your sins**
"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).
3. **Confess Jesus with your mouth**
"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).
4. **Forsake your old life**
"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord...for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

5. **Believe His Word!**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

6. **Receive Him**

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"

(John 1:11,12).

If you want to take these six steps and receive Jesus into your heart right now, would you join me in the Spirit by repeating, out loud, this simple prayer?

"Lord, God, I acknowledge that You are the true God, the Messiah spoken about by the prophets, and that through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You fulfilled all the prophecies spoken of by the prophets.

"I repent of all my sins, and confess them before You today. Lord, I want to give up my old ways, and begin to walk in Your divine life.

"I believe You are God, that Jesus Christ is Your son and my Savior, and I ask Him now to personally enter into my heart and become a permanent part of my daily life.

"Lord, I freely receive You as my Lord, my Master, my guide, my comforter, and my source of all things.

"Thank You for sending Your son to die for my sins, and for becoming part of my life. From this day forward, I ask You to control my every move so that it will be in accordance with Your will. Amen."

If you just prayed this simple but life-changing prayer, and have freely accepted Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior, "Welcome to the Kingdom of God!"

To help you grow in your understanding of all God intends for your life, I have prepared a special booklet for you entitled "Now That You've Received Christ."

To request your FREE COPY, complete the form at the end of this book and we will send it to you by return mail.

"I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman" (John 15:1).

CHAPTER THREE

THE MOST POWERFUL PARABLE AND PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE!

Imagine living in complete union with Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, Creator of the Universe, experiencing His daily and hourly presence and keeping!

Imagine the miracle manifestation in your life of purity and power, love and joy, and spiritual fruit!

Is it possible to walk in such a divine life?

I believe it is.

Step-by-step, I will show you how God himself has given you a promise for divine life in John 15, a promise meant for you, His grace provided for you to obey and experience a healthy Christian life. Unspeakable blessings will assuredly flow from such a miraculous union.

If your current day-to-day experience with Jesus is not as strong as it was in the early days of your salvation, the reason for the vacuum and the void is simple...**YOU HAVE WANDERED AWAY FROM HIM.**

That is not intended as a form of condemnation, but only as a statement of spiritual reality. God **NEVER** leaves us - we leave God through our sin and lack of relationship with Him.

The blessings that Jesus Christ bestows on us are all connected with His very personal invitation to "Abide in Me," and can only be experienced in close fellowship with Him.

WHAT DOES GOD INTEND?

Jesus has destined for you something better than the brief excitement of the latest charismatic meeting you attended.

He intends for your experience of His reality to be enjoyed far beyond your Sunday treks to church.

He wants more than to touch you tenderly in your times of special earnestness and prayer, and then to quietly pass away into the darkness of night until your next pressing need forces you to seek Him.

God himself has prepared for you an abiding dwelling with Him where your whole life and every moment of it might be spent, where the work of your daily life might be done, and where you might enjoy the privilege of unbroken communion with Him.

That is the reality of divine life.

Jesus said "Abide IN Me," not "Abide WITH Me."

He opened His arms to press you to His heart.

He is opening up all His divine life, a fullness of life and love offered to you in His fellowship.

Let us now examine the parable of the vine and the branches in some detail, and determine from this examination what Jesus Christ really intended for us.

THE AMAZINGLY MISUNDERSTOOD PARABLE

When Jesus said "I am the true vine," what do you suppose He really meant?

So often we quote this famous passage from John, but I wonder in my heart how much we really understand of what God intended for us in this passage.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing"(John 15:4-5).

This parable seems so simple; yet, it becomes so rich under study, and its teaching probably gives us the best and most complete illustration of the meaning of our Lord's command, and the divine life to which He invites us.

First, let us look at the vine.

In the whole plant world there is not a tree so specially suited to be the image of man in his relationship to God as the vine. There is no other plant where the fruit and juice are so full of spirit, so quickening and stimulating.

There is no other plant that has such a natural tendency to evil - that is, there is no plant where the growth is so ready to run into wildwood that is utterly worthless for anything except the fire - without proper care and cultivation.

Of all plants, the vine more than any other needs the unsparing and unceasing pruning knife. The vine is dependent on cultivation and training, but if it receives this, no other plant produces a richer reward to the husbandman.

If you are like most who read this parable, you think of the main stem of the vine as Jesus Christ, and then you see us, as the believers, becoming the branches growing out of the stem.

He is the stem, we are the branches.

Right?

Wrong!

That is not what the scripture says!

Jesus says, "I am the vine," and the vine is not limited to the main stem. The main stem is part of the vine, maybe even the principal part, but that is not the entire vine.

In the vine you also have a root system, a main stem, branches, leaves, tendrils, and fruit.

Christ said, "I am all of that - the entire vine." He is declaring His completeness, that He is the ALL.

If that is the case, where do we, the branches, come in?

Christ said: "I am everything...the main stem, the branches, the leaves, everything; and, you are the branches; you are part of Me. You are so closely united to Me in the essentials and entirety of life as those branches are tied in the vine; and, the vine is incomplete without the branches."

BRANCHES NEED THE VINE

Branches need the vine, and the vine needs the branches.

Do not gloss over this statement - it is vital to your understanding of divine life.

The branches cannot be functional without the vine, and the vine cannot be functional without the branches. Each is intertwined by nature with the other.

Our Lord was saying, "Apart from Me, severed from Me, cut off from Me, you can do nothing."

THE VINE NEEDS THE BRANCHES

And, I believe He was also saying this rather revolutionary concept: "Apart from you, I can do nothing in this world. I must have the branches to produce fruit."

A vine without branches can bear no fruit. No less indispensable than the vine to the branch is the branch to the vine.

Now that's not heresy - that's the way God willingly intended it!

Through the grace of Jesus, His people are dependent on Him, and He has made Himself dependent on them. Without His disciples He cannot dispense His blessing to the world; He cannot offer sinners the grapes of the heavenly Canaan.

In modern terms, we are HIS HANDS - and He has willingly limited Himself to function on this earth through us as His hands.

It is His own appointment; and this is the high honor to which He has called His redeemed ones. As indispensable as He is to us, that from Him our fruit may be found, so indispensable are we to Him on earth, that

through us His fruit may be produced and distributed to others.

EVERYTHING FLOWS TO THE BRANCHES

The vine does not gather from the soil its fatness and sweetness for itself. All it has is at the disposal of the branches.

And Jesus, to whom we owe our life, completely gives Himself for us and to us.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father"

(John 14:12).

All His fullness and all His riches are for you!

For the vine does not live for itself, keeps nothing for itself, but exists only for the branches.

