

The Fullness of  
**CHRIST**  
in His Church



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in His Church

By Maria R. Schwartz

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The Bible verses have been taken from the New King James Version.

The Word of God directly addresses the new creation in us. It builds us up in the eternal things of God as it also encourages and strengthens us in the temporal situations through which we are going.

God's Word enlightens us: it lets us see more clearly; it gives us an understanding of things we may not have understood before, or which we may have interpreted or judged incorrectly. We are attracted to the Lord, sanctified and cleansed through the Word, who prepares us for every good work.



“... *A*nd He “put all things under His feet” and gave Him to be Head over all things to the Church, which is His body: the fullness of the One filling all things in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23).





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# Prologue

What a blessing for me to have read this book, “short” on pages but “great” in content!

In simple form, it presents us the love of God, its manifestation through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to reach this world, transforming even the worst of lives and using them as instruments of salvation. In this manner, the powerful message of the Bible may be understood and made more real.

I take advantage to give thanks to our marvelous Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the life of Maria Rita, whom I had the privilege of meeting when she was still a young girl who did not know or follow Christ, whom she serves today. What a marvel to see her become a seeker and servant of the glorious and powerful Jesus, who has granted her the precious ministry she carries out today in the local Church, on the radio, in missionary work, and now, through her first book, *The Fullness of Christ in His Church*. We know that the central purpose of Maria Rita’s life is that all the glory be God’s.

We give thanks to God for her and for the blessing the readers will receive as God’s light is made more clear and visible in this “small” and “great” book.

Norka Feijóo

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# *Preface*

The contents of this book are the same as the Word ministered by way of radio, with very few changes. The redundancies you may find are necessary to convey more clarity, or in some cases, more emphasis on the Word.

“We know in part” and can only proclaim the present truth in which we are established. It is my prayer that you be blessed with more of the knowledge of Christ and His beloved Church as you read this book, for the praise of the glory of His grace.

Maria R. Schwartz





## “Jesus, the Christ”

In the book of Isaiah, the Lord’s first coming is prophetically declared:

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”  
(Isaiah 7:14)

Jesus was with His people when He began His ministry. People flocked around Him because of the miracles and His words. He extended himself towards humanity, showing them the true God of love, mercy, power, and authority. All these were declared and manifested in the life of Jesus. Many saw Him as Jesus of Nazareth; others saw Him as a great prophet who performed many miracles.

The goal of God in “Immanuel” (God with us) was to fulfill the Scriptures. He came in “Jesus” (Jehovah saves) to die and rise again for us.

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21,23)

Jesus, the Lamb of God, God incarnate, established a New Covenant when He shed His blood, a covenant which cannot be revoked, since He Himself accomplishes it in our hearts (Hebrews 8:6-13).

“...This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:20b)

He justified us and washed us in His blood in order to live in us. The Holy Spirit would not have been able to abide in us without the sacrifice of Jesus.

The disciples of Jesus were attracted to Him by the Word, rather than by the miracles He performed. Peter declared: “To whom shall we go? You have the Words of everlasting life.” (John 6:68). The Lord, knowing their hearts, wanted to reveal and give them the understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom. Likewise, only by revelation can we see Jesus as the Christ:

“Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 16:16-17)

The word “Christ” means “the Anointed.” He is the Anointed working in us and through us. Today, we have God in Christ Jesus in the Spirit. Consequently, it is the



Church who has received the vision to see the Christ, and it is for those to whom He chooses to reveal it.

The Lord sends us to declare this mystery in His anointing:

“... Christ in you, the hope of glory.”  
(Colossians 1:26-29)





“... and the life was the light of men...”

(John 1:4)

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

God chose one people from among the peoples of the world. Isaiah 9 speaks of “the people” in singular form, not “the peoples,” in plural.

Just as He chose Israel from among the generations of Adam, to make a people from among peoples, we have been chosen from among the peoples of the world to be His people: the generation of Jesus Christ, the last Adam in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45).

