



UPDATED

SEVEN INGREDIENTS

The way to spiritual growth and maturity

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Introduction

*But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:*

Isaiah 43:1 (ESV)

In spring 2020 I asked God to highlight the essential lessons that he had taught this rather ragged-yet-becoming-fruitful band of prophets here in Norwich. What were the main components he had worked into us as we had sought to keep growing in recent times, at Framingham Earl Hall and beyond to the current day? What had enabled us to keep moving forwards to see fruit as we followed him into Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth?

Without thinking further, I jotted down seven basic spiritual rudiments we had processed in our lives together. I arranged them in a diagram, recognising that they were in a sense progressive, each depending in some way on the one(s) that had gone before. I wrote above the diagram 'Seven Ingredients'. We could make the case for other ingredients too, no doubt, but these were the ones the Holy Spirit showed me.

These seven 'ingredients' form the basis of this workbook.

It was sometime after that I recalled God had spoken to Robert Clifford two years earlier about unity of heart, vision and purpose within The Way of The Spirit. The picture he had was that of a cake, available in all sorts of sized slices but every slice being part of one cake, every slice made from the same ingredients so having the same flavour. I realised now that even the diagram I had drawn was (quite unwittingly) cake-like.

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These ingredients were initially presented during seven sessions at the Team Conference in July 2020, later to be supplemented with further on-line teaching bringing deeper revelation and understanding.

The context remained forming and developing prophetic (or spiritual, or revival) teams. The previous year's team conference had introduced the subject of Spiritual Leadership and these ingredients would now provide a template for growing teams as they sought to follow Jesus and build 'according to pattern'.

This workbook thus became a useful tool, not providing boxes to tick but furnishing us with fundamental spiritual tools for him to use to build the bands of prophets he desires and intends, that The Way of The Spirit can become the fractal ministry he wants it to be. As the same words are clearly visible wherever a stick of rock is sliced, so every part of the ministry big or small will be made of the same stuff and carry the full riches and life that God intends. As ever, it is the Word and Spirit working together that will ensure it is God himself doing the work – we remain his workmanship!

Any Christian – or team of Christians – setting their hearts on applying these biblical ingredients will grow and bear fruit, even if it leads them down unexpected or challenging paths.

Recordings of all audio talks are available on The Way of The Spirit website.¹ We recommend that you listen to all the sessions relating to each ingredient as a platform for then seeking to build them into your lives and ministries. The talks are supplemented in the following pages with key scriptures, notes, testimonies, questions and prayers. These can be used all together or in any way thought helpful, individually or in your teams.

¹ Go to www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

1. Walking in faith

How faith is always the launching pad for any journey or project we may embark upon; developing a culture of faith.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to
www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key scriptures

- Romans 1.17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'
- Hebrews 11.6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
- John 6.28-9 ... 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'

If I walk in faith:

- I trust God for everything: provision, people, anointing, open doors, wisdom, revelation etc.
- I don't seek to work these things out for myself. I start with a blank sheet of paper and trust him to provide everything I need from his glorious riches. If I'm not seeing what I think I need then either I don't need it, or he is asking me to nevertheless keep believing, and to go

on 'asking, seeking, knocking'. I take the steps he puts before me.

- I trust him to provide, I do not need to work things out for myself.
- For example; in seeking co-workers, I trust God to provide and work wholeheartedly with those he has sent. (N.B. Not everyone who comes along is sent by God), I do not gather my own team according to what I think I need.

Testimonies

We will all have our own testimonies of how faith has been learned in our lives. Here are some examples:

We have seen God's faithfulness as we have stepped forwards in obedience on mission, seeing God provide teams, open doors and finance. We have taken the people God has brought to us and made disciples. We have believed God to fill all the world with fruit and watched him provide a Bible College out of nowhere. We have let go of managing programmes and courses and seen God produce fruit. We have kept moving forwards through times of crisis and apparent financial need and have always seen God protecting and providing. We have taken on one building after another as a Bible College and seen God bring the people and finance. We have never been overdrawn. We have seen God provide every skill and anointing necessary through ebbs and flows of people coming and going. **The Way of The Spirit**

I came to The Way of The Spirit Bible College after hearing God at an Autumn Bible Conference. I had no funding, but I obediently quit my job and took steps to come. The money was

provided from an unexpected source. Later, when God showed me I would be working for The Way of The Spirit I wasn't happy about it because I had intended to go back to London after Bible College. I was still missing my friends and London life. I said 'yes' to God anyway and I was accepted on the team. I am so glad I chose to trust God. I have grown in putting my faith into action and have said yes to every opportunity. There have been times where I have had little or no notice in being asked to speak/minister, but God has been faithful every time. He has given me the faith to know that he will always 'come up with the goods' when I seek him. **CA**

I have grown in faith by listening to his word. I have had many personal battles and challenges, but holding on to what he said has enabled me to keep going and trust him. Today I am strong and learning to walk free. **GK**

Since being part of The Way of The Spirit I have a much better understanding of faith. When we arrived in Norfolk I was diagnosed with well-advanced Lymphoma. I was convinced that somehow God would get me through and heal me, which he did! Moving permanently to Norfolk was also a matter of faith. I had to leave my job, and later we left our home and moved up. I learned that faith is a matter of knowing what God is saying and obeying regardless of how you may feel. I saw faith in action watching the College built in Uganda, and I have seen God provide the perfect office for The Way of The Spirit after we moved out of Framingham Earl Hall, exactly as he said it would be.² Every week brings challenges from tasks that are beyond my

² Framingham Earl Hall was for seven years the location of The Way of The Spirit office, and where the full time Prophetic Bible Teachers Course was run.

knowledge or ability and can only be accomplished by trusting him. **HQ**

It was a big step of faith for me to follow Jesus to Bible College and then to go on missions. He provided miraculously after taking each of these steps of obedience. One of my favourite testimonies is when we found out two days before we were flying to Burundi that the accommodation would cost £300. I had something like £15 on me. Dennis and I sang 'God will make a way' leading up to the airport. I was looking around hoping someone would hand me a wad of cash (haha). We arrived at our accommodation in Burundi only to be told there was NO ROOM, so Pastor Peter invited us to stay at his house free of charge! I even had my own room. Even more interestingly, a day or so later another Pastor who booked the place said it was very strange, nothing like that had happened before - they had even put down a deposit. I remember thinking - all this happened just for me!

