

CONQUERING YOUR SIX SQUARE FEET

(LIVING LIFE FOR OTHERS)



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Conquering Your Six Square Feet

(Are You?)

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Chapter One

Your Six Square Feet

What Is Your Six Square Feet?

One morning in my time with the Lord, He brought a sermon to mind from 40 years ago. (I knew it had to be the Lord because most of the time I can't remember a sermon from a week ago.) In his message, the pastor told us how the Romans conquered the world. The way they did it was to convince each Roman soldier that all he had to do was conquer the six square feet around him. He did not have to worry about anyone else's six square feet but his own.

The strategy behind this instruction was if a soldier conquered his six square feet and the soldiers to the right, to the left, in front of and behind him conquered their six square feet, they would conquer all their enemies. And history proved that out. After being reminded of this sermon, I asked the Lord how this applies to you and me today.

The first thought He gave me was that each of us as Christians has our own six square feet. What is our six square feet?

It is ANYONE you will come in contact with TODAY whether in person, by phone, email or social media.

It can be a loved one or the checker at your grocery store or the guy on the phone from a foreign country, struggling to speak English who is trying help you with your credit card bill. It includes anyone the Lord brings to mind for you to pray for today. All of these comprise your six square feet.

The key thought when it comes to your six square feet is that it only applies to those who come into your six square feet today.

In other words, if you and I meet for coffee today, then during our time together, we are in each other's six square feet. But, if we don't communicate the rest of the day, you were only part of my six square feet during our time together. (unless the Lord prompts me to pray for you after we're apart).

Who Or What Are We Conquering?

Webster's dictionary defines "conqueror" as "one who overcomes an adversary." Before I go into what it means to conquer our six square feet, I want to answer the question, "Who or what is our adversary?"

If you follow what is going on the world (and I hope you do), there is a temptation to believe our adversary are people like politicians who don't agree with our Biblical view or people who support cultural issues that are anti-Biblical (i. e., abortion, LGBTQ, etc.) However, our real adversary is not people. Our real adversary is Satan and his demonic forces who are using non-Christians as well as Christians to believe and spread his gospel of "evil" which is defined as anything that is anti-God or anti-truth. Therefore, our battle is not against people. Let's look at what is the real battle.

What Is The Real Battle?

If the real battle is not against issues or people, what is it?

The real battle is DIVINE good versus EVIL and GOD'S truth versus everything that DOES NOT line up with God's truth. (Truth versus lies)

We must look behind the curtain of the world and cultural issues and realize that this battle is between good and evil not people who are being deceived and are buying into Satan's lies.

What Does It Mean To Be A Spiritual Conqueror?

Romans 8:37 in the King James version says:

“we are more than conquerors”

Other versions translate it this way: “overwhelmingly conquer.” What does it mean to be more than a conqueror? We can answer this question in a number of ways but concerning the focus of this book, I define a conqueror this way.

***Any Christian who is WILLING, AVAILABLE and
DEPENDENT on God to speak or express His life
and His truth through you in love to everyone
you come in contact with today.***

Being a conqueror, is not only who we are, it is our calling as well. I define conquering as being willing, available and dependent on God because as we come in contact with others, our desire should be to allow Him to express His Life and truth through us in order to encourage, renew and transform those we come in contact with today.

If you are a Christian, God is calling you today and every day to be available to let Him conquer your six square feet. He wants to work through you to transform others' lives. God ordains all encounters you will have each day. That is why I feel led to write this booklet. I pray that the Holy Spirit will use what I share to give you a greater desire to allow Him to work through you to make a difference in every life you come in contact with today.

Why Is It Important To Conquer Your Six Square Feet?

“Go....”

Matthew 28:19

As I have spent the last several months thinking about this, I see many reasons why God is calling us to “go” to conquer our six square feet. I want to share with you four key reasons why I believe God is calling you to “go” and let Him conquer your six square feet.