How beautiful to see the fulfillment of this prophecy in Isaiah 9:2 in John 1:4, “In Him was life, and ‘the life’ was ‘the light’ of men!” The light that shined on them was a life given to them. Light came through the life and we could see. It was not that we receive light in order to have life, rather “the life” that is “Jesus Christ” came to us and gave us light. We would never, of ourselves, have

had the discernment to choose the Lord. That is why we were chosen by Him. The Lord came and chose us, and He gave us life through which we can see and discern between light and darkness.

We see this same principle in Ephesians 2:1:

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...”

We were in our world of corruption, and today we are the people who had walked in darkness and saw great light.

“...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:12-14)

Based on this, we may better understand the Scripture in Isaiah 9. God has translated us into a kingdom, that of the Son of His love. The world may see Him as Jesus of Nazareth: but He is greater than he who walked among us. He is Christ Jesus, God’s Anointed One, the Life which pours forth through us and which also sustains us.

When Moses was with God on the mountaintop, his face shone. He was in the light, understanding and participating of God’s very life there. Now then, to those who have been chosen by God in Christ –those who dwelled before in darkness– life has come, and that life has given light to their hearts.

The light has shone in our hearts through the gospel of God!





## Abundant Life...

“You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. ”  
(Isaiah 9:3-4)

When God’s life comes to us, the result is “liberation.” When we are liberated there is multiplication, because when God’s life is not stagnated, it increases. Our joy is multiplied, the congregation is multiplied, the works increase, everything increases. “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.” (Proverbs 4:18)

When we find ourselves in Him, we live a life of abundance. The life that God has for us is not boring nor stagnant, because it does not consist of that which is seen. This life consists of Him and the relationship with Him. Now, if our life in Him revolves around temporary things, then those things may put out the life.

Paul always says, "...for this cause..." Everything we do in Christ has a cause. What motivates us to do things? If what motivates us to believe in Him are the things He gives us, we come short of what He has for us. If His blessing or our security in this world are what motivate us to believe in Him, again, we come short of what He has for us. Everything will be shaken; His Word says "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Matthew 24:35).

"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."  
(Romans 11:36)

If our cause centers on the Lord, and is of Him, and for Him, and to Him, then it will determine the kind of life we will have in Him; it will define what is our goal, purpose, and motivation to do all things.

The revelation of the mystery of the body of Christ caused Paul to give himself to Christ. He received the knowledge that Jews and Gentiles alike had the same right as children of God in Christ Jesus. There was no difference between them; they had the same merit, the same substance, the same blood. It was this revelation that moved and undid Paul. He gave his life completely to the life of Christ in him. He did not consider his sufferings, nor where he found himself: he could be inside or outside of jail. He was taught by God to be



content in everything. Why? Because his goal never concerned temporal things; it was about that which was eternal. This is the key: God Himself (Ephesians 2; Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28).

The more we give ourselves over to the Lord, the more we will come to know Him, and His life will multiply as the light until the day is established. His life is abundant.



# 4

“... a Son was given... and His name shall be called...”

The Father loved the world and gave His Son (Jesus the Christ) for the salvation of the world. He called His Church out from the world (slavery and darkness) to be Christ's.

“...His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

A child has been given us who will become a son. When we are first born again, we are like a newborn babe. A newborn babe is always craving for his mother, not because he loves her, but because she loves him and sustains his life. The newborn babe depends on her for everything, he cannot exist on his own. What a beautiful picture of God and us! At the new birth, we are newborn babes nurtured and sustained by His Word.

As we grow in Him, we are given the power to become sons; we have more knowledge. We know more about the beauty of our Father, who He is, His feelings, His heart. The Son is given to us, and upon His Son's

shoulders rests principality. Principality is upon His shoulders, upon His body.

Now, we can see the Lord: the Christ that loves His Church and delivers Himself up for her. He is in us, and we declare His name by His Spirit. The people who have not received the light, who have not received the life of Christ, cannot declare His nature. Without the Son, the aspects of God cannot be known. The chosen ones who have received Him, have the provision of all that He is.

We saw Jesus the man, who was born of the Virgin Mary. Now we see Jesus, the Christ, who is made manifest through His people, the Church, whom He has chosen to receive His life. He manifests Himself to her, in her, and through her as The Wonderful, The Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

How have we believed?