MG

I have had many challenges in my walk with God over the last 29 years and especially in the area of moving forwards in faith. Since coming to Norwich in 2015 God has led me in a different way than I have ever walked before. In 2016, when asked to go to Africa on mission, I had to cry out to God and wrestled with him about provision, trust and not being fearful. He provided everything and the mission was amazing. Later I was asked by God to start a small business making and selling beef burgers. This is an extract from my journal in February 2017: 'Cold Day! Freezing feet. Lord help me. I cry out to you, You are my help in time of need. Be strong and full of courage, Peter. You can do it. You are full of my life for my Spirit is upon you. Step out in faith. Be strong, man of God. Trust me. Your money will be returned. I have spoken it. I will make the way where there is no way. Be determined.' After one year of pioneering this, God told me to lay it down. He was

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training me and testing me. Now I have been on missions to Uganda, Zambia and Nagaland. **PC**

Early in 2018, my wife and I clearly felt God calling us to Norfolk after the closure of the College at Framingham Earl Hall. I found it a significant challenge of faith. It meant selling our house in London and, in the short term, renting a house locally, when we were already heavily committed financially. All seemed to be resolved when we found tenants for rooms in our house. Having signed the rental contract, we learned that one of our tenants was struggling to pay and I was also facing a significant health challenge. For me this turned out to be a huge test of faith. I also began having some concerning physical symptoms of ill health, but I hung on choosing to believe what God had said. The physical symptoms disappeared, we were able to relinquish a non-essential financial commitment and our struggling tenant proved to be a great blessing. While he was staying in our house he led people to Christ. The Lord brought me through the narrow place of that ‘winter of discontent’ (plagued by worry and lack of peace) and into a spacious place of faith and confidence in his goodness and faithfulness towards me. **TP**

Resources

The Drama of Salvation, The Call and the Cross (The Way of The Spirit)

Faith for all Life’s Storms; Benson Idahosa

Certificate Course: God’s covenant with Abraham (The Way of The Spirit)

Prophetic Bible Teacher's Course: School 1 Session 11, Personal Faith - Our Inheritance in Christ; School 2 Sessions 10 and 11 Practical Faith.³

Explaining Faith; Colin Urquhart A Sovereign World International Booklet, 1992

³ This manual is available to students of the Prophetic Bible Teacher's Course. See our website for details of the course and how to enrol.

Questions

What is faith? Where does it come from?

What does it mean to apply faith to finances, provision of team workers etc?

How do we stay in a position of faith as a team for God to provide (e.g. open doors, anointing, people...) when we don't see that provision arrive? How do we continue to ask, seek and knock?

What are we currently believing God for as a team? Do we ever 'arrive'?

Have we done what he asked of us already? Have we been faithful in the small (or not so small) things?

Prayer

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that you are the giver of faith. Thank you for showing me that it is not about the amount of faith I have, but what I choose to do with the gift of faith you have given me that matters.

Thank you for showing me that my Christian walk is by faith from start to finish.

Lord, please forgive me when I have not been intentional about living by faith, when I failed to put faith in action but instead lived a mixture of believing in you and your word and my own ideas, self-effort and worldly reasoning. I repent, choose to trust in your word and to not lean on my own understanding.

I understand that to walk in faith means to trust you in all areas and aspects of my life. That it means to take what you say, believe it and act upon it, no matter what it is. I choose from now on to obey you – to walk by faith and not by sight.

Heavenly Father, you are the provider of all my needs and you promise to meet all my needs out of your glorious riches. Please forgive me when I trusted in my own abilities to obtain provision of some sort. Please forgive me where I relied on other people or sources other than you.

I choose to be intentional in listening to your word, actively getting hold of what you are saying to me and learning to believe it and then act upon it. I open my heart to learn to walk with you in this way, to trust you step by step and to allow your Spirit to guide and lead me in all areas of my life.

Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit living in me, revealing to me your truth.

Thank you for your word. I choose to go to your word, to read it, to listen to it, to believe it and to act upon it. Thank you that you are always faithful to your word. I choose afresh to yield myself to you and to work this out by believing and obeying what you say.

From now onwards I choose to say 'yes' to opportunities to step out in faith and never to shrink back.

Heavenly Father please forgive me for the times when I prayed with words of faith but doubted in my heart. I realise that this was not faith at all. I choose to put my whole trust in you, my Lord and my God. I choose to lean on you only and not on worldly wisdom or knowledge. Please forgive me for the ways in which I was living in a mixture.

I choose to trust you with all my heart, with all my mind and with all my strength.

Notes

Notes

2. Remaining teachable – being a disciple

How it matters that every disciple gets into, and stays in, the right place as he or she follows Jesus.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to
www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key scriptures

- Mark 1.17 'Come follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' (cf. Genesis 12.2)
- Revelation 14.3-4 ...and they sang a new song before the throne ...They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.
- Isaiah 50.4B He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
- John 15.4-8 Remain in me and I will remain in you ... and you will bear much fruit... (which will be) to my Father's glory.

If I am a disciple of Jesus:

- I keep my eyes and ears on him and follow him wherever he goes.

- I remain open and teachable (whether directly with Jesus or with those he sends to lead me, train me and nurture my spiritual life).
- I focus on the process of following and becoming, not on achievement, position or status. Even if I become an apostle and plant 1000 churches, I remain a disciple first and foremost.
- I am always ready to follow and learn. I am able to accept correction and remain humble. I can work as part of a team and am never independent or isolated.
- Like Jesus' disciples I ask questions and get it wrong sometimes, but I know that I am loved, accepted, that my mistakes are tolerated and I will only ever understand by the work of the Holy Spirit in my life (the disciples finally understood at Pentecost).

When I disciple others:

- As a discipler I will have patience with my team and seek to lead them into God's presence (anointed worship, ministry, teaching etc.), because a brief moment encountering HIM will do far more than I can ever achieve through my own efforts to lead and disciple.
- I trust God to bring me the right people. I trust the Holy Spirit to disciple each person and that he will show me anything I need to see. My job is to nurture them and see them become everything they can be in Christ, helping them fathom what God is saying to them and stand with them to encourage them to walk it out. It is his work not mine, mine is to believe.

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- It was Judas' choice to turn away from Christ and Jesus didn't chase him. Nor did he go after the 72. Sometimes following Jesus seems hard and each disciple must make up his or her own mind about continuing to do so.
- When we disciple effectively, each disciple will come to a place where he or she has grown so much they will ask, like Aaron and Miriam, why should we listen to you? We can hear God too! This is a testing time for disciples and disciplers. Faith, not authoritarianism though is the only way through.

