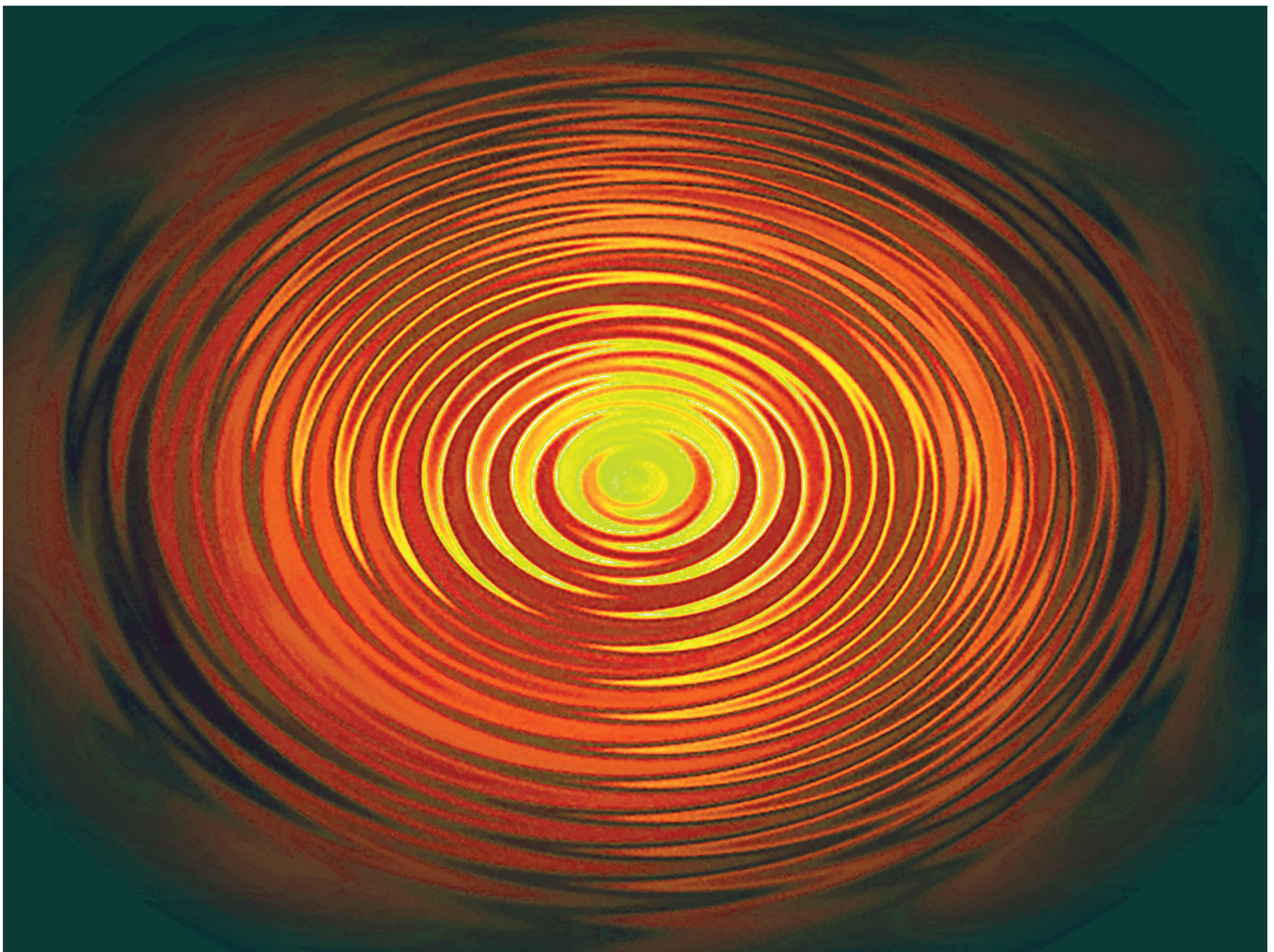


The GREAT IMMERSION in “I AM”