We have believed by the Word which came to us through preaching, through literature, or through one chosen of the Lord, one who proclaimed His name to us. In some cases, perhaps, we came to the Word through a manifestation of the Lord which we experienced or observed. We have been taught by Him through the members of His Church. When we come to Him, we receive from Him directly, because we all arrive at the head by the Spirit.

“...For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2:18)

In Jesus, the Christ, all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him (Colossians 1:19). We saw it through miracles, the Word, and the love in the gospels. All those called of God admired Him, all wanted to get close to Him, because life flowed from Him, the fullness of God. Now “He” has given us the Spirit, in us, His beloved Church (Ephesians 1:22-23).



# 5

## Our Growth and Purpose

The Word is directed to the sons of God. The mature son in Christ knows how to distinguish and pick out the precious from the vile.

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking...”  
(1 Peter 2:1)

As this verse states, there are things within the human being, and not outside, which we need to lay aside. We cannot throw out these things, nor will they go away on their own, since they pertain to the old nature, but we can choose what He has placed at our disposition:

“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”  
(1 Peter 2:2-3)

The Word that God has given His Church is spiritual milk. The Word is not focused on man, but on the Son, on Christ Jesus. The Word that comes by the Spirit of God does not have the wisdom of man, nor the mind of man; it is not

adulterated because it is from His Spirit to our spirit. Through the Word we will achieve salvation (health), having tasted of the Lord.

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:4-5)

As “living stones” we partake of Him, in Him. In other words, we ourselves do not partake in the flesh, but as His spiritual members.

The priesthood of the tabernacle in the desert is earthly, it has to do with visible things. Our priesthood is in the spirit and in the truth. He seeks those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23). The glory of God manifested in Jesus Christ was in grace and truth (John 1:14).

**The priesthood of our service in worship comes from our spiritual life.** He desires that we exercise that life in order to be edified. It is He Himself who edifies His Church through His very life in us. The members of God are not carnal; they are spiritual: they are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. His Gifts manifest The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

We are His members so that He may manifest His life. We see The Everlasting Father in our brethren who are pastors;



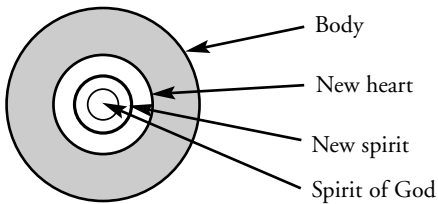
we see God in the transformation and use He makes of lives who give themselves to Him, regardless of how evil they are; we see The Mighty God through miracles and signs, and He performs them through His Word and His body. What worked in the man, Jesus –the Christ– now works in His Church. He is the hope of glory. Who will glorify Himself? God. Not the Church, nor the vessels, but God. The Son comes to glorify the Father. **When we are in the Son, we glorify the Father.**



# 6

## Christ: Fruit, Ministry and Gifts

The “fruit” is the product of our union with the Lord, our spirit with His Spirit. Our spiritual being is the principal element in collaborating with Him. We must be **of Him** before we can be **for Him** (1 Corinthians 6:17; John 15; Galatians 5:22-24). The “fruit” is God’s nature in us.



“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

His Spirit unites with our new spirit. Everything is new: A new spirit in new wineskins through the blood of Jesus Christ. God bought us to plant the seed of His nature in us. The Word, which is spirit and life, feeds our spirit

(John 6:63). A newborn babe in the Lord must drink much milk for a time, then he needs help to take his first steps in order to later walk alone. A newborn babe cannot take office in the Church, but he is the recipient of God's love and care through the Church (Isaiah 6:12; 1 Peter 2:1-2).

Jesus manifested the fruits and the works of the Holy Spirit in His life. The fruits are: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faith, gentleness, and temperance.

If Jesus had manifested the fruits without the works, God would not have manifested Himself in our lives. The works of the ministry are for salvation, restoration, and liberation.

The ministries and the gifts are for service.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” (1 Peter 2:9)

Not that we will become; we are an elected race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Although we are in this fleshly body, we are a new spiritual creature in Christ.