Testimonies

It is as we have sought to follow Jesus step by step, rather than make our own plans and programmes, that he has led us into fruitful places and provided everything we have needed. As we chose to hear and obey him he provided everything: Bible College buildings; in the UK and Africa, generations of students, open doors into Africa and beyond. Pastor Charles Semwaga, for example, gives testimony that there are now hundreds of men and women in Rwanda now in fruitful ministry as a direct result of The Way of The Spirit missions. We never had a plan or strategy for Africa, but following step by step has led to massive impact in at least six nations and a Bible College in Kampala. **The Way of The Spirit**

In 1998 God said he would teach me to be a disciple. I thought, as I was born again, that I already was one. Later, I discovered that in order to be a disciple I needed to remain in Christ and be completely obedient when he called or spoke and that only then would I be truly fruitful. When I came to The Way of The Spirit Bible College, it became clear that in many areas my life needed to come into line with God's word. If I wanted to be a disciple, I

realised I would have to let God help me sort these areas out, and he did. Each area I allowed him to deal with brought more freedom, and a truer understanding of what it means to be a disciple. **DD**

Knowing I am called to be a disciple following Jesus is a privilege. I am so thankful the Lord has provided the training and equipping by the teaching and being part of this ministry. I have watched others go before me and appreciate their leadership and wisdom. I have seen the people discipling me and leading me to stand firm on God's word, praying and seeking him, overcoming, maturing and being strengthened in the Lord. I make the choice to be a disciple and to be teachable. I am thankful for people supporting and mentoring me as I know I need this. My heart burns within me when I am hearing the Holy Spirit and walking with Jesus. **GK**

Resources

Following The Lamb (The Way of The Spirit)

One Like a Son of Man (The Way of The Spirit)

The Lamb and The Dove (The Way of The Spirit)

The Cost of Discipleship; Dietrich Bonhoeffer

True Disciples; (Colin Urquhart)

True Leadership; (Colin Urquhart)

Questions

What does it mean to be teachable? How open am I to receive instruction and correction from Jesus and those leading/training/nurturing my spiritual life?

What are the things that I am currently learning? How do I stay open and keep changing?

What can hinder me from being a disciple? How can I avoid these things?

How can I keep myself from pride, and therefore walk humbly before God and others? Are there any areas of pride that God has highlighted? What is he asking of me?

What if I don't spot pride in myself?

Prayer

Thank you Jesus for showing me what it means to follow you – to get into and to stay in the right place with you, to be led by you and have a close relationship with you.

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for the times when I became proud and I thought I knew better than you. Please show me specifically where I allowed pride and independence to creep in. I repent from being proud and independent in these areas.

I choose to humble myself – please show me any area where I have not done this.

Lord, forgive me for the times when I refused correction from you through those people you placed in position of leadership in the body. I choose to turn around and to move forward by faith, getting hold of the things you are showing me with a willingness and openness to learn, to grow and to be changed and transformed by your Spirit.

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for the times when I didn't honour the anointing in other people's lives, and even in my own life. Thank you for showing me afresh that the anointing is a gift from you for the body of Christ and that other people will see things in my life that I don't and that I need to be open to them.

Lord, I acknowledge that apart from Jesus I can do nothing. I choose to live my life openly in your light and to allow you to do in me whatever you need to do. I choose to live your word out and to apply it daily – thank you that I am your workmanship.

Lord, I want you to continue to teach me and to show me what it means to grow as a disciple. I open my heart to you again and I give thanks for my teachable heart and teachable spirit. I choose to remain teachable. I choose to accept correction and to receive advice.

Heavenly Father, I now realise that I have not fully understood and embraced what it means to be set apart and to follow you. I understand that this is the only starting point for a life of a disciple. I choose today to follow you wholeheartedly and to walk with you closely. Thank you for being my shepherd and for leading me into all the truth.

Lord, please forgive me where I got distracted by things which looked good and sounded right, but were not from you. Forgive me where I have lost sight of you, looked at other things around me and listened to wrong voices. Thank you for your forgiveness, your mercy and your grace.

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for all the times when I was unwilling to pay the cost to be your disciple. Thank you for reminding me that you gave your one and only Son to die for

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me. Thank you that I have been crucified with him and that I have died with him already – I am yours.

I come against every wrong voice in my life, especially when the enemy has deceived me. Forgive me where I have listened to the wrong voices. I choose to come back to your word and hold on to the truth.

Notes

3. Choosing to overcome

The importance of living victoriously, that is never falling into a victim mentality or colluding with others who do.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to
www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key scriptures

- Every letter to the churches in Revelation e.g. 2.7 To the one who overcomes I will give the right to eat from the tree of life.
- John 16.33 In the world you will have tribulation. Fear not, I have overcome the world.
- 2 Corinthians 2.14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession.
- John 5.6 Do you want to get well?
- Isaiah 50.10-11 Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on their God. But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze.

When we are living in this way:

- We always want to get well! We understand Christ did a finished work on the cross and we choose to live in the

good of that finished work. Therefore, no name can be allowed to elevate itself above the name of Christ in our lives.

- We do not point the finger at anyone else to account for our condition, not another person, not Satan and not God. We are responsible for our own lives and victories.
- We understand that following Jesus is at the same time glorious, horrible (!), exciting, terrible, and gives us many opportunities to overcome. The battles are invariably in our own hearts.
- As we keep walking towards the vision (our hope), faith keeps us going and God's love assures us of his best purposes for our lives.
- We cannot choose what mountains will appear or which battles to fight, but we can decide to keep going. When we allow ourselves to be led by Jesus, in faith and obedience, he will always lead us in triumphant procession.
- As we follow Jesus as his disciples we have to let go of our self-effort and striving to do things our way. We cannot remain on a path of following him and expend our energies resorting to our old survival mechanisms. Our weaknesses and vulnerabilities which we are so used to hiding and covering up, are exposed. At this point it is crucial that we reach out to God and not to any other material or psychological crutch for our healing and wholeness in him. We overcome! The Goliaths are in our own hearts.

Testimonies

My heart was judgmental. I was blaming others and pointing the finger. I had been like this for many, many months convincing myself that it was all ‘their’ fault. I got myself in a horrible pit and just seemed to go deeper down into it. I lost all peace, and was in great anguish and pain. I couldn’t see God clearly or hear him, it was as if I was blind and deaf to God and to the truth. I lost any drive to move forward. I felt sad and was tearful and for the very first time ever I even wondered if I was in the right place. When I couldn’t stand it any longer, I cried out in desperation to God for help. Only then was the start of my breakthrough. He showed me through the word what was in my heart. I could see plainly how deceived I had been. Over time he showed me that it wasn’t the others’ fault at all, they were not the problem. It was ME and what was in my own heart. I had believed lies and listened to the wrong voices. I accepted this truth and repented. I realised it was my job to take responsibility for my own heart and I wasn’t doing that. The moment I repented everything changed. I could see and hear God in a way that I never had before. Teaching came alive, scriptures came alive—I was getting so much revelation. My peace is back, my joy is back and the desire to get out there and do what God has called me to do is back. I now have a great excitement in my spirit. I still have to guard my heart against wrong voices but now take every thought captive the moment it comes in. I am free at last and am not going back to that vomit ever again. **CH**

