

THE NARROW ROAD

Volume 3

The Power in the Word



RAF SHAW

The Narrow Road Series

Salvation

Hear and Obey

The Power in the Word

Becoming Useful Vessels

The Pillars of Cloud and Fire

The Weapons of Our Warfare

Faith

Bearing Fruit

Questions and Answers

Purpose Your Heart

Fasting

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Fore-Word

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But **small is the gate, and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

John 15:7,8

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Revelation 12:10

For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down – he who accuses them day and night before our God. They have conquered them by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

I would like to thank my wife and children for their support in the living out of these testimonies, and to my dear sisters in Christ Pauline and Caitlin for collating and editing these testimonies into book form.

I have decided to bring these to print as a legacy for my children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters in the Lord as a map of God's principles and testimonies of our journey here on earth.

I believe that in years to come as my relatives hear of our exploits in the Holy Spirit, and their hunger in God is sparked, they will want to know what secrets of God we discovered.

I believe that these testimonies will cause them to search for the truth.

- Raf

THE POWER IN THE WORD

The Spirit of God started moving in our lives over 22 years ago. Six months into our walk with the Lord something happened and I started praying in tongues.

It happened in my car – the Spirit of God came with power and totally changed my life. From that time I started to learn from what the Holy Spirit would teach me.

I went to Bible College and I lasted six months. I found I wasn't getting much. I was getting more when I was studying the Word and going to church or hearing a sermon.

The sermons would feed me. We had great teachers around in those days. When I went to Bible College it seemed like it was just reams of paper and people putting doctrines into a format that wasn't bringing much life.

It was filling me full of knowledge but wasn't helping me in a practical manner. I felt that the Word of God had to be practical. It had to be something that we can put into practice and see it work. It's a living Word, not a dead Word. The Word of God is living so it should manifest itself in our lives.

I wasn't satisfied with the status quo, the normal 'go to Bible College and take notes.'

There's nothing wrong with it if it refreshes us. I go back into some of my notes, things I wrote years ago. It refreshes my thinking and gets me to meditate on those things when I find I need to get back to basics.

I was doing the Bible College lessons but there was only one lesson that I was really interested in.

I was interested in one section of that teaching that I wanted to understand and that was how I could enhance my communication with the Lord.

How I could learn to communicate and hear better, how I could learn to pray and see answers to those prayers.

Other religions pray but they don't get answers like we do, so there had to be a reason. I wanted the understanding of why every time we pray we should get answers but I wasn't seeing a lot of that in the Christian life.

I would see people pray but not receive an answer. Some of them would forget what they had prayed. God never forgets. So I wanted to know what the key was.

The Spirit of God has been given to us. If God deemed it necessary that we have the Holy Spirit to lead us it's for a reason and that without Him we can't do it.

Without the Spirit of God there is nothing that we can do. He is the One who knows the mind of God. He's the One who gives us God's thoughts.

I started to want to learn about this but when they did this unit at Bible College I had to go away.

We were reconstructing a house and it was my job to do a section of it. For that one month block of the teaching on prayer I ended up out in the bush.

I said, "Lord, this isn't fair. I want to learn about this – it's something I need to know. I think it's imperative, it's like food – it's life so I need this teaching." I said, "I'm going to pray one prayer and I know You'll answer me: I want this teaching where I'm going."

It's pretty hard to get teaching when you're out in the middle of sheep, cattle and nothing else – and a Belgian man.

It was difficult to get what I was after – I was after learning things. I wanted to hear from someone, something they had done that would give me a lead on how to go into that place.

God put me together with a guy from Belgium. He was a cocky fellow and we didn't get on that well but he was an elder in an AOG church. That weekend they'd had a speaker called Terry Law in the AOG church.

I reckon he's the best teacher of the Word that I have ever heard. This man had been learning spiritual warfare. He'd been learning about prayer.

I thought, "Lord, that's what I need."

I started playing the tapes and I started crying as the teaching came in. Revelation from God started to filter into me and He taught me things.

He taught me my authority in God when we pray expecting results. It was excellent teaching – very basic like the Word, the Name and the Blood. When we load our prayer with the Word, the Name and the Blood we have a very hefty prayer.

That's the biggest difference between us and other religions – they cannot load their prayer up with the name of Jesus, the most powerful name. They can't load it up with the Word of God or the blood – they have no understanding of what the blood has done for them.

That's where the power in our walk comes from – what the blood has done for us. Christ resurrected, paid the price through His blood and resurrected for us.

I came to understand that we have an authority that other religions don't have. We can prove it.