Discovering Treasures in the Rhythm of God

LEADER GUIDE



Advance in flowing in greater rhythm with God
to experience more of the higher life God intends

Harvey L. Diamond

THE GREAT IMMERSION IN “I AM” DISCOVERING TREASURES IN THE RHYTHM OF GOD LEADER GUIDE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	1
RECORDED SESSIONS	3
FACILITATION APPROACH	5
USING THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	9
INTRODUCTION TO CONTINUING LIFE STRENGTHENING EXERCISES	11
EXERCISES TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE'S SHIFTS	
EXERCISES TO GROW IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	

Our inspiration and encouragement

Embracing the apostle Paul's great word of encouragement

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

Our Heavenly Father has a great inheritance and higher things in store for us

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be *partakers of the inheritance* of the saints in the light. (Colossians 1:10-12)

we are confident of *better things* concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation (Hebrews 6:9)

Being strengthened by the constant pour of God's love through the Holy Spirit to pursue what God has purposed and will fulfill through Christ

Now hope does not disappoint, because *the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* (Romans 5:5)

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto *Jesus, the author and finisher* of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Going forward in His amazing manifold grace to receive His unshakable promises and Kingdom inheritance

Therefore, since *we are receiving a kingdom* which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 12:28)

Keeping at the forefront of our mind the *first things* Jesus proclaims—*His great mission—(amplifying Isaiah 61:1): Healing—Liberty—Vision*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to *heal* the brokenhearted,
To proclaim *liberty* to the captives
And *recovery of sight to the blind*,
To set at *liberty* those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.
(Luke 4:18-19)

***to make ready a people prepared for the Lord* (Luke 1:17)
bringing many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10)**

Discovering Treasures in the Rhythm of God is part of the series, *The Great Immersion in "I AM."* The series is a discipleship resource based on the seven profound "I AM" declarations Jesus makes in John. Through them Jesus proclaims key aspects of God's nature meant to help us gain valuable insights into who He can be in us and who we can become in Him.

In the section focusing on "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life" we discuss the concept of the rhythm of the Godhead or Trinity. We connect this declaration Jesus makes with how:

- Peter frames the Godhead, "according to the *foreknowledge of God the Father*, in *sanctification of the Spirit*, for *obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*" (1 Peter 1:2);
- Paul frames the Godhead through His prayer in Ephesians 3:14-17; "I bow my knees to the *Father...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit* in the inner man, 17 *that Christ may dwell in your hearts* through faith..."

Peter and Paul apprehended a heavenly pattern by the Holy Spirit. They discerned *functions* and *roles* within the Godhead acting in a divine unity, flowing in a divine pattern. They both see:

- The Father as the source of knowledge and wisdom who has foreordained plans encompassing His love, values, purposes and creative nature;
- The Holy Spirit, revealing God's higher truths and ways through His presence, power and multidimensional grace, actively cleansing, strengthening and empowering believers to walk in spirit and truth and bear the fruit of the Spirit;
- The Son, Jesus, demonstrating the multidimensional love of God and revealing God's higher purposes and ways of redemption and restoration brought forth through His obedience, humility, sacrificial life, faithfulness and triumph of His resurrection.

Such a revelation truly provides a strengthening view of the nature of God. It helps us see a real picture of God's uni-plural nature flowing in a sovereign union and rhythm.

See how Jesus connects through His declaration, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

- The WAY of the Father flowing through His foreknowledge and purposes;
- The TRUTH revealed and manifested by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth;
- The LIFE more abundantly being realized and lived in Christ the Son, our Lord and Savior.

Jesus focused on preparing His disciples—and He does with us—to *follow Him, walking in step with Him by the Spirit*. He wants us to *live victoriously over the ways of our flesh and forces of the world to overcome in God's grace—His strength, love, joy and peace—shalom*.

This course, therefore, is about helping us walk in greater rhythm or in step with God in ways that bear greater fruit of the blessings of God. So, we look at how Jesus prepared His disciples to follow Him, walking in step with Him by the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we look at patterns we can adopt to learn to walk in rhythm with God in greater ways. Our focus is *applying ways* this can become real in our life.