One day in 2019, I found I couldn’t walk anymore and I knew something serious had happened to my back again (I broke my back in 2006). I abandoned myself to God and surrendered once again to him. I said to him I would prepare myself to die on the operating table, if my time was up, but I cried out for his mercy. I went to bed, but every move was painful. I was in the habit of getting up in the middle of the night to pray, but God told me to

lie still and not get out of bed. I woke up and got up the next day completely healed. God worked a recreative miracle in the night! During my time in hospital suffering with bipolar, God gave me such a determination to continue my disciplines of getting up early, praising and worshipping him, praying in tongues and seeking Him in his Word. This was one of the main things that helped me overcome in a very difficult environment. God has also given me the victory regarding healing from bipolar. **CA**

In May 2019 I woke up one morning in pain. I could not pass water. I was sent to hospital and after tests, they told me that I had tumours in my bladder. They put a drain in my left kidney and I had an operation to repair the bladder, as the tumours had eaten into the wall. I remember Hedley coming with me to the hospital to see a consultant. The consultant told me about having chemotherapy but I didn't want to go through that. I was feeling that I had already gone through too much in my life. Hedley said nothing but simply looked at me, and then I knew and agreed to have 12 weeks of treatment. After this course of treatment, I had an operation to remove the bladder and have a stoma fitted. Back in July 2019, God spoke to me saying: "I faced the cross. Would you face the operation?" Standing on these words I went through the operation, which took ten hours. And then I spent five weeks in hospital recovering. I was then allowed out for two weeks before going back in for another two weeks, as I had an infection. It was during those two weeks that I hit rock bottom. I didn't want to go on living. Holding on to God's promises and talking about the situation, I have learnt to overcome not in my own strength and by trusting in God; accepting the stoma, learning to deal with leakage, changing bags, and learning to live in a different way. So it has been a slow recovery—not as quick as I would have liked, but I have kept the faith and trusted in God the Father. Jesus overcame the world and the devil and in him I can do the same. Today I am full of life and hope. **DB**

I am not a victim. Teaching and support to walk in freedom by others that have overcome have encouraged me, and now I know that whatever the circumstances I am free in Christ. I always have a choice and can choose to walk in total freedom. By natural sight others may view me as restricted, but I choose to believe that I am free in Christ. This revelation has helped me take responsibility for my choices and not blame others, walking in love. A specific challenge I overcame was desiring the approval of family and friends when I wanted to go to Bible College full-time and, following that, to become part of the team. The daily journey to join the bible reading groups and then to the part-time school and conferences, then to full-time College, did not seem possible. But for every discouragement, I was encouraged by a word spoken, other people's testimonies and seeing their walk with the Lord. I learned to receive that encouragement and it brought hope. I was offered lifts and I even received financial gifts. Bus timetables even became accommodating. I remember prior to that looking on the website and seeing that the journey to the College was about two and half hours! Still not having the approval and understanding of friends and family though was a challenge. I longed for them to be pleased for me but instead relationships became even more challenging. I held on to what God had said and onto my confidence in Christ's victory on the cross. I continually received the word to TRUST IN GOD. I have the fullness of life in Jesus and I continue to seek to overcome!

GK

Since I was a child, I loved trying different things. I started playing the violin but wasn't perfect at it and I felt embarrassed about getting it wrong so I gave up. Then I started playing the drums. But even there, others were better than me and I didn't want to look stupid, so I gave up. I wanted to be good at something but struggled to overcome my own flesh, what people thought of me and the fear of failing. Well, the result was I tried a lot of things, but never really broke through into a place of

freedom. One day God gave me a dream in which I was swimming in a race. And just before the end, someone overtook me, which meant I wouldn't win. I stopped the race and didn't finish it. Over the years God kept reminding me about this dream. He wanted to make me an overcomer. My training grounds were The Way of The Spirit College and then the Community of Faith up here in Norwich. Hearing teaching on overcoming, and then being challenged to live it out. From sharing God's word for ten minutes to leading 8ams, leading groups, to eventually being a part of the leadership. In a leadership team, you have to be open with one another: real. Everyone in the team gets to see your weakest areas—but that's okay. If they are committed, they will come alongside you and help you overcome! It's the same in my marriage. We spent our first year of married life at The Way of The Spirit Bible College. That was tough. Everyone sees your struggles and failures. The good thing about marriage is, you can't just run off. So I had to learn to address things within myself, to be open and share how I felt, and to be ready to listen to what I'm not handling well. I also had to learn to understand and trust that my husband still loves me despite my failings. An even bigger challenge came when I became a mum. I get so many things wrong in being a wife, a mum and a leader. But I can come before God, my husband and my son as well as the people around me to ask for forgiveness and to trust that they still love me despite my imperfections. It keeps me humble and free. I have learned, and I am still learning, that the only way to succeed and live free is in seeking to overcome! In the end it's not about what people think of me or how good I am, but about Christ being glorified every time I overcome. **LC**

God is teaching me how to keep going, and keep leading, even when I have really not felt like it or felt in a bad place, feeling downcast or discouraged. In leading I had to overcome unbelief on my own part and on that of the team. It has meant overcoming obstacles, particularly the feeling that I as a leader have to break

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through each time (sometimes even feeling that your team is not with you). I have had to hold onto these words ‘I am engaged on a great project and I am not coming down’. This word has sustained and helped me to overcome and keep going whatever seems to be opposing me and wanting me to give up. **MG**

Resources

(All these resources are available from The Way of The Spirit)

On the Chair

Five Smooth Stones

Out of the Storm

Biblical and Prophetic Faith Course Manual Year 2, Session 10: Living in Prophetic Vision.⁴

Prophetic Bible Teacher’s Course, School 3, Sessions 10 and 11: The power and authority of Pentecost and the cross.⁵

⁴ This manual is available to students of the Biblical and Prophetic Faith Course. See our website for details of the course and how to enrol.

⁵ This manual is available to students of the Prophetic Bible Teacher’s Course. See our website for details of the course and how to enrol.

Questions

What are the current challenges that I am facing? What are the current challenges that we are facing as a team? How will I, and we, overcome? Read Jesus' promise in 2 Corinthians 2.14 again.

How much am I blaming the circumstances or others for my present situation? Do I really want to get well?

How can we help one another to overcome a victim mentality?
How can we ensure this does not affect our team?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have called me to overcome and to live victoriously. You did a finished work on the cross and I choose to live in the good of that finished work.

I declare and proclaim that I am seated in heavenly places with Christ. I choose to live out of this position and when I fail to do so to get up again to live my life from there again.

