

# **FINDING NEW LIFE in the Spirit**

A guidebook for the Life in the Spirit Seminars

**“To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life...”**

**(Rev. 21:6)**

This promise is for you, for you who want something more  
For you who know that you have a thirst that has not yet been satisfied  
For you who have heard of a water that refreshes beyond compare  
For you who feel burdened, who feel that you have reached the depths and want to rise  
For you who are on top of the world, but who know that all the world does not have enough  
For you who are full of tears and anxieties, for you who feel hardened and closed  
For you who are full of eagerness and enthusiasm, for you who want all a human being can have.

For all people, there is a promise, a promise made by your God, by the one who made you

Perhaps you know him and have wondered if there should not be more. Perhaps you have only dimly heard of him and wish you could find him.

Now he speaks to you. Now he offers you promise, a free gift, a new life - without price. He offers it to you freely, just as he created you freely, because he loves you.

**“Let him who is thirsty come; let him who desires take the water of life without price.”**

**(Rev. 22:17)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This book is a guideline, a companion. It will help you to find your way through the Life in the Spirit Seminars and to discover all the wealth that God wants to give you through them. This book will help you to find a deeper life in God.

God speaks to us and helps us through others. If you want new life in the Spirit you should be faithful in attending the seminars so that brothers and sisters can help you during them. God also speaks to us when we are alone and he will do much for us when we are alone that can not happen if we do not spend time with him. Spend time with God during the next seven weeks and you will see him give you new life through that time.

## **PRAYER**

Prayer is simply being present with God. Our prayer can take a variety of forms; praising and worshiping him for his own sake; thanking him for what he has done for us; asking him to do things for us or for others; listening to him speak to us.. Sometimes it is simply being quiet before him, silent in his presence.

Prayer will grow in you. At first, if it is new to you, it may go slowly. But as you come to know God more fully and experience his love, your desire to pray will increase. After you have been baptised in the spirit you will be able to pray still more freely. God wants you to pray because he loves you and wants you to be with him. He wants to give you the gift of prayer.

The words of life in this book will help you to pray. They are words that God has spoken in the scripture. He means to speak them to you now. There is one for each day of the seven weeks of the seminars and they are chosen to help you consider more deeply the material presented in the seminar the week before. Meditate on them each day in the time you have set aside for prayer, and the Lord will speak to you through them.

## **STUDY**

True wisdom and true understanding are a gift from God. God himself wants to teach you. If you read the scriptures, and if you think about what they say, asking the Lord to teach you; you will be given spiritual understanding.

For each week of the seminars, two chapters from scripture are presented. They are chosen to prepare you for the seminar of the coming week. Each week one chapter will be from the good news according to John (the gospel of John) and the other will be from the Acts of the Apostles or from a letter of the apostle Paul. Read these chapters and think about them during the week. If you can do more reading during the next seven weeks, read the full gospel of John and the full Acts of the Apostles.

*“We have never failed to pray for you, and what we ask God is that through perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding you shall reach the fullest knowledge of his will. So you will be able to lead the kind of life which the Lord expects of you, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects; showing the results in all good actions you do and increasing your knowledge of God. You will have in your strength, based on his own glorious power, never to give in, but to bear anything joyfully, thanking the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the right.”*

*(Col. 1:9-12)*

# **GOD'S LOVE**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."*  
*(Jn. 3:16)*

## **WORDS OF LIFE**

### **Day 1:**

God is not someone who lives far away in a place you can never reach. Nor is he a heavenly warden, eager to punish you for doing wrong. He is a father who loves you. He says to you:

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in my affection for you."*  
*(Jer. 31:3)*

### **Day 2:**

You can know God and know how much he loves you. He wants to be in a personal relationship with you. He wants you to be his son or daughter. He does not want there to be any barrier or distance between you and him . He promised through the prophet Jeremiah:

*"I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother: 'Learn to know the Lord'. No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind."*  
*(Jer. 31: 33-34)*

This word of life is a promise, an offer from God. As soon as you feel that you want to take the Lord up on what he is offering in these words of life and receive what he is promising, read the section entitled "God's Covenant and Your Covenant" further on in this booklet.

