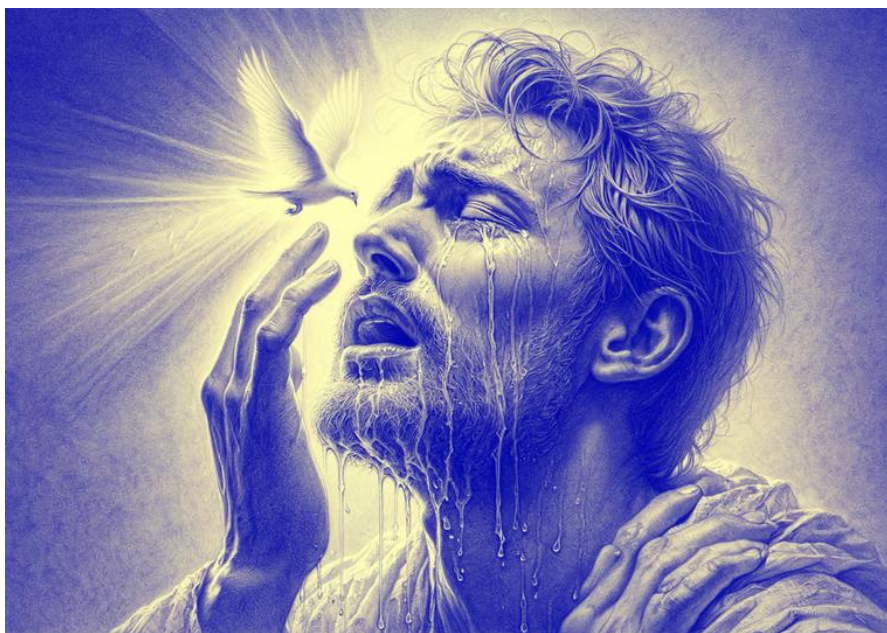


THE BURDEN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



MAGDA FABER

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The Burden of the Holy Spirit
Magda Faber

IT Advisor
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PREFACE

This is a book for those who are serious about God - serious about being used by Him in intercession and in prophetic ministry.

It is my privilege to know Magda Faber, The Authoress, personally and to be able to attest that she has written out of her personal knowledge of the Lord and her own experiences of His help and anointing in these areas of ministry.

I trust that those who desire to be used by Our Lord in the same way, will take hold of the truths that Magda has shared and press in to HIM. There is impartation to be received from her writings.

Magda is a true prophetess and intercessor. I commend this book to all.

ROB LINDSAY PASTOR

A TESTIMONY - POWER OF THE PROPHETIC WORD

MARGRETHA ESPREY

Philippians 3:12 where Paul speaks about his desire to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of him, is one of my favourite Scriptures. I too, want to embrace all that Christ has purposed for me. I want to be all that Jesus died for me to be and therefore I want to hear every word that He wants to say to me. So often I have been blessed and privileged to receive a special word from the Lord, a word straight from the heart of my Father, a word that has shown me that He knows all about me and cares for me, or often a word that has encouraged me to continue in my walk with the Lord and urging me to trust Him more, to step out of the boat, to follow Him to the ends of the earth, knowing that my God goes before me. His voice is heard when we read the Bible, we hear Him when the precious Holy Spirit whispers in our hearts - but there are also those times when He speaks through His servants, the prophets, who bring us words straight from heaven.

The first prophecy I received, spoke of His great love for me and the freedom and the joy that He wanted me to have. Later on He said that He was preparing me for something new and that I should receive the Word and allow it to be fulfilled in my life - the word would be the sword I would use... This prophecy confirmed the strong desire that was already within me, the desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His word became, as Jeremiah said, like a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones, something I could no longer hold back. During the years between 2000 and 2003 every prophecy I was given, spoke about preparation, the seizing of opportunities and the increase in anointing that would follow obedience. God promised me the sharp eye of an eagle to spot the heart that He has prepared. He said that I would be a midwife in the house of the Lord, helping others to bring forth in the Spirit. I

was also to discover that the prophet speaks beyond one's faith, to stretch one, to cause one to see that it is in obedience that you grow. Although involved in many forms of ministry, I continued to feel that there was more, that I was not yet walking fully in what God had planned for me. In June 2004 I started receiving invitations to go to the nations. I was confronted with a choice: would I step out of the boat, out of my comfort zone and travel to faraway places and be willing to yield everything to Him? Within hours of receiving the first invitation to a foreign country, a servant of God came with another word of prophecy, confirming what God was about to do. I knew that it was the Lord speaking to me! I had to obey - God does not force us. It is necessary that we take heed to the words we receive - a prophecy can remain unfulfilled, because of the choices that we make!