All that Jesus is in heaven, He is...for us. He has no interests that are separate from ours - as our representative He stands before the Father.

ALL THE BRANCH HAS BELONGS TO THE VINE

The branch does not exist for itself, but to bear fruit that can proclaim the excellence of the vine. It has no reason for existence except to be of service to the vine.

Every power of your being, every moment of your life, every thought and feeling that you have belong to Jesus so that from Him and for Him you may bring forth precious fruit.

He realizes what the vine is to the branch, and what the branch is meant to be to the vine. You have but one thing to think of and to live for, and that is the will, the glory, the work, the kingdom of our blessed Lord, bringing forth of fruit to the glory of His name.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

The purpose of the vine of branches is a single perfect union to produce fruit - and fruit alone.

Do you see the incredible wonder of that?

Jesus is saying to you, "When You need Me when you are troubled, I am here, I am with you. I have given you My Holy Spirit to comfort you. I come to you uniting Myself to you so completely that you shall be part of Me, and I part of you; for you abide in Me, and I in you."

Once you understand the marvelous nature of the vine and branch relationship, then you focus on the primary purpose of the vine and the branch...to produce fruit!

In Ezekiel (Chapter 17, verses 5-10), we find a parable of the vine in which the prophet tells the men to whom he was talking that a vine has no value at all except that of bearing fruit. He tells them that the wood from the vine is no good for any purpose.

From the wood of a vine you cannot even make a decent toothpick!

WHO IS THE KEEPER OF THE VINEYARD?

Notice that our heavenly Father is the husbandman in charge of our vineyard. The branch is as much in the charge and keeping of the husbandman as the vine; His honor is as much concerned in the well-being and growth of the branch as the vine.

The God who chose Christ to be the vine fitted Him thoroughly for the work He had as vine to perform.

The God who has chosen you and planted you in Christ has engaged to secure you, if you will but let Him, by yielding yourself to Him so that in every way you will be part of Jesus Christ.

What a strong motive this is for the highest activity in the MAINTENANCE of a fruitful branch life.

You are God's workmanship, created to do good works, and our heavenly Father, the husbandman, is in charge of seeing to it that you are properly cared for so that you can be a productive branch, bearing much fruit.

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE VINE?

The teaching of Isaiah in the fifth chapter tells us that one of the fruits of the vine is righteousness.

"For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry" (Isaiah 5:7).

The fruit for which God looked from that nation for the world, not for self-consumption, was two-fold: righteousness and judgment.

"But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness" (Isaiah 5:16).

Jesus is the vine, and through Him we shall bear the fruit for which the world waits.

You are the branches, the recognition of the true purpose for which we are members of Christ, sharing His very nature, and His very life...that of fruit-bearing.

The vine parable is the figure of that perfect union. "I am the vine, everything. You are the branches, linked with Me. Severed we are useless, only fit for burning. But united, we are capable of bearing the very fruit the Father expects, and for which the world is waiting."

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

CHAPTER FOUR

VINE RELATIONSHIP PRAYER

Prayer is both one of the means and one of the fruits of divine life with Christ. Ours shall be the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous man, availing much.

Such prayer is the fruit of our abiding in Him, and the means of bringing forth much fruit. Our prayer ascends as His prayer because we will pray in accordance with the will of God.

With the abiding in Christ, our own will is kept down, and our thoughts and wishes are brought into captivity to the thoughts and wishes of Christ. His Holy Spirit breathes through our whole being; and without our being conscious as to how, our desires are molded into the complete conformity with the divine will, and are fulfilled.

Our prayers will seek only the glory of God.

If the name of Christ is to be wholly at your disposal, so that you may have the full command of it for all you pray according to His will, it must be because you first put yourself wholly at His disposal...so that He has free and full command of you - your heart, mind, and spirit!

As your soul abides in Christ and grows into the consciousness of its union with Him, and sees how entirely it is He who makes your petition acceptable, you dare to claim an answer because you know that you are one with Him. It was by faith you learned to abide in Him;

as the fruit of that faith, you rise to an even larger faith in all that God has promised to be and to do.

THE VINE GIVES YOU REST

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"
(Matthew 11:28).

When Jesus says to "Come unto me," I believe He is saying that we are to become His students by yielding ourselves to His training, submitting in all things to His will, letting our whole life be one with Him.

That's precisely what the vine/branch relationship means in the parable!

When you come to Jesus, and yield to Him as a branch in the vine, then you will receive the deeper abiding rest which comes from long acquaintance and closer fellowship, from an entire surrender.

THE SECRET TO PERFECT REST!

By giving up one's whole life to Him, for Him alone to rule and order, you begin to experience rest.

Take up His yoke, and submit to be led and taught, to learn of Him; abide in Him, be and do only what He wills - these are the CONDITIONS of discipleship that help you maintain the rest that was bestowed to us through the first coming of Christ.

The rest is not something He gives apart from Himself, and so it is only in having Him that the rest can really be kept and enjoyed.

Jesus claims the undivided allegiance of your whole heart and life. There is not a spot in the whole of your life over which He does not wish to reign. Even in the very least of things His disciples must only seek to please Him.

Give your work to Him, and rest as you receive His direction.

Give your family to Him, and rest as you watch Him bring your unsaved loved ones into a personal relationship with Him.

Give your finances to Him, and rest as you watch Him teach you His principles of abundance.

It becomes apparent that two KEY ELEMENTS are essential for living in divine life:

1. Give up all to Jesus
2. Receive all from Jesus.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONDITIONS OF THE PROMISE

Jesus laid down one simple condition in our vine relationship for us to follow: abide.

Every branch in any vine must abide.

Go and look at a vine. Get close to it. Listen. You cannot hear anything, but if you could, you would see in every branch movement, a movement of life pressing along, pressing along, towards the grapes.

Every branch is not only pressing upward, and growing off the main stem; every branch is dependent for sap (spiritually, the Holy Spirit), the life element for maintenance to carry it out, to carry it forward, and press it out into fruit bearing.

So Jesus said, "If you abide, you can demand, you can ask whatever you are inclined to" - a most amazing thing.

But the condition is that we abide.

If we abide there, it is His life in us, to press out to that fruit that God expects, and for which the world is waiting.

What is it to abide?

Abiding needs no effort.

Effort is made to arrive at a point, not to stay there.

Take the illustration of a congregation abiding in the church. They are making no effort to abide; but presently, when the service is over, they will make an effort to go out of the church.

To abide requires no effort.

It is being at rest.

Abiding does not mean that we necessarily are always conscious of our position in the upper reaches of

our consciousness. A congregation is not saying during the whole time of the service, "I am in church."