Who will announce Christ? Who will proclaim Him? The Church, the object of His love, who even now is coming to know Him and is partaking of His life.

The true Church is very different from what men call “church.” We are the Church 24 hours a day. The Father must

have access to His Son in us 24 hours a day, being Himself the head of His body. He awakens His members to intercede, to praise and to serve Him whenever He pleases. We, like Jesus, must give Him preeminence and be ready to serve Him (Romans 12:1), and He gives the necessary love so that the works can be carried out with that same love that enables us to sacrifice whatever is necessary to serve Him.





## The Unity of the Spirit

When the Lord distributed the loaves of bread and the fish, He told the multitudes to sit in groups of 50 and 100. This is an example of the local churches. In small groups, the brothers know each other, have communion, and can build up one another through the gifts and ministries.

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love...”  
(Ephesians 4:1-2)

It is better to enjoy each other than to put up with each other, but when we put up with one another, we mature. Many times we wish to run away from trials, but it is through them that we acquire patience. Children do not want to be patient, nor mature, but to those who love God, all things work together for good.

The main purpose of long-suffering and loving one another is to acknowledge the Lord in His Church. He is love, and the working of His Church is in love.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”  
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

There is only one body and only one hope, the hope that Christ be glorified, not that we, but Christ, be lifted up.

Unity does not consist of being in agreement with our opinions, but in being in complete agreement in the Spirit and in truth. This is the basis of our faith. It is most important to guard the unity in the truth. The Lord takes care of the differences of opinions and personalities.

If incorrect doctrine comes, we cannot accept it nor be in agreement with it. **We cannot compromise the truth in order to maintain unity.** In truth is our unity, and nothing can separate us from Him (Galatians 1:8).

“... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:16)

The Lord has revealed Himself through His Word, His ministries, and His gifts...

The gifts and the ministries flow through the body in unity. If we see ourselves in the flesh, we will not receive from one another, but if we see ourselves in Christ—our unity—God builds us up.



Through His body, the Church, He fulfills the Word He gave to Jeremiah:

“See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.” (Jeremiah 1:10)

These are two aspects of His work. The old man and his old nature are being rooted out and destroyed, while the new nature is being edified, strengthened, and matured.

“...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

**The Church is a body of believers established on the basis of love, who is Jesus Christ Himself.**





## Christ in You

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’” (Ephesians 4:7-8)

The mystery of God’s grace that is manifested in us, is within us and also in the world in bodily form.

“Immanuel” (God with us) is in the world through His body, the Church. His feet touch the earth, **“the earth is the platform of His feet.”** We have a great commission, to preach the gospel throughout the whole world. His feet become weary, they are fatigued, they become dirty, we wash one another’s feet through the Word (John 13). He is the provision and He is sufficient for all, for in Him we reign and through Him we are more than conquerors.

The following is a brief description of the function of the ministries:

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...” (Ephesians 4:11)

These are not gifts, but persons. He gave people who are qualified (for the benefit of the body) in Him and through Him. We have an apostolic anointing in His body, in other words, we are sent.

The apostles and prophets receive revelation of Who is the foundation, and they declare it. In other words, they reveal what has been established by God. These ministries work under the prophetic anointing.

Prophets not only declare what will happen in the future, they also bring revelation and make known, through the Scriptures, the foundation, who is Christ. The apostles minister in the foundation of the Word, and they declare these to form ecclesiastic nuclei. They are sent to establish and edify the Church (Ephesians 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:27-28).

Evangelists bring good news. The emphasis of their service is based on salvation and the grace of God. They minister and exhort the body to keep the faith. They have a burden for those who are in the world without God's salvation.

Pastors are always serving God's flock in love, taking care of them and watching over them. They lead the sheep to sound doctrine, to green pastures, and they number more than one in the local churches. "The Pastor of the Church" is Christ Jesus, who is manifested through the pastoral ministry which shepherds God's flock (1 Corinthians 3:8-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:5; Philippians 1:1).