Sometimes we have to wait a while for the fulfillment of prophecy. Magda taught me something so worthwhile - she taught me to speak to the devil saying: "Devil, GOD HAS SPOKEN...", also to myself, saying, "Margretha, look up, trust, hold on, GOD HAS SAID... He will do it!" and then to remind God, saying, "Father, YOU PROMISED... I am trusting You." I thank God for every promise and for every exhortation, I thank Him that He has said that He has a purpose for every going and for every coming. So many prophecies have already been fulfilled, I praise Him for His grace, and with excitement and expectation I am waiting... Right now there is a very special promise, the fulfillment of which I am waiting for - and I KNOW IT WILL COME, BECAUSE HE HAS SAID SO!

God has done great things in my life, He has given me a heart for the nations and has enabled me to travel to many of them. I am so glad that He has chosen me!!!

THE BURDEN OF THE LORD:

The Bible talks of different kinds of burdens. My prayer is that God will open your understanding to see what the burden of the Lord is. God wants to give each of His children a burden of His Spirit, so that our work for Him will be effective and have eternal value.

Let us look at some of the burdens mentioned in Scripture: (not direct quotations, but references):

- **Isaiah 59:16** - He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no intercessor. There was no one standing in the gap for a particular assignment of God, for a particular work to be done, no one to receive and discharge a burden.
- **Hebrews 7:25** - Jesus has the ability to save to the uttermost, those that will come unto God through Him and He lives forever to make intercession for them.
- **Isaiah 53:12** - Jesus poured out His soul unto death and made intercession for transgressors.
- **Isaiah 62: 6-7** - Watchmen are on the walls and they do not hold their peace day or night - giving God no rest until he makes Jerusalem a praise on the earth. We see here a co-working with God.
- **Hebrews 5:7** - ...offering up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save them from death.

The example of Jesus in Gethsemane describes the burden of the Lord beautifully. Jesus had to go through Gethsemane before He could take up the cross, walk with it and be

crucified. It was in Gethsemane that He gave up His own will to take up the will of the Father. He offered up prayer and supplications with strong crying and tears. You cannot have strong crying and tears unless you have the burden of the Spirit of God. It is not something that you can create within yourself. It is the unction of the Holy Spirit within your spirit and you need to yield to God in order that you may receive the burdens and discharge them. The burden of the Lord brings a travail within your soul and once you have travailed, the release comes and you experience the joy of knowing that whatever the burden of the Spirit was, it has been released and accomplished - it is a done thing, the assignment has been completed. Once released, the same burden cannot be picked up again, there will be no unction upon it, because it will no longer be in the flow of God. One does not always have knowledge of the detail of a burden and only eternity will one day reveal what was accomplished. God does not always let us see the extent and the impact of what is accomplished - some things are stored up for us. It is wonderful to work from out of the burden of the Spirit, because it is not self-effort, it is not difficult, because there is an ease in the Spirit as it flows. It can be hard on the flesh, but we are not called to walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

Burdens can be referred to as:

- A load carried by a man or an animal. We find some animals referred to as beasts of burden. When we consider them, we shall see a picture of what God wants us to do.
- A weight of responsibility that is felt. This can be a practical thing, part of everyday living. (Although we are spirit, we do live in a physical body and are involved in what is happening on earth.) What can be referred to as spiritual matters, such as prayer or preaching the Word, are also burdens. If you are pastoring a church you will have a burden

in your spirit for that church. In your home you have a responsibility to cook and clean and as you do it, you release the burden (the only way to release a burden is to do what it requires). If your burden is to preach the gospel, then only preaching will release that burden, if your burden is to be a businessman, then the way to release it, is to do business, etc.

- **Cares of this life.**
- **Bondages.**
- **Oracles of judgement.** When God revealed something to a prophet he had to see it and speak it. When he had to declare judgement on a nation, it was a heavy burden. Once he saw the burden and it came upon him, it became part of him. He was to carry it for God and he had to give utterance to it when God commanded it.
- **The burden of all creation.** 2 Corinthians 5:4 says that we are in this tabernacle, groaning, being burdened. This burden is the burden of all creation, a yearning to step out of this creation into the eternal which God has prepared for us, where the effect of the fall will no longer be evident.
- **A burden for the suffering.** 2 Corinthians 8:13 speaks about easing the burden for others and receiving it in their place.

This was said concerning the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem. Those who had enough could release those with lack. Paul desired that all should share the financial burden. In Isaiah 23 the prophet spoke about the burden against Tyre. He carried a prophetic burden which had weight, although we must remember that the Holy Spirit burden is a light burden. Jeremiah, again, said that a heavy burden would come upon the false prophets of Israel, because they spoke against the

weightiness of his word.

The intensity of their punishment was probably the same as the intensity of their mocking of the word of God through Jeremiah.