Sharing The Gospel

First and foremost, we are called to share the gospel with non-Christians we come in contact with.

Sharing Christ As Life

If someone is already a Christian, I believe the most important foundational truth they need to hear is Christ is their Source for Life. The reason I am in ministry is because so many believers don’t know Christ as their Life. In fact, I believe most Christians in America today don’t know what it means for Christ to be their life. As a result, they are living in defeat and bondage and have very little change or spiritual transformation in their lives. If you are walking in Christ as Life and are experiencing spiritual transformation, why wouldn’t you want others to hear this very foundational truth? I will be breaking this idea down further in a future chapter.

To Speak Truth Into The Lies and False Beliefs Concerning Our Culture

I think you would agree that we are experiencing a polarization of ideals and beliefs like we have never seen before in this country. So much of what is going on in our culture contradicts Biblical truth. Everything from abortion to the LGBTQ movement. As a result, our freedoms are being eroded very quickly.

One of my biggest concerns is that even Christians are compromising God’s truth when it comes to some of these issues. These events should be a wake-up call for every one of us because of the rise of evil we are experiencing in this

country. The key question is what is our part as believers during this very pivotal time in our history? I believe God is calling us out to boldly speak His truth into these cultural issues and everything else that comes against God's truth.

Minister To Hurting People

I will talk more about this later in the booklet but, for now, know that we, as vessels for the Lord, have the privilege of helping hurting people. We can speak or express the love, grace, mercy and compassion of Christ. We can encourage people in the midst of their struggles.

Let me end with this. How would it change how you looked at people who come into your six square feet, if you saw each person as a divine encounter ordained by the sovereignty of God? Please think about this because with God there are no accidents when it comes to people who will cross your path today.

Chapter Two

Why Me?

*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said,
‘Here I am. Send me.’” Isaiah 6:8*

I hope as you read this verse that your heart is the same as Isaiah’s when it comes to your six square feet. If not, is it possible that you don’t see how essential you are to God when it comes to building His kingdom through your six square feet?

If you have never thought about your part in God’s building His Kingdom, how would you answer the following question:

How valuable do you believe you are to God, His kingdom and His work through you in your six square feet?

Your Value To God

Have you ever asked God this question, “How valuable am I to You?” If not, what do you imagine His answer would be? Let me ask it this way; “How valuable do you think you are to God?” If you struggle with seeing your value, let’s look at a few key truths.

First of all, look at Ephesians 2:10:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

One of the definitions of “workmanship” in Greek means “masterpiece.” Think about it. When God sees you, He sees-His “masterpiece.” Why?

First of all, God made you unique, one of a kind. He so values you He chose you to be born out of 500 million possible genetic combinations at conception. Jesus so highly values you that He would have gone to the cross for you alone if you were the only person on earth. He values you enough that He made you a new creation with a new identity. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Not only that, He put His very life in you (Galatians 2:20) in order to transform you into Christ-likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18) so that you will live an abundant life (John 10:10) in Him.

Most importantly, in His great love He created you and chose you to be loved by Him. He uniquely created you for intimacy with Himself. He loves you, cherishes you, desires you and seeks to be with you moment by moment regardless of your sins or your failures. He loves you unconditionally which means there is nothing you can do or not do to change His deep, intimate love for you (Romans 8:38, 39).

We have a hard time believing these things because of how we see ourselves. Especially if it is through a filter of inadequacy, unworthiness or rejection. If you live in self-condemnation because of your sin, fleshly behaviors or wounded emotions it is very difficult for you to see your value to God. However, everything I have said about how much God values you is true whether you believe it or not.

Your Value To God's Kingdom

What about your value to God's kingdom? Jesus says in Matthew 16:16-18 that He will build His church. How does Jesus want to accomplish that? We know He does not need us to build His church. However, He values you so much that He wants to build His church through you (i.e., share the gospel, speak and live out God's truth, help hurting people, etc.).

