MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Dear Friend,

If we were approached by someone who told us we could do the same things as they, our minds would immediately begin evaluating whether or not we believed that to be true. We would base our determination on how we believed we compared to the person making the statement. In other words, if a 7-foot tall professional basketball player told us we could play ball exactly like him, our conclusion would have to be no, unless we were also 7-foot tall professional basketball players. If a rocket scientist told us that we could design rockets like him, again, our conclusion would have to be no, unless we were also rocket scientists with equal mental capabilities.

In both cases, our conclusion would be based on the results of our self-evaluation, comparing our physical or mental ability with theirs. Moreover, there would be one additional variable taken into consideration, that being the preparation process the person went through in order to succeed. Even if all the same natural abilities were present, there would still be the necessity to match the preparation process. So, our conclusion would be based on both, whether we possessed the same abilities and if we had undergone the same preparation process. With that in mind, what conclusions do you draw from Jesus' words? (John 14:12)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believes on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go to My Father."

Since Jesus said **believers** would do the **works** He did, and even **greater**, are we equally equipped and are we able to participate in the same preparation process Jesus went through in order to do the **works** He did, and even **greater**? In the minds of most everyone, their answer is, <u>No</u>, because we put Jesus in a special category, different than ourselves and conclude that what He said is not possible for us because we are mere humans. We must settle this in our minds, either Jesus was telling us the truth or He was lying, and we know Jesus never lied. So, let's answer this question; How did Jesus accomplish what He accomplished while on earth? Once we answer that question, at least then we know what's necessary in order for us to do the same **works** as Jesus, and even **greater**.

In this letter, we will discover what facilitated Jesus' achievements. After we identify what Jesus was equipped with and recognize the process He went through in preparation, then if we match in both categories we should go and do what He said we

could do. Saying Jesus had to undergo some kind of preparation process could get a person stoned in many "religious" circles. Most people want to attribute all of the works of Jesus on this earth to the fact that He was God, complete in every way. Let's see what the scriptures say about that. Look at what Paul wrote, (Philippians 2:5-8)

(5) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

We are about to depart from "conventional wisdom" which tries desperately to keep Jesus exclusively in the "God category". What Paul is explaining in his letter to the Philippians by using the words, "made Himself of no reputation" and "took upon Him the form of a servant" and "was made in the likeness of men" isn't how God came to this earth as God, but rather how He came here as a man. This is why we find over 60 times in the gospels Jesus referring to Himself as, the **Son of man**, and only about 12 times as the Son of God. His intention wasn't to come to earth and put on a "big show" in an effort to convince the world that He was God. If that were the case, why refer to Himself as Son of man 58 more times than He did Son of God? Jesus intended for the world to know that He came here as a man. Why else major so emphatically on calling Himself Son of man? Consider the purpose for His 31/2 year ministry, it wasn't to put on the "God Show" but rather to reveal to the world all that would become possible to them once they were born again and filled with the Holy Ghost. Jesus walked the earth with a human spirit; He was baptized in the Holy Ghost and demonstrated miracles as a man. That's why Jesus could say what He said in John 14:12, because He showed how it was done and expected us to do the same. Though it is challenging to consider Jesus as a mere man walking the earth, especially when it comes to all the miracles, we can't allow our minds to keep Jesus exclusively in the "God category" because then we don't qualify. Let's look at how John wrote about Jesus' entry into this earth, (John 1:14)