One of the meanings of the word "glory" is "weighty". The weight of the burden of the Spirit is not a soulish weighing and pushing down into depression. It is rather something that must be identified and prayed through. If we do not receive our burdens and pray through them, we shall do damage in the spiritual realm and this will manifest in the natural. In one moment, under the unction of His Spirit, more is accomplished than in a long period of much activity, but without the unction and the burden of His Spirit. Prayer is vital; it is the beginning and the end of every situation. Upon returning to South Africa, after having completed assignments for God in other parts of the world, I have often been unsure of the next step and each time God has directed me back to the place of prayer. Often my first inclination was to get out and get busy for God, but I have learnt that activity, without the strategy of the Holy Spirit, is wasted effort and has little impact. It is far better to slow down, to pray, allow Him to give direction and even to mould and shape as He makes adjustments for the new season (sometimes taking longer than we would wish), and then, at the moment that He says it is the right time, you step out according to His direction and the miracles will happen where they are needed.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus invited all those who were burdened to come to Him. The words, "yoke" and "burden" are both used here. When you labour and are heavy laden you are carrying a load, but the burden of the Lord is light. There is a lightness in it, because it is being yoked with Him. In knowing Him, we find rest for our souls. It is in our souls (mind, will and emotions) that we need the rest so very much

these days. We can exchange our burdens for His burden and as we get to know Him better, we find that He is not a harsh task master, but a glorious, gracious and beautiful Person. When you come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and He is truly Lord of your life and you learn from Him, He will unburden your soul of all that oppresses and wears you out and you will experience His soft and light burden that brings peace and rest. Although the burden of the Spirit is light, you can feel the weightiness of the glory in it. If you ignore the burden given to you by the Holy Spirit you will not be comfortable, because there will be a weight within you, it will feel like it is crushing you if you do not discharge the burden given to you. God will not give you another burden until you discharge the one He has given you. If you completely ignore it, He will place it within someone else because the job needs to be done.

We referred so far to the weight of the burden of the Spirit, but there is also a weight that comes from the enemy of our souls. There is a difference between the burden of the Lord and the weight of the burden that Satan puts on us.

One of the bondage burdens, is legalism. In the letter to the Galatians we find that some leaders wanted to place the burden of circumcision on the Gentile Christians. Avoiding, or ignoring something that God's Holy Spirit tells us can lead to legalism, and legalism leads to bondage. This happens because we try to compensate for our disobedience by doing other "good" things. Cults usually have great legalism and the followers fear to be disobedient. This leads to extreme bondage and people will follow their leader even to death. A legalistic person will always try to control others and force them to adopt laws. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty, so let us not become legalistic. If God shows me something in my own life (I am not referring to something that is explicitly clear in God's Word), I cannot expect you to

receive it in the same way, as you may be at a different place in your walk with the Lord, from where I am.

God can, of course, use rules to work some things in our lives (e.g. breaking rebellion). Iron will always sharpen iron. I once found myself in a place where the ministry was, and still is, excellent, but the leaders had strict rules concerning hairstyle and clothing. It was a learning process for me and I had to trust God, be in submission and allow Him to do in me what He wanted to do. We were not allowed to wear pants and I found myself up a ladder, painting a wall, dressed in a long skirt. I was concerned about tripping and falling and momentarily experienced a measure of rebellion rising up within me, but quickly made up my mind that I would submit to Him in the situation and trust Him to protect me. I decided to focus on the excellence of the ministry in which I was involved, the freedom in worship and the love for God, rather than allowing a small thing, such as the mode of dress, to affect my walk with God. God teaches us wherever we are and He breaks down that which is hindering us.

I cannot tell you that you should go through this same experience, because God deals with each of us in a unique way. You need to find what He is saying to you in the place where you are at and if you deceive yourself, you will be the one who suffers loss. I am never satisfied until I know what God is saying to me in my situation. When I say that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty, I am not referring to foolishness, or a counterfeit liberty, which is from the enemy, or our own flesh, but the liberty of the Spirit.

Animals, especially the camel, used in desert areas, is a beast of burden, teach us much about carrying burdens. In order to load a camel, he has to kneel down, the burden is placed on him, and once he has received it, he gets up and starts his walk to wherever his owner takes him. When he arrives at his

destination, he kneels down and the burden is lifted. His task has been accomplished. What a beautiful picture of humility and submission, worship and surrender. The camel does not choose his burden; he simply kneels down and receives it. In the same way we receive a burden from the Lord and we carry it, according to God's directions, until the time and place for discharge has been reached. If it is a prayer burden, only prayer will discharge it, if it is to preach, only preaching will discharge it, if it is a practical burden that God has ordered, only the performance of that task will cause the burden to be discharged. In spite of the intense heat of the desert, a camel consistently and faithfully strides along, even when the surface is rough. They eat thorny bushes, chewing with great ease. We need to be like camels, consistently and faithfully following God's road for us, not deterred by the heat, the rough surfaces, the pain, not thinking about ourselves, but focusing on Him and His burden, until it has been discharged. We need to practise endurance and remember that Jesus is the lifter of our heads. As the body of the camel was formed to store up water, in order that he may endure and carry the load without fainting, so we too can endure, without fainting, when the water of the Spirit of God is in us.