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for all the times I have blamed others or pointed the finger at someone else, Satan or even you for my situation and my condition. Thank you for showing me that I am responsible for my life and victories. Thank you for showing me what is in my own heart and revealing anything that stops me overcoming. I want to get well; I repent and choose to take responsibility for what is in my heart. I choose to listen to your word and not to the wrong voices anymore.

Forgive me for all the times I fell in the trap of self-pity and blaming others for my circumstances, when I believed lies and was deceived. Thank you for your mercy and grace in showing me the truth. I repent. I choose to guard my heart from now onwards, to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to take every thought captive.

Lord, I know I cannot choose the battles I have to fight and which mountains will appear in front of me, but you showed me again that you will always lead me in triumphant procession when I put my faith in you and obey you. I make afresh the decision to keep going and trust you to lead and guide me.

Thank you that I can overcome anything, because you live in me and your name is above all other names. Thank you, Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus, for calling me to be your disciple. I recognise the need to let go of all my self-effort and striving to do things my way and I now give up my old survival mechanisms. I choose to walk with my eyes on you Lord, to be open and vulnerable to you, to stay in the right place with you and to be an overcomer.

I choose not to focus on my performance or needing to be perfect, but instead on walking with you and trusting you in all difficult situations and being led by your Spirit.

Thank you, Lord, for leading me through every storm. I choose to move forward in faith and not to shrink back out of fear. I declare that I will not shrink back from a challenge, but will make steps of faith, not seeing how it will work out, but knowing for sure that you have spoken and trusting you with all my heart.

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Thank you, Lord, that I have a choice whether to believe and move forward or to be in unbelief and shrink back. I choose to believe your word and to step out in faith.

I refuse to worry and to look at my own inabilities – instead I choose to believe what Jesus says about me and the truth of who I am in Christ.

I understand that I cannot overcome in my own strength, but that I am seated in heavenly places already. I now live my life from the place of victory – in Christ I am already an overcomer.

Thank you, Lord, that I am not a slave to my past, to what happened to me in the past or what I have done wrong. Jesus has set me free to live in freedom.

I take responsibility for my life. I follow Jesus and will be an overcomer, I repent and walk in faith and choose to believe even when it feels difficult. I am not a victim but victorious in you.

Heavenly Father, I decide to stop focusing on my challenges, to leave self behind and to get my focus on Jesus. I let go of the worries and put my trust in you.

I choose to live my life in the school of the Holy Spirit, to walk with him regardless of my experiences. I choose to live my life for him, to serve him, to follow him – to live in your reviving grace and power.

Notes

Notes

4. Understanding the significance of spiritual authority

How understanding and employing the dynamics of spiritual authority leads to a healthy effective prayer life and effective unity in teams.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to
www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key Scriptures

- Judges 5.2 When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves – praise the Lord.
- Mark 1.22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.
- Hebrews 13.17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.
- Philippians 2.7-8 Rather he made himself nothing by taking the nature of a servant, being made in human likeness ... he humbled himself by becoming obedient unto death– even death on a cross.

When I walk with an intelligent and biblical view of spiritual authority:

- I desire that people's lives would be impacted with the word God gives me to speak and that I would pray with authority and see mountains moved.
- I check my heart and yield towards those who lead and watch over me, for I understand that my heart towards them reflects my true heart towards God and impacts the authority I have to exercise in my spiritual life.
- I am continually aware that the enemy seeks to prevent true unity and I am not unaware of his schemes.

Testimonies

It has been joyous to see people face up to these realities and get free from unhealthy, worldly mindsets towards leaders and other authority figures, and begin to walk in authority in their Christian lives. Whatever they are called to in the body, they now walk with their heads held high and in a new measure of confidence in God, for true submission to him brings confidence and leads to fruit bearing. It has also been humbling and exciting to learn to lead without authoritarianism or worldly ways of controlling, to see God back up our decisions as leaders and uncover rebellion and every bad attitude in all our hearts, leaders or led. **(The Way of The Spirit)**

At several points whilst at Framingham Earl Hall, I wrestled with staying. At one point, whilst at Faith Camp the temptation was so strong that I went to have an interview for Kingdom Faith College, without telling anybody. I was struggling with authority issues – I felt I knew better. I now realise how wrong I was. One

of the things that impacted me through the spiritual authority teaching was how much discernment a spiritual leader often has and that this is one way God looks after us. I am at peace and completely comfortable with the teaching about spiritual authority and I have been submitting decisions to the Leadership. I respect the Leadership as I can now see that even if I haven't understood, they quite possibly understand more and have spiritual insight beyond my own. Since then I know I have gone up a level spiritually. This has meant that the enemy has been active particularly at night. For example, one night there was a flare up in the flats I live in – people were arguing aggressively. I took authority over the enemy and it immediately stopped. Then a little while after it started up again. Again, I took authority over the enemy and again it immediately stopped. Then I prayed for the people concerned and I had no more bother after that. The next night, my left hand suddenly became numb and semi-paralysed. I took authority over the enemy and it healed up. This happened three times, before I was completely free of it. The next night, I had a squawking bird late at night, keeping me awake. I took authority over the enemy again, and the bird stopped its squawking. **CA**

Breakthrough really began to emerge with a spiritual authority course, but not the first or even the second time I did it because that brought more fear and anger to the surface. The third time I started to see that I was in fact rebelling against God and my issue of trust was with him, not the people he had placed over me. I realised that if I trusted him, I would submit to their leading, teaching and discipling and that listening to their wisdom and, sometimes instruction, was in fact being open to God and being a disciple. I learnt it is a discipline to choose to be submitted to God's authority and led by his Spirit, responding in obedience to his teaching and leading through his delegated authority over me. I also learnt that Jesus walked in authority because he came under authority. Disciples today also walk in authority when they

come under authority. That is God's way! That is what he taught me, it's my testimony and that is the way through God's grace I am learning to choose to be led, in order to be fruitful! **DD**

On this point I thank God for his patience and forbearance with me. It was only very recently that I experienced a crucial breakthrough. The key issue boiled down to the fact that I expected to be badly led, an expectation readily fuelled by experiences in the workplace and indeed in various churches. Issues I had brushed under the carpet came to light when I read a book called God's Armour Bearer. I was actually shocked by a passage which said that if you are called to a church, the leader's vision is God's vision for you. This confronted me with the reservations I had regarding the local vision. The last battle was facing the realisation that my long-held expectations were holding me back from whole-hearted commitment. I had difficulty in confessing that as the sin of rebellion, and that cloaking it in less stark terms prevented me from coming completely clean with God. When I finally did so, not only repenting of rebellion but blessing every boss and every Christian leader I had served under, a great weight lifted from my shoulders (like a backpack full of stones just falling off me). Being rightly related to authority over me, means greater freedom and assurance in walking in authority in my own life. Later the same week, for instance, I was able to lead somebody into the Kingdom and there was such an ease in doing so. **TP**

Resources

Spiritual Authority Study; Cornerstone Church (Norwich), Richard George (available from The Way of The Spirit Resources)

Spiritual Authority; Watchman Nee

Questions

How healthy is my heart towards people in authority over me in my church, workplace, nation etc.?

