

LIGHT

(Revised Edition)

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my brothers and sisters throughout the body of Christ. I have been privileged to travel to nearly every region of the world. I have shared the light in my heart with many Christians, and I have been asked by numerous believers to write a book about some of the key truths I have taught over the years. *Light* is a collection of those truths. I pray you will be encouraged and spiritually edified by the revelation contained in this book.

I want to thank Servants of the Lord Ministries for their help and encouragement in producing this work. I want to especially thank Patricia Ross for her tireless efforts and many hours of labor on the editing and preparation of this manuscript. Many thanks to those who assisted her: Aaron Ross, Julia Arulsamy, Renae Pook, Will Kok, and Jim Umdenstock. Special thanks go to Andy and Renae Pook for the use of their computer system in preparing the manuscript.

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Introduction

As children of God, we have access to all the grace we need in order to overcome the darkness of the world. Matthew 5:14 says we are the light of the world. As we abide in Christ Jesus, his light shines through us.

The darkness and spiritual confusion in our world are continually increasing. Many people see this taking place and become frightened and discouraged. Yet Romans 5:20b says, “. . . *where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*”

In the chapters of this book, I deal with areas where many believers are walking in darkness. Each chapter could be a book within itself, but I am not trying to present a complete study on each subject. The purpose of this book is to share some key truths in areas that many don't understand and to encourage the children of God to let their lights shine in a greater way.

Chapter 1

Do We Win or Not?

A Simple Question

The title of this chapter seems like a simple question. If you are walking with the Lord, you should believe that the kingdom of God and those who are in it ultimately win. However, many church people don't seem to believe this even though they should. They see the world becoming more and more ungodly and therefore, don't truly believe that we as God's children can possibly win.

It has become evident to me during my many years in ministry that people fall into one of the following categories if they don't believe that those who are in God's kingdom win:

- (1) They are lost and have not come to the Lord as their Saviour.
- (2) They are saved but do not know the Word of God.
- (3) They are saved and know the Word of God but don't believe it.

If you believe that failure is imminent, you need to examine yourself to see which of these categories you fall into. If you are lost, you need to get saved. If you are a believer but do not know what the Word says, ask God to reveal his Word to you by the Holy Spirit. In addition, ask God to lead you to a church where his Word is being taught in Spirit and in truth. If you are saved and know God's Word, you need to repent of your unbelief and **choose** to believe what God says.

If you do believe that the people in God's kingdom win, then I want to ask you another question. Does your positive answer spring from your **hope** that we win or from **evidence** of victory that the Spirit is producing in **your** life? Ask yourself if your daily confession and manner of life are good witnesses on your behalf. It is easy to say you believe that Christians have victory in Jesus Christ, but it is another thing to provide evidence in your own life to prove it. **You should be able to prove what you believe by the way you live.** James 2:17 says that faith without works is dead. When you say you believe something but have no evidence of obedience to prove it, you are deceiving yourself. (James 1:22)

Most believers won't admit they don't trust in what God says. However, when they look in the Word and see what is described as the evidence that should be manifesting in their lives, they realize they do not truly believe God and his Word. **True faith is based on heart belief, not mental understanding alone.**

The Real Problem

People are misdiagnosing their problems all the time, and they are looking everywhere but the right place for answers. They make excuses for why they don't have spiritual victory, fellowship with God, and victory over their flesh and the devil. They suppose the reason they cannot walk with God in power is because they don't have enough faith or need more of the Holy Spirit. But their quantity of faith cannot be the problem because Romans 12:3 says that all men have been given the measure of faith. Likewise, their problem cannot be a lack of the Holy Spirit either because they did not receive him in bits or pieces. When they received the Holy Spirit, they received him in fullness. They may not be appropriating all that he has for them, but they don't need to receive more of him in the sense of acquiring a greater quantity of the Spirit.

The real issue is a matter of heart attitude. When you truly believe you win, you release your faith into God and his

anointing begins to flow in your life. In addition, you release zeal from within to make you more spiritually alert.

As a natural example of this principle, it is commonly known that there is a great difference between a boxer who steps into the ring to fight, believing he is going to win, versus one who believes he has already lost. A less proficient fighter who believes he can win often defeats a better fighter. He wins based largely upon his **attitude**. It is true that he must have some ability, but his attitude makes a major difference.