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John said the second member of the Godhead, previously called "the Word", agreed to leave heaven. Had "the Word" not agreed to leave heaven, Jesus could never have been born on earth. "The Word was made flesh," means exactly what it says. "The Word", who while in heaven was the second member of the Godhead, a member of deity, ended His existence in heaven and became a man; Jesus. Did God snap His fingers and make Jesus instantly appear on earth? No! God had to abide by the same rules He originally made for Adam. Consequently, He couldn't supersede mankind's authority by simply showing up on earth and operating as God. God had to work within the parameters He instituted for mankind. He had to operate within man's authority requiring God to become a man. This first required men on earth, the prophets, to speak of His coming for thousands of years before His appearance. Finally, when all

the Words were spoken, God found a woman who believed Him and His Words, resulting in faith being released in the earth. This faith enabled the Holy Ghost to cause those Words to produce Jesus, "the only begotten of the Father". Praise God, Jesus was born into the earth. There was no finger snapping because God had to abide by the same laws He had enacted for man. The law that God had to abide by dictated that the only legal entry point into the earth is through a womb as a baby. This is the "Law of Genesis", which limits like beings to reproducing after their own kind. Realizing God is a just God, who abides by His own Word, is a great revelation. If God said something and later changed it to suit His whims we could never trust Him.

When we see how God had to abide by all the laws governing entry into this world, why should it surprise us that once Jesus was born into this earth He had to operate like the rest of us? In other words, Jesus had the same limitations as any other man. John described the only difference. (John 1:4-5)

(4) "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not."

Jesus was born into this earth with a human spirit, alive with the **life** of God, because God had become His Father. While in heaven, the Godhead stood equal with each other. There was God the Creator, then "the Word" and finally the Holy Ghost, the three members of the Godhead. Once "the Word" agreed to become a man, God, who is the source of life, took from Himself life and placed that life in the human spirit of Jesus, conceived when faith and the Word became one in the womb of Mary. Now, God was the Father of Jesus, who was born into this earth as His Son. It is so important we understand that the Father didn't give Jesus "Superman powers". What the Father gave the Son was life. According to this verse, Jesus was born into a world dominated by spiritual death, referred to as darkness. The life inside Jesus originated from His Father and was the **light** that was shining in the darkness of spiritual death. When Jesus entered this world, He possessed the only human spirit filled with life. Life is what God took from Himself and placed in Adam in the Garden when God "breathed" into Adam the "breath of life". It wasn't oxygen passing from God into that body, lying lifeless on the ground, it was life. God told Adam that he would die if He ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. After the woman ate the fruit of that tree. Adam made the decision to eat the fruit as well. Neither of them dropped dead in the natural, but death had in fact entered their spirit. Adam existed, but his existence was in a state of spiritual death, which was passed on to every human born, through the "Law of Genesis". The reason Jesus was able to interrupt that cycle of spiritual death was because God, who is life, was able to pass on to Him life as His Father. (For anyone who has not heard Pastor Dave Roberson's six volume series called the Born Again Trail, I highly recommend going to his website and listening. All of this is explained in great detail and every Christian needs this foundation in order to understand who they have become. We can't teach all of that here, so please go and listen at daveroberson.org.)

Let's review. We began by wanting to determine if we qualified to do the same works that Jesus did, and even greater works. Now, we have reached the point that we see Jesus lying in a manger, the only person on earth with **life** inside of his newborn human spirit. Yes, Jesus had a human spirit - not a "God" spirit - a human spirit. The reason this is so important is because legal entrance into this world comes only one way and that is as a human spirit clothed with a physical body through the doorway of a womb. This is the only way Jesus could enter our world. In addition, just like us, Jesus was born with a soul: a mind, will, emotions and intellect and He needed to be taught. He had to enter this world like all babies do or else He was different and could never be our substitute. When Jesus was hungry He ate. When He was thirsty He drank. When He was tired He slept. When He was crucified He died. (Thankfully, He was resurrected by God). The point is that Jesus was a man in every way it means to be a man. The difference between Him and us was that His human spirit came into existence with life and not death. In order for Jesus to qualify as man's substitute, legally speaking, He had to be a man. For Jesus to be born any other way than the rest of us would have made Him different and unqualified to be our substitute.

