

Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...

The King's Table

**Series
Knowing God**



***Sending the Word of God
to the Ends of the Earth***

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A Personal Letter to You

Dear Friend

This series on "Knowing God" covers a vital subject for each one of us - the anchor point for our lives and the source of our growth in Christ - a revelation of who God is.

Knowing God is our life's greatest quest. The old Presbyterian catechism makes the point that the chief aim of man is to "know God and enjoy Him forever." Paul the apostle, even after knowing Christ for many years, proclaimed, "Oh that I might know Him!"

There are such depths to God's nature, character and heart that it would take many lifetimes to discover even a part of who He is. The more we know Him, the more we want to know Him. Our prayer is that these studies will really help you in this marvellous quest.

Kind regards,

*Paul, Bunty and David
The Collins Ministry Team*

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The All-Glorious God

“ I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire... Ezekiel 1:27. ”

Ezekiel's vision reveals what the glory of God is like:

Brilliant light

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all" 1 John 1:5 (see 1 Tim.6:15-16).

Light speaks of His holiness.

"...I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted... Above him were seraphs... And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory'" Isaiah 6:1-3.

Blazing fire

Fire depicts the righteousness of God.

"And the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai... To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain" Exodus 24:16-17 (see also Hebrews 12:29).

Nothing impure can stand in the presence of God, so holy and righteous is He (see Ezekiel 1:28; Daniel 10:4-19; Revelation 1:10-17). When Moses requested to see the fullness of God's glory, the Lord, in His love, denied him.

"... 'you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live'" Exodus 33:20.

God allowed Moses to see only the "back" of His glory but protected him from His "face" – i.e. the fullness of His glory (Exodus 33:18-23; 34:6-8).

Radiant beauty

The radiance like a rainbow that surrounds Him reveals two things:

His life-giving purity

The combining of the life-giving essences of light and water, resulting in pure reflected beauty, pictures the essence of His Being.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12 .

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb" Revelation 22:1.

His faithfulness

"The heavens praise your wonder, O Lord... for who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?... he is more awesome than all who surround him. O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you" Psalm 89:5-8.

The rainbow was given as a sign of God's faithfulness to the promise He made to Noah never again to destroy all life on earth by the waters of a flood (Genesis 9:8-17).

Seen in Jesus

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..." Hebrews 1:3 (see also Col.1:15-19; Matt.17:2; Rev.1:12-17).

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The All-Knowing God

“ For [we are in God’s hands]...and He knows (perceives and understands) everything – nothing is hidden from Him. 1 John 3:20 (Amplified Bible). ”

God knows His creation

God knows intimately every part of His creation (Isaiah 40:25-28; Psalm 147:4-5).

“...every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains and the creatures of the field are mine...” Ps.50:10-11 (see Luke 12:6; Matt.6:26).

God knows us intimately

God knows everything about us .

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account” Heb.4:13 (see 1 Cor.4:5; 1 Tim.5:24-25; Matt.12:2; Jer.16:17; John 1:48; 2:24-25; 16:30).

Psalm 139 declares...

He knows our heart

“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me...” verse 1.

He knows what we do

“You know when I sit and when I rise...” verse 2 (see also Matthew 6:8).

He knows what we think

“You perceive my thoughts from afar...” verse 2.

He knows where we are

“You discern my going out and my lying down” verse 3 (see also Job 34:21).

He knows our our motives

“You are familiar with all my ways...” verse 3.

He knows what we say

“Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord” verse 4.

He knows His own

“Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription ‘The Lord knows those who are his’...” 2 Timothy 2:19 (see also 1 Corinthians 8:3; John 1:48; John 10:14-16)

God knowledge of those who love Him is not just a knowledge about us, but one of great intimate and personal love. That intimate knowledge, combined with His love, came together in a wonderful plan for our lives.

“For those whom He foreknew – of whom He was aware and loved beforehand – He also destined from the beginning (foreordaining them) to be moulded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the first-born among many brethren” Romans 8:29 (Amplified Bible)

He knows what we need

“...your Father knows what you need before you ask him” Matthew 6:8 (see verse 32; Isaiah 65:24).