**Day 3:**

He loves you. God the creator of the universe, the one who made all things out of nothing, loves you . He wants to care for you and give you a better life. He promised:

*"I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord God who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the healthy and the strong. I shall be a true shepherd to them."*

(Ezek. 34:14-16)

**Day 4:**

Because he loves us. God sent his only son to save us. He sent Jesus so we might have life, a better life now, a life that will last eternally:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

(Jn. 3:16)

**Day 5:**

God loves you. He is speaking to you now, reaching out to you. He is saying to you:

*"Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;  
Though you have no money, come!  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
Your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things  
To eat and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me,  
Listen, and your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
Because of my sure, steadfast love."*

(Isa.55: 1-3)

**Day 6:**

If you wish to know God, if you wish to have the life he offers you can. Just turn to him and reach out to him. He invites you:

*"I know the plans I have for you - it is the Lord who speaks - plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you. When you call to me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you seek me, you shall find me."*

(Jer.29: 11-13)

**Day 7:**

Sometimes God seems so far away. Sometimes it seems like we can never reach him. But he's not far away. He is very close to you and right now he is trying to show himself to you in a fuller way than ever before. He promises:

*"The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth."*

(Ps. 145:18)

**STUDY**

This week the two chapters we will read are concerned with who Jesus Christ is and how he saves us. They are :

John 1. Colossians 1. **If you don't have your own bible or New Testament. You can look it up online.**

## **GOD'S COVENANT**

We can know that God is willing to have a personal relationship with us and to give us a new life only because he has told us so. He made many promises to us, and we can rely on the promises of God. He has all power on heaven and on earth, and he does not lie. He can do what he says and he will. But he will not force these things on us. We have to claim what he is offering. We have to believe what he says and receive from him what he wants to give.

Many of the “words of life” above are promises. We can claim these promises and hold God to them. We can base our lives upon them.

## **YOUR COVENANT**

God's gift of new life with him is free, absolutely free. We cannot earn it or deserve it in any way. Yet, we have to receive what he is offering. We have to come to him and reach out to him.

A covenant is an agreement. When we enter into a covenant with someone, we make an agreement with them. We can enter into a covenant with God because he has already offered a covenant to us. He has made us promise that we can accept and claim if you make a covenant with God now for the period of the next seven weeks, you will find that you have a new life with God at the end of that time.

God promises in the words of life above that if we turn to him and reach out for what he has to offer, he will give it to us. The covenant you should make with God is simply a covenant to turn to him, to listen to him, and to let other Christians help you.

Perhaps you already know God and have experienced his love. Perhaps what you are looking for is a deeper relationship with him, a fullness of life in his Spirit. If you enter into a covenant with him now in the same way and agree to seek from him what he is offering, he will give you that deeper life with him. You should agree to do those things which allow God to give you the gift he has for you. For everyone in the seminars, these things are:

1. To attend and participate in The Life in the Spirit Seminars each week, without missing any of them. **At the moment it is only possible to participate on line. However should things change over the seven weeks you will be welcome to attend in St Patrick's Church Dungiven at the same time 7.30 pm every Tuesday night beginning on Tuesday 20th April 2020.**
2. To set aside at least 15 minutes a day for prayer and study, meditating on the words of life in this book and studying the passages in the book (15 good minutes, not 15 minutes in which you are tired or distracted).
3. To share with others in the seminars each week how you are growing and what difficulties you are having. **If you share your house with others you might like to meet together once a week to discuss how you are getting on in the seminars.**

To make this covenant with God, say the following prayer:

Father, I want to find a new relationship with you and the new life you are promising. I want to know you more fully. I want to have you change my life and give me the power to live in a better way. To allow you to do this, I promise to attend The Life in Spirit Seminars each week, to set aside 15 minutes each day to seek you on my own, to pray with the community each week, and to share with the others in the seminar how I am growing and what difficulties I am experiencing. I wish to allow you the chance to give me those things you have promised.

### ***If you fail...***

Remember that God loves you and wants you to be with him even more than you want him. He is not legalistic with us. If something happens so we cannot fulfil our covenant one day, he will not hold it against us. If we neglect what we have promised, we can ask his forgiveness and he will forgive us. He loves us and does not want anything to be a barrier between us and him. Of course, if we make a covenant with him we should only do it because we want to and because we intend to fulfil our part of it. A covenant is a way of entering into a relationship of committed love with God.