Somewhere in our minds we have this picture of baby Jesus in the manger standing up and reciting scripture. (Note: The scriptures available to them would have been what we refer to as the Old Covenant). First of all, what newborn baby can talk? Secondly, Jesus did not come out of the womb quoting scripture because He did not know scripture, or anything else for that matter. Most certainly, the Devil would have cried, "foul" had baby Jesus jumped up and begun quoting scripture. For Jesus to rightfully qualify as our substitute He had to qualify in every way as a man, which he was, a man filled with the life of God. How could Jesus expect us to do the same works He did if He had something we don't have? If that were the case, shouldn't Jesus have told us not to expect to do those particular things that only He could do because of that difference? We, as Christians, have been born again with the same life inside of us that He had and can be filled with the same Holy Ghost He was filled with. The truth of the matter is, there is no difference.

Speaking of the preparation process, Jesus had to undergo the same preparation process that we must undergo. He had to conform to the image found in the written Word of God. The reason Jesus successfully dominated the devil while walking the earth was because the image of who He was, which He received from the written Word, had developed within Him and the Holy Ghost was able to anoint that image with Himself. That image wasn't preprogrammed in Jesus nor was it somehow mysteriously imprinted inside Him. That could not be and Jesus still qualify as a man. If this were possible, it would have to be possible for anyone of us to mysteriously be imprinted with the image from the Word without reading the Word. It is not. Jesus had to go through the same process of reading and meditating the Word for the image in the Word to develop in Him. He had to read the scriptures just as we do. How else could the image found in the Word have been in Jesus and still be legal in the courts of heaven? (II Corinthians 3:18)

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed in the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord."

This verse describes the process of looking into the scriptures as though we were looking into a mirror with the end result being that we conform to the image we see in the Word. Since that is the process we must follow, why wouldn't Jesus also have had to do the same? The truth is, He did.

Think back to when Jesus faced the devil in the wilderness, how did Jesus defeat him? Did Jesus shoot lightning bolts at the devil? No. Jesus quoted scriptures to him, "It is written...It is written...It is written...It is written...I" How did Jesus know the scriptures? Did Jesus wake up one day and suddenly know every scripture? Is that how it works for us? No, so it could not have been different for Jesus. First, we must learn to read. Jesus had to learn to read. Then, we have to read the scriptures, meditate them, and become one with the written Word. In order for Jesus to lawfully qualify in the courts of heaven, He had to qualify in every way a man just like us. There could be no differences or else He had something more than we have and He couldn't become our substitute nor could we qualify to do the same works as He.

This is some of the best news we will ever hear. We have everything Jesus had and can do everything Jesus did, while He walked this earth. If we will submit ourselves to the same preparation process Jesus underwent, by reading, meditating and confessing the scriptures, the image of who we have become in Him can fully develop. Once enough of that image is developed, the Holy Ghost can anoint that image with Himself, as He did with Jesus, and we can have the same results Jesus had while walking the earth. Let's watch Jesus growing and developing and then identify the source He used for this development so that we can do the same thing He did and have the same results. (Luke 2:40)

"And the child (Jesus) grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him."

To better understand this verse we need to see what a couple of words mean. The words "waxed strong" describe what was happening in His spirit, the meaning of which is, "to strengthen, make strong, increase in strength, to grow strong." Clearly, this wording indicates that Jesus did not come out of the womb fully developed spiritually, but rather needing to develop. If we see Him coming out of the womb fully developed, spiritually speaking, we are seeing Him incorrectly. Just like any of us, Jesus had a human spirit that needed to undergo the same process of development and growth that we have to go through. Another word that is important to understand is "filled", used here it speaks of being "filled with wisdom". The word "filled" means, "to make full, to fill up" and also denotes a continuous filling. In order to fill something the vessel being filled must begin at a state of not being full. Jesus had to read and meditate the Word of God, as we must do, in order to have been "filled" with wisdom. To think that Jesus came out of the womb full of the wisdom of God gives Him a status different than us. In

order for that to happen, it would have meant that God violated His own laws, which God would never do.

It was obvious at the young age of 12; Jesus had a very good understanding of the scriptures and had been meditating on them. (Luke 2:46-47)

(46) "And it came to pass, that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions. (47) And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."