He knows what is ahead

“See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you” Isaiah 42:9 (see also Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 2:28; Revelation 4:1).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The All-Powerful God

“ Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17. ”

God's power is limitless

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all" 1 Chronicles 29:11 (see also Job 9:1-13).

God's power is displayed

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples" Ps.77:14.

God's power has been, and is being, displayed, in four ways:

In creation

"Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing" Isaiah 40:26 (see also Jeremiah 10:12; 27:5; 32:17).

Against His enemies

"...How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you" Psalm 66:3 (see Exodus 14:31; 2 Chronicles 20:6).

On behalf of His people

"But they are your people, your inheritance that you brought out by your great power and your outstretched arm" Deut.9:29 (see Jer.32:21; Ps.20:6-7).

Through Christ

...In His ministry on earth

"A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped... [Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm... They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'" Mark 4:37-41 (see also Matthew 3:54; 15:30-31).

...In the Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16 (see also 2 Peter 1:3-4).

...By the Cross

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" 1 Corinthians 1:18.

...By His Resurrection

"...his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead..." Ephesians 1:19-20 (read through verses 15-23).

Through the Church

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8 (see also Acts 4:33; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:7).

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The Ever-Present God

“ I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8. ”

God is infinite

God is not limited by time or space. He is there in the vastness and wideness of all things. And He is there in the intricate and detailed aspect of the most minute. He is everywhere with everyone at the same time but each is personal and individual to Him.

He is everywhere

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast...” Psalm 139:7-12 (see Jeremiah 23:23-24).

He sees all things

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose heart is blameless toward Him...” 2 Chronicles 6:9 (Amp) (see also Proverbs 15:3; Daniel 2:22; 1 Peter 3:12).

He is beyond comprehension

“Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens – what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave – what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea” Job 11:7-9 (see also Romans 11:33-36).

God's attributes are infinite in every respect. He is an awesome God, worthy of our praise and worship.

God is eternal

“Do you not know? Have you not heard The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom” Isaiah 40:28 (read also verses 21-31).

He knows the whole of eternity

“...I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please...” Isaiah 46:9-11 (see also 41:4; 2 Peter 3:8; Psalm 90:4).

God is a Spiritual Being

“God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being)...” John 4:24 (Amplified Bible).

This awesome God is a Person we can know (Jeremiah 9:24; John 17:3), but He can be known only by the Spirit of God...

“...God has revealed it to us by his Spirit... The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned” 1 Corinthians 2:9-14.

...and through His Son, Jesus...

“No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known” John 1:18 (see also Col.2:2-3).

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God is Love

“ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God,
and God in him. 1 John 4:16. ”

Love is the very essence of the nature of God.

Four-dimensional love

"...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" Eph.3:14-19.

Wide – it is all encompassing

"For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only-begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish – come to destruction, be lost – but have eternal (everlasting) life" John 3:16 (Amp) .

There is no person and no place that God's love does not reach (Psalm 103:11-12).

Long – it is everlasting

"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him" Psalm 103:17 (see also Jeremiah 313).

God's love endures forever (Psalm 136).

High – it cannot be measured

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him" Psalm 103:11 (see also Psalm 36:5).

His love is so great He shares all He has with us, bringing us to the heights of Heaven with Him.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" Ephesians 2:4-6.

Deep – it reaches the depths

The depth of God's heart reaches to the depth of our heart (Psalm 42:7) – and to the depth of our need.

"Very rarely will a man die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:7-8 (see 1 Cor.2:6-10).

God's love is individual

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!..." 1 John 3:1 (see Ps.103:13).

Like a child born into a family brings its own love with it, so God's love is unique for each one of us.

God's love means action

"But it was because the Lord loved you... that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery..." Deuteronomy 7:8.

God's love is not just a feeling. It is a total involvement with the one who is loved.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" 1John 4:10.

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God is Holy

“ And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Isaiah 6:3.

“Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” Exodus 15:11 (see also Psalm 99:9; 1 Samuel 2:2).

God cannot abide sin

“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong...” Habakkuk 1:13 (see also Revelation 15:4).

God is so pure, holy and righteous that He cannot tolerate sin.