How the teachings are organized

There are 20 video sessions, ranging from 5-8 minutes, totaling 2 hours. Separate audio recordings are also provided for listening flexibility. This format presents nuggets to reflect upon and internalize. Each session follows a page in the workbook and ends with questions to reflect upon and discuss with others in a group setting. Some sessions include various exercises to help internalize and apply the concepts discussed in a greater way.

The best discussions bring up further questions to enhance the conversation and increase personal adoption. This brings the greatest values to participants as they internalize the concepts. It brings greater transformation than a mere presentation of information ever can. This happens through *reflection*, receiving *revelation* from the Holy Spirit, coming to personal *resolve*, and then *responding*—to God and others—through conversation and actions.

Various exercises are also provided in the Appendix. These exercises foster *continuing growth through application* of the concepts discussed. They lead people beyond gaining information to actively mine the treasures of the dynamics of the kingdom of God and rhythm of God.

The content, therefore, is designed to present a fresh approach to Biblical narratives to inspire and encourage people to live in greater union with God and experience real transformation. This equips people to navigate life better, be an overcomer and bear greater fruit of God's grace. It also enables people to be a brighter light and witness to a darkening world.

Benefits of our approach and presentation of the content

Paul provides us with an example of a teaching style that fosters real transformation. He employed a *fathering* approach. *"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers... Therefore I urge you, imitate me"* (1 Corinthians 4:15-17). We employ a similar approach. So, we purpose to *speak into the hearts of people as fathers*. We, therefore, engage around *life-focused* topics, encouraging *heart-stirring* and *thought-provoking life-shaping two-way conversation*.

Encourage people to also bring a notebook or electronic device to take notes and write down their thoughts and reflections to help them internalize them and keep for future reference. Continuing growth and application exercises include:

- ❖ Exercises to Successfully Navigate through Life's Shifts
- ❖ Exercises to Grow in the Life and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

RTH-1 p. 1 7:10 Bringing God's higher ways into our life

Preparing to Walk in Greater Rhythm with God

RTH-2 p. 3 4:48 Jesus prepares us to flow in greater rhythm with God
RTH-3 p. 4 4:23 See what Paul learned about walking in step with the Holy Spirit
RTH-4 p. 5 4:28 Joshua's illustration of keeping and doing to walk in rhythm with God
RTH-5 p. 6 5:39 Entering the baptism of rest
RTH-6 p. 7 8:17 Seeing dynamics of the kingdom of God strengthens our spiritual vision
Exercises to strengthen vision and our walk of faith

Catching the Heavenly Vision

RTH-7 p. 11 5:22 Peter and Paul apprehended a heavenly perspective of the Godhead
RTH-8 p. 12-14 5:10 Jesus connects to the heavenly pattern through I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life
Three exercises to help bring us into the rhythm of the Godhead
RTH-9 p. 15 4:21 Jesus models the way of engaging with our Heavenly Father and Holy Spirit

The Paradigm of Values-Vision-Virtue

RTH-10 p. 17-22 8:39 Coming into alignment with God through values, vision and virtue + exercises

The Paradigm of Inheritance-Intimacy-Identity

RTH-11 p. 25 4:47 Being cognizant of our Heavenly Father's inheritance through intimacy, walking in Christ's identity
RTH-12 p. 26 5:02 Jesus gives more insight into the significance of our eternal inheritance
RTH-13 p. 27 5:01 Walking in intimacy with God prepares you to receive and steward your inheritance in Christ

Following the Beat of the Holy Spirit

RTH-14 p. 29 4:59 Walking in God's rhythm following the beat of the Holy Spirit
RTH-15 p. 30 4:40 Growing in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit through exercises

The Paradigm of Calling-Congruence-Capacity

RTH-16 p. 35 6:36 Living in God's rhythm of rest effectuates real transformation
RTH-17 p. 36 5:09 Valuing the dynamics of renewal leads us towards our upward call