The understanding demonstrated by young Jesus was unparalleled by those doctors of the Law. He was able to understand the scriptures better than those more mature men because of the life in His human spirit. Keep in mind, the religious leaders as a whole had resorted to using the Law as a way to control the people. They had long since departed from following the Law as God had intended and, instead, used the Law for personal benefit selectively following what they determined important. Besides that, their spiritually dead human spirits had a fallen nature, from Adam, which prohibited them from understanding or conforming to the scriptures. Jesus stood before them as a man with a human spirit alive with the life of God, with the nature of His Father, making it possible for Jesus to understand the scriptures. Jesus was able to conform to the written Word of God and walk in all the fullness of wisdom and understanding available in the scriptures. Something else worth mentioning is that Jesus' human spirit was born with a conscience that knew right from wrong. Those spiritually dead leaders had no ability to know right from wrong, which was the reason God gave Israel the Law, to show them what was right and wrong and to prove to them that in their spiritually dead state they had no ability to keep it. So, they could not know right from wrong and they could never understand the things of God until they received a new nature, which would eventually be available to them when they were born again. (More teaching about our new nature can be found in the Born Again Trail Series by Pastor Dave Roberson.)

Even though Jesus had understanding that caused them to marvel, He still didn't begin His earthly ministry for 18 more years. Was there a calendar somewhere dictating that on a certain day of a certain year His ministry would begin? Is that the way it works with us? The answer to both questions is No. In our case, like Jesus, the image found in the scriptures has to develop in our spirit and we must be transformed to that image. Then, once the image has developed to the point that the Holy Ghost can anoint that image, God releases us into our call. For Jesus, those years leading up to His baptism by John were spent reading and meditating the scriptures until the image in those words stood up inside of Him. Thank God, Jesus learned to read at an early age. We need to stop thinking that Jesus came out of the womb automatically knowing how to read, knowing who He was, and fully developed spiritually. No human comes out that way, including Jesus.

Jesus was growing and maturing, learning the scriptures and developing spiritually. When the image inside of Jesus was sufficiently developed, the Holy Ghost anointed that image with Himself, for ministry. Jesus was baptized by John, immediately followed

by being baptized in the Holy Ghost. Next, He defeated the devil in the wilderness by quoting the scriptures. Finally, Jesus enters into His earthly ministry. How did He do it? Did He do it with some "God Power" not available to us? No, Jesus fulfilled His ministry as a person whose human spirit was filled with **life**, possessing the nature of His Father and baptized in the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost anointed the image He painted within Jesus by the Word, and it was that image that guided Jesus every day thereafter. What Jesus saw in that image, He did. Did Jesus receive specific instructions from the Holy Ghost at times? Yes. But, what we will see is that predominately; it was the image inside of Jesus that guided Him. That in no way reduces the ministry of the Holy Ghost in our lives, but rather reveals a greater impact in His daily leadership through our empowering Him as our Teacher. Our praying in tongues activates the teaching ministry of the Holy Ghost on our behalf bringing illumination of the Word and enhancing the development of that image inside of us. His leadership ministry is not limited to us only receiving specific instructions. His leadership ministry was designed to impact us every second of every day because it is that image He has painted on the canvas of our hearts that is guiding us. Every moment we spend praying in tongues and meditating the Word we are empowering the Holy Ghost to continue painting that image in us. That's why when the religious leaders were so mad at Jesus for healing the man at the pool of Bethesda; Jesus' response was directed back to how He followed that image, not about following step-by-step instructions. Let's watch the events unfold in the fifth chapter of John.

After 38 years of suffering with sickness, the glorious day came when a man lying by the pool of Bethesda met Jesus and his life changed forever. (John 5:6)

"When Jesus saw him (the man at the pool of Bethesda) lie, and knew that he had been now a long time [in that case], He saith unto him, 'Wilt thou be made whole?'