Sinful man's dilemma

“... Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God?...” 1 Sam. 6:20 (see also Ezra 9:15).

Sinful man cannot stand in the presence of such a holy God. The brilliant light of His holiness would immediately destroy him (Exodus 33:20), just like light immediately dispels darkness (John 1:5).

“He's the only one death can't touch, his light so bright no one can get close. He's never been seen by human eyes – human eyes can't take him in! Honor to him, and eternal rule! Oh, yes” 1 Timothy 6:16 (The Message) .

God is a righteous judge

Sin must be judged (Romans 6:23) and God is totally just and righteous in His judgment.

“He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice” Psalm 9:8 (see also Zephaniah 3:5; Isaiah 3:13; Acts 17:31).

One day the court of Heaven will be in session and the righteous Judge will take His seat (Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 25:31-46).

“As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and it wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened” Daniel 7:9-10.

God is a God of mercy

As well as being a God of such holiness and righteousness, God is also a God of great love, mercy and compassion (1 Chron. 21:13).

“In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old” Isaiah 63:9 (see also Psalm 25:6-7).

But, in the face of the great sinfulness of man how could such a holy God reconcile His love and His righteousness? How could He be true to both?

Unfathomable wisdom

God's great wisdom got to work and He devised a plan for man where the seemingly impossible can happen and His love and righteousness can meet – *the Cross!*

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God is Our Father

“ And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Matthew 23:9. ”

Fatherhood on earth is designed by God to be a picture of His own Father's heart.

“For this reason [seeing the greatness of this plan by which you are built together in Christ], I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named – [that Father] from Whom all fatherhood takes its title and derives its name“ Eph.3:14-15 (Amp) (see also 4:4-6; Col.1:2).

The Father-heart of God

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule ...over all the earth, and over all the creatures...’ Genesis 1:26 (read through to verse 30).

In these verses the heart of God in creating the heavens and the earth is revealed. God was preparing a home for a family.

The Father's purpose

“For those God foreknew (loved beforehand [Amp]) he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” Rom.8:29.

The home that the Father prepared was to be the training ground for His ultimate purpose for His children. Like a father takes his child through the learning experiences of life so that he will grow into a healthy, well-rounded adult fulfilling all his potential in life, so it is with God (read Romans 8:28; Ephesians 3:10-11). A father's love is express-

ed in many ways to bring about his ultimate purpose for his child.

Relating

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father” Romans 8:15.

Training

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you” Psalm 32:8 (see also 25:4-5; Job 36:22).

Providing

“And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever...” Phil.4:19 (Amp) (see Matt.6:31-34; 7:9-11).

Disciplining

“...the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.’ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?... God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness” Hebrews 12:6-10 (read vs.2-11).

Encouraging

“...If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31 (read through to v.39).

Sacrificing

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” Rom.8:32.

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The Son of God

“ But as to the Son, He says to Him, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever (to the ages of ages)... Hebrews 1:8 (Amplified Bible). ”

One with the Father

“My Father... is greater than all... I and the Father are one... the Father is in me, and I in the Father” John 10:30 -38 (see also John 14:5-11; 17:21).

The Son is described as being “one” with His Father, which means one in substance and attributes. The Son is...

Creator of all things

“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities...” Colossians 1:15-16 (see also John 1:3-4).

The Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – were all involved in creation. What was in the Father’s mind, the Son spoke, and the Spirit brought it into being (Genesis 1:1-3).

Upholder of all things

“...upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power” Heb.1:3 (Amp) (see also Col.1:17).

Heir of all things

“...Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful owner of all things...” Heb.1:2 (Amp) (see also Col.1:16; Eph.1:18).

Supreme over all things

“...that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place – stand first and be pre-eminent” Colossians 1:18 (Amplified Bible) (see also Hebrews 1:4).

Communicator of God

The Son is the revealer and communicator of all that God is, revealing His very heart and Being and glory to mankind. He is called...

The Word

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning” John 1:1-2 (see also Hebrews 1:2).

The radiance of God’s glory

“He is the sole expression of the glory of God – the Light-being, the out-ricing of the divine” Hebrews 1:3 (Amplified Bible).