Teachers teach from the Scriptures the truth which has been revealed in such a way that the believer may understand the truth more clearly in order to practice it. They are jealous of sound doctrine and keeping the truth (Acts 18:24-28).

The five ministries belong to the Son, and are ministered by His Church.





## The Goal of the Ministries

“... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting...” (Ephesians 4:12-14)

The ministries have one goal, the edifying of the body of Christ. Their service in the Lord will manifest all that is Christ. Christ is the pastor, the teacher, the evangelist, the prophet, the apostle. The Church will keep her eyes on Christ and not on them. She will be centered in Christ, remaining on the foundation, not carried away by winds of doctrine.

The gifts, without the foundation, can lead to many erroneous doctrines. When the move of the Holy Spirit came to religion, these believers began to be called “charismatics.” Since they did not have a foundation in the Word, they deviated to many other things. They prophesied, spoke in tongues, in great mixture. Instead of keeping the gifts to the

foundation, Jesus Christ, the Word, they took the gifts to the soulish level. They needed what God had provided for the Church, the ministries, to establish themselves in the truth.

Those who remained in the charismatic groups have maintained appearances: they evangelize, they sing hymns, they do good works, but without the pure truth. When they evangelize, they lead the converts to the great Babylon. Jesus Christ – the only way – is presented as one of many “ways.” The Word has been adulterated.

Either we remain in the Word and we follow in the truth which sets us free, or we return to the lie. Sadly, we know we are not the same, but we have backtracked. We must pray to be kept in the truth. We must pray and hold fast what we have received by grace, and remain therein.



# 10

## The Gifts in the Gift...

Through His gifts Christ has given His body the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge; we can have intelligence and knowledge through Him. He has given the gift of faith, gift of healing, and miracles. He has given the gift of prophecy. It does not say the gift of a “prophet”, it says “prophecy”, to speak forth, to minister that gift in the Church. It is different from the prophetic ministry. He has also given the gift of discernment of spirits and of diverse tongues, and interpretation of tongues. He has given the gift of helps (how important it is not to reject one who desires to help! It is for growth to him who exercises it and a blessing to him who receives it.) (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28) He has given the gift of administration, which frees the body to function in their particular capacities.

How we need the gifts!

No gift is in vain, nor in excess. All is necessary for the edification of the Church. Not only is the proclaimed fundamental Word necessary, the gifts are also necessary. How complete is our God!

In Romans 12:8 we find other gifts: exhortation and sharing, presiding, and showing mercy. The gift of exhortation

is one of the most difficult, for the Word is not always received by the person or the congregation. When the Word is rejected, so is the person bringing the Word. The minister must remain in love and grace.

The gifts were distributed in His Church by His Spirit as He desired. How precious it is to be able to see Christ in His Church! Through the anointing, He makes us capable to minister that which is of God in Christ Jesus. He is “glorified” through His Son in us.

In conclusion, we read 1 Corinthians 12:29-31:

“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?  
Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of  
healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all  
interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And  
yet I show you a more excellent way.”

# *Conclusion*

## Love...

The most excellent way is love; God is love. Everything must work through love. The love with which He loved us is the same love with which we can love Him and one another. If it is not in love, it is all in vain. This is not human love. If we give ourselves over to His service and leave our first love, it is worth nothing.

The Lord has called us to be in communion with Him. When we remain in the first love, we are enabled to function in love and we do not receive the glory; everything is directed to Him working in union with the foundation.

Again, when there is no foundation, when there is no word of establishment, people desire to take gifts and ministries that do not belong to them. God does not distinguish between gifts and ministries; everything is of Him and through Him, for His glory (Hebrews 1:1-2; Romans 11:36).

Beloved, each one of us has a gift, a ministry, a talent, which we have received from the Lord with the purpose that others will come to the foundation, to God's perfect order. The established ministries together with the gifts, work to feed, heal, help, and edify His Church. These ministries and

gifts worked in Jesus of Nazareth and are now given by the Spirit to His Church... "The fullness of Him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:22-23)

Let us present ourselves to Him, to whom our bodies belong, and adore Him with our service, casting all our cares upon Him, for He cares for us. Amen.