But they know they are there.

Much like a husband knows his wife is there in a relationship. We abide by obedience to the light we have, and walk in the way of His commandments as we know them; that is abiding.

And then there is the asking.

If we are branches in the vine, that means all redemptive forces that the world needs are in Him, and are the result of His coming. Those resources are all at the world's disposal through those who are branches in the vine.

In that relationship, anything we ask, God will do. The secret here is that you abide in God, and that He abides in you. Sap comes from the vine and branches and you are strengthened and they produce fruit.

If you are not on the vine, then you get cut off, and start to dry up. And remember, the dry wood is not fit for anything but to be destroyed.

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

The only way God can use you is if you are in the vine, and have HIS power and anointing - then you can produce fruit. If you are not in the vine, He cannot help you.

And unless you are connected with vine, He cannot do anything either, since He has voluntarily agreed to let you become His instrument for producing fruit on this earth.

That is a powerful statement.

God is helpless without us - by His own plan!

You must be connected to the vine to be productive.

The vine must have branches to produce.

It works both ways!

You produce the fruit, but without Jesus Christ (the vine) you cannot produce.

FELLOWSHIP IS VITAL!

You can now see why it is so vital that you have fellowship with God. If your relationship is broken, start immediately to take the steps necessary to restore it.

Connect to the vine so you can produce. He does not want to throw you out.

Repent.

Come back to Him.

Say this simple prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I repent of my sins, and desire to restore my relationship with You. Lord, forgive me of all of my sins, and wash me clean with Your precious blood. Lord, I want to learn to rest in You and walk in Your divine life. Please accept my contrite heart, and teach me Your ways. Amen."

CHAPTER SIX

DIVINE LIFE, PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The answer to each and every prayer you lift up to heaven will come from the closer union and the deeper abiding in Him.

As you abide in Jesus, His love, His power, His infinite glory will be fully revealed - beyond anything the finite heart of man can conceive.

God will give you knowledge deeper than human thoughts or spoken words can convey; you will receive the miraculous knowing of God which comes from living in divine life with Him.

DIVINE LIFE ANSWERS LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS

There are a thousand questions and decisions that come into your life, and the attempts to answer them all in some sort of accurate manner become a very difficult and draining process.

But it no longer has to be that way.

The burden comes from forgetting who you are in Christ - in forgetting the God who has designed you to function in His wisdom.

Let me give a practical example of how walking in divine life can have a worldwide impact on your activity, and how it enables you to flow in God's perfect plan...a plan that you or I could never devise for ourselves!

In 1951, I was completing the building of a twenty-acre shopping center - a project that had occupied a great deal of my time over the previous several years.

To celebrate the grand opening, about ten thousand people were coming to the center...including many famous actors and actresses who were representing the various huge tenants of our center. Leo

Carillo, the famous Mexican actor who played the Cisco Kid and many other roles, was among the honored guests.

I was looking forward to meeting all these people. During times like this, I found it a great opportunity to witness to others about the love and power of God, and how He was moving in my own life. No words could adequately explain how I was looking forward to this big Saturday grand opening.

The day of the grand opening, a couple of men who helped start our Fellowship came up to me and said, "Demos, you need to come with us to North Long Beach. They are having a real man of God at Tommy Reed's church, and you need to hear him. We believe he has a part in your life."

"When is he speaking?" I asked.

"Tonight."

"Oh, I can't leave tonight," I told them, "we are having our big grand opening celebration for the shopping center. I've got to be here."

The two men were not insistent, but they did say, "Well, we just wanted you to know about this man. We feel in our spirits He is going to play a major part in your life, and in the life of the Fellowship."

They were so confident about what they were saying that I assured them "I will pray about it."

And I did, knowing full well in my man's mind that there was no way God would tell me to miss the grand opening of my shopping center just to go hear another man speak. I could hear the man another day, but this would be the one day in my lifetime that I would have a grand opening for my own shopping center development.

At the time, all I could think of was "I have worked so hard for many years trying to build this shopping center. Now, Saturday is time to enjoy the fruits of my work. Never again in my life would I ever have a time when 10,000 business leaders and celebrities will gather at a spot I had created."

Yet, these two men were telling me I should "pray about" being willing to leave all of that to hear a man of God.

So I prayed.

And much to my shock, God said "Go!"

In retrospect, this simple directive proved to be one of the most important instructions I was ever to receive from God. Had I not been walking in close relationship with God, my "old man" could have simply brushed off the prayer's answer by saying, "Oh, that really couldn't have been God," and gone to the grand opening, rationalizing that surely God would not want me to miss the fruits of my long-time labor.

But the marvelous thing about the divine life experience is that we know His voice, and we know that God ALWAYS knows better, ALWAYS knows the future, and if He says "Go", you go.

So, I went.

And what I experienced that night at that prayer meeting literally changed the course of my life, and the course of the Fellowship.

The man I was to meet that day in a packed out church in North Long Beach was Tommy Hicks, a little man, not much to look at. But when he hugged me on the platform, I witnessed a powerful man of God, feeling in my spirit the strong anointing God had placed on his life.

At that moment, I knew I was dealing with a man of God.

As a result of hearing Tommy that night, I arranged to personally sponsor him in several revival tent meetings. I was already holding the meetings, but now we started to involve Tommy Hicks as the minister and preacher.

Over the years, Tommy Hicks was used by God to greatly encourage me in times when God knew that was precisely what I needed.

In 1952, he was staying at our home during a period of time when I was discouraged, tired, and ready to give up the vision of FGBMFI. My son, Richard, was

away in Bible college, so Tommy was staying in Richard's room.

On Friday night, we went into prayer. I was so discouraged about the lack of growth in the Fellowship that I was honestly thinking about canceling the meeting on Saturday.

After our prayer, Rose went into her bedroom, and Tommy went into his. In my spirit, I felt the need to continue seeking God, so I fell on the floor in prayer and wept for the next two hours.

Then Rose came back into the room, and without saying anything, she walked over to the organ and began to play some worship music.

And the heavens opened up!

The Spirit of God poured out.

I felt the anointing of God's Holy Spirit.

Before Rose came into the room, it seemed as though my prayers were going up to the ceiling, hitting it, and then bouncing right back to me.

Now, it seemed like the ceiling turned into a vacuum, and the prayers were being sucked straight to heaven! It was as though the roof opened up and voraciously swallowed every prayer I prayed.

That is the night God showed me the historic vision that I have often written about. He took me around the world twice. Rose began to prophesy. She declared the things that God intended for the Fellowship. What made this experience so remarkable to me is that just hours before Rose was the one telling me that FGBMFI must not be of God because it was not prospering in the manner we both had envisioned.