I've done it in India. I've been in places where they pray and they don't see much. Missionaries go in and pray and they don't see much. We've gone into places and said, "You pray to your god and see what he can do then we'll pray to our God and prove what He can do." It worked.

Jesus likes being put on the line. He likes to display His power. He wants to manifest His power through us.

So I started to understand that without the basics of knowing who we are, our authority doesn't amount to much.

I also started to understand that when I started to deal with things in my own life and overcome them, it would give me an authority to break that same thing in other people's lives.

If we're struggling in an area and we're fighting a demon, he'll laugh at us if we haven't overcome in that area. We need to overcome in those areas. That's why it's important that we open ourselves up to Him and allow Him to do the cleaning up.

For years I've counselled people who've fallen into sin and every time I see that they've fallen into sin, it always has to do with their thought patterns. Their thought patterns are the things that trip them up.

They think wrongly, dwell on it, temptation comes; when temptation comes, sin will come and if they touch the sin, death starts to come in.

Some people get caught in these cycles and can't get out of them. When we walk into a place we're supposed to be taking in life, life that destroys the work of the devil.

We've taught people that if they reverse the cycle they'll come out of it. The Bible says that.

Reverse the cycle - how we get into sin is how we get out of sin. We need to start to put God's thoughts into our spirits and the power in one of those thoughts will cleanse us. It will start to renew our soul.

It has the capability of saving our soul. Our soul still needs to be saved. Our spirit is saved but our soul still needs to be renewed. Peter and James speak

about it. The ultimate result is that our mind is fully changed. The soul is the intellect, will and emotions and God wants us to understand that it needs changing.

Our ways are not His ways. The power in our authority comes from the change in our thinking process – getting God’s Word into us.

Here’s an example: on one of our building sites we had a cripple who would visit us while we were working. He was an interesting case and it was fantastic teaching.

We were building a roof at the time and this man pedalled across on a three-wheeler bike. He was 37 years old. He got off his bike and came over to the work site. His body was all twisted up. His arm was twisted, his body was twisted and his face was twisted. When we saw him cycling past we called him onto the site and told him we needed to talk to him.

He came into the work site. We prayed on our work sites – they were holy ground. No one could come onto those sites without getting touched by the Lord.

Whoever is living there today would be blessed out of their socks because of what happened on those sites.

This man came onto our work site and he wanted our drink bottles which were worth five cents when recycled. This man had a cigarette habit that he needed to feed so he would come every morning and collect all of the bottles, cash them in and then buy cigarettes.

We had about 17 or 18 men working on this site and he asked for all the bottles. We told him he could have all of the bottles but we told him that Jesus could heal him.

We told him he needed to come and hear this. He said he didn’t want to know about that. He said he’d been to churches where they had prayed for him and done all manner of things but nothing ever happened.

That’s an indictment on us as Christians. I know that Jesus lives in us and we can manifest Him.

So I said, “No mate, you’ve seen religion but you haven’t seen Jesus. You’ve seen a spirit of religion but you haven’t seen the life of Jesus Christ at work in someone.”

He said that he’d been to two or three different places, it hadn’t worked so it wasn’t for him. I told him that every time he came on our work site to collect

the drink bottles I would give him \$2 just for saying, "Thank you Jesus for healing me."

All the guys on the work site thought I was a 'nut case' and was feeding his habit by giving him \$2.

All the Christians said I was doing the wrong thing by feeding his cigarette habit.

He came every day for six days a week. He came with his hand out, said "Thank you Jesus for healing me," and I would put \$2 in his hand.

He would go to my partner who was a pastor as well and would say, "Thank you Jesus for healing me" and he'd put \$2 in his hand.

This man was collecting \$4 a day for six days a week. This went on for six months. We were building on that site for six months and all we asked of this man was for him to thank Jesus for healing him.

We would have water fights. On stinking hot days we'd have water fights with the labourers at lunch time and this man would come and join in.

We treated him just like anybody else. He'd get just as wet as anybody else. He'd be carrying a bucket and when he would try to throw it, it would go all over himself. We would muck around and have some fun with him. He started to relate to us like friends.

Almost six months to the day I was concreting the drive on the units we were building. We'd been pouring concrete for about three weeks – it was a huge drive and this was the last section of the pour. It was the week before Christmas.

The Spirit of God spoke into my heart that morning and He said that I wasn't to give him the money but I was to give him the real thing.

I was excited, so I got to work. My mate was working in the concrete with me and I told him what the Spirit of God had told me that morning that the Spirit of God was going to set this man free.

My mate said that God had told him the same thing in his prayer time that morning. Out of the mouths of two witnesses something was already established. We were excited.