How do I respond when I don't agree with my leaders?

What did Moses do when the people rebelled against his leadership?

Do I need to study this subject further?

Do I believe that when I pray, mountains will be moved? What do I expect to happen when I teach or pray with authority?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for teaching me how operating in the dynamic of spiritual authority by faith leads to effective prayer and God's order in your body.

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that all authority comes from you – you are authority. Thank you for showing me that the attitude of my heart towards people in authority reflects my true attitude towards you. I choose to submit to your authority and to the authority of the leaders you have placed before me.

Lord, forgive me where I allow fear, past experiences with authorities, any pride or rebellious thoughts to keep me from trusting you and submitting to your authority through the people you have placed before me. I realise that I have not always had the right heart attitude towards them – and therefore towards you. Please forgive me. I repent and place my trust in you and submit to the authority you put before me.

Thank you, Father, for showing me that we are all equal in your eyes, no one is better than another, but by your grace all is from you and you have made us distinct from each other with different roles in your overall plan. I can see the need and the importance to accept, acknowledge and to honour this and I humble myself and submit to your plans for my life.

Lord, I ask you to show me what is in my heart, any issues that do not line up with the truth. I choose to lay them down at the cross, to repent and walk free of them. I acknowledge my need to be led by your word, to walk in step with the Holy Spirit and in step with the people you have placed around me.

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for the times when I haven't been real in my walk with you and when I pretended all is well, but it wasn't; for the times when I didn't allow you to deal with the issues coming up in my heart. I choose to face them, to identify and to dump them on the cross. I reckon myself dead to them and submit to your authority.

Lord, I leave with you all my previous experiences, attitudes, thoughts and feelings toward authority and those who exercise authority in my life. I forgive any who have abused that authority to control me. I choose to forgive them and to let them off the hook.

I realise that I don't have to sort out the good attitudes from the bad ones, as the whole of me has died with Christ, I no longer live but I am a new creation and I now live by faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you for the new heart and a new spirit in me, and for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, Lord, that you have given me a new heart and a new spirit. I choose today to trust you and those you put around and over me.

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Thank you for a healthy attitude towards authority from this new heart. I want authority in my prayer life and I want to see healing, miracles and signs and situations changed when I pray.

Heavenly Father, I choose to look at people as you look at them. Thank you for helping me understand that leaders also get things wrong from time to time. Please forgive me for the times when I judged them in the past and when my heart attitude towards them was not right. I choose from now onwards to still honour them – even when they make mistakes – and to pray for them.

Notes

5. Facing challenges with courage

How we are to face our Goliaths head on, courageously stepping out in obedience and faith. It takes courage to live this way.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key scriptures

- 1 Samuel 17.26 Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?
- Numbers 13.30 We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.
- Numbers 14.24 Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land...
- Philippians 4.13 I can do all things through him who gives me strength.
- Hebrews 10.39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed...

When I walk courageously:

I choose:

- to believe

- to follow
- to overcome (get back onto the chair)⁶
- to face issues in my own heart and never to shrink back.
 - I speak up, step up to the mark, take my place and fill my space.
 - I let go of familiar comfortable ways of walking, old patterns of relating and grasping for security, anything that isn't Jesus Christ. I walk into the new and away from the old.
 - I never hide behind super-spirituality, natural talent or qualifications, nor do I hide in corners or any shadow, least of all of any other person.
 - I choose to trust God.

Testimonies

God has worked courage in me. In the past I would run or hide when asked to do something that was outside my comfort zone or made me fearful. Now when asked to do something e.g. preach, lead prayer, lead groups etc. I still feel afraid and sick inside, but instead of giving into such feelings, I seek God for what he wants me to say or do. Knowing what he wants enables me to overcome the fear and trust him in it all, and to go with his plan and not allow stuff in me to stop me moving forwards or his purposes being prevented. There have been many occasions

⁶ Being 'on the chair' describes our place seated in Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2.6). See the short course *On The Chair*, published by The Way of The Spirit.

when I have had to overcome fear, often it's having the boldness to speak up, to share my views without fear of rejection, to face my own fears and unbelief. **MQ**

There have been many occasions when I have had to overcome fear. Often, it's having the boldness to speak up, to share my views without fear of rejection, to face my own fears and unbelief in pastoral settings. I learned to be very courageous and to face up to what is really going on in my heart. When I first came, I hardly said anything to anyone but now I can proclaim God's word with boldness. **MG**

Going on mission to Burundi in December 2015 meant overcoming fears and disregarding warnings about going, given the civil unrest in Bujumbura at the time. I had received a word from the Lord about safety (Psalm 91), so I booked our flights in September, and was looking forward to going on mission. As news came through of diplomatic missions withdrawing their personnel from Burundi as the situation threatened to deteriorate, someone very close to me warned me to be very careful. I started to assume that the leadership would cancel the mission for safety reasons, and I was shocked to hear that they believed that the Lord was saying, "Go!". This forced me to go back to the Lord and get a fresh word about going. Who and what was I going to listen to? My fears? What the world was saying? Or what the Lord was saying? Put it that way, and things are simple. We went, and on the first night, we could hear gunfire. Thankfully Nigel was with us and he was able to identify the weapons and estimate at what distance the shooting was taking place, (he had served in the British Army). I have to say we were never actually in any danger, but we lost a day's ministry and the delegates sheltering in a church building were fearful. But the fact that we listened to the Lord and went to Burundi at a time when other ministries were waiting for the situation to calm

down, touched the hearts of our Burundian brothers and sisters and, I believe, opened the door for The Way of The Spirit in that country. **TP**

Resources

(All these resources are available from The Way of The Spirit)

Following the Lamb

Out of the Storm

On the Chair

Shared experience: Jesus, Nehemiah

Questions

Are there any situations/people which I want to run from? How can I spot this cowardice in my heart and choose to run towards them?

Am I currently hiding or running away from something God has called me to face? Where does the courage come from to face any challenges?

How do we en-courage (give courage) to our fellow team members?

How is Caleb's spirit different, and how can we live as he did?
What advantage do we have over him?

What does it mean as a team never to shrink back from the
purposes of God and the steps He calls us to take/what he has put
before us?

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, that you have given me everything I need to be courageous and strong to follow you wherever you lead. You have given me a spirit of power, of love and a sound mind. I don't have to face the mountains in my life alone. Thank you that I can do all things through you because you give me strength.