The Paradigm of Agreement & Assignments – Alignment & Anointing – Arrangements & Authority

RTH-18 p. 39-41 9:35 Experiencing God's arrangements helps us see God's greater purposes

Seeing the Big Picture

RTH-19 p. 43-45 8:48 Seeing God's big picture helps us receive and capture more of God's blessings

Coming to Higher Dimensions of Worship

RTH-20 p. 49 4:05 Connecting our worship to our walk

DISCOVERING TREASURES IN THE RHYTHM OF GOD

FACILITATION APPROACH

I. Prepare your heart for God's upgrade! Apprehend what the apostles saw. Receive God's great love! See *beyond* and enter God's realm—life beyond human imagination.

The apostle Paul experienced a huge upgrade on how He perceived God. He, therefore, prayed that all the world would come to better apprehend what he did. The Amplified version of Ephesians 3:17-21 depicts a great rendition of this. He prayed that we would:

"be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the *breadth and length and height and depth* [of it]; 19 [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] *the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]*! 20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [*infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams*];—21 To Him be glory..."

The apostle John also had a great revelation.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
(1 John 3:1-3)

John makes a huge statement here, challenging us to *behold—see beyond our carnality—and allow Christ to reveal the reality of God's great love!* As we do, we *position ourselves for a huge life upgrade, and an inner peace, faith and confidence that propels a great measure of inner joy and stability.* This confidence enables us to *live overcoming life's challenges and experience God's greater purposes.*

Yes, *God is calling us to come out of our box—out of preconceptions, limited theological and philosophical understanding, dogma, thoughts and biases—and see beyond—to grasp hold of "new things" (Isaiah 42:9) He has for us.*

This is possible as we are *refreshed and strengthened in God's great love in greater ways, are grateful for it, find our joy in it, and worship Him for it.* We just need a *reset on what we focus our heart, eyes and mind upon.* As Paul says, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

So, Jesus shows us how to open our heart and spiritual eyes to see. *The Holy Spirit helps us see beyond and enables us to perceive the reality of living "life in His name."*

Did I not say to you that *if you would believe you would see the glory of God?* (John 11:40)

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and *having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.* (Acts 2:33)

So, we will see *how Jesus leads us to truly know Him* and experience this reality through His profound seven "I AM" disclosures. *This is the key to a life of joy David discovered!* It is ours to receive.

You make me *know the path of life; in your presence is unbounded joy, in your right hand eternal delight.* (Psalm 16:11 CJB)

DISCOVERING TREASURES IN THE RHYTHM OF GOD **FACILITATION APPROACH**

II. Create a learning environment that allows the Holy Spirit to be the teacher, guiding God's people into His truth, bringing understanding of the knowledge of God. This happens as we encourage people to be open and sensitive to the prompting and illumination of the Spirit.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, *He will teach you all things*, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:26-27)

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, *He will guide you into all truth*; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. (John 16:12-15)

YOUR ROLE AS A LEADER-FACILITATOR

See yourself as a leader *facilitating a learning process*. As leaders, we are all *lead learners* as the Holy Spirit amplifies and provides illumination of God's Word! Truly, *the Holy Spirit is our teacher*. As you seek the Lord through prayer and conversation with Him and invite the Holy Spirit's presence and stirring within you, *the Holy Spirit anoints and equips you to follow His leading and prompting*, enabling you to accomplish *His purposes and goals*.

IMPARTATION BEYOND INFORMATION

Beyond being a teaching of mere information, this resource is meant to be a life transformation resource that *trains and encourages* us to:

- *Grow in the new creation image that we are in Christ* (2 Corinthians 5:17);
- *Flow in the outpouring of God's great love through the Holy Spirit* (Romans 5:5).

Review—Reflect—Respond discussion questions: to help *internalize the concepts* and effectuate engagement with God and one another.

Special exercises: to encourage us to *grow in various dimensions of Christ's life within us* and internalize the dynamics presented.