The horse, another beast of burden, needs to be broken in, otherwise he will run wild. Unless we are of a broken and contrite spirit, yielded to God's Spirit, we cannot fulfill His desire for our lives. God desires that we be like horses, equipped with His bit and bridle, steered by Him.

Carrying a burden for the Lord is a privilege. There is so much joy in obeying and accomplishing the missions that He allows us to fulfill. Let us, in full submission, receive burdens from the Lord and not resist the Spirit of God. I have traveled in busses, cars and aeroplanes for many hours, on many occasions, receiving and discharging many burdens for the Lord, and oh, what joy it is to share in the work of the Kingdom

of God, knowing that God Himself will impact someone, somewhere in His time and according to His will. Our flesh does not desire to receive a burden, but let us remember that God does not want us to strive, but to come into the ease of His Spirit. We labour to enter the rest of God, but once we have entered, we rest in Him and out of this rest and the flow of His Spirit will come an ease, although the flesh will still feel the burden. We have been called to walk according to the spirit and not according to the flesh. The flesh will always shrink from the things of the Spirit of God. It doesn't enjoy the groanings of the spirit that we read about in the book of Romans, because they are uncompromising opposites.

The burden is not always discharged in the same way and we need to learn to flow with and yield to the Holy Spirit and He will teach us. At times the burden is discharged as we lift our voices in worship and at other times it may be more of a struggle between flesh and spirit, but whenever we push through the flesh and enter into the ease, we can move in the flow of God. Even when the burden was excruciatingly heavy, the release always brings joy and the peace of God, the burden discharged and the mission, having been birthed by God and having eternal value, accomplished. People who have never heard the groaning of the Spirit that God's Word speaks about, may not understand it at first and may think that it is of the flesh, or even demonic, when they first hear it, but once they know the moving and the work of the Holy Spirit, they will know that it is God-directed. The discharging of the burden of the Spirit may be done through the medium of words, but it can also be through sounds of the Spirit.

Discharging a burden for the lost can be agonising because of the intensity and the travail of soul. Jesus travailed for the lost in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew that to fulfill the will of His Father He had to pay the price that was death. There was no other way and He agonised and poured out Himself in total

surrender of His will unto the will of the Father. This is what enabled Him to go all the way to the cross. He had to experience this, had to drink the cup of suffering, before encountering the cross. This is not the way of the flesh, but it is God's way. When we consider Jesus' travail for souls, let us remember the eternal consequences for all mankind if Jesus had not paid the price! I have never had to go through a struggle of this magnitude, but in the travailing that I have experienced and the drinking of the cup of suffering that I have known, as I interceded for others, I have always experienced the greatest joy and satisfaction in my spirit when I have pushed through and discharged the burden of the Lord.

If God had to give us a profoundly intense burden concerning the coming eternal judgment of the lost, it would kill us physically. An intense burden can only be handled under the anointing and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The flesh does not desire it, because it requires great yieldedness. God gives His burden in measure and that which He calls you for, He enables you to fulfill. When you receive a burden from the Holy Spirit, unburden yourself by discharging it in obedience to what it requires, whether that be by prayer, worship, preaching or performing an act of obedience.

When you receive a prayer burden, you will feel that your whole life is consumed by prayer and at times it may be so intense that you can hardly bear it. A burden can resemble a feeling of sadness, a concern, or even a feeling of anxiety. All that is required of you, is to stand still, be strong, pray through and do whatever the burden requires. Do not look at feelings or at what your mind tells you, just press through. A birthing in the Spirit is very similar to a woman being in labour with child - but remember the joy and release that follows! Fasting plays a great role in the discharging of a burden, as it quenches the flesh and creates spiritual alertness. You and I are experiencing spiritual riches because of the travail of saints

who have gone before and we need to pave the way for those who will follow.