The exact representation of God

“...and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God’s] nature...” Hebrews 1:3 (Amplified Bible) (see also Colossians 1:15).

“For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness – the sum total of the divine perfection, powers and attributes – should dwell in Him permanently” Colossians 1:19 (Amplified Bible).

Eternal

“I tell you the truth,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, I am!’” John 8:58 (see also John 17:5; Hebrews 7:3).

“...I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!...” Revelation 1:17 (see Hebrews 13:8).

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The Son of Man

“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Matthew 20:28.

The term “son of man” was used in the Old Testament as a lowly description of a human being (Psalm 8:4; 144:3; Ezekiel 40:4). Jesus often referred to Himself as the Son of Man because of His complete identification with human life (see Hebrews 2:9).

As the “Son of Man,” Jesus was everything God had originally intended for man to be. Although the Son of Man was destined to suffer and die (Matthew 17:12; Mark 8:31) and had no place to call home (Matthew 8:20), He was also no victim. The Son of Man Himself declared He had been given authority:

- Authority to forgive sins (Luke 5:24).
- Authority to judge (John 5:27).
- Authority over the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8).
- Authority over angels (Matthew 13:41).
- All authority in heaven and on earth (Luke 22:69; Matthew 26:19; Ephesians 1:19-23).

The Son of Man's mission

The mission of the Son of Man had two parts:

Seek and save

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” Luke 19:10.

Firstly, the Son of Man was sent to earth on a “seek and save” mission. He honed in on those who had been lost from the presence of God (John 3:14-15).

Seek and destroy

“...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work” 1 John 3:8.

The Son of Man was also sent on a “search and destroy” mission. The Son of Man honed ruthlessly

in on the oppressive work of the devil. His death on the Cross liberated us from Satan's power.

Sign of the Son of Man

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory” Matthew 24:30.

Jesus often spoke of the “sign of the Son of Man.” When on trial before the Sanhedrin, Jesus responded by saying: “In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:64). The high priest charged Jesus with blasphemy, because all those hearing Him knew He was quoting a prophetic passage from Daniel:

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed” Daniel 7:13 (see also Revelation 1:13-18; 14:14).

When the Son of Man, came to earth, He identified totally with our humanity. Now we identify totally with Him in His position of righteousness and authority before God (Eph.2:6). In the Son of Man, we experience the fulfilment of God's plan for us.

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The Son of David

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David. Matthew 1:1.

"As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!'" Matthew 9:27.

The two blind men called Jesus "the Son of David," a name with rich meaning for every Jew of that generation. This is because the Old Testament prophesied two special things about the Messiah:

He would be of David's lineage

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land" Jeremiah 23:5.

He would be born in David's town

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" Micah 5:2 (see also Matthew 2:1-6).

The Root of David

"I, Jesus...am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star" Revelation 22:16.

Jesus calls himself both the "Offspring of David" and the "Root of David". These two names bear witness to:

The humanity of the Messiah

"David was the father of Solomon...the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ" Matthew 1:2-16.

As the offspring or "seed" of David, Jesus can trace his lineage directly back to King David and thus claim the royal title of Messiah, the "Anointed One" prophesied in the Old Testament.

The divinity of the Messiah

As the root of David, Jesus claimed to be of divine origin, the one "whose origins are from old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2). One of the most important Old Testament prophecies regards the divine status of the Son of David.

"While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, 'How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: 'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" David himself calls him "Lord." How then can he be his son?'..." Mark 12:35-37.

Jesus is both the Son of David and the Lord of David. He is both human and divine at the same time (see also John 1:1,14; 8:56-58; 10:30-33; Isaiah 9:6).

Desired of All Nations

"I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory," says the Lord Almighty" Haggai 2:7.

Jesus is called the "desired of all nations." Under Him, proper government finds its true meaning and fulfillment (see also Ephesians 1:9-10).

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders...He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever..." Isaiah 9:6-7.

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Fullness of the Godhead

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives
in bodily form. Colossians 2:9.

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him" Colossians 1:19.

In Christ, all the fullness of the triune God was resident and manifest to the world. Although Jesus Himself was the second Person of the Godhead, He represented all three Persons of the Godhead when He walked upon the earth. This was demonstrated in the name that was bequeathed to Jesus.