DISCOVERING TREASURES IN THE RHYTHM OF GOD

FACILITATION APPROACH

FACILITATION SUGGESTIONS

Active listening

Encourage active listening by *emphasizing the content in italics*, paraphrasing the content to strengthen the key points. As you do, add comments like, “*keep this in mind,*” “*focus on this key point,*” “*do you see how this works?*” The following points help foster active listening.

Promoting discussion and exercising empathy

This helps people come out of themselves and relate better with others. When facilitating Review—Reflect—Respond discussion questions and Special Exercises, there are times you might engage the group in a group discussion and other times you might first put people in pairs or groups of three. One person shares their thoughts and the impact the question draws. The second person then summarizes what person one shared. The second person then shares their thoughts and impact the question draws. The first person then summarizes what the other person shared. A third person adds diversity and an added dimension of objectivity to the thought-response dynamics. The group may then reconvene the general discussion to discuss and share general takeaways.

Reflective facilitation

People learn best through active participation—*processing, making observations, doing, reflecting, interpreting insights gained and sharing testimonies*. Our job as facilitators is to guide and support people through the process.

Session preparation

Review the words in *italics* to emphasize *key points on each page*. Ask the Holy Spirit to amplify the points you are to make that may be especially relevant to your participants, and jot down some notes.

Pray for wisdom in leading the Review—Reflect—Respond discussion questions as well as Special Exercises. It's important that people actively participate and take notes to help them internalize the concepts discussed.

Also encourage participants to reflect on the material, meditating on their thoughts during the week, engaging with the Lord to gain more insights, strengthen the learning process and effectuate real transformation.

Session Flexibility

The sessions are designed to provide flexibility in presenting the course. You may find it beneficial for your group to combine sessions based on the content and time allotted for your sessions.

Group Messaging and Discussions

Our online learning management system incorporates functionality to strengthen learning and foster community engagement through Messaging and Discussions. See *Tips on Using Our Online Messaging and Discussions* in the Using the Learning Management System section.

NOTES

DISCOVERING TREASURES IN THE RHYTHM OF GOD **USING THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Viewing Course Samples

Click on the Register for free button at the bottom of the Course Sneak Peek page. After registering, the WELCOME page displays. Click on the course of choice. The Course Content page displays, and you can download the Free Sample Workbook and begin viewing the sample lessons.

Purchasing Courses and Workbooks

Each course includes one fillable/printable workbook PDF. Additional workbook PDF's and printed workbooks (available in the US only) can be purchased by the group leader, or by individuals through the Store. For Groups, be sure to enter a Group Name. On the Checkout page (and also through the My Account > My Orders > Downloads link), workbook PDF's can be downloaded. Click on the Proceed to Group button to access the Groups Dashboard and set up the group.

Setting up the Group

On the Group Dashboard click on Group Code to create a group code. Enter a number in Number of Enrollments and a Date Range. Switch Code Status to Active to activate the group code. As a group leader/organizer, you can add users (group members) by clicking on the Enroll New User button. Users can also enroll themselves in the group. Users can access the course individually by using this group code. They do this through the Register – Group Registration link.

Group Functionality

Group Organizers have total control over the settings of a group. That includes the ability to enroll group members, send Messages and start Discussions. They can also start multiple groups. The My Groups link displays the Groups created by the group organizer. Multiple groups can be created. This page enables the group organizer to create a Profile, view Messages and Discussions. Making a discussion “sticky” will bring the discussion on top of all other discussions.

- **My Groups:** Here all groups of a group organizer are displayed. Clicking on the Group Box displays group members and group functions. The group organizer can send Messages, start a Discussion, View the Course, and Manage the group. The Manage tab displays message Settings that can be customized. The Messages tab enables the sending of group or private messages. A group member can also be promoted to Moderator of the group. This enables the ability to edit and delete any Discussion within the group, excluding those posted by organizers.
- **Groups Dashboard:** Here the group leader can access the members of a group, create a group code and generate a report of the group, showing individual member progress.