PROPHETIC INTERCESSION:

When we have the heart and the burden of the Holy Spirit we can pray effectively, knowing that we have the Spirit's anointing and that breakthroughs in the realm of the Spirit are taking place. Although you may not see the results immediately, you can know that what is prayed through, will be manifested on the earth. It shall be established because whatever is birthed by the Spirit of God shall come to pass. It may take time, but the fruit will come. There is a deep cry within my spirit that God will uproot deep-seated issues in us as South Africans, because I believe that God wants to use South Africa as a light for the rest of the world. We have a part to play and we can touch the world in many different areas. God showed that the question could be asked, "can any good come out of Africa?" He has also said that there will be an explosion of good that will be channeled through this continent. It is time for Africa and the Spirit of God is going to work through His people to the glory of God. Africa's answer is in Africa. As people of God, we know the burden of our continent and as we press through in God He will show us the way and give the answers. As we carry the burden for Christ in Africa, we shall see results and breakthroughs. Great things are going to happen in Africa and it will no longer be called the Dark Continent, but the continent giving light to the rest of the world. We shall see God's hand and we shall go to other continents and other nations and say, "Look at what the Lord has done for us".

Intercession is a travail of soul where you pour out your soul before God in prayer. There is a cost involved when you intercede. At different times God has burdened me for places

and sent me to communities for a longer or shorter period. The burden would not be easy and it was only because of the anointing and the grace of God that I was able to complete the assignment. Over the years I experienced a lifting, a lightening of the spirit - note that there is a difference between lightness and carelessness. Even though it is not so difficult for me anymore (because I am surrendered more), there is still a price to pay, the price of obedience to the call and the burden of the Spirit of the Living God. Once the burden is prayed through, it lifts, there is a breakthrough in the Spirit, a breaking through into the purposes of God and the job is done. Then you step into new things, new challenges and with a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. You receive a new mantle; you step into a new place in God in prophetic intercession. You receive the burden of Jesus and His burden is light and His yoke is soft.

It is possible that something that is not God's burden, but a counterfeit of the enemy, may come upon us. We need to learn to discern. When you receive a burden from the Lord you sense the weightiness and the urgency, but your spirit remains free as you release the burden. A weight that comes from Satan brings bondage and destruction if you yield to it and your spirit loses its freedom. An evil spirit from Satan can come to oppress your spirit and to render you ineffective, while the burden of God will never oppress, depress or destroy you, no matter how vicious the demonic activity in the place where you find yourself. You will feel the battle, know that there is demonic activity, will observe the consequences of the activity in the natural realm, even feel yourself under heavy artillery attack, yet, as you remain in Christ and release the burden of the Spirit, you will know that your prayers are breaking through.

No matter how fierce the battle may be, the power of God released in one raindrop of anointing oil, will strengthen and

restore you. If you suppress and refuse to discharge the burden of the Holy Spirit, you will feel the weight of it in an uneasy way. It will feel heavy upon you. This is not the same heaviness as that which is from demonic origin. In this case it is because of disobedience to God. God does not intend a Satanic weight for you - that is an attack from the evil one. We need to discern and break through the weight, so that our spirits may remain free. Even though it may involve pain, you will always be able to bear the burden of the Spirit. The joy of the Lord is truly our strength. The secret of remaining in freedom of spirit, is the presence of God and a constant yielding to Him. The rest is not to be found in your feelings or your mind, but in your spirit, as you live and walk in the spirit.

Faith does not worry, struggle and strive. The Bible says that we must labour to enter the rest, but once you have entered, you no longer labour. Often we labour in many ways, without entering the rest and then we wonder why we are uptight. Romans 8:26,27 tell us that we do not know rightly what we ought to pray for, so the Spirit makes intercession on our behalf, because He knows the mind of God and He intercedes for us with unutterable groanings. In intercession there is a place of yielding where it does not depend so much on what you say with your mouth, but where the Holy Spirit takes over with groaning, sighing, weeping from the spirit, laughter of faith, quietness, crying out unto God, travailing, or whichever way the Spirit will find a release through your spirit. If it is in words, those words will carry the authority and weight of God's Spirit. They will not be words of which you had thought, but will originate in your spirit, through the unction of the Holy Spirit and will be revealed to your mind so that you may speak them out.

Praying in tongues is a great help in praying the mind of the Spirit. It is important that we do not simply come to God with a shopping list, but that we tap into God's agenda. If your

understanding cannot identify the burden of the Spirit, wait on God, praise and worship, or pray in tongues, but come into a place of knowing His burden and His heart. He has perfect knowledge of what He has in store for you in the realm of intercession. When you pray in tongues, you release the burden of the Spirit, because although your mind is unfruitful, your spirit is very productive as you are praying the mind of God. There can be no greater prayers, than those prayers that come from the mind of God! We need to be able to know the mind of the Spirit and to identify the burden of the Holy Spirit. It is possible to pray in the spirit and at the same time to have an understanding concerning it.