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" Acts 2:36.

This was the revelation of Jesus which caused Peter's audience to be "cut to the heart" (verse 37). The title "Lord" applies to God the Father (see Exodus 3:15; Psalm 110:1). The title "Christ" means "the Anointed One," a description of the anointing of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 3:21-22; Isaiah 11:1-2; Luke 4:18-19). The title of Jesus – "the Lord Jesus Christ" – bears the full authority of the Godhead.

"...[God] raised [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given..." Ephesians 1:20-21 (see also Phil.2:9-11; Matt.28:18).

The Word Become Flesh

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" John 1:1,14.

God packaged His total divine nature in Christ. His glory was veiled by the physical body of Jesus (John 2:19-21; Hebrews 10:19-20). All that God is was revealed to us in Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3) and the marvel is that He totally identified with our humanity.

"...Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" Phil.2:5-7 (see also 1 John 1:1-2).

The Fullness Revealed

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way" Eph.1:22-23.

The full mystery of God's nature is found in Christ (Colossians 2:2-3). But now the Bible reveals that together, as the Church, we are:

- The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- The temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Ephesians 2:21-22).
- The light of the world (Matthew 5:14).
- The fullness of God (Ephesians 1:23).

As the Body of Christ, we are an extension of the Person of the Son. Like Jesus, we are designed to reveal the fullness of everything that God is.

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority" Colossians 2:9-10 (see also Ephesians 3:16,19; 4:12-13).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Lamb of God

“ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29. ”

“...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” 1 Corinthians 5:7.

Jesus is called “the Lamb of God.” He was sent by God to be our substitute, the sacrificial lamb who died in our place. That sacrifice reveals:

- The condition of our sin (Romans 6:23; 8:3).
- The reality of God’s holiness (Rom. 1:18-32).
- The extent of God’s love (1 John 4:10).
- The wisdom of God’s justice (Rom. 3:25-26).

The Old Testament prophesied that Christ would be “a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering” (Isaiah 53:3; read the whole chapter). He came and “humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8).

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” 1 Peter 1:18-19 (see also Revelation 7:9-10).

The one-time sacrifice

The important thing to understand about the sacrifice of Jesus for us is that it is a “once for all” atonement – never to be repeated nor needing to be repeated (read Hebrews 9:25-28; 10:11-12,17-18). In that sacrifice...

He took our sin

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” 1 John 2:2 (see also Hebrews 9:26).

He took our sickness

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree... by his wounds you have been healed” 1 Peter 2:24 (see also Matthew 8:17).

He took the curse

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree’” Gal. 3:13.

He took our judgment

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him...” Isaiah 53:5 (see also Romans 8:33-34).

He took our old life

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin” Romans 6:6 (see also Galatians 2:20).

Full redemption

To redeem means “to buy back what was lost.” Strictly speaking, Jesus didn’t just redeem us. He *became* everything we needed – our righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), our holiness (Hebrews 2:11; 10:14) and our redemption – the very ransom for our lives (Matthew 20:28).

“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption” 1 Corinthians 1:30.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Life of God

“ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6. ”

“In him was life, and that life was the light of men” John 1:4 (see also 5:39).

When Jesus entered into the world, the life of God came into contact with humanity for the first time since the Garden of Eden. Jesus said that he was the only person who “has life in himself” (John 5:26) and that this life is a free gift to all who believe in Him (John 3:16). But Jesus made one very clear point: He doesn’t just *give* life. He *is* the life.

“The life appeared; we have seen it and...proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us” 1 John 1:2.

Life and death

The Bible makes it very clear about who has life and who does not.

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” John 5:12.

Before Christ

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him” John 3:36.

Before we came to Christ, we were “dead in our sins” (Eph.2:1), “alienated from God” (Col.1:21) and “separated from the life of God” (Eph.4:17-18).

After Christ

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” John 5:24 (see also verse 21).

The act of believing in Christ and receiving His gift of salvation catapults us into the life of God (Colossians 1:13-14).

Christ is our life

In Christ, we experience the multifaceted life of God.