Out of all the people lying around the pool that day, Jesus called out this man. He knew he had been there a long time, whether that was common knowledge or a revelation by the Holy Ghost, is not clear. After asking him if he wanted to be made whole, Jesus gave the faith command; the man stood, took up his bed and walked. It's not clearly stated that Jesus received this as an instruction from the Holy Ghost, yet that is what we assume. We make that assumption based on what we believe the verses that follow are describing. What we believe the verses describe is Jesus saying how He received moment-by-moment instructions telling Him what to do and what to say. We are helped into believing this by some translations of the Bible. Depicting the verses that way ignores the real point of contention, which we will see, was over the written Word of God and not whether Jesus was receiving instant messages from God.

Just after the miracle, the Jewish leaders worked quickly to squelch the celebration that should have erupted. Certainly, they had to discredit Jesus, immediately. Their solution was to draw attention to the Law, which Jesus appeared to have violated. Keep in mind, their anger wasn't so much about the singular infraction as it was the fact that Jesus was making fools out of them, and in turn, threatening their livelihood. Jesus'

brazen lack of respect for these leaders undermined their power and discredited them in the eyes of the people. Consequently, the leaders focused on what they believed to be their strength, enforcing their version of the Law in an effort to justify getting rid of the threat; Jesus.

No matter that this sick man had been ill 38 years, while these leaders had hijacked the Law, ignoring the provisions that would have healed this man. Instead, they used the Law to control the people and enrich themselves, making slaves of the people, "Do this! Don't do that!" on and on it went. There stood Jesus, full of the image that these same scriptures had painted on the canvas of His heart. Jesus healed this man because faith produced by the image inside of Him empowered the Holy Ghost to bring His words to pass, which is why He said, (John 5:17-19)

(17) " '...My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.' (18) Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. (19) Then answered Jesus and said unto them 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.'

It is important we understand why Jesus picked this moment to speak about being the Son of God. It was not His attempt to validate Himself. Jesus identified God as His Father because God's Word, to which these Jews supposedly clung, was intended to point them to Him, the Messiah. Keep in mind, the access these Jews had to God was by the correct performance of His written Word. Let me repeat that. The access these Jews had was through observance of the Law and sacrifices, which they instead used to benefit themselves. Had they only correctly followed the Law they would have had a perfect picture of Jesus. Now, the Son of God is explaining how, "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do". These Jews knew that Jesus was speaking of Himself as the Son of God. They knew that the written Word was the source for receiving the instructions from God. Consequently, what Jesus was effectively saying to them was that He knew and followed the Law better than they did and the proof was in the signs that followed Him.

Jesus had meditated on the written Word of God until the image filled His heart. He said He only did what He saw the Father do, which is what He saw in that image. Jesus only did what that image showed Him to do. He saw the image of healing in the Word; Jesus meditated on the Word until He became what those Words described, the healer. The result was that the image produced by the Word He meditated filled His heart. Faith was produced by that image, empowering the Holy Ghost to honor Jesus' words. Consequently, the sick were healed and made whole, which is what He saw in the Word. (John 5:20)

"For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth Him all things that Himself doeth, and He will shew Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."

All the miracles in the ministry of Jesus were the result of Him seeing everything available to Him in the Written Word and meditating on the Word until the image was painted on the canvas of His heart. The Holy Ghost was empowered by the faith produced by that image in Jesus, causing the anointing to accomplish the miracles. The greater works, which would eventually cause them to marvel, was the new birth that would take place once Jesus died and rose again. Jesus had seen the image of the new birth in the scriptures before ever going to the cross.

It's crucial that we remain focused on the scene at hand. Keep in mind the fierce anger of the Jews. They were watching their grip over the people coming undone. What they had used for so long as the source to keep the people in line, The Law, was suddenly being pointed to by Jesus as the source empowering Him to do the works that He did. Jesus witnessed for Himself the image of the healer in the scriptures, and became one with that image until it finally stood up off the pages and stepped into Jesus' heart and the Healer began to walk the streets of Jerusalem. (John 5:30)

"I can of My own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not mine, but the will of my Father which hath sent Me."