These are the "good works" that he has prepared for you in eternity past according to Ephesians 2:10. He values you so much that these good works are designed specifically for you and no one else. How does He build His church through you? He

does it through you with everyone who comes into your six square feet today.

Your Value To God In Your Six Square Feet

God so values you that He will bring people into your six square feet today that through you, and you alone, He will encourage, speak truth, love, and even transform. We know God can do all of this apart from you but He so values you that He wants you to participate with Him in being His vessel of hope, encouragement and life to others.

This idea of being valued by God was one of the hardest things for me to come to believe because of my deep-seated inadequacies and past rejection. But now, as I have sought Him to renew my mind to the truth, I have eyes to see, believe and experience how much He values me. If you struggle as I did, I encourage you to spend time with the Lord and ask Him to persuade you of the truth of your value to Him.

Let me sum it up by saying you are of inestimable, unfathomable and infinite value to God, His kingdom and the six square feet He gives you every day. And as a pastor friend of mine once preached, when it comes to you conquering your six square feet, "If not you, who will go?" I am praying your response will be "send me."

[**Note:** If you would like to learn more about your value to God, I have written a booklet called "*After God's Heart*" which, in part, focuses on this subject. You can find it on the home page of our website (www.christislifeministries.com) where you can read the booklet online or download it for free.]

Chapter Three

What Keeps Us From Conquering Our Six Square Feet?

I want to share seven hindrances that can keep us from conquering our six square feet. I will discuss six of those in this chapter and the seventh one in the next chapter.

Being Controlled By What Is Out Of Your Control

I have spoken to several Christians who are distraught about the events currently going on in this country. I understand because it feels like a cultural and political tsunami has swept across our nation. I know there are very serious concerns but what troubles me more than what is going on, is how it is negatively impacting the hearts and minds of so many Christians. I sense that many are, at the very least, being distracted and at the worst, are being robbed and/or controlled so much so that they have taken their eyes off Christ. That, of course, is exactly what Satan wants.

Let me make this more personal. Are you allowing any of these things to distract, rob or control you? If I said a particular politician's name or named some cultural struggle (e.g., racism, gender issues, abortion, cancelling, etc.), what would be your thoughts and feelings? Would you feel frustrated, angry, fearful or anxious? Where do these thoughts and feelings take you? Do they take you closer to Christ or drive you to more worldly, negative, fleshly thoughts and feelings?

Even though it is important to be informed, we cannot afford to be overcome by cultural conflicts because they will eventually rob us of our joy, peace and confidence in Christ. They will also rob us of our availability for Christ to minister His life, truth, and love through us to those who come into our six square feet today.

In addition to robbing us, cultural conflicts can eventually control us: our thoughts, feelings, choices and behaviors. The

question is, “Why are we letting things we have no control over control us?” Isn’t that the inevitable result? Why are we, of all people, allowing other people and circumstances control us?

If we allow our spiritual hands to be tied by the ropes of division, rancor, politics, culture wars, etc., they render us ineffective in ministering to those around us today. We no longer are spiritual warriors. Instead, we become cultural casualties.

I Don’t Feel Qualified

When I look at the famous Leonardo Da Vinci painting of the last supper, I see 12 men that Jesus chose to teach, train and walk with Him. What you don’t see is 12 seminary-trained theologians or 12 religious leaders of their day. This was a ragtag group of fishermen, merchants, and one hated tax collector. The truth is that none of them was formally educated. There was nothing extraordinary about them; in fact, they were definitely not qualified, by the world’s standards, to even be teachers, preachers, or evangelists.

So, it begs the question: Why these guys? Couldn’t Jesus have picked a more capable group. I believe one of the main reasons Jesus chose these 12 men is to show us that ministry is not about being qualified and capable. Rather, it is about being willing and available. We see this when Jesus called each of them to be His disciples. He didn’t ask for their spiritual resume and they didn’t resist or make excuses by listing all the reasons why they weren’t qualified to be disciples. Instead, these men “Immediately they dropped their nets and followed Him.” (Mark 1:18). They were simply willing and available.