Yet now, through her obedience to God (and her own divine life), God is telling me, encouraging me to continue. Her true feelings are that the Fellowship should be abandoned because it was struggling so much, but now, as she yielded to the Holy Spirit, she is telling me what God wants me to know.

This was not Rose speaking.

She poured out a great torrent of prophecy.

"For this reason you were born.

"I knew you before you were born, and for this you were born. Continue. Look not to the right or the left. Continue. I am leading you by your hands. You are in the center of My will. I am guiding you."

When she finished describing the vision that I saw, I was amazed. God had shown me clearly what I was to do.

By now, it was about six in the morning, so I thought I would go to rest in my room for about an hour before we left to go to Clifton's Cafeteria. As I walked by Tommy's door, I noticed a small crack of about an inch underneath the door, and a light coming out. I knocked on the door, and Tommy said "Come in."

He was slain on the floor.

He told me, "Demos, I have been in so many wonderful meetings where the power of God has poured out, but tonight, through this wall, there was so much power coming through I could not stand up. I'd get up, and the power of God would hit me down. The Lord was speaking to me, and I had a vision that I am supposed to go to Argentina and meet with Dictator Peron."

About seven in the morning we left the house to go to our breakfast Fellowship meeting, and oh, how God blessed that morning! The Fellowship broke wide open in a mighty revival and started to explode, growing unlike anything ever seen before.

Today, we have almost 4,000 chapters in 112 countries, and continue to grow by the power of God.

DIVINE LIFE AND THE LITTLE THINGS

The reason I shared this story with you is because sometimes, when we do not walk the divine life, the little things can divert and drastically change the God-given course for our lives.

If I had not gone to meet Tommy the day of the shopping center opening, I would have personally lost a great encourager for my own life.

If I had not gone, I would have lost a mighty minister and preacher for our tent meetings.

And, if I had not gone, Tommy would not have been in my house to experience the power of God that night - a night when God gave him the very specific direction to go to Argentina.

And what God did in Argentina is a miracle of nation-changing proportions!

PERON MEETS THE LITTLE MAN

Tom went to Argentina.

He went to see Peron, and the secretary who met him at the presidential door stood about six foot or so, a tall man; you had to be cleared through him to see Peron.

"Why do you want to see Peron?" he scowled.

"I want permission to hold a miracle meeting," Tommy replied. "I want to hold a meeting where there will be signs and wonders that testify to the miracle God that I serve. God told me to come here and see Peron."

Peron's secretary was not impressed.

"You can't see him," he gruffly replied, then walked away. Tommy noticed that as he walked he had a bad limp, as though there was a bad pain in his leg.

"Sir, come back here," Tommy said. "What is the matter with your foot?"

"I was born with this infection, a problem with my foot. It's been painful all my life. No doctor has been able to cure me," the man replied, warming up a bit.

Even with a room full of people in the office, Tommy said, "If you let me pray for you, my Lord can heal that foot of yours."

The man seemed startled by the statement, but he did not resist; he just shook his head to indicate "Yes."

Tommy got on his knees, in front of the whole room full of people, and wrapped his tiny arms around the foot.

"Lord, please heal this foot," he prayed.

When the prayer was completed, the guard walked away, maybe six or seven steps, and while he walked he kept pounding his foot on the floor.

"I don't understand it," he said. "I have no pain. It is gone," the big man declared. "Sir, you come back in twenty-four hours. If the pain does not return by then, you can see Peron."

Tommy saw Peron.

Dr. Miller, who had a Bible school in Buenos Aires, and helped Tommy in Argentina, knew about this incident. Many years later, I read in Dr. Miller's book how young students in his Bible college saw visions that there was going to be a great revival in Argentina, a pouring out of God's Holy Spirit. These students were slain in the Spirit as they experienced their visions, and these experiences went on for many days.

As I read this book, I decided to locate and call Dr. Miller. I tracked him down in Atlanta, Georgia.

"When are you coming to California?" I asked him. "I'd like to spend a day with you."

We set up a time.

The day we were together Dr. Miller told me about the vision of the great revival coming. We compared times and days, and his students were having visions at the same time Tommy was receiving his visions from God while staying in our home!

Dr. Miller knew the story about Peron's secretary, but he also knew another story I had not heard.

Peron had a face much like an elephant's skin, marred by infections. It was very thick, and it was so bad that he would not allow pictures to be taken. There was no known cure.

"Mr. President, I want to hold a miracle meeting in your country, and I need the largest stadium you have in Argentina. I want to hold a healing miracle meeting. God told me to come here. He wants to do great miracles for your people right here."

Peron was equally straight in his reply.

"Could your God do anything for my face?"

"If you let me pray for you," Tommy boldly asserted. "Yes, my God can heal you."

Right before every person in the room, Tommy started to pray, laying hands on Peron's face. Before their eyes, the elephant skin started to disappear! Peron put his hands on his face, and said, "It feels like baby skin."

Governor Gonzalez (who relayed the happenings of that day to Dr. Miller) replied, "That's right, you are clean. Absolutely normal. Like a baby."

Peron looked in the mirror and started crying as he rubbed his face.

"What do you want?"

"I want the soccer stadium," Tommy replied.

"You can have it," Peron immediately responded.

"What else do you want?"

"Television and radio."

"You have it. What else?"

Everything Tom asked for, he got.

When God wants a revival, he will bring the man to open the door, and will do it through signs, wonders and miracles. Right there. Tom went and had one of the greatest revivals ever known in the world.

Over 100,000 a night came to the Lord!

In the next sixty days, six million people came to the meetings!

The whole nation was shocked to the very foundation! Many major magazines wrote about the miracle God and the power of His healing that was sweeping the country.

This was one of the greatest revivals in history.

And the threads that made that possible, that started the chain of events leading up to it, started with a "Yes, Lord, I'll go to that meeting and give up the grand opening."

That statement and obedience would never have been possible in the natural man.

But God knew what I needed.

What the Fellowship needed.

And what Argentina needed.

"Nothing is impossible with God, Demos, let's just get the job done," Tommy used to tell me. "We must keep serving God."

And that is why I am writing this book.

To help you serve God.

Let it be your first care to abide in Him in the undivided and fervent devotion of your heart. When your heart and life are right, rooted in Christ, divine knowledge will come in bountiful measure.

Christ's own wisdom will guide your every decision!

Possess Christ, dwell in Him, make Him your life. Only in a deeper searching into Him will you find the knowledge and guidance you desire. He alone can guide you to know what is your destiny as an obedient child of God.