What You Truly Believe

If you truly believe that God is faithful and that you are a winner because you are in his kingdom, you won't need a "back up plan" in the flesh to ensure that you don't end up suffering loss. Take a moment right now to ask yourself the questions listed below. The answers will reveal what you truly believe about God and his trustworthiness.

- Do you feel overpowered by your flesh and circumstances in everyday life?
- Are you fearful that the devil could hinder or destroy you?
- Do you confess that you want to overcome your flesh and obey the Lord but find yourself defeated instead?
- Do the things of the world influence your life more than what God says?
- Do you make excuses for your continual failures?
- Is something other than Jesus the first priority in your life?
- Are you seeking after selfish agendas, just in case God doesn't do what you hope he will do?

If the answers to these questions have shown you that you don't truly trust God or believe that you have victory because you are part of his kingdom, now is the time to repent. Go to your Father with an open, humble heart. Ask him to forgive your unbelief and commit your heart to trust him from now on.

In Christ, We Win!

If you and I are both in the body of Christ, I can't win while you lose. Part of Christ's body can't win while another part loses. Can the shoulder, arm, and left leg of Jesus win and the right hand and the left elbow lose? Of course not! **If you are a part of Christ, you can't lose.** The question is whether or not you are in Christ.

Did Jesus win the victory over Satan and the world when he died and rose again? Yes! Then if you are in him and part of his body, you also win. **You may not think you are an important part of Christ's body, but if you are any part of his body, you win!** On the other hand, if you are not part of Christ's body, you lose. Jesus and those in him win. Those outside of Jesus lose. It's as simple as that.

You need to ask yourself if you are spending your time in Christ or in the flesh. Victory is found in Christ, but Satan has continual access to defeat you if you spend your time in the flesh. I would ask you to look at the evidence in your words, thoughts, motives, and actions. Then you will know what you truly believe in your heart.

When Do We Win?

Do we only win when the trumpet sounds? No, but many Christians believe we don't win until the Lord returns. They believe if they can hold on until the trumpet sounds and get glorified bodies, then they will win. **But the truth is, we win when we move into Jesus because he has already won.**

On the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished." (John 19:30) He didn't say, "To be continued." He completed the work of redemption and won the victory when he died and rose again.

The battle was won when he went to hell and defeated satan and his principalities. He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them. (Colossians 2:15) He took away the keys of hell and death. (Revelation 1:18) He won the victory and has given it to us. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and we are joint-heirs with him. (Revelation 17:14, Romans 8:17)

If we are in Jesus, we are winners **now**. But how can we be consistent winners? It’s very simple. **We win by abiding in Jesus.** John 15 relates the parable of the vine (Jesus) and how important it is to abide in the vine. Romans 11:11-24 tells us that the natural branches were the people of the Jewish nation. In order to provoke the Jews to jealousy and because of their rebellion, Jesus was given to the Gentiles. We were then grafted into the vine. God warns us that if he didn’t spare the natural branches because of their unbelief, he isn’t going to spare the wild branches that were grafted in if they don’t abide in faith. John 15:6 says if we do not abide in Christ and bear fruit, we (the branches that were grafted in) will also be cast aside. These scriptures show how important it is that we abide in Christ and bear fruit.

Evidence That You Believe

It might help you to make a list of the evidence manifesting in your life that proves you believe you win. Many believers never seem to think about examining the fruit in their lives, but 2 Corinthians 13:5 says to examine yourself to see if you are in the faith. **The fruit you manifest is the evidence of what you believe.**

You should ask yourself if you truly possess and manifest what you are confessing. Many believers confess to have fruit they don’t possess in the **hope** that they will receive it some day. They equate their hopeful confession with faith, but there isn’t much substance in that type of confession. To them, their lack of fruit seems irrelevant, but it is the evidence that they don’t truly have faith!

It is not what you confess, but the fruit you possess, that proves you have faith. If fruit is never produced, faith is lacking to some degree. It doesn't take the Holy Spirit forever to produce fruit in you. How long have you been confessing fruit you do not possess? You may not yet have mature fruit in an area you are believing for, but the way you act is evidence that you have released your faith into God.