Eternal life

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand” John 10:28 (see also 3:16).

Abundant life

“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” John 10:10.

Resurrection life

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die’” John 11:25-26.

Future life

“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory” Col.3:4.

God has designed for the Christian to be in constant connection to Christ, our life-source. He is:

- The vine of life (John 15:1-8).
- The bread of life (John 6:33).
- The wellspring of life (John 4:14).

“...Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life” Revelation 22:17.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The King of Kings

“ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
Revelation 19:16. ”

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” Colossians 1:13.

God has not just saved us. He has not just given us eternal life. He has also brought us into a relationship with Jesus, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. This relationship not only changes the orientation of our own lives, but also effects everything around us.

Authority of the King

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” Philippians 2:9-11.

Jesus' position as king over all the earth was and is expressed in His authority...

Over sickness

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them” Matthew 4:23-24.

Over evil spirits

“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you” Luke 11:20.

Over the elements

“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm...They were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!’” Mark 4:39,41.

Over the impossible

“When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water...” John 6:19.

Over death

“I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades” Revelation 1:18.

The Coming King

“The kingdom of God doesn't come...when someone says, ‘Look here!’ or, ‘There it is!’ And why? Because God's kingdom is already among you” Luke 17:21 (The Message).

When the Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would be coming, His reply was: “It's already here in your midst!” When we receive the King, we receive the kingdom of God. And the King who will be revealed at the glorious Second Coming is the same King who dwells within our lives right now!

“They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” Revelation 17:14 (see 1 Corinthians 15:24-26).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Spirit of God

“ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
2 Corinthians 3:17. ”

The Holy Spirit is God (Matthew 28:19; note also Acts 5:3-4). He is given a number of names which describe His character and ministry:

The Spirit of Truth

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth... He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you” John 16:13-15 (see 1 John 5:6).

The Spirit of Grace

“How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished... who has insulted the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10:29.

Grace is God doing what we could not do ourselves. We could not save ourselves, but God by His grace saved us (Ephesians 2:5-10). This grace is administered by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7).

The Spirit of Life

“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death” Romans 8:1-2.

We could not live a life pleasing to God, but by His grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God has made this possible (Gal. 5:16,25; 2 Cor. 9:8,14).

The Spirit of Holiness

“... who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his

resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord” Romans 1:4.

The Holy Spirit ministers the holiness of God in and through our lives (Jude 24-25).

The Spirit of God's Son

The continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to conform us to the very likeness of Jesus (Romans 8:29):

In heart

“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’” Galatians 4:6 (see Mark 14:36).

In mind

“... No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ... But we have the mind of Christ” 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (see also Romans 5:5-9; 12:2).

In character

“... because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this...” Hebrews 10:14 -15.

In purpose

“Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” Romans 8:23.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Promise of the Spirit

“ If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13. ”

Promised by the Father

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised..." Luke 24:49.

Read the promise of the Father as described in Ezekiel 36:26-27.

Sent by the Son

"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" John 16:7 (see also Acts 2:33).

The Son of God was sent by the Father with a work to fulfil. He died, rose again, ascended into Heaven and *sat down* at His Father's right hand. His work was now completed, and so He sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's work is...

To convict the world of sin

"When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment" John 16:8-11.

To give the believer new birth

"...Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit...' You must be born again..." John 3:3-8 (see also Titus 3:5).

The Holy Spirit is the giver of new life. When Adam was created God "breathed" into him the "breath of life". In the original Hebrew language, the word "breath" has the same meaning as the word "Spirit".

Adam was born of the Spirit of God. He was in the image of God (read Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7). When he sinned he died – God's Spirit of Life left him (read Genesis 2:17; 3:1-24). After the work of the Cross and the Resurrection was completed, the Lord Jesus appeared to his disciples in the upper room and did exactly what God had done to Adam in the Garden of Eden...

"And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' John 20:22.

To indwell the believer

"...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth...you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you" John 14:15-17 (see also Ephesians 1:13-14).

The life of the Holy Spirit, dwelling within the believer, produces the character of God within the child of God.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" Galatians 5:22-25 (see also Ephesians 5:8-9; Colossians 1:9-12).