He will help you, and stop those things which might hinder your inner life. All things are perfectly clear to Him, and He is your wisdom, there to guide you in the right way, even when you do not see it.

Remember who He is!

Jesus is the Son of God!

Your vine!

Your Shepherd!

Christ!

Sometimes we as Christians might get calloused and do things we should not do. But God wants to restore us now. Get back to God.

Make sure you are cleaned up. Remove the temptations from your life that might lead you to sin.

Get cleaned up. Then become one with Him in the Spirit.

Peron's face got cleaned up in an instant, and so can you, with God's forgiveness.

Then, through the life-blood of the Holy Spirit, Who is the living sap that nourishes the vine and the branches, you can live in a healthy relationship with God.

Remember, the vine is your life, living right through you. Start living in the life flow, the same divine life that flowed through Tommy Hicks.

That same LIFE flow that is still flowing through the Fellowship.

GOD KNEW THEY WERE COMING

Let me share with you another story to illustrate how God can use us in our relationship in the vine.

My son, Richard, in his early years, often would lead the youth group at our conventions. One day, as he was preparing for the next day's meeting, the Lord lead him to research scripture and write down all the proofs of why Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ.

He dug them out from the Old Testament prophets, and then went to his youth meeting to present them.

At the time, he wondered, "Why am I doing this? This is a very strange direction for a youth meeting to go."

But, unknown to Richard, in his youth meeting on that particular day were a delegation of Jewish young people staying at the hotel who had come into our youth meeting - out of curiosity. There were about twenty to thirty Jewish youth, and they were sprinkled with a liberal dose of Old Testament scripture proving why Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled the prophets.

Richard told me several years later that the youth meeting he held then was the only time he had ever been so led to do research on the topic of Jesus as Messiah.

Do you see what God intends for you?

**HIS GUIDING OF YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE,
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, REVEALS WHAT GOD
HAS PREPARED FOR US...EVEN WITHOUT YOU
ALWAYS KNOWING HOW OR WHY SOMETHING IS TO
BE DONE!**

On the strength of His faithfulness, we yield ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit, without claiming to have it first made clear to the intellect what He

is to do. We learn to be content to let Him do His work in our lives, and afterwards, to know what He has done.

By faith we rejoice in what we do not see or feel.

LET THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD

Our walk in the divine life is the work of the Holy Spirit!

God uses our divine life relationship to foster, strengthen, guide and perfect the new life within.

We yield ourselves in simple trust to the unseen.

The Holy Spirit is the BOND OF FELLOWSHIP between Christ and us; He is the LIFE-SAP through which the Vine and branch grow into real and living oneness.

Through the Holy Spirit you and God become one.

He teaches you to abide in places you do not yet understand. It is impossible to live the life of full abiding without being full of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit makes the living Christ, in all His saving power, and in the completeness of His victory over sin, ever present with us.

CHAPTER SEVEN

IS DIVINE LIFE REALLY POSSIBLE ALL THE TIME?

Is a life of unbroken fellowship with the Son of God really attainable here in this earthly life, with all of its distractions, temptations, and burdens?

No.

Not if the abiding is in our work, attempted in our strength.

But the things that are impossible with men are possible with God!

If the Lord Himself will keep our soul night and day, will watch and water it every moment as our husbandman (the keeper of the vine), then surely the uninterrupted communion with Jesus can become a miracle reality to those who can trust God to mean and to do what He says.

The abiding of the branch in the vine, day and night, winter and summer, in a never-ceasing divine life fellowship is nothing less than the simple but certain promise of your abiding in our Lord.

You just need that willing, intelligent, and whole-hearted surrender by which you accept His offer, and consent to the abiding in Him as the only life we choose or seek - no matter what business cares you have, no matter what your financial situation is, you make the decision to trust and rest in Him.

BUT ALL THE TIME?

But how can we always abide in Him?

Surely our limited power prevents us from being occupied with two things at the same time. When you are running your business, for hours at a time, the closest

attention is required to the work that you do. How can you, with your mind on your work, at the same time be occupied with Christ and keeping your fellowship with Him?

You cannot.

But abiding in Jesus does not require a strain and a direct occupation of your mind to heavenly thoughts. There is no necessity for that. Abiding does not mean an every moment reflection.

Instead, abiding is when you entrust yourself to His eternal love in the faith that He will abide with His holy presence and watch over you, even when you are intently occupied with other things.

For example, a man loves his wife and children, and always longs to return to them after intense hours of work in his business. Even though he is not thinking of them every moment when he is at work, his love for them is as deep and as real as when he is home with them face to face. The husband and father never really loses the sense of relationship with his wife and children, even though the consciousness is engaged in a pressing project back at the office.

Our abiding in Jesus is a fellowship of love and life. In work or in rest, the consciousness of life never leaves us. Christ, who is our life, dwells within us, and by His presence maintains our consciousness so that we are constantly in Him.

WHAT ABOUT OUR SINS?

We all know that sin separates us from God, so how can we walk in the divine life when we have a sinful nature?

Too many people assume that we must ALL be sometimes unfaithful and fail.

But abiding in Christ has been ordained for us as our only sufficient deliverance. He told us to abide in Him, and He will give us grace and power to enable us to perform it!

Yes, there will be times of weary struggle and bitter failure.

But we can overcome.

There may come more than one hour in which you are ready to yield to despair or sin. Be of good courage. Believe in Him who is part of you. Think no longer that the duties and the cares and the sorrows and the sins of this life must succeed in hindering the abiding life of fellowship.

Become persuaded that neither death with its fears, nor life with its care, nor things present with their pressing claims, nor things to come with their dark shadows, nor height of joy, nor depth of sorrow, nor any other creature, shall be able, for one single moment, to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and in which He is teaching you to abide.

Do not think of the long haul, but rather abide in Him one day at a time, at this moment.

ALLOW TIME TO GROW

The truths in this book need time to grow in your spirit. Do not expect to abide in Him unless you give Him time. It is not enough to read God's Word, and when you think you have hold of the thoughts, and have asked God for His blessing, to go out in the hope that the blessing will abide.

You need day-by-day time with Jesus and with God. We all know the need of time for our meals each day. If we are to live through Jesus, we must feed on Him; we must thoroughly take in and assimilate the heavenly food the Father has given us in His life.

Learn to take time, each day, to put yourself into living contact with the living Jesus, to yield yourself distinctly and consciously to His influence; so will you give Him the opportunity of taking hold of you, of drawing you up and keeping you safe in His almighty life.