For example, do you believe that God can speak directly to your spirit? When I ask believers that question, most of them say things such as, "I don't know. I think so. Yes, I believe he does." But when I ask them **if he speaks to them**, they reply, "Well, no!" They believe in their **minds**, but there is no evidence of believing in their **hearts**. If you have believed that God can speak to you, there would be evidence in your life to prove your belief. You would be seeking him for directions in every area of your life. He would be directing your paths, and you would be continually developing deeper communication with him.

As another example, if a prophet in your church told you that an earthquake would destroy the building in thirty seconds, some of you might say you believed he heard from the Lord. However, if you remained seated, that would prove you didn't believe him. If you had believed, you would have run for the door. Everyone would know who truly believed by who left the building.

Believing moves you to action because what you believe in your heart rules you. You only believe to the level that you are doing. At one point in my life, I thought I believed many biblical truths, but I wasn't doing many of them. I was waiting for God to do something. Many Christians are waiting for God to move on their behalf, but God is waiting for them to obey him with faith!

There should be evidence (fruit) to prove you believe what God says. You should either be producing fruit or the preparation for producing fruit should be taking place. The process is set in motion as soon as you believe. You may not possess mature fruit at this point, but you should have "the

substance” in place. What is the substance? The substance is the Holy Spirit working in you. As soon as you truly believe God is going to do something in your life, the work begins.

It’s very important to be honest with yourself and realize that you do not believe to any greater measure than what you are doing. I’m not talking about **your** efforts to do something but rather God sovereignly moving to bring fruit into being. As soon as you believe from the heart, God starts moving. That is why you have the substance of things hoped for at the moment you believe from your heart.

It isn’t necessary to go through elaborate rituals while trying to persuade God to do something he has already said he wants to do. When you cry out **from your heart** and say, “Lord, I choose to believe what you have said,” then God will start moving. He knows when you begin to believe from your heart.

A Personal Example

I will never forget the time when God showed me that religious rituals do not impress him. When I was a young believer I wanted to hear deeper revelation from God, so I decided to fast for three days. On the last day, I wanted to act especially humble so I got down on my knees to pray. All I could think about was the pain in my knees and back, and God wasn’t saying anything to me! Finally, I cried out from a humble heart and said, “God, I want to hear from you.”

I could feel God shaking his head at my acts of sacrifice. All of a sudden, I felt very foolish. God said, “Go fix something to eat. Then go into the living room, sit down in your chair, and relax.” So I got a sandwich and rested in my chair until I began to feel better. It seemed that eating and relaxing weren’t spiritual acts. But when I obeyed God, he started speaking clearly to me. He said, “You could have heard from me this way in the first place.”

God taught me that he is looking for a humble heart of obedience rather than acts of sacrifice or religious rituals. My efforts to impress him with rituals that originated from my

reasoning and understanding did not move him, but he immediately responded when I cried out to him from an obedient, humble heart. Please understand that I'm not saying you shouldn't fast as you seek God. I am saying that he is touched by your heart attitude, not religious acts you perform in an effort to make an impression on him. He always looks at **why** you do something, as well as the act itself.

You cannot do anything to earn God's favor. He has already given you his unmerited grace. (Ephesians 2:8 and 9) God is not interested in the rituals you perform. Let me say it once again! **What moves God is a humble, obedient heart that believes what the Word says about him.**

Believe What You Already Have

The fruit in your life is based on the measure to which you believe what you already have. **If you have already trusted God in one area of your life, you can choose to trust him with your whole life.**

I train people for all types of ministry. One may be in the first level of training, one in the fifth level, and another in the tenth level. The only difference between the one in the tenth level and the one in the first level is that the one in the tenth level has found out what he already had when he was in the first level. All believers move into Jesus Christ when they come to him at salvation, but some of them do not **believe** they are in him. Their inconsistency and lack of personal knowledge of Jesus Christ adversely affects what they believe and their ability to mature.

Believe and Receive

I am what I am by the grace of God. (1 Corinthians 15:10) I have the liberty to be like Jesus. I have the liberty to be an overcomer. The devil still tries to lie to me, but it's hard for him to win his case because I've got too much evidence (godly fruit) on my side.