Spending hours in prayer should never be difficult. Prayer is a yielding, an intimate time with God, where His presence is so real that hours feel like minutes, as you are carried away on the wings of fellowship with God, accomplishing great things in the spirit and knowing that God is using you as a vessel as you pour out your heart in prayer and His Spirit flows through you. I have learned to pray in the Spirit quietly, whispering under my breath, so that wherever I am, I can remain yielded to the Holy Spirit and continue praying through the burdens of His Spirit. At times you will sense resistance in the spirit, but as you persevere, the resistance breaks and you sense the lifting in your spirit. Once one burden is discharged, God gives another. There was a time when I did not understand this, but God showed me that it is like climbing a mountain, planting the flag on the summit, tasting the glory of breakthrough and victory, and then suddenly finding yourself at the foot of another mountain that needs to be climbed.

Don't believe the lies of the enemy when he tells you that your breaking through did not help anyone. What is conquered, is conquered and you simply need to carry on to new victories in new assignments for God. The enemy does not want you to continue, but remember that you are more than a conqueror in

Christ. Christ always leads you into victory.

God often chooses you as the vessel for His use, in your community. You will pay a price as you identify with the pain, imperfections and even sinful situations when you are alerted to the work of the enemy in the lives of those around you. Jesus identified with the pain and sin of the world, He carried the burden of the cross and He made a way for us, laying down His life so that we may live. Christ in you, enables you to adapt to any kind of environment for His purposes. Earlier we referred to the camel that walks in the hot desert and eats thorny bushes. Desert life is no comfort zone, yet God made the camel in such a way that he is able to adapt to this environment. Life may sometimes hand you a few thorns, but the life of Christ in you, is the overcoming life, and you can eat the thorny bushes as you would a hamburger! The camel does not drag his head on the ground, he lifts it up as he walks. Christ is the glory and the lifter up of our heads and we can face life with courage and confidence and break through everything that comes our way.

A long distance runner does not run at the same fast pace as a sprinter does. He needs to pace himself if he wants to finish the whole distance. Be a long distance runner, running in pace with the Holy Spirit and run the race set before you with patient endurance. He will make you sure-footed so that you will manage the difficult places and the responsibilities. Releasing the burden, often smoothes the road ahead, because God goes ahead and clears the road for you when you invest time in discharging His burdens.

Watchman Nee said that it was the burden of the Lord upon him that caused him to write "The Spiritual Man". He did not write it because he wanted to, but because God told him to do it. Everything he wrote was revealed to him by God's Spirit and before he could write it, he had to walk in the reality of it.

It was not just theory, but was proved in his walk in God. Satan hated this work and the attacks against Watchman, during this time, were continuous. It was just the grace of God that carried him through this period and enabled him to complete the work. At times the weight that Satan tried to put on his spirit was so strong that he despaired of life itself, but God was always there to strengthen him. When he had finished the book, the burden was discharged and he experienced great comfort and release. In fulfilling God's work we shall experience many pressures, but there is joy unspeakable and full of glory even in the midst of our greatest battles.

I have also experienced times when I have felt that I did not have the strength to continue, but on each occasion God in His infinite faithfulness, mercy and grace, caused the Holy Spirit to rise up within my spirit and lift me up into greater heights in Him. Each time the enemy lost the battle, because God never leaves or forsakes us. Every time I was in a difficult situation and facing a cross, I would have to answer the question whether I was willing to lay down my life for the sake of Christ and as soon I answered, "yes," in the critical moments of testing, God's light would shine through the darkness. It is a test and a battle and so important for us to say, yes, in those crucial moments. It is only by His grace and the desire to remain in the flow of what He was doing in my life, that I have been able to continue in the midst of trying circumstances. Life without Him, is worth nothing and there comes a place where we have to say, "if I perish, then I perish". If it is not God's time for you to perish, you will not, and if it should be His time, why would you not submit to it?

When you are truly surrendered, God works out all things for you. He is God, no matter what! Etemal life is to know God and it is in trials, failure and suffering that we learn to know Him. In good, or in bad times, He is God. Job experienced

much suffering and loss, yet he lived out his life in the fullness of the years that God gave him on earth. In the midst of imperfections within ourselves, our circumstances, or the people around us, God can work out the most beautiful pattern for our lives, if we will allow Him to do that. The greatest depths of understanding in God, are often found in the difficult places, when things do not make sense and you are tempted to rebel against God. In those circumstances, you often start questioning God, and some of the questions may not be very pleasant, but if you are sincerely looking for answers and your motive is to know and love Him, God will reveal Himself to you and your life will be changed.

It is a humbling experience to encounter the living God. The anointing of God enables us to fulfill the tasks that He gives us, but His glory, manifested in our lives, makes us vulnerable before Himself and before man and the greater the glory, the greater the vulnerability. Christian martyrs, imprisoned and tortured for their faith, may appear feeble and weak in the eyes of their persecutors, yet in that place of vulnerability they experience the glory of God. This is something that cannot be understood, unless you have been there. It is even in the nitty-gritty of each day, in the midst of irritations and struggles, that we can suddenly experience the manifested presence of God and then find that these things lose their power and their grip on us and in His presence we no longer have to strive to change, but we are changed by Him.