STUDY HIS WORD

Study to know the living Word. Jesus, the wisdom of God, is known by a life of implicit confidence and obedience. The words He speaks are spirit and life to those who live in Him. Each time you read, or hear, or meditate upon the Word, be careful to take up your true position.

Realize first your oneness with Him who is the wisdom of God.

Know yourself to be under His direct and special training.

Go to the Word abiding in Him, the very fountain of divine life.

Learn this day the lesson that there is a spot where safety and victory, where peace and rest are always sure, and that spot is always open to you - the heart of Jesus. The soul has but to yield itself to Him, to be still and rest in the confidence that His love has undertaken, and that His faithfulness will perform the work of keeping it safe in the shelter of His heart.

Remember, all you wish to know is perfectly clear to Him.

Say this prayer.

"Lord, I abide in You. At Your bidding I gladly wear Your yoke. Let each consciousness of failure only give new urgency to the command, and teach me to listen more earnestly than ever until the Holy Spirit again gives me to hear the voice of Jesus saying, with a love and authority that inspire both hope and obedience, 'Child, abide in me.'

"Lord, I receive Your divine life, and gladly accept the ever-increasing simplicity of its meaning. Lord, I freely give of myself to be ruled and taught and led, and rest in the arms of Your everlasting love."

Remember, you do not have to be strong or perfect to abide in Christ. Divine life is designed by God for man, and He knows our faults and failings. Divine life is not the doing of some great thing, and does not

demand that we first lead a very holy, devoted, and absolutely consecrated life.

It is simply our own weakness entrusting ourselves to a Mighty One. To cast our cares on the One who is altogether trustworthy and true.

We consent to let Him do all for us, and in us, and through us.

Divine life is a work He does for us, the fruit and the power of His redeeming love.

Our part is simply to yield, to trust, and to wait for what He has engaged to perform.

His almighty power lays hold on you, and offers to lift you up to where He would have you. Just as it requires no effort for a little child to rest in his mother's arms, so easy is our chance to rest in God. You may think you are too weak, too unfaithful, too sinful, or too busy to ever obtain the walk in divine life.

Fix your eyes on Christ.

"In Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not" (1 John 3:5-6).

Our holiness of life is rooted in the personal holiness of Jesus. Having a sinful nature (we all have that) is different from DOING sin. Doing is the yielding to the indwelling sinful nature, and falling into actual transgression.

When you abide in Christ He becomes close and unbroken, so that the soul lives from moment to moment in the perfect union with the Lord, its keeper, He forces down the power of the old nature, so that it does not regain dominion over the soul.

With many of us, the abiding is so feeble and intermittent that sin continually obtains the ascendancy, and brings the soul into subjection.

The divine life promise is that sin will not have dominion over you!

The believer who claims the promise in full faith has the power to obey the command, and sin is kept from asserting its supremacy. Jesus does save you from sin,

not by the removal of the sinful nature, but by keeping you from yielding to it.

Now, does that mean you will never sin again?

It could.

But you get into serious trouble when you start saying, "To walk in the divine life, I must never ever sin again as long as I live."

Instead, ask yourself this question: "Can Jesus, at this present moment, as I abide in Him, keep me from the sins which have been the stain and the weariness of my daily life?"

Surely He can.

Take Him at this present moment.

Yield yourself to Him in earnest prayer to keep abiding.

If you fall, let your failure and sin, instead of discouraging you, only urge you still more to seek your safety in abiding in the sinless One.

Turn your eyes on Jesus, and ask whether you can trust Him who sought and found and brought you to Him.

Look on His arms of strength and power and be assured that He is indeed able to keep you from falling as you abide in Him.

Take time to be alone with Jesus, and say to Him, "Lord I love You. I yield this very day to you. I surrender to You. I give myself to You."

Jesus is the living vine in heaven, and you are the living branch on earth. Praise God for the miracle that allows us to be a living part of Jesus Christ each day!

Jesus is the loving guide to full communion with God. He is the True Vine bearing you, nourishing you, supplying you, using you, filling you to the full measure to make you bring forth fruit abundantly.

You are a branch of Jesus, the True Vine, abiding in Him, resting on Him, waiting for Him, serving Him, and living only in Him...so that He may show forth the riches of His grace, and give His fruit to a perishing world.

Jesus Christ is God, and He is giving us the opportunity to be as much a part of Him as the vine is part of the branches!

Are you excited?

You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works: grafted by Him into Christ for the bringing forth of much fruit.

Whatever God creates is exquisitely suited to its end. He created the sun to give light - and nothing in the universe does it better!

He created the eye to see - and it dutifully records the thousands of hues and shades that nature produces.

He created you in the new man to do good works and produce fruit - and how admirably you are fitted for His purpose.

As you grasp the FULL REALITY of walking in His divine life, I believe each day you will shout with joy the words of Psalm 150:1-2:

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

"Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness."

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another"

(Galatians 5: 22-26).

CHAPTER EIGHT

PRODUCING FRUIT IN THE DIVINE LIFE RELATIONSHIP

The ultimate objective of the divine life relationship is to produce fruit. A fruitless branch never serves the purpose of the vine.

You and I are chosen and ordained to bring forth fruit.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:" (John 15:16).

As we live in Christ, and the Holy Spirit flows through us, the fruit we produce will necessarily reflect those things that mirror the nature of Jesus Christ - His divine character will manifest itself in our lives.

The fruit of our lives will be love, joy, peace, faith, etc., because the Spirit will be in all of our actions since

we have freely given Him total access and control over our free will. His own personal characteristics will appear as fruit in our lives.

To abide in Him is to abide in His Word, His will, and His work, so that God works in us to do of His good pleasure and produce good fruit. It is to the honor of the husbandman that the branch brings forth abundant fruit.

Our fruit will be precisely the opposite of those things which were part of our "old man." We will no longer walk in fleshly influences, but in the power of His Spirit - our divine helper who enables us to walk in the Spirit of truth, of grace, of love, and of power.

Remember, our testimony would be fruitless without Him!

The fruits produced from our divine life include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5: 22-23).

You and I will become powerful witnesses for Christ because people will see the fruit of our lives! Because we ourselves are in a Christ-like relationship, we will produce Christ-like relationships with others.

Jesus Christ is the vine brought down from heaven and planted in the earth. He was true to God, and true to His own nature. Now, He is true to those who are divinely connected to Him as branches, and the fruit you and I produce is the perfect result of that vine/branch relationship.

The nature of the vine to the branch is to always keep a life-flow going that leads to the production of fruit. Therefore, Christ as our vine is actually involving us in a relationship where His nature is always producing more fruit through our divine life.

Naturally, the branch cannot produce fruit by itself - it must be part of the vine.