Do you know why he convinces some of you? Because you don't have enough evidence to refute him. He tells you a

lie and you know it is a lie, but you can't prove it by the evidence in your life. Revelation 12:11 says, "*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony. . . .*" **When you start acting like who you already are and believe what was done for you on the cross, you will begin to have victory in your life.** Jesus' blood cleansed you and made you as white as snow. It made you a child of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. **It gave you the power to become a son of God.** It gave you access to the treasures of heaven for whatever you need. It made you a winner.

You had to believe in your heart, confess with your mouth, and repent in order to get saved. Even if you haven't been trusting God with your whole heart since your salvation, you can choose **now** to believe what he says. **Faith is trusting God that he is trustworthy to do what he says he will do.** You will never please God without faith. (Hebrews 11:6) You must trust him.

Open your heart to the Lord Jesus and lay down your preconceived opinions about him and what you think he wants from you. You don't need to memorize more scriptures or perform more religious works to impress him. Submit your heart to your Lord with humility. Make sure the basic truths you already know are operating by faith in your life, and start looking for good fruit to appear. If you don't see good fruit, ask the Lord to show you what is wrong and make the necessary adjustments. Repent, trust the Lord with all your heart, and begin to expect a harvest!

Books by Joseph C. Hedgecock

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My Sheep Hear My Voice (Revised Edition)

Do you want to know your Heavenly Father and Jesus in a personal, intimate way? Would you welcome the opportunity to hear God speak to your spirit about every detail of your life? If the answer to these questions is *yes*, this book is for you. It provides detailed, easy to understand instructions about how to hear the Lord, get to know Him, and experience an exciting and fulfilling walk with God. This is a vital message to the Body of Christ that is based on revelation and personal experience, not theory.

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My Sheep Hear My Voice (Study Guide)

The Study Guide has been prepared by Servants of the Lord Ministries to help you understand the book, My Sheep Hear My Voice. It will guide you as you seek to hear the Lord's voice and develop a deeper relationship with Him.

The guide focuses your attention on the main teaching points of My Sheep Hear My Voice and provides added emphasis on the areas that will produce rapid growth in your relationship with God. You will see dramatic changes as you apply these truths to your daily life.

- (90 pages) ISBN 0-945255-03-9 (English)
- (53 pages) ISBN 0-945255-04-7 (German)

My Sheep Hear My Voice (Children's Edition)

Patricia Hedgecock Ross has edited My Sheep Hear My Voice to teach children how to have a relationship with God and hear His voice. This is easy to read and can be understood by children of all ages. It can be used by parents to train children in the ways of the Lord.

- (20 pages) ISBN 0-945255-05-5 (English)
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- Available online in other languages.

My Friends Obey My Voice

This book is the sequel to My Sheep Hear My Voice. It is primarily for those who have read and studied the first book. It explains the possible reasons you do not obey even when you hear the Lord.

Do you struggle to obey the Lord consistently? Are you resistant to His Lordship in any way? This book identifies the areas that may hinder you and how to overcome them.

(66 pages) ISBN 0-945255-09-8 (English)

The Manifested Sons of God

(Revised Edition)

This book is for believers who want to grow up spiritually, be productive in the Kingdom of God, and become mature sons of God. It explains how to come to maturity, be a vessel of honor, and become a manifested son of God.

At the closing of the church age, there will be a manifestation of the sons of God. The question you must answer is, *Do you want to be a mature son of God?*

The devil has produced counterfeit sons by deceiving proud, spiritually immature believers. This does not take away from the fact that God is preparing true manifested sons who are humble and mature.

Now is the time to prepare. Do not miss the opportunity to become a Spirit-led, faithful, and mature son of God.

(155 pages) ISBN 0-945255-15-2 (English)

Light (Revised Edition)

Light is a book that sheds God's revelation and light on twenty-three key areas including faith, authority, judgment, the fivefold ministry, and the anointing.

Light was written for the children of God who are lights in a world of darkness and desire to shine even brighter. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* When revelation comes from God, it sheds light in our spirits and minds. Darkness and ignorance are exposed.

Light will encourage, challenge, and equip you spiritually. It will increase the light you already have. Many key truths await you in this book.

(181 pages) ISBN 0-945255-19-5 (English)

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Sound Doctrine

Sound Doctrine teaches believers how to avoid deception and corrupted doctrines. Numerous sound doctrines are explained in detail.