To give daily relationship

"...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry 'Abba, Father'" Romans 8:14-15.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Fellowship of the Spirit

“ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14. ”

“Fellowship” means to be joined together in heart and life for the same purpose.

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, have the same love, being one in spirit and purpose” Philippians 2:1-2.

The Holy Spirit has joined with us to take us through life to bring us to the fulfilment of God’s plan and purpose for us.

Not left as orphans

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...” John 14:18.

The Lord Jesus promises He would not leave the believer as an “orphan”. An orphan is a child without parents. He has *life* – but no one to *parent* him. Because of their love for a child, a parent’s whole task in life is to nurture, feed, comfort, encourage, teach, train and discipline that child in order that he may grow into a fully mature, healthy and well-balanced adult, fulfilling all his potential in life. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Comforter

“But the Comforter (Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He

will cause you to recall – will remind you of, bring to your remembrance – everything I have told you” John 14:26 (Amplified Bible).

The Teacher

“But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all truth – the whole full truth. For He will not speak His own message – on His own authority – but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father, He will give the message that has been given to Him]...” John 16:13 (Amp) (read verses 14-15).

The Guide

“...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” Romans 8:14.

Imparter of God’s love

“...And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God... And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” Romans 5:2-5.

His goal – full maturity

“But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured in ever-increasing splendour into his own image, and the transformation comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Phillips) (see also Hebrews 6:1; Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:12-16).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Spirit of Adoption

“...You have received the Spirit of adoption – the Spirit of producing sonship – in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba! [That is,] Father! Romans 8:15 (Amplified Bible).”

Paul uses adoption as it was in the Roman culture of his day to picture the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer in Christ. There were two specific parts to Roman adoption:

The private adoption

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship... The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children” Romans 8:15-16.

If a Roman couple were childless the man would go to the slave market. There he would purchase a child – paying the price of a slave but not buying him to be a slave but to be his son (if the child was not a slave he would still pay the price – purchasing him symbolically from the “power” of his natural father). He would then call seven witnesses. These seven would sign the legal papers testifying that they were witnesses of the adoption of this child. The Holy Spirit is described as “sevenfold” (see Revelation 5:6; Isaiah 11:2-5).

From the moment of the signing of the seven witnesses that child became the child of the Roman and two changes took place for him...

Change of relationship

We are no longer a slave but now a son and heir.

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...” Romans 8:17 (see also John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:29).

The Holy Spirit testifies to our spirit that we have been brought out of slavery...

- Slavery to sin (Romans 6:6; 14-23).
- Slavery to the Law (Rom.7:6-25; 8:1-4).

Change of heritage

According to Roman law, the moment the seven bore witness to the adoption six things became a reality:

- All record of the child’s previous life was wiped out. It was as though his past had never been (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:6).
- All debts (his own and those passed on by his father) were cancelled. Any known crime was pardoned (Hebrews 10:14-17).
- He was looked on as a new person with a new life (Eph.2:10; 4:24; Col.3:9-10).
- He took on the heritage and reputation of his new father (Romans 5:12-19).
- He experienced a whole change of status, by law now a fully fledged citizen of Rome with all its rights (Col.1:12-13; Eph.2:19).

This was the first phase of Roman adoption. In it the *relationship* part of the adoption ceremony was finalised.

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!... now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” 1 John 3:1-2.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Spirit of Sonship

“...We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26.”

The Holy Spirit's ongoing ministry is to intercede for us, expressing within our hearts the depth of longing for all that God has planned us to be (Romans 8:27).

The public adoption

"... We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" Romans 8:23.

The second part of Roman adoption took place when the child had reached full maturity. The father would then hold a great celebration for his son, inviting all his friends and the officials of Roman society. There he would present the young man before them all, publicly declaring him to be his son and heir in the placing of his own signet ring on his son's finger. Paul uses this event to picture the climax of the believer's experience in Christ – the redemption of our bodies. This takes place at the Second Coming of Christ, when He returns to earth (1 Cor.15:42-58) and makes a great "public declaration" of His own! (Ephesians 3:10-11).