We are the true disciples of Christ when His character manifests itself in our lives. Because we give Him free access to our hearts, and full control of them, His own personal characteristics will appear in the fruit of our lives. Fruit is the natural result of being a part of the

vine. By an adherence to the mind and will of our Lord, and by the bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit, we are declaring ourselves to be walking in His divine life. Much fruit means much love, much joy, much peace, etc. In this miraculous divine life relationship, we can walk through the gloomy shadows of a sinful world with the fruits of life, peace, and eternal glory in our souls!

The Fellowship was born as part of that process, and has touched the lives of millions of people in over one hundred nations of the world. Today, God wants you to have that same divine life relationship so He can direct you on how to produce fruit for His ultimate purpose.

DIVINE LIFE PRODUCES FRUIT

Faith is one of the first fruits you will produce in a divine life relationship with Jesus Christ. Faith is that amazing gift from God which allows us to "know" that in every circumstance God's grace will prevail. Faith gives each of us that deep sense of inner victory because we know that God's promises will always be faithful.

Testing and trials cease to become trauma's, but opportunities to prove the promises of God. Faith enables us to trust in God when those around us are clutching desperately to their jobs, their career training, their own efforts, or their "connections" in the world.

Because of faith, we can endure the "pruning process" in Christian life.

Just like the keeper of an earthly vine, sometimes Christ must cut away the various shoots from your branches that are not tending towards fruitfulness. When you walk in the faith of His promises, you know your life is dedicated to His service, and understand that sometimes your desires and efforts must be nipped off and thrown away as hindrances so His complete will can be done in your life.

The divine life is kept pure by faith.

"And put no difference, between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:9).

One of the most recent and powerful examples I can think of to demonstrate how God manifested the fruit of faith in my own life concerns our recent, major breakthroughs in Armenia.

THE ARMENIAN MIRACLE

For a long time, I have had a deep burden for the souls of my own Armenian people. That burden increased after they experienced the horrors of the Turkish massacre, and more recently, after the devastation of the major earthquake of 1989.

I cried out, "My God, when are You going to help the Armenian people? I want to help them. What is our place (the role of the Fellowship) in this?"

Not long after that humble prayer, I was visited by the Russian head of all the Pentecostal churches in the Soviet Union. He said, "Demos, you must come to Russia. They are calling for you. They have read your book, *The Happiest People on Earth*, and you are an inspiration to them. Would you please pray about coming?"

Soon after that visit, the Armenian Bishop came to see me, and he said, "Demos, please come to Armenia. The people are calling for you. It would mean a great deal to them if you would journey to Armenia."

These visits from spiritual leaders both happened within a few months. I was amazed at their ardent desire for me to come to Armenia, but was also hesitant. Rose and I were both concerned about the rigorous travel schedule of a demanding trip to Armenia, so we prayed about what to do.

We had only the deepest faith that God would provide just the perfect solution to this miracle opportunity.

Then came an important official of the Armenian government, the head of all communications, and he said, "Demos, if you come to Armenia, I will see to it that you receive free TV, radio, and our largest sports arena. Just come."

After this third visit, it was very clear that God was calling the Fellowship to Armenia...so I prayed again, asking the Holy Spirit what to do.

The Holy Spirit then gave me the solution...and led me to ask Richard, my son, "Will you go in my place?"

After praying about it, he said he would go.

Before Richard left, I prayed this simple prayer over him: "Father, You know I can't go right now, so would You do for Richard what You would have done for me? Thank You, dear Father. Amen."

Richard organized the airlift without any outside support, and God blessed that effort. We have heard from Armenia that this was one of the greatest Christian meetings ever held there. With government help, Richard appeared on national TV, and got the Central Committee Communist Press to print 20,000 copies of the Gospel of St. John in their own language - the first time they have ever printed Christian literature!

What an awesome move of God.

The great Sports Arena they gave us held 15,000, and it was so full that they had an overflow crowd of about 4,000. Armenian people are not easily moved, yet they turned out in record numbers to hear the Gospel, and 10,000 men dedicated their lives to take the full gospel message to all of Russia and to start Full Gospel Chapters throughout the country.

From this miraculous outreach, the first FGBMFI chapter was established in Armenia, and I believe, through the grace of God, we will see 4,000 more chapters in Russia before Jesus comes!

Miracles from God happened, and numerous healings took place as the mute spoke and the crippled walked. The entire nation was deeply moved, and begged us to come back again.

God answered my prayers for the Armenian people far beyond anything I could ask or think, and in a way that could give no man the glory.

Only God could do it.

What happened was supernatural.

FRUITS ARE A NATURAL FLOW

I believe our Armenian outreach is a perfect example of the fruits of walking in a divine life relationship - a relationship where the desire and the intent of our heart is only to serve and glorify God.

The fruits of the Spirit manifested themselves naturally in this entire outreach to Armenia, just as the vine and the branch in nature produce fruit when they are functioning as they were designed.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the fruit of the Spirit.

In every Christian life the whole fruit of the Spirit should be found (Galatians 5:22-23).

In our Armenian outreach, God gave me the faith (a fruit) to know His promise for the Armenian people would be fulfilled, and He gave me the faith to believe that He would minister to them whether I personally went to Armenia or not. I "knew" it was God's time for Armenia, and I also "knew" by faith that I was not necessarily the instrument God would use to reach my precious country in this particular hour.

In an earlier chapter of this book, I shared with you how I "knew" that I must skip my shopping center grand opening to go and hear the man of God. In the case of our Armenian outreach, I "knew" God would use another man to reach Armenia, even if the bishops and government leaders were calling for me to come.

I honestly believe God sent Richard Shakarian in my place so ALL the glory would go to God for the miracles that unfolded, and no one would look to man and say, "Isn't this man of God wonderful?" By sending Richard, I believe God enabled the Armenian people to focus their eyes more clearly on the message than on the man.

Next, God gave me the thrill of seeing my son, Richard, the answer to my prayer without personal glory (one of the fruits of the Spirit is that we are not "desirous of vain glory").

In ministry, there can be no room for inflated egos or false spiritual pride. Self-will, self-wisdom, and every other form of self-assertiveness is an usurping of the Holy Spirit. If you want the help of the Holy Spirit in your ministry for Christ, you cannot speak from your own authority. Speak only those things you hear from Him, and then He can properly guide your steps.

Thankfully, when we walk in a divine life relationship, our loving Heavenly Father gently prunes away the dead and useless branches of the "old man" so that only the fruit of His Spirit can remain. The old man must completely die, just as, in nature, when a fruit dies, its seed can then produce new fruit. The seeds we need to sow are our own, old flesh, buried at the cross of Jesus. Through that process, we bring forth new life and new fruit - multiplied far beyond that single piece of fruit that died.

