



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

Brothers & Sisters

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## SPIRITUAL GEMS

At a time when attendances in certain churches are falling markedly while others, especially Pentecostal and small independent groups are doing well, it is essential that people are drawn back to the fold. Not only that, they must be assured that God's grace is real and His Word can be fully trusted. The response today needs to be the same as it was in the days of the prophet Zechariah: "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you". With this in mind, it is time to focus on some of the spiritual gems that the precious Word of God contains---promises from the very heart of God.

### Powerful Weapons

The Word of God is replete with precious, yea, priceless pieces of spiritual wisdom that all Bible-believing Christians appreciate, knowing that they are powerful weapons, sharper than any two-edged sword to be used in our battle against the forces of evil working against us in our daily walk with the Lord. Examples of these cherished texts are such wonderful assurances as, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want"; "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you"; "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear. What can man do to me?" And many, many more. However, amongst all the countless words of wisdom contained in the Holy Scriptures one particular chapter stands out for the glorious eternal truths that the Apostle Paul set on their sturdy feet and sent marching down the path of the Christian centuries. This is the eighth chapter of his epistle to the Romans. It rises, all rugged and splendid out of a great assembly of majestic truth opening with 'no condemnation' and closing with 'no separation'.

### Flesh versus Spirit

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul reveals the mind of God so vividly that we are left in no doubt what the Father is saying to us. "To be carnally minded is death." Though the flesh is not essentially sinful, it is essentially weak; thus it is the term used to describe us in our weakness, physical, intellectual or moral. Consequently the flesh ruled by sin becomes a chief source of opposition to the law of God and to the influence of His Spirit. However, "to be spiritually minded is life and peace". In contrast to Death, which ruins the whole personality, Life means the triumphant continuance in the power of the Spirit beyond the barriers of earth and time as we conform to the nature of the glorified Christ, the image of the invisible God. Peace comes through a state of reconciliation with God, which in turn diffuses a feeling of harmony and tranquility throughout the whole person. We are also told, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you". In the body, Jesus ascended; in the body, now glorified, He lives and rules; in the body He will appear a second time to bring salvation to all who are waiting for Him. Moreover, not only has He risen in the body, but His resurrection is a pledge that we also will rise in the body, the first-fruits of the harvest of the dead. As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. Hallelujah, what a wonderful Saviour!

## **Sons of God**

“As many as are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God, for we did not receive the spirit of bondage to fall back into fear but a spirit of sonship whereby we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’” Until we are born again of the Spirit we are mere people of the world, loving money, pleasure, vanity and sin. We are among those many carrying a fear of death, powerless to handle the awesome prospect of facing a Christ-less eternity without hope. We have been adopted into the family of God. As soon as we deeply repent this union takes place between us and Christ, God sees us in the same relationship in which He sees Christ. He treats us as if we were His own children; He gives us a place and name ‘better than sons and daughters’. Consequently, even as a child knows that he has a right to his father’s love and blessing and that he will not reject or refuse him, so we can come to our heavenly Father with holy boldness in Christ, assured that our prayers and petitions, given with thanksgiving, will be accepted. We are “joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together with Him”.

## **All Things Work Together for Good**

In fact, whatever we may suffer now cannot be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” Be not mistaken: it is not only trials and calamities and sufferings of which the apostle is speaking. It is *all* things---health, strength, beauty and intellect, vigour of mind and of body. He is not saying that all things are good, but that they *work together* for the ultimate good; even the most apparently insignificant affairs in life work out for our greatest benefit in the future. Realise, however, that good is not happiness; it doesn’t mean that the godly person will be free from trouble, pain or distress---a life of ease and prosperity, riding smoothly over life’s struggles. God has a higher purpose. It is to make the world a training place for character wherein the fruits of the Spirit are developed; and righteousness leading to holiness and Christ-likeness become a reality in us.

## **On the Victory Side**

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” Continually throughout life there is a dualism that is impossible to escape. On one side, there is Almighty God, the holy and righteous Maker of Heaven and Earth who presides over the things that are in league with goodness; and on the other side, though the text doesn’t name anyone, are the forces of evil, whether they be human or satanic. No matter what, the Word of God assures us that God has not given us a spirit of timidity or fear, but a spirit of power and love and of a sound mind. As sons and daughters of the Living God, chosen as His own and predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son making us the first-born among many brethren, we are also justified and glorified. So what can stop us? Why be fearful? Jesus conquered evil and death on the Cross. We are on the victory side, triumphant over all that the enemy would throw at us.

## **A Sublime Peak**

So much for the spiritual gems in this magnificent chapter, a picture of the Christian life, its maturity, possessions and hopes. Yet there is better to come. It saves the best till last; these grand promises reach a sublime peak that is only attained in the lofty sayings of Jesus. “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created being, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in *Christ Jesus our Lord*.” These rapturous words are the climax of the Apostle’s proclamation that the Gospel is the revelation of the righteousness of God that through faith is the power of God that produces salvation and victory over all fears, doubts, setbacks, obstacles and temporary defeats that come our way. What he has revealed to us is the unfathomable love of God which brings us into an indissoluble union with Him through the Son, Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul then gives us a rapid list of the forces of the universe which might challenge that union, followed by the conviction that prevails over them all. In other words, there is nothing whatsoever that can cut us off from the eternal love of God. We are His, and He is ours. God abides in us, forever and ever. Amen.

*Wishing you and your family a blessed and glorious New Year 2011.*

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

**REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA’S REVIVAL.**