With this final goal in mind, the Holy Spirit is interceding to bring us to full maturity in Christ. He is using three main agents to cause us to grow as sons:

The Word of God

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" 1 Peter 2:2 (see also 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 5:11-14; 2 Tim.3:16-17).

The Body of Christ

"There is one body and one Spirit... But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it" Ephesians 4:4-7.

Leadership ministries

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" Ephesians 4:11-13 (see also 2:20).

Every ministry in the Body

"Then we will no longer be infants... we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, join and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" Ephesians 4:14-16 (see also Ephesians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 14:26).

Life's circumstances

The Holy Spirit is able to engineer and use the circumstances we face in life in order to fulfil His purpose in our lives.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28 (see also 5:1-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-7).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Spirit of Transformation

☪ And we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18. ☪

Spirit's constant work

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" Ephesians 1:17.

The Holy Spirit's work within us to bring us to the fullness of all that God has planned us to be is a constant work. Day by day we are growing spiritually – being transformed into His likeness. The Holy Spirit is working in three realms:

Wisdom of the Spirit

"The wise shall inherit glory – all honour and good..." Proverbs 3:35 (see also 4:5-9).

The Bible defines true wisdom as the awesome acknowledgement of the majesty, power and glory of God in every situation of life (read 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:16). The work of the Holy Spirit is to minister this wisdom into our lives.

"But to man He said, Behold, the reverential and worshipful fear of the Lord, that is Wisdom..." Job 28:28 (Amplified Bible).

Sees beyond the outward

"...The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7.

Sees beyond the now

"Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do..." 1 Chronicles 12:32 (read Matthew 2:1-12).

Revelation of the Spirit

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" 2 Corinthians 4:6.

As the Holy Spirit reveals more of the wonder and glory of the Lord to our hearts, *we* are being changed "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

"... 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit..." 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

Searching of the Spirit

"...The Spirit searches all things even the deep things of God" 1 Corinthians 2:10.

The Bible speaks of:

- God's *secret* wisdom (1 Cor.2:7).
- The *mystery* of Christ (Eph.3:2-11).
- *Hidden* treasures (Col.2:3).
- *Unsearchable riches* of Christ (Eph.3:8).
- *Depth of the riches* of God (Rom.11:33).

"I have become [the church's] servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the saints. To [us] God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" Col.1:25-27 (read through to 2:3).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Spirit of Power

“ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. Luke 24:49. ”

The Holy Spirit has been sent into our lives to release the power of God. His purpose is:

- To make the Gospel a living reality in our lives.
- To empower us as messengers of that Gospel.

The empowered Christ

"...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him" Acts 10:38 (see also Luke 4:14; Isaiah 11:2-3).

Jesus didn't just teach people about the kingdom of God. He demonstrated the reality of that kingdom to them. The power of the Holy Spirit energised His words and His life (Luke 4:36).

Empowered witnesses

Now, as witnesses of the Lord, we too have been given the Holy Spirit to empower our testimony.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8.

The Holy Spirit enables us to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. He empowers us with the same power that brought Jesus back to life.

"We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him" Acts 5:32.

In empowering us as witnesses, the Holy Spirit has three main objectives:

To bring glory to Christ

"He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you" John 16:14.

To demonstrate Jesus is alive

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly... With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all" Acts 4:31,33.

To reach the world

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...'" Matthew 28:18-19.

The empowered Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God..." Romans 1:16 (see also 1 Corinthians 2:4-5).

The work of the Holy Spirit is to minister the power of the Gospel to people's lives and to baptise the believer in power for ministry. He also gives supernatural gifts to minister to the needs of others (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). The Holy Spirit's power is what defines the Christian life and launches us into God's supernatural realm.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being" Ephesians 3:16.

Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit this verse to memory.

Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.

Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?

You can make a difference!

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- Read and digest the study – meditate on the Word of God.
- Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32.

Food for Thought

Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study
and for use in sharing with others.

The King's Table is designed to help...

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program, where people like yourself can receive a different series of 21 lessons each month. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

Fountaingate Christian Foundation
P.O. Box 1033, Newcastle NSW 2300, Australia
Telephone: +61-2-49253525 Fax: +61-2-49253526
Email: fountaingate@churchlink.com.au
Internet: www.churchlink.com.au