Finally, in our Armenian ministry, because Richard diligently seeks the divine life, he was able to "walk in the Spirit" (a fruit) during the entire Armenian outreach. As a result, touching miracles happened, and thousands dedicated their lives to Jesus.

DIVINE LIFE, DAILY GROWTH

When you are in living relationship, you must grow...or die. There is no in between. A vine that is not in the growing process will die.

There is no retirement when you flow in divine life. He intends for you to experience a fruitful life until you go to be with Him in heaven.

"They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;" (Psalm 92:14).

Isn't that exciting? That's why I'll never retire - because God's Word guarantees I will produce fruit in my old age.

You do not have to retire when you serve God!

He intends for you to grow and produce fruit all of your life. One of the keys to this daily growth involves another fruit of the Spirit, found in Romans 12:10:

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

Mutual love and devotion are extremely important fruits for a productive body of Christ. Notice how the fruits go against the natural grain of man. In the natural, man will always prefer himself over others. But, in our divine life relationship, God gives us the fruit to prefer others to ourselves!

The fruit we produce is Christ-like; we become mirrors of what Christ was when He walked the earth. We will become like Him not because of our own strength, but because we live in a divine life relationship where His love flows through us.

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Colossians 1:10).

The fruit of a divine life relationship is first of all YOU. YOUR TOTAL LIFE, AND HOW YOU LIVE IT, IS THE FRUIT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP.

The other fruits from our divine life relationship are those things we do - our actions and good works that bring others into the kingdom of God.

The Jews traditionally offered the "first fruits" of their work in the fields to the Lord; these offerings were at the biblical root of what we now call the tithes and offerings.

Today, we offer to God the spiritual fruit that is manifested in our divine life relationship. Our outreaches to our neighbor, our fellow workers, or to Armenia bring pleasure and joy to God, and produce spiritual fruit in the form of saved souls.

Christ expected that others would believe on His Name through us, that lost sheep not of His fold would

hear His voice through our mouths, and be brought into the one flock under the one Shepherd.

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

Start today to let your light shine - that light which He hath shined into your heart - that others, seeing the good works (the fruit) of God in you, may glorify your Father. Remember, God has blessed you so that you might be a blessing to others.

I pray this book has moved and inspired you to seek fervently for yourself the reality of the divine life. Each day, I pray you will ask God to increase your relationship with Him, so that the fruit you produce will bring others into eternal life. As you produce this eternal fruit, you will begin to lead the exciting reality foretold in Psalms:

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

Do you see the impact of this promise? God says that virtually every single thing you do in life shall prosper.

How can He make such a promise?

God knows that when you are in the divine life, every single thing you do will be in His will and for His purpose, so it must prosper! You will love all that He loves and hate all that He hates. You will live in a deep heart sympathy with Him in His desire to honor the Father, and at the same time to love, and seek to save, the sinful sons of men.

May God quicken to your heart the truth contained in these pages, and may the Holy Spirit encourage and strengthen you to seek and live in the divine life every remaining moment of your life until Jesus comes!

Remember, it is not your head understanding of divine life which will bring about the reality of living it each

day. You can be wise and scholarly and enthusiastic, yet destitute of that deep joy and satisfaction that comes through the manifestation of divine life.

Knowledge and enthusiasm are not enough to experience divine life.

It is LOVE, not knowledge, that creates capacity for Christ. Intense loving is more pleasing to Him than deep thinking. He who loves the Lord with all his heart will live in the continual divine life of His comforting presence and matchless glory.

The condition is love.

Christ commanded us to love, and love is the bond that holds His people one to another in the midst of the hatred and opposition of this world. Love is a fruit of the Spirit, and produces peace in our lives. Not to love one another is an act of rebellion against the rule of Christ.

And the proof of love is in the keeping of His words, and the fruits of your life. The love of God can only be perfected in that heart where love answers to love. It is impossible to keep His words and to grow under His teaching, as He desires we should, unless there is in us a growing love and devotion to Christ's person and work.

I pray you will be diligent to keep your heart right with God, so He can manifest Himself in your life in all power, blessing, and success!

All things are yours, because you are part of the vine of Christ. He who had power to rise from the dead has the power to perform His every promise in your life. In the dark and cloudy day we call the endtime hour, the relative value of other lights may be disputed, but when the Son breaks out in all His glorious majesty, there is no questioning His all-sufficiency to meet His every promise!

The words of God have been given us as they were given to Jesus Christ, His Son, for a very definite and gracious purpose, that God might be glorified in faithful, fruitful, and successful service.

The privilege of divine life is a precious gift!

As He is, so are we!

As God gave Christ the glory of Sonship and heirship, so too He has given this glory to us who believe. The purpose of this manifold divine life is so that we can produce fruit and be witnesses to the world! His nature, which is love, will be continually manifested in us. As you end this book, lift up your hands and begin to thank Him for the depth, the fullness, and the eternity of His divine love for your life.

I would ask that you fervently pray this simple petition to the Heavenly Father as you close this book and open your heart to the divine life Christ is offering to you right now:

"Heavenly Father, this day I ask You to destroy any evidence or remaining remnant of the old man in my life. Purify me and cleanse me of all my old habits and sinful ways, so that I may be a pure branch for Your love to flow through to produce fruit for Your glory.

"Lord, I thank You for the opportunity to walk in a vine/branch relationship that produces divine life, and give You all the praise and glory for any good works You may unfold through my humble life. I ask that when others see me, they see You also.

"Lord, thank You for first loving me.

"I pray You will, each day, through Your Holy Spirit, increase the intensity of my love for You until that precious time when You will come again to rule and reign over this world! Amen."

**I ACCEPTED JESUS CHRIST
AS MY SAVIOR THROUGH THIS BOOK.**

Dear Brother Demos,

As I read "Divine Life," the Spirit of God moved on my heart and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Demos Shakarian is founder and president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, a worldwide organization with approximately 4,000 chapters in the nations of the world. Vinson Synan, Chairman of the North American Renewal Service Committee, has called FGBMFI "...the greatest Christian laymen's organization in the world."

The purpose of each chapter is to allow men to fellowship with each other, and to bring testimonies of the saving power of God to businessmen in each local community. Tens of thousands of lost souls have been saved through this outreach.

Demos Shakarian has been used by God to help spearhead the charismatic movement around the world, and is the author of the best-selling book, "The Happiest People On Earth," plus many other powerful ministry booklets.

You can write to Demos Shakarian at Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship headquarters by addressing your mail to: P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.