The sound doctrine found in the Bible includes pure, clear scriptures that change your spiritual life as you obey them. Sound doctrine prepares you to walk in the Spirit and abide in the Kingdom of God. It does not include mysteries.

God's Word is truth, but satan has perverted sound doctrine and methods of learning for generations. He has replaced the truth with lies, ways that seem right, and false doctrines. Many of today's believers follow and teach deceptive doctrines and tenets of learning.

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The Gilted Prison

This book is primarily for those who want to walk with God and have no intention of being deceived. It identifies the tactics of the enemy that hinder you. It clarifies how to rescue yourself from obvious and subtle traps. If you walk with the Lord but are not growing as you should, this book will help you overcome your flesh and the devil's accesses.

(137 pages) ISBN 978-1-949741-04-9 (English Revised Edition)

(77 pages) ISBN 0-945255-57-8 (English)

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(78 pages) ISBN 0-945255-58-6 (German)

(78 pages) ISBN 978-1-949741-01-8 (Spanish)

How Love Grows

How Love Grows is a booklet that teaches how God's love grows in your life. He wants you to be filled with His love and have an abundance to share with others.

The best way to be a witness of Jesus Christ is to manifest God's love. This book takes you through the process that will bring an abundance of love.

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Three Infallible Witnesses

This booklet teaches you how to consistently hear the Lord and confirm what you hear. You will learn to discern the

differences between the voice of the Lord, satan, and self (the Adam nature).

You need to test every thought with the three infallible witnesses: the Word of God (Jesus), the witness of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God. These three witnesses are used to examine your thoughts and bring them to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

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After the millennial reign, the Father will appear with the New Jerusalem. He will destroy the heavens and the earth and create a new heaven and a new earth. His children will spend eternity with Him and Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God.

But what about your life today? This book describes how to live in the Kingdom of God now. It explains in detail how you can move into God's Kingdom and abide there. Some of your inheritance comes in eternity, but many of God's promises are available now. You can start enjoying what He has provided for you immediately!

(247 pages) ISBN 0-945255-75-6 (English)

WAKE UP! TIME IS RUNNING OUT
VOLUME I
FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Have you struggled spiritually for many years? Do you realize you are not where you should be in your Christian walk? Are you frustrated because you long for intimacy with your Heavenly Father and Jesus as your Lord, but it seems unreachable? Do you desire to abide in the Spirit, grow up spiritually, and finish the race God has set for you?

WAKE UP! TIME IS RUNNING OUT, VOLUME I gives simple, detailed instructions about how to build solid spiritual foundations and the steps needed to become truly spiritual. It gives practical examples to teach you how to abide in God's presence and enjoy the benefits of your salvation.

The Body of Christ needs to wake up! Time is running out. Whether the Lord returns soon or you go to Him in death, now is the time to repent and be prepared to meet Him.

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This is the second book in the series, WAKE UP! TIME IS RUNNING OUT, VOLUME II addresses the issues of how to live and grow up in the Spirit. In addition, many of satan's tactics for stealing your spiritual inheritance are exposed. You will also learn how to recognize his deceptions as an angel of light.

This book focuses on who God has called you to be in the Kingdom of God and how to become the unique, one of a kind individual you were created to be.

Available on Amazon (eBook)
(232 pages) ISBN 0-945255-97-7 (English)
(258 pages) ISBN 978-1-949741-05-6 (Finnish)
(260 pages) ISBN 0-945255-98-5 (German)

WAKE UP! TIME IS RUNNING OUT
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SPIRITUAL MATURITY

The third book in the series, WAKE UP! TIME IS RUNNING OUT, explains the instructions you need to obey to become a mature, functioning member in the Body of Christ. If you love God with your whole heart, listen attentively to the Holy Spirit, and consistently submit to the Lord, you will grow up spiritually. If Jesus Christ is your first love and the Lord of your life, He will prepare you to fit in His Body.

WAKE UP! TIME IS RUNNING OUT, VOLUME III focuses on how to be spiritually mature. Your life will produce eternal results as you faithfully obey God. When you step into your callings, you will continue to receive deeper truths from the Holy Spirit.

When you are mature, you no longer think or act as a child but function as a spiritual adult. This book will help you see what you have been given from God and how to fulfill the unique callings and purposes He has planned for you.

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