The concrete truck was pouring out concrete. I was up to my ears in it. There was a man behind me with a shovel and this crippled man turned up at six o'clock in the morning – he had run out of cigarettes. He said, "Thank you Jesus for healing me."

I said, "Not today, mate."

I got the truck stopped and got out of the concrete. It was perfect timing as all our painters and tilers were coming onto the site.

Perfect timing – so God had an audience for His miracle. God said, "Cast the unclean spirit out of the man."

So we said, "Not today mate. Today you get the real thing. Come out in Jesus' name you unclean spirit."

Everything straightened out – his leg, everything, before our very eyes. All glory to God.

We learnt such a lesson. He started looking at himself. He started walking around. We were all 'bug-eyed.' We can see stuff but we never get used to it.

The concrete truck driver was not saved and he was bug-eyed; he had lost it. We were all checking this man out and all of a sudden he started cursing God.

He started running down the road. He left his bike and everything and just started running. We were wondering what had happened to him. He was running perfectly, like Herb Elliot or Sebastian Coe.

Anyone running in the Olympics today would not have caught this guy. He was running perfectly, perfectly whole, perfectly healed.

The next morning he came back – all twisted. I said, "What happened Lord?"

He said, "It was simple Raf. You dealt with the spiritual problem but not his soul. You've learnt the power in My Word. 'Thank you Jesus' is the word of God going in."

This is scriptural. Hebrews 13:15 says, Thanksgiving glorifies the Lord and Psalm 50:23 says thanksgiving glorifies the Father and paves the way for our salvation or our healing – there's a key in this.

All of this comes by revelation of the Spirit of God and the gift of tongues. When we start to speak in tongues and interpret our own tongue, He will reveal the mysteries that are on the inside of us. The exploits that He has ready for us to do. The interpretation of tongues is a good gift to get. It opens up the spirit realm.

It's almost a key into the Spirit realm. It opens up an area in the spirit that we are really handicapped without. We'll walk blindly as a religious person, mouthing the Word of God and looking to everybody like a religious person but nobody wants to taste, touch or get near us.

But if the Spirit of God brings life into us and that word starts to come alive in us, everybody will want to come near us. We become effective for the Lord. We'll have crowds following us, rabbis following us because of the effect we will have when we start to manifest His power.

I'm not a 'power nut.' I'm teaching on evangelism. Programmes don't work – we can get a mass of people in, and they go out of the door just as quickly.

But when they get touched by the power of God, by the Spirit of God, it works - they change inside.

The Lord showed us that we had dealt with this man's spirit but we hadn't dealt with his mind.

Our government supports invalids and we have a terrific medical system in Australia. He was supported. He was 37 years old and he had an income.

All of a sudden this man was straightened out and he saw one thing – the income going out of the door. He saw that he would have to support himself. We didn't deal with that but we dealt with the other.

The Lord started showing us that we had to do both. When we're helping someone we have to help them in the soul realm as well – have a look at their situation and see how they can improve.

Ask the Lord for what the stumbling blocks are. We didn't ask. The stumbling block for this man became a dependency on government funding.

In Australia that can still be a major problem. It can be a problem for churches. Dependency on government funding. What a trap. We had a school that was taken over by secular people.

It was a Christian school. It started off with wonderful vision and integrity. It was started by Christians but they brought the government funding through the door. As they got hold of this government funding, the more they got, the more they needed so every year they would put in for more.

When we started and were buying our block the Holy Spirit had me put an Articles of Association together for an incorporated body to hold the land.

When I was doing that He said, "Don't go by the standard Articles for a company or a church."

He said, "I want you to have a look at what is happening to the school."

I didn't know anything about the school. He said that it was falling into secular hands; it had started off well.

He said, "Make sure you come to Me for the clauses in these Articles." I went to Him.

Two months at a time I would pray over the clauses. I went to a Christian lawyer who would look at it and say I couldn't do what I was showing him.

He'd say, "This is the way we do this; we've put together so many of these things for the Church of Christ, the Anglican Church and the Pentecostal Churches around the place."

He would tell me that this would not work. I told him it would work. I asked him to give it to me then I would go away and pray about it and go back to him with the changes that needed to be made.

So I laid my hands on it. The Spirit of God had given me what I needed to put in there. We would adjust the clauses and take it back to him and ask him to put it in some legal format that would work.

He told me that it wouldn't work. Then he looked again and said that it would work, not only that it would work but that it was watertight.

We ended up with the most watertight document that anyone would ever see in their life. And it's been tested in the courts. It was worded by the Spirit of God.