In the glory it becomes easy to love and not to lust, to forgive and not to harbour bitterness and to make the right choice in the moment of temptation. It is in the glory that the nature and character of Christ becomes clearer and more real and the longing of our heart is to BE LIKE HIM. As we behold Him, we experience lasting change, from glory to glory. God desires to replace the struggle within us, with His rest. Resting in Him is not a passivity, but a stopping of our own

labours. The only labour we must labour, is to enter His rest and then everything that we have to do, will flow out of that place within Him. Then we obey Him with joy, peace and rest, knowing that whatever we do is for the glory of His Name. For years on end we can try to change ourselves and not succeed, but when we find our rest in Him, the changes happen naturally. These are days of repentance and brokenness before Him. He desires a contrite spirit, because it is when we come to the end of ourselves, that we find Him. Our end, is a new beginning in God.

The prophet Habakkuk, as well as many of the other prophets, saw and carried the burden of the Lord. The widow Anna, was a prophetess who spent most of her time in the temple, fasting and praying, day and night. On the very day and at the very moment that Joseph and Mary brought Jesus into the temple to present Him to God, she was there. Although very little is told about her in the Bible we know that her life was lived for God. She was a prominent key in the hand of God for His purposes. She saw her Messiah, the One she had been waiting for, her burden was discharged and her waiting was not in vain. Many things that she had prayed through in that temple, will be revealed in eternity.

Simeon, also a just man, waiting for the consolation of Israel, was shown by God that he would not die before seeing the Christ. Maybe he experienced some challenging days, maybe even life threatening, yet he knew that he was not going to die until he had seen the Christ. What glory, seeing the Christ they had waited for! Many speak about the glory, write books about it, read about it, preach about it and it is certainly the message for today, but how little of it we understand. It is not just in meetings that God manifests His presence, it is to be found wherever He touches us and changes our lives, our very way of thinking and acting. We can be in the glory without even realising it. God's glory was in the temple on the day

that Anna and Simeon stood there, seeing the fulfillment of their expectations.

Be faithful to carry and discharge whatever burden God gives you. It will be an eternal work, not just wood, hay and stubble. Whatever is birthed by God's Spirit, will come to pass, it shall be established, it shall be manifested, no man or devil can stop it. God cannot fail and He cannot be stopped. Man's flesh does not want to receive or discharge a burden. In ministry I have often experienced that people say that they are open to the Spirit, but the moment the Holy Spirit starts moving, they resist. Old wineskins cannot contain new wine. God comes in the way that He chooses, not necessarily in the way that we choose. When God moves, amazing things happen. It is usually the one who truly loves the presence of God, who will discern the presence of God. Sometimes I have found my mind wanting to reason out what God is saying or doing, while my spirit has known that it was God!

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the discerning of spirits. This is not a critical spirit, not fault finding or a prejudiced mindset, but a discerning in the realm of the spirit, discerning whether it is God speaking, or whether it is of the flesh, or demonic. Sometimes, what is thought to be discernment, is merely soulish activity. This happens when activity of the soul, not filtered by the spirit, cries louder than the spirit, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Whatever is from God will bring life, even if some are offended by it. Jesus released life wherever He moved on earth. Death is chosen by those who do not choose life.

If you want to experience the touch of God's hand deep within you so that you may receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit, which is the only power that can truly change you into His image, you need to be broken and humble before God. A

burden of prayer is often rejected, because it is hard on the flesh. Those who long for the move of God and for revival, travail to see people coming into the fullness of a true born-again experience. It is a very intense ministry and it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that you enter into the quality of prayer that produces the miraculous. When the burden of God is in your spirit, you unburden it through prayer and worship as you yield to Him and He releases His sounds of glory through you. When the burden feels unbearable, you need to yield to the Holy Spirit, because that is the time when your flesh, not comfortable with the burden, may quench the spirit. You cannot fake the presence of God. You will truly know when He is present and He will speak volumes into your spirit. Your mind may not be able to grasp and understand everything, but your spirit will receive it and over time, God will reveal to you all that you need to know. God will speak direction into your spirit and He will change you in such a way that you will know that something has happened in your life.

As a Christian I have struggled in some areas of my life, but in His presence, God has dealt with me", showing me my need, my sin, my weakness and my unbelief. He does not hit you over the head, but deals with you in such a way that all you want to do, is fall in love with Him all over again, desiring to be changed by Him and allowing His hand to do whatever needs to be done. When God correct us, our lives are changed. You can sense the working of God's Spirit within your spirit in places of intimacy with God. Situations of testing and temptation will be real, but God's presence will be more real and those things that used to be problems will become dim and no longer overwhelm you. You will walk in the Spirit, because having met Him, you will know the Spirit of Life.