Group Members

If a group organizer enrolls members, newly added users will get an email containing a username and password. Now he/she can log in to the site using those credentials (and change their password) and get access to courses inside that group. The group leader can remove the user anytime by clicking on Remove. Clicking Re-invite sends a reset password link to the user.

Members can also register themselves and enroll in a group through the Group Registration tab. They must enter the group code supplied by the group organizer. Members can access the group through the Groups > My Groups tab. They can view video lessons or listen to the audio tracks individually in their own time. This encourages and strengthens individual learning. They can access lessons via the Courses Tab on their Profile or the Group Courses Tab on the Group Profile. Members are also able to view other group members, contribute to the group's discussions and send messages.

THE GREAT IMMERSION IN “I AM” USING THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Tips on Using Group Messaging and Discussions

Our learning management system incorporates functionality to strengthen learning and foster community engagement through Messaging and Discussions. This enables group participants to learn from each other and consider other perspectives and insights. Such discussions can take the form of reflective sharing, giving people the opportunity to expand upon and clarify their understanding of key concepts. It moves the whole learning experience beyond more passive forms of watching and reading by allowing participants to *actively engage with the facilitator and others, ask questions and get support from each other and learn from one another.*

To ensure productive and meaningful discussions, provide some guidance on discussion etiquette at the beginning of the course. Firstly, let group participants know how often you will personally be engaging with discussions and how you intend to manage moderation. Also consider the following:

- Encourage and invite *active participation*
- Set a standard of *concise to-the-point focused* comments
- Encourage *movement in advancing* conversations
- *Respond* to questions and points raised relating to lessons and peoples' comments and posts
- Reference *specific course concepts* and *workbook page numbers* in comments and posts
- Encourage participants to maintain an *edifying tone* and an *environment of love*

DISCOVERING TREASURES IN THE RHYTHM OF GOD **LIFE STRENGTHENING EXERCISES**

These exercises foster a *continuing growth process*. They provide *application exercises* to help people grow in Christlikeness—"the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

EXERCISES TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE'S SHIFTS

God calls us to embrace shifts as part of life's journey. The children of Israel coming out of Egypt into the wilderness was a shift: a *crossing over* from *bondage* to a *wilderness faith building experience*. It shows us how God led them in *His sovereign way* to *prepare them to cross over into His promised land—or promised life*.

On the day of Pentecost, another major shift occurred. The people experienced a big pour of God's love through the pour of the Holy Spirit. Paul got this crucial point and ran with it. He declares, "*the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us*" (Romans 5:5). That day, Peter *connected some historical and prophetic dots*. It marked a *pivotal shift* in mankind's relationship with God.

How we move through shifts to bring successful long-term outcomes to realize "the end intended by the Lord" (James 5:11) for our good and God's glory is crucial. God's hope for us is to *grow and flow in His grace and rhythm to experience His blessings*. As Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, it takes *dimensions of renewing the mind to effectuate real transformation*. So, we provide 21 discussion topics with reflection questions to help people continue processing key issues in a coherent way to effectuate real transformation.

EXERCISES TO GROW IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many people ask how to relate and engage with the Holy Spirit and hear His voice. The Bible shows us many pictures of people engaging with God and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit, hearing His voice.

Jesus in fact spent His last days *specifically preparing His disciples to receive the active ministry of the Holy Spirit*. He said, "*he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*" (John 14:7-21) One very real way Jesus manifests Himself to us is through the Holy Spirit speaking to us and working *inwardly* through His love and expressing Himself *outwardly* through various *grace gifts* as we *receive them by faith* and *express them to serve in love and humility*.

Jesus also says about the Holy Spirit,

"He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:17)

"He will testify of Me" (John 15:26)

"He will guide you into all truth...He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." (John 16:13-15)

So, we discuss how our heart can be tenderized to receive greater measures of God's supernatural love and truth and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our heart and reflect His supernatural love and truth outwards so we can flow more in the grace gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is *experiencing His kingdom coming in earth as it is in heaven*.