That gift of tongues will take us into a place of setting things in order.

God wants all of us to walk in faith. Every one of us has a plan in front of us, everyone has a path that we have to walk with God.

Unless we unravel it and unlock that path we are just doing the 'good' thing not the perfect will of God. We have to find His perfect will for our lives to flow in the supernatural.

We have to find God's perfect will for us so that our lives become naturally supernatural. It's a natural thing – it's not a spooky thing. It's a natural walking with God every day and just keeping an ear to Him.

It's not our natural ears but our spiritual ears. An ear in our heart. We have an ear in our heart.

Everything has an ear to hear what we speak. Everything – the wind, the waves had an ear to hear the voice of Jesus. He spoke – they responded. Did the water respond to the Lord?

Did He say to speak to the mountain and it will be removed? Was He speaking metaphorically or was He speaking about an actual physical mountain?

Everything has an ear. Every circumstance in our lives has an ear to hear.

And it will bow to the Word of God – everything MUST bow to the Word of God. What does the Word of God say – every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Jesus is the word. If He walked in the door would we expect Him to heal and deliver us? Yes we would. And we have His word in our hands.

There's a revealing of that word for us; there's a specific word for each of us, a word for our lives, a plan, a purpose and a path for each of us. We need to tap into that. We won't tap into it just by reading it. We need the Holy Spirit to open it up for us.

When I was unsaved I had had a look at the Bible but it was just a book of words to me. When I got saved I had another look at the Bible and it was still a jumbled mess to me.

All of a sudden the Holy Spirit came and I was submitted to Him. Every time I would say, "Teach me about this Lord," that word became life. It would jump out of the pages. But there's more to the Word of God than what we allow it to do.

I used to box when I was young and I never lost a fight but we wouldn't know it as I came out black and blue and with teeth missing. I gave up when I got to that stage.

But I can remember that when I came into the Kingdom of God I had a violence problem. I was a violent person. I'd been brought up as a violent person. I knew how to handle things – if I had problems I would handle them that way.

I was about three years into the Lord, in ministry. I was starting to see miracles and we were starting to get invited to Full Gospel Business Men's places to give testimonies about what we saw God doing. They called me back one day – they rang in the middle of the night and said that they had a drunk with them and they were asking me to come down and deliver him because my testimony was that I came out of alcohol.

I said, "Yes, I can do that but sober him up first. Pour some coffee into him so that he wants to get set free." People have to want to be set free. If people want to keep devils, let them keep them. They have to WANT to be set free.

If they want freedom, we will help. The key is – preach the gospel so they want to get set free. Not everybody wants freedom. Some people are really happy in their sin; they don't want to leave it – to them sin is pleasurable and comfortable.

But the choice is theirs – God has given all of us a choice. I’m an evangelist by heart; I have a heart to get people saved. If I see someone in sin I want to talk to them and give them an opportunity to hear the gospel. If they take the gospel, praise God. We’ve won a soul into the kingdom. If they don’t, I can’t do much so I keep going to the next person.

So when this guy turned up drunk they tried sobering him up but he didn’t sober up easily. At 2 o’clock in the morning he was still drunk and was making a nuisance of himself down at this coffee lounge.

So I said, “It’s a waste of my time coming down but tell him that if he’s serious I’ll meet him there at lunch time tomorrow.” I would stop work and meet him there.

The next day I went to the coffee lounge but he didn’t turn up. Three days later I got a phone call from the coffee lounge and they said that the man was back there wanting my phone number, address and wanting to punch my lights out.

Now I had never met the man. Demons tend to do stuff like that; they twist people’s thinking. So I said to put him on the phone. He abused me terribly over the phone. He said that since he hadn’t shown up on that Saturday he had a red rash all over his body and he thought it was my fault.

He thought I’d cursed him. A twisted mind. He said if I was standing in front of him he would punch my lights out.

I said, “Really. Don’t let that stop you. Here’s my address. Come and see me.” I gave him my address.

The Holy Spirit spoke to me immediately and said, “Do you think you’re going to handle it this way still?” He said, “You cannot deal with these things in the same manner anymore.”

I said, “It’s a bit late Lord. He’s on his way.”

The Holy Spirit said, “What are you going to do?”

I said, “Well I’ll give him a bash or two and then share the gospel with him.”

Remember God’s ways are not our ways. I was young in the Lord. I was a young Christian and I was using what I had at the time.

The Spirit of God said, “You can’t do that. What did you read this morning?” I’ve never forgotten this word because He was trying to teach me about the power that’s in His Word.