We are not changed by mere knowledge, but as we behold Him. Even revelation knowledge by itself, is not enough, but must become manifested reality in your life, else it remains

mere knowledge. After God's Spirit has imparted revelation knowledge to you, you may go through a time of uncomfortable shaking, because the cross will be applied in your life. Without this, you may become puffed up with knowledge, deceiving yourself into thinking that you are spiritual because of the knowledge given to you by God. True spirituality becomes evident in the way you act in times of crisis, or even in daily activities. The cross is a reality and is painful, but once you decide and commit to face the cross, the glory breaks through and after death comes resurrection. Death to self is something that must take place daily.

For many years I had a burden for the body of Christ and although I still have that, I also started sensing a burden for the lost, longing to see people saved, desire to see people saved in every avenue of life, to see systems that are against God, uprooted and thrown out, so that God can establish His righteousness and rule upon the earth. It is when the burden of the Holy Spirit stirs these things within us, that we have the unction to pray through them. It is time for the harvest to be brought in and it is time for those who long to see it take place, to take the burden, take hold of God and weep for souls.

Different kinds of prejudice, so deep-rooted in South Africa, needs to be uprooted. The hand of God is doing this in the hearts of people in our country. The church of Jesus Christ has the key. We need to understand and walk in the purposes for which God has called us for such a time as this. For too long the church has been ineffective, God is restoring the saltiness of His people. As the church of God, we need to receive the burden of the Spirit, knowing that it is not by our might or power, but by the power of the Spirit of the Living God. We read in the book of Acts that the members of the five-fold ministry were released from the serving of tables, in order that they might spend their time in prayer and in the Word of God. God is bringing us back to this. Teaching,

alone, is not enough; we need to see signs and miracles. This is the cry of my heart. God has promised it, therefore it must come to pass.

Sometimes you have to pray through various things to discern the actual burden of the Spirit. It is similar to working with a computer - you close one window and another pops up. Start praying about what is uppermost in your heart and when another issue comes to mind, you pray about that, and then something else will come up - keep on praying, the burden of the Lord will be identified by the anointing on it. Then you "close all the other windows" and focus on what the Spirit has laid on your heart. It is not necessary to do introspection, to scratch here and there and wear yourself out, rather ask God what His burden for you is. Praying in tongues, for extended periods, eases the tapping into God's burden, opens your spirit and helps you to yield to His Spirit. You can go from one degree of glory into the next and the next.

When you pray for hours at a time, you may find that you do not always know how to continue, but as you wait on the Lord, He will show you and you will move into new realms in prayer and worship. You need to discern the flow of the Holy Spirit, to enable you to move further. If you use a blunt axe for chopping wood, you will have to exert much physical energy, while a sharp one will require less - the same is true of the spirit. The sharper you are in the spirit, the less energy you use to pray, the greater your yieldedness, the easier the flow in the Holy Spirit. There is an ease in the glory of God.

If you accumulate burdens in the natural, you will become overwhelmed and will not be able to receive burdens from the Holy Spirit. You need to learn to release these burdens unto God. Be diligent and press through in prayer so that things can be released and you can be free to receive fresh things from God. As in nature, there are seasons in the spirit.

When you come to the end of one season in God, you need to move into the new one He has for you. Things that belong to the old season should be left behind so that you are free to move on. God will highlight things that are of importance to you at a given time. Religion is boring, but God is always fresh. In the prayer ministry you must guard against allowing your spirit to become bogged down by burdens that are not of God. Your spirit needs to be free, do not allow evil spirits to bring your spirit into bondage. Stand as a conqueror in the day of trouble, remembering that your strength is not in yourself, but in God. As your days are, so God will give you strength. The joy of the Lord is your strength and you need to stay in it and not allow discouragement to rob you of your joy, it is a matter of choice - you do not have to receive what the evil one offers you.

Although it is important to pray with others in sharing the burden of the Lord, it is equally important to spend time alone in prayer to release the burden He has given you to carry. Praying on your own is different from praying with others and we need to learn how to flow in prayer with different people. We also pray in different ways in different places and circumstances. When I am in a bus or on an aeroplane, I do not pray in the same way that I do when I am with a group of intercessors. Learn to flow with the Holy Spirit wherever you are. The way, or the method, is not what is important. What is important is to be in the Spirit!

THE BURDEN OF THE LORD: God is still looking for someone to stand in the gap. The person who responds to the call of God will be prepared, trained and used by Him. A work that is done for God on the earth must originate from God Himself. God gives a burden, His burden, and if a person receives that burden from the Lord and learn how to discharge it, a work will be established on the earth. This work will not be hay and stubble, but will have an eternal impact. This book gives insight into what the burden of the Lord is, how it is received and how it can be discharged.

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