Thank you, Lord, that I can choose life, trusting you and walking with you. Thank you for showing me afresh that it is my choice how to respond to challenges in my life and that you are always beside me enabling me to believe, to trust and to follow you, to overcome and to face issues in my own heart and not to shrink back.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit living in me. Thank you that I can hear you and that I can step out and forward in what you are showing me, knowing that you are for me and trusting that you are working in and through me.

Lord, I choose to face the challenges on my way, walking through them by trusting you with all my heart and not relying on my own understanding, but keeping my eyes on you and your promises. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for empowering me to go forward courageously.

Thank you, Lord, for being with me at all times, for your word and your Spirit guiding and empowering me to do the things

you are asking of me, even though my feelings are telling me something else. I choose to trust in you and not in what I feel.

Lord, please forgive me where I doubted your goodness and where I allow unbelief into my heart. I repent and choose from now onwards to believe your word and your promises that you are with me, that you will never leave nor forsake me. I declare this truth over my life. Thank you, Lord.

I choose to be courageous because the hand of the Lord my God is on me. I choose to look at Him in all situations.

Lord, I choose not to hide anymore, not behind natural talent, qualifications or busyness and activities nor behind any other people around me. I choose to trust you God, to speak up, to step up to the mark, to take my place and fill my space.

Thank you, Father, that you see me. I am feeling afraid and everything in me wants to run away. I choose to seek your face boldly in order to get your word until I get the breakthrough to be able to move forward. Thank you that you see me, that you always see me.

Notes

Notes

6. Living according to the pattern

How we are to build what God has designed and communicated to us, for that's what he fills with his glory.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to
www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key scriptures

- Exodus 25.40 See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.
- Exodus 39.43 Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the LORD had commanded.
- Exodus 40.33-34 and so Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the Tent of Meeting and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
- John 19.30 'It is finished.'
- Matthew 6.33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

When we seek to live according to pattern we live prophetically and:

- We understand that it is only that which God wants to build that matters.

- We no longer seek to build something for our own glory, but we lay down our agendas, programmes and ministries in order to build what he shows us.
- Attention to the detail of what he says is important. We are not to elaborate or take away from what he says.
- We don't mind paying the cost of building what he shows us; we long for his glory to be revealed and never seek recognition, worldly reward or our own glory.
- We seek first his kingdom, knowing that he promises to add everything we need, and far more, unto us.

Testimonies

In The Way of The Spirit conferences, Bible Colleges, missions, bible reading materials, etc etc have each been built according to pattern. At no time have we as a ministry sought to 'build a ministry'. We have sought his kingdom, himself, and his pattern and he has built what he wants. Many times we have known his glory in our meetings, conferences, schools and missions, and continue seeking him, that we might see more. (**The Way of The Spirit**)

The Certificate Course of the last two years has especially encouraged me in the prophetic lifestyle. The seeking the Lord in prayer, seeking his Word, his pattern by the Spirit and then seeing this outworking in many ways. The wonderful expectation and seeing at the meetings and teaching days that the Lord fills his pattern with healing, restoring, reviving, encouraging, strengthening, discipling, breakthrough, highlighting lies or wrong thinking and giving his resurrection Life. **GK**

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When God said to start a Bible College, we had no money, no students or building. We did create a brochure?! And just over a week before we were due to start, I saw three people looking at the brochure during our autumn Bible conference. God said we didn't need a building, so we took the students on, found accommodation for them in the homes of church members, and borrowed different rooms on different days. He gave us the pattern and we stepped out in faith.

Each year we built according to his pattern. In year three he gave us a house in Norwich, year four a Christian retreat centre for our sole use, and then for the next seven years Framingham Earl Hall. Now we have our own building being built on our own land in Kampala, Uganda after a season with a building on someone else's land there. We have seen his glory in each of these places he has provided, and look forward to much more in the days ahead. **RG**

In 2020 at the beginning of lockdown, God was saying to us GO & PROPHECY AGAIN amidst a number of rising voices in the church saying that God had told them it was a season of rest and waiting. When it felt like the whole world was coming to a stop, we stepped out in faith to DO what God was saying by reaching out to bring his word online through Zoom. God gave us the further pattern for weekly teaching series/sessions, and as we faithfully walked according to his pattern to GO & PROPHECY AGAIN, we saw abundant fruit! It felt like the world had opened up to us. New people were coming and getting caught up in the flow of life coming through the word and Spirit, the UK network was being strengthened, as well as missions continuing to other nations on Zoom. We praise God that as we followed his pattern for that season, we saw much fruitfulness! **MG**

Resources

(All these resources are available from The Way of The Spirit)

Cherubim, Palm Trees and the Glory of God; John McKay

Movements of the Spirit, A History of the Prophetic Church;
John McKay

Shared experience: Moses (Exodus 25-40)

Questions

What is God's pattern for me/our team/my ministry?

What foundations are we building on as a team? Are we building on good ideas or the blueprint/pattern that God has given us? Or a mixture?

How will I decide what to spend my time on (do I get distracted by things outside the pattern?) How easily do I get distracted by other things?

Are there any personal agendas/programmes that I need to lay down in order to give myself fully to God's pattern right now?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I want you to be glorified in all I do. Thank you for revealing your pattern to me as I continue to seek you and listen to your voice. I give myself to you and to what you want to build.

Forgive me for the times when I have compromised what you have given me to build, whether by adding to it, subtracting from it, or by completely ignoring it and building something else, which I or another person thought was a good idea.

Lord, forgive for me the times where I heard you and thought I was building according to your pattern, but didn't pay attention to the details you showed me and wandered off in doing things according to my own understanding and reasoning. Please forgive me. I choose to pay attention to everything you are revealing to me and to walk in your ways.

I choose to take your words more intentionally, by writing them down, taking hold of them and acting upon them. And when I get stuck, not simply to follow the first thought that comes to mind, but to seek your advice and guidance. Thank you, Lord, for your Holy Spirit in me who enables me to do so.

Thank you, Lord, for shaping me and working in me to make me into the person you want me to be. Thank you that you are putting the desire in my heart to follow you wholeheartedly and

to live according to your plans and purposes. Thank you for your guidance and your pattern for my life, so you can be glorified.

Jesus, please forgive me for the times when my stubbornness and self-life got in the way and held up your transforming work in my life. I let go of self, my own ideas and desires and yield myself afresh to you. I decide to walk closer with you, Jesus, to seek your pattern in all I do, to walk in it and to establish it. I decide to co-operate with you more and to allow you to change my life and ministry according to your will.

Lord, I want you to be glorified in and through my life and ministry. I let go of any self-effort and instead seek you until I get your pattern for any task you place before me. Day by day I yield myself to you and rely completely on your guidance. Thank you for the promise that you will lead me into all the truth. Thank you for an intimate relationship with you.