I said, "Well this morning I read Matthew 8:16 that says all the sick and demon possessed came to Him and He set them free with a word."

He released them – with a word. With a word. He set them free WITH A WORD.

I didn't know the power in the Word of God but He wanted to show me. I knew all the scriptures that said, "My word is spirit and truth," but I had never meditated on it to understand it.

Meditating on scripture is how we purge our minds, how we purge our souls and start to come out of sin. Meditate on the word of God. Get a few thousand of God's thoughts into us. Constantly. It will start to do something. This word, He set them free with a word.

I said, "Fat lot of good that's going to do me Lord. This man wants to punch my lights out. Can't I just give him a quick tap?"

The Holy Spirit said, "NO. You can't."

I said, "Okay. I'm going to do it Your way. I'm going to speak Your word to him."

He said, "That's it. Speak My word."

I said, "Okay. But if it doesn't work I'm going to hit him." I know that attack is the best form of defence – there's no use waiting to get bashed up.

When I saw the guy get out of the car I was really glad that God had said to use the Word because he was about 6'4" and built like a tank. This really worried me. I was thinking that I was still going to have to do this in a hurry because this guy could do a lot of damage.

So I opened the door and stood back. He came lunging at me through the door. I said, "Stop in the name of Jesus," but I couldn't remember a word (from the Word).

My wife had a little plaque on the vanity basin that I used to read every time when I was shaving. It was the 23rd Psalm – "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." What a good word.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" – that's all I could get out of my mouth. I saw the power in God's word that day. He fell through the door as if someone had hit him. He hit the ground like someone had poleaxed him. He did a somersault in my entrance hall. He had his legs spread out with his head stuck to the floor and he couldn't move.

I was looking. He started screaming and the whole street could hear the screaming. He was screaming, "Get it off. Get it off my back."

I said, "What is it? I can't see anything." But God was teaching me the power in His word. One word. One word instructed by the Holy Spirit has incredible power.

It really pays for us to load our arsenals with the Word of God. I started to look at the scene and I asked the Lord what to do. He said, "Cast out the evil spirit. Command it to name itself and leave."

The spirit that was in the man was a spirit that he had picked up when he was a kid. I commanded it to name itself and it came out with all sorts of horrible noises as demons do.

It was saying, "No. I've been here too long."

I said, "Get out now in Jesus' name and name yourself as you go." This was part of my education. We need to learn from everything that happens in God. Everything has a lesson.

So I said, "Come out. Name yourself as you go."

The guy's head was still stuck on the floor. He was screaming out, "Homosexuality." He got totally released. The spirit left.

I looked at the guy and he didn't look like a homosexual. He looked like a raging bull. The dark person who came through the door was totally transformed.

This guy looked like someone had dipped him in white paint. He was glowing. He said, "I'm free. I've had counselling for three years but no one has been able to help me. I came up here to punch your lights out and God sets me free?"

He said, "I'm not a practising homosexual."

I said, "That's none of my business, mate. If you're free then you're free."

He said, "I have to tell you - I was raped when I was four years old and that spirit came into me. I've felt unclean ever since."

If there's an uncleanness in our heart and we can never overcome things in our life and we wonder why and if that's happened to us, that spirit can be cast out in a hurry.

This is good teaching. God wants us to learn from what we go through. I don't want dead, dull, boring Bible lessons. I've seen teachers teach me so much stuff that was never relevant.

I need something that's practical, something that I can give to the bloke who's bleeding down the road, something that will set him free, something that will actually do something to reveal the Kingdom of God here on earth. That we would start to fulfill the commission that He has given us.

I can't tolerate just giving words that don't do anything. We're better off saying nothing and letting them see our lifestyle than giving them something that doesn't work.

I know Christians who will rattle off ten pages more than is in the Bible. If asked for a scripture, they could give the page reference in three different editions. But what good is that? What good does that do? But if we can get into the Word of God and understand the power that God has given to us to reveal His glory. This is to the Father's glory. This encapsulates the Christian walk.

Coming out of drugs, I found it hard to memorise things. So God gave me a song. When the word of God is going forth because it's practical and it abides in us we'll see the power of the Holy Spirit going out and doing the work.

The Bible tells me that in every house there are vessels for noble and ignoble uses. God says for us to purge ourselves and be noble vessels so we can be used for the noble things.

Come out of the outer court. Go through the Holy Place into the Holy of Holies where we can hear what God is saying. Come out of the flesh. Go through our soul, cleanse it and come to the place where our spirit can do the work.