This verse speaks specifically of Jesus' dependency on the Father. The reason Jesus was able to hear and justly judge any matter was because He had become one with His Father by becoming one with the image in the written Word. Everything Jesus faced on this earth was measured against that image and judgment was rendered in the light of how it compared to that image. Even though the Amplified Bible gives the impression this verse is speaking of God giving Jesus line upon line, moment-by-moment instructions directing every moment of Jesus' life, that is not the case. Presenting the verse that way completely removes it from the setting and paints a picture other than what is actually taking place. The issue at hand is the written Word. That's what is being called into question. That's the basis by which these leaders are attempting to justify killing Jesus; the letter of the Law. In turn, Jesus is referring to the same source, the written Word, to tell them this is the source that gave Him the right to do what He just did. This verse is speaking of the guidance the image of the Word produced in the heart of Jesus. He followed that image. He measured everything according to that image. Everything in the life of Jesus was directly linked to that image built within Jesus by the written Word of God. (John 5:39)

"Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me."

Here is the final evidence supporting our claim that Jesus continued to direct their attention to the written Word of God as His proof to these Jews that it was speaking of Him. What else could He have used, particularly with this audience, to drive home this point? All they had was the written Word, so what He referred to was the written Word and the image in that Word. Where did Jesus discover His Father was the Healer? In the written Word of God. Where did Jesus discover His Father was the one who blesses? In the written Word of God. The written Word of God was Jesus' source for

the image that was painted on the canvas of His heart that guided Him every day of His life and ministry.

In conclusion, remember how we began this message, let's ask ourselves whether or not we have been equipped as Jesus was equipped and can we undergo the same preparation process Jesus did in order to do the works of Jesus, and even greater? The answer is yes. We have been equipped just like Jesus when we were born again and **life** filled our human spirit and were subsequently baptized with the Holy Ghost. We now have a nature given to us by our heavenly Father. We have a conscience within that nature convicting us anytime we do anything that violates that nature. So, our equipment is the exact same equipment that Jesus had on this earth.

What about the process, can we undergo the same preparation process Jesus went through in order to qualify to fulfill our place in the body of Christ? Yes, we can do the same thing Jesus did to prepare ourselves for service. We can meditate the Word of God, confess His Word and live in the scriptures until the image in the Word is painted on the canvas of our hearts. Then we should walk according to that image. What you see that image do, do. You have everything you need for complete success fulfilling all that God has called you to do. For those of you whom God has already promoted into your calling and now are wondering what to do next, follow the example of Jesus and follow that image. Don't fear, you have the nature of your Father, you have His life, you have a conscience and you have His written Word to help you continue building that image inside. Don't be afraid. Pray in tongues and empower the Holy Ghost to prepare the path for you to walk. Yes, at times the Holy Ghost will give you specific instructions to follow, particularly at life changing intersections, but that is in addition to you living every day following the image developing inside you. One last verse to help better explain this leadership are the following words of Paul. (Philippians 2:13)

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [His] good pleasure."

We are not marionettes and God is not a puppet master. We must choose to put the written Word inside of us. We must choose to pray in tongues and empower the leadership of the Holy Ghost to work on our behalf. When we do these things we can expect the Holy Ghost to direct us into the fullness of our calling, but we still have choices to make along the way. Will we continue to pray in tongues? Will we continue to meditate the Word of God? If ever we stop, the process of transforming into that image is put on hold as well. What keeps us going? God? No, God is not forcing anyone to pray. What keeps us going is the desire that we continue to cultivate inside of us, the desire that is born out of that image. The desire being cultivated in us is in line with God's desire. It's not His desire transplanted in us. It's our own desire born out of the image of His Word to which we have been transformed and by which we continue to be transformed. That desire that's produced by the continued development of the image of His Word in us, along with the leadership of the Holy Ghost through praying in tongues, is to be our daily guide empowering us to do the works of Jesus and even greater.

Grace be with you.

Mark Jenkins