Lord, please forgive me for the times when I got a word from you and started to think about it, analyse it, change it – and ended up doing what I thought was best; when I even judged your word with my reasoning. I repent. I admit that I cannot do anything without you or in my own strength. Instead, I choose to trust you with my whole heart and to walk in your ways.

Lord, please forgive me for the times when I doubted your word, when I thought it didn't fit in my life and therefore couldn't be

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the right word for me in this season. Forgive me for the times when I only wanted to please myself and find an easy way to walk. I repent. I choose to follow you, to believe your word, to take hold of it and to co-operate with you to work it out in my life. I am willing to pay the cost of following you.

Notes

7. Living for Him

Dropping our own ambitions, desires and agendas in order to see God's kingdom advance.

To access the recorded teaching for this chapter, go to
www.thewayofthespirit.com/seven-ingredients/

Key scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 6.19-20 ...you are not your own ...you were bought with a price...
- Mark 8.34-35 Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.
- Galatians 2.20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- John 15.8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
- John 12.26 Whoever serves me must follow me...

When I live for God's purposes:

- I die to my own purposes.

- I no longer have a personal agenda, ambition or objective, other than to see God glorified in all I do.
- Nor can any personal agenda be camouflaged within 'doing ministry'. If I serve you, I follow you; I serve you by following you (John 12.20-26)
- Once I die to my own purposes and allow Jesus to truly be my Lord, then as I remain in him I know for sure that I will bear fruit and that he will give me many rewards (in this age and in the age to come).

Testimonies

The Way of The Spirit ministry belongs to the Lord. He can do what he wants with it, everything, or nothing. We have nothing to prove, to ourselves or anyone else. We seek his purposes not our own. We do not use The Way of The Spirit so we can have 'a ministry'. We do not use The Way of The Spirit so we can 'teach'. We serve him by following him and one way we do that is to humble ourselves under his strong hand. We do that by listening to what he says (his word) and doing it. We do not worry about our reputation, and trust him to always vindicate us. (**The Way of The Spirit**)

When I finally got the revelation that I am crucified with Christ and that I no longer live, but Christ lives in me, several things happened at different stages. First of all, I found it a HUGE relief that I didn't have to try anymore, but that I could walk in the Spirit. Self-effort had been dropped at the cross. Then I had a deepening of the revelation at the Missions conference where I profoundly met with God. Some of the first words at the conference were "It's all about Him, not about us." This sparked off a desperate prayer of asking God to empty myself of myself

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and fill me completely with him. I came to the end of myself, so to speak. It was my way of completely reckoning myself dead. I had been still doing things a bit in my own strength and now that I prayed this prayer, I noticed a HUGE difference. The way I put it is all of me came out and all of God came in. I was CHANGED FOREVER and I found that when I laid hands on people, they were getting healed. I prayed for a man in the supermarket who had rheumatism in his neck and he told me he was now “pain free.” I know now that it’s not me doing it, but Jesus in and through me. **CA**

In my 20s and early 30s I was an active member of a decent Anglican church. However even in that environment I tended to compartmentalise my life, fitting God into certain areas. Then he led me to a place where I encountered him in a completely new way, when he filled me with his Holy Spirit and called me onto a different path. Everything in me just wanted to follow him no matter what the cost and I knew for the first time what it meant to live fully for his purposes. **RG**

For several years before we retired, we talked about an active retirement giving our time to serving God. We expected that this would mean helping out in our local church. But God called us to The Way of The Spirit. For me it started with the part-time course, then a short stint as a full-time student before serving at Framingham Earl Hall in a practical way. There my focus was changed, from a personal retirement project to being caught up in God’s purposes for the whole world. It’s truly exciting to be part of something so much greater than my own little life! Not so much my retirement plan but God’s *refiring plan!* **TP**

Questions

Am I serving my own agenda by doing what I want in ministry, or am I truly serving Jesus by following his commands?

Have I taken my gifts, even those good things in my life, to the cross and surrendered them? What does it mean for me to do that? Is there a particular action I must take now?

How do I live the consecrated life? What is the fruit of living this way? What fruit can I see in my own life?

SEVEN INGREDIENTS

What does it mean for our team to lay aside our personal agendas and preferences, and seek only his kingdom purposes for us?

Prayer

I declare that I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I have died to my own life, the old is gone and the new has come. I give my life to glorify God in all I do.

Lord, please forgive me whenever I hold on to even the good from my old life. I realise that the whole of me, the bad AND the good has been crucified with Christ and I reckon myself completely dead. Thank you, Lord, that I can now live the resurrected life for you to be glorified in all areas of my life. I am a new creation!

I choose to live my life devoted to you: no mixture, no compromise. I choose to line up my thinking with the reality of your truth.

Thank you, Jesus, for calling me for such a time as this. I leave the old behind and walk into the new, where there are no limits. I choose to be caught up into your purposes, to be used by you to bear much fruit, and for you to be glorified.

Thank you, Lord, that I have your fullness of life. Thank you that your word exposes what is in my heart so that I can repent, believe, know that fullness overflowing in a life lived for your purposes.

SEVEN INGREDIENTS

Heavenly Father, I want to serve you in whatever way you ask me to. Thank you that I can always come back to square one, back to the cross to dump anything that hinders me from following you wholeheartedly.

Lord, forgive me when I put 'self' on the throne, where I made excuses to justify myself and blamed others, where I slipped back into old ways, lost touch with you and the revival life you called me to. I realise that the battle is often in my mind. Please forgive me. I repent. I choose to submit afresh to your word, to believe what you have done for me through the cross and that I have the victory in you. I place my faith and confidence in you, Lord.

Thank you, Jesus, that you always lead me in triumphant procession; out of confusion and into your glorious freedom. I choose not to be led by my feelings or look downwards and inwards, but to look up to you and be led by your word and by your Spirit.

In times of darkness when I can't see the light, I choose to trust you God and to rely on you. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for leading me into all the truth, that you will illuminate God's word for me, so that I can take hold of it, believe it and act upon it.

Thank you, Father, for showing me things in my heart that I was holding on to and didn't want to let go of. Thank you that they will fall away when they are exposed in your light and life.

I realise that I sometimes may try to hide my failures because I am ashamed and I am afraid that people will see my weaknesses and reject me. I even try to hide them from you, Father, because I don't want to face them. Thank you for showing me that it is not about failing, but that walking in the Spirit will inevitably lead me to confrontations with things in my heart I haven't yet dealt with, or I haven't recognized yet. To find them exposed is not failure, but you are doing the wonderful work of changing me from one degree of glory to another, into the likeness of your Son Jesus. Thank you, Father, for your patience, your love and your grace.

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