That's what God is saying. He wants to permeate us with kingdom thinking, not religious or denominational thinking. There are denominations who will tie people to the place and if people don't do what they say they will tell them they are not saved.

What a lie from the pit of hell. We're supposed to be spreading the Kingdom. We need the Word and the Spirit. The Spirit of God wants us to understand that the Word has to work. And He wants to work. He wants the Word to manifest in our lives.

Without Him, without His leading we can read the Bible like a history book but when He brings it to life or He tells us to do something with it, there is life. When He brings it alive, when we meditate on the Word and it permeates our bodies we're actually getting God's thoughts into us. We're filling ourselves with the thoughts of God.

The Word of God needs to be in us to give the Holy Spirit something to get hold of. I would have been lost unless I had been shaving regularly in front of that Word.

Praise God for my wife's foresight in putting that plaque on the vanity so I would get hit with the Word every morning. She knew that I needed it.

I wanted to get the Word into my spirit. I understood that that's the way things work. I had been praying for eighteen months at the Point near our place. God had told me to pray for the towns around our area.

I didn't know anybody. I had moved there from Adelaide. He said, "I want you to pray for the towns and be diligent in that." Every morning at 4 o'clock I would drive to the Point and I would pray for two or three hours. I was diligent.

Eighteen months later God spoke to me and said, "You've done the work. Now go into those towns. They're yours." (We're working in those towns today.)

I thought, "That's fantastic but what do I do with them? How do I reach these towns? I have an evangelist heart. My worksites brought people to the Lord. But how do I go in and take hold of a town when I actually failed Bible College? When after six months I got sick of it and got out and didn't have enough basis to go and do this" – so I thought!

But I had a lot of Word in me. I'd been meditating on the Word of God. I'd been putting it in front of me. I couldn't memorise it so I put it into song form. I'd sing it to myself. It's easy to memorise songs.

God said, "On the basis of John 17:8 go and take those towns. Ask Me for anything you want in regard to that work and it's yours." The Spirit of God gave me this word. It encapsulates the whole Christian walk. I didn't realise that at the time.

John 15: 7-8 "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

Abiding means camping overnight with Him. If we abide somewhere we live there; we actually go and sleep there. Abiding with God means spending time with Him. If His word abides in us it rests and sleeps in us. It's in us.

This is what Jesus was talking about when He said the Father sent Me and I am in the Father. He said I'm in you and you're in Me. John 17 – knowing the

Father is eternal life. We need to let His life out. The power of God in us needs to get out where people can see it at work.

There are people who pray for hours and hours but never do anything with it. Then they label themselves as intercessors. We're all intercessors. Everyone is called to intercede. I hate titles on ministries. All ministry is the ministry of Jesus at work.

Deliverance is the ministry of Jesus at work.

Intercession is the ministry of Jesus at work.

It's that section of Jesus that people allow to come out of them a little more strongly than another section. But it's still the ministry of Jesus at work through the Holy Spirit.

God gave me a song for John 15:7-8. I would sing it to myself all day because God gave it to me and I had to get it inside of me.

When we start getting the Word of God inside us it does some things. Suddenly God put me in front of people who had no money. I had \$50 in my pocket and God told me to give it to them.

I said, "But Lord, I want to buy pizza on the way home." (I gave it.)

He started breaking me in other areas because the Word was doing something. The Word was starting to break me out. The Word is for us. It gets us right. It raises hope in us. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.

If hope has been destroyed or shipwrecked or damaged in any way the only way to restore it is to sit before the Word of God and programme our hope so the substance of faith can come to it. We all need that. If we're in that place where we need a miracle and the Word of God is in front of us and the promise is there we need to understand how to get it out.

It's no good having the promise sitting and not doing anything. That's why I love demonstrating the things of God because it's now, it's happening, it's His Word in action, His Word at work.

When He gave me this song I sang and sang and sang. The song became part of me.

He said, "When are you going to use it Raf?"

It's no good just getting it in – it has to come out somewhere. It has to manifest somewhere. We can't just study the Word of God and be full of it and doing nothing with it.

I said to the Lord that I would take these towns but I didn't know how to do it. I asked Him to teach me.

But based on what I thought I could do I asked God for a bus and a good set of musicians.

I had seen that in churches music draws people but I didn't just want musicians. I asked the Lord for anointed musicians.

He said that He wanted anointed musicians too and He told me not to take any that He didn't give me.

I told the Lord that I wouldn't tell anybody about the bus – that it was just between the Lord and me and He said that was what He wanted too.

But I did want to tell my family because I wanted them to be part of the miracle. God said that that was okay but not to tell anyone else. He said, "It's between you and Me."

I told my wife and kids. I wrote out the scripture and put it on my fridge. I drew a picture of a bus at the bottom. The kids were looking at it and asking what I was doing. I told them we were getting a bus and that I didn't want them to tell anybody so that no one could get a hint of what we were doing, otherwise people would want to supply it out the goodness of their heart.

I wanted the Lord to give the bus to me. I wanted Him to pick the people. I wanted to know that it was Him. Then my faith would grow and so would the faith of my family.

Then all of a sudden we were moving to the next level. My kids agreed. We prayed as a family and that was it. The kids didn't pray again – kids have major faith.

Every time I would go to make myself a cup of coffee I would lay hands on the picture and scripture and say, "Thank you Jesus for the bus."

Four weeks later a 30 seater bus sat in my drive, free of charge and the keys were given to me.

The man who gave it to me was a Church of Christ man who was in charge of buses for the church. I'd only ever met him once and that was at a Gideon's meeting where we were sharing.

I didn't actually get to talk at that meeting but he followed me home and said, "I don't know what you've got, mate, but what you have I need. Would you lay hands on me?"

I laid hands on him just out in the front of my place and he got filled with the Holy Ghost. Then I didn't see him again until the day I needed a bus. He turned up with a bus.

He said, "How did you pray? God woke me up and told me that I had to give you this bus."

He's a lovely man. He was working for his brother-in-law on a farm and they were moving pigs and he stank. He came early in the morning with the keys to the bus but he stank – the kids were making their breakfast and they all went to the other end of the house because they couldn't stand the smell.

I said, "Kids, the bus has arrived."

They said, "Yea Dad." They were all rejoicing.

The musicians: within half an hour of that prayer my phone started ringing. The Holy Spirit said to me, "Only take the ones I give you."

I said, "Lord, I'll obey You implicitly."

The phone rang and people would say that they had heard I was doing something and they wanted to offer their services.

One was the best lead guitarist in Adelaide. He was a session musician. He had played for Benny Hinn and all the big names who would come to Adelaide.

I said, "Lord, what about him?"

The Lord said, "Yes. Take him."

I had ministered to him years ago.

Ten minutes later I got another call – he had spoken to other musos in the field. They wanted to join me and supply keyboards.

I said, "What about this one Lord?"

He said, "No, not that one."

So I said, "Sorry, mate. We have someone. Thanks any way. I really appreciate it."

I didn't know who we had but I knew the Holy Spirit had someone.

That week the phone rang hot. Full bands were offered to us. Every time the Holy Spirit said yes or no. I was wondering why.

At the end of the week I got a phone call. Two or three weeks before I had been to a church where a girl in the crowd sang a prophecy that caused the

pastor to break down because it was his message in song and two people gave their hearts to the Lord.

So this was an anointed girl. She heard what we were doing and she had a voice like a nightingale and she offered her services. I remembered this anointing and I said, "Oh, YES."

The Spirit of God said, "NO!" The Spirit of God was not meek and mild when it came time to say no. All of a sudden the heavens turned to brass. I couldn't hear God. Everything closed off.

I said, "Lord, I'm sorry. What can I do? I'll cancel her."

God wouldn't talk to me. That night I couldn't sleep. I went down to the Point. I had fasted all day. I said to the Lord that I would do whatever needed to be done. Nothing – I couldn't hear.

God sent to me an old prophet who used to live around the corner. He was a Salvation Army guy who looked like Colonel Sanders (KFC). He had a big white beard and moustache. He had spent some time with us at different times.

The Holy Spirit had woken him up. He had put on his dressing gown, got in his car and drove to the Point at 4 o'clock in the morning. He pulled up alongside my car and said, "What are you doing, Raf?"

I said, "Why?"

He said, "God told me to tell that you've got someone in the band not of Him."

He knew nothing about what was going on.

I said, "Thanks Harold. I'm aware of that."

He said, "Well fix it up will you."

He went back home to bed. I got home. My mate who was in partnership with me on the building sites, a pastor, phoned me and said, "Raf, I haven't been able to sleep all night. God had me up. You have someone in the band not from the Lord."

I said, "Mate, He's telling everybody." I said, "Did He tell you who?"

He said, "Yes. It's a girl."

I said, "Well tell me why because my hearing is totally blocked at the moment. I can't hear a thing."

He said, "Well, Raf. She ministered to witches with a door open in her own spirit." She'd opened the door and hadn't come into a repentant place. She went and ministered to witches and instead of giving out, she received.

God could not have that in the meeting. Musos are front line. They're the warfare people – they pull things down.

God said, "She ministered to a witch and needs setting free. She's filled with lust and I can't have that at the front of a meeting." The people can't tell the difference.

I said, "Ok Lord. I'll cancel her. If she doesn't ring me by 6 o'clock tonight, I will cancel her. But if there's another way - I don't want to shred this girl's spirit. I can be harsh but You're gentler than me Lord when it comes to that. If there's another way, can You do it?"

At 4 o'clock she cancelled. My hearing was restored and I learnt another major lesson.

So when we started a church I asked, "Lord, give me discerning eyes. Let me see." If there is something on the people ministering out the front I won't let them minister but I'd rather that they check themselves out.

For the first twelve months of our church we rarely had musicians up the front – they were too frightened to get up. I had told them that if they weren't right, they needed to stand themselves down.

It's important. People come from all over Australia to hear the worship in our church. It's heavenly. It's different. We get into the Holy of Holies almost every time because these guys check their hearts out on a daily basis.

As I was learning this lesson, the Lord sent me to Malaysia about two weeks later.

The pastor and his wife who had actually commissioned us in Malaysia – the wife can hear God really clearly; she goes up into the throne room of God and goes into the area of the file room in the kingdom of God then comes back and tells us exactly what we've been doing.

She said she saw my files but wasn't allowed to see some parts but the Lord allowed her to see a section. She said that my mate and I had been sent to them to be commissioned to go out and do the work.

So I went to see these people after this lesson and she asked me, "What are you learning lately, Raf?"

I said, "I'm learning a lot. God's really starting to teach me some things. He's starting to teach me about the musos: how important it is that their spirit be clean because people can't tell the difference."

Anointings go out but there's only one anointing of the Holy Ghost and it will have good fruit. That fruit will be healing, deliverance, setting free. It will have good fruit. We may get into other anointings but may not be aware of what they are. We need God in His meetings so it's good to ask if the musos are of God.

As I was talking to this lady she said, "Let me tell you a story. There was a big church in Seremban. It was filling up – thousands were coming in because of the music. The music was drawing them in the door." She said, "This church was growing and growing but the pastor was unhappy. He knew that something was wrong but couldn't put his finger on what it was. So he asked me to come and have a look."

So she went there with her husband who is a beautiful man of God. He said the music was lovely. She got lost – she went off with the Lord. She came back and said to her husband, "What do you think?"

He said, "It seems ok."

She said "No. It's not. The girl song leading isn't even saved. She was picked up in the street six months ago. She has a wonderful voice. She joined the youth group but no one ever bothered to lead her to the Lord."

Because she had such great talent she came up through the ranks until she was song leading out the front. What was hitting the people was lust.

She was living in an immoral relationship. The band leader, the pastor's brother was in adultery. He was leading in the instruments.

That was what was going out over the people. She said to me, "Raf, when you go and evangelise, make sure the musicians are tidy. When people first come into the kingdom this is the first thing they get touched with. Make sure they're tidy and you'll have a good foundation for people to first come into the place. They'll come in with a genuine turning around in their hearts before God."

The first meeting we did broke open the town of Strathalbyn. We have a fellowship there that has been going for ten years. It's growing and has the most solid people one has ever seen.

Every one of them could go out and pray for someone who would get healed and set free. Every one of them walking in hearing. This scares the kingdom of darkness.

A good foundation. It's important to the Lord. I started learning a lesson – if I still abide in Him, if I keep abiding in Him, if I don't move away from Him and even if I do I come back to Him and don't lose sight of this, that it brings glory to Him. It will do something that will bring glory to the Father. It's something that will remain in heaven.

I believe that everyone who does an exploit for God has that recorded in the archives in heaven alongside their name. When we get to heaven our rewards relate to what we've done. There'll be works that we've done of our own volition that will burn in the fire but there are works that God has said to do. We'll be rewarded for them.

That's Bible. It says that our works will be tested by fire and if they're of God they won't be burned up. They're solid works. He's talking about the people we bring into the kingdom.

That's why wisdom is given and they shine like stars in the heavens forever because they are ones who brought people into the kingdom.

Evangelism is so important.

Final-Word

If the testimonies in this booklet have impacted you, it's never too late to begin your own journey down the Narrow Road with Jesus.

Please feel free to read this simple prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus,

I believe that You died on the Cross for all my sin. I believe that You rose from the dead.

*Please forgive me for all my sins. Make me clean.
Please come into my heart, save me, heal me and set me free.*

*Write my name in Your Book of Life.
Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Be my personal Lord and Saviour.*

Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, welcome to the family of God and a new life walking every day with Jesus.