This is so important to talk about because so many Christians I have talked to over the years have told me they are not qualified enough, educated enough, or don’t know the Bible well enough to minister to others. They feel inadequate or unworthy. A statement I hear quite often is, “How could God possibly use me?”

Let me answer that question by reminding you of the story about the demon-possessed man from Gerasenes. He lived in the cemetery and was constantly screaming and gashing himself with stones. People tried but couldn't constrain him. When Jesus removed the demons from the man and he trusted Christ as His Savior, Jesus did not say, "Before you minister to those in your six square feet, you need to go to seminary or Bible school." What Jesus did say is this:

"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."

Mark 5:19

All Jesus said to the man was to go and bear witness to his people about what Jesus did. What was the man's response? Did he resist Jesus by telling him that he was not qualified or capable to share with those in his six square feet? No. Mark 5:20 says,

"... he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed."

Mark 5:19-20.

This man was certainly not qualified but he was available and willing. As a result, look what happened. "Everyone was amazed." A man they once feared was now telling them about Jesus and they listened. I love this story because it removes all my excuses not to minister to those who come into my six square feet. By the way, I have never been to Bible school or seminary. I am just a former building contractor who has no spiritual resume. I am just an ordinary "pew packer" who is willing and available.

So, if a former demon possessed man is willing and available, how about you? Are you willing and available to be God's mouthpiece today? With every person you come in contact with, will you make excuses to avoid ministering to them or will you be available to the Holy Spirit for Him to work through you share the gospel, to bear witness of His work in your life, to give hope or encouragement, etc.? If so, watch out because you and those

you are ministering to might be amazed by what the Holy Spirit does in their heart as well as yours.

Spiritual La-Z-Boy Christian

This is a Christian who says, “Here I am, send him or her, but not me.” This kind of Christian sits back in their spiritual La-Z-Boy and either lives in denial, is too lazy, or doesn’t see their need to conquer or even acknowledge their six square feet. This is the most dangerous type of Christian to me because they are quite content doing nothing.

Too Self-Absorbed To Care

Like a La-Z-Boy Christian, I know too many Christians that are so self-absorbed in their lives they don’t have the time or desire to be a vessel for the Lord’s work through them. They are too busy to care about anyone else but themselves. As a result, they miss out on the opportunity and the privilege of being used by the Lord. This brings us to our greatest hindrance.

Busy-ness

We are all very busy people. One of the drawbacks of our busy-ness is that we are moving so fast we tend to look past people as if they weren’t there. We don’t take time to interact with our server at a restaurant or we choose to text someone when what they need is a phone call. Busyness robs us of God-ordained appointments because we are moving so fast we are not available for what God wants to accomplish through us.

Too Self-Protective

We are all self-protective to some degree but I see self-protection as a negative way for people to cope with life. Self-protective people may not be willing to engage with other people or engage on a superficial basis for several reasons.

They don't engage out of fear of being hurt or rejected or because they are afraid they may be exposed in some way. They have difficulty trusting others and are uncomfortable with being vulnerable. Ultimately, self-protective people, like busy people, miss out on the opportunities God gives them.

I will discuss the greatest hindrance to conquering our six square feet in the next chapter.

Chapter Four

Satan Is Our Greatest Hindrance

*“The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**...”*

John 10:10

*“Our struggle is **not** against flesh and blood....” Ephesians 6:12*

Our greatest hindrance to conquering our six square feet is Satan. As I said in Chapter One, I believe Satan is our real adversary and one of his purposes according to 2 Corinthians 4:4 is to “blind” the minds of the unbelieving.

*“in whose case the **god of this world has blinded** the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

2 Corinthians 4:4

However, we know that his blinding is not limited to just non-Christians because Christians can be blinded as well. Two of his primary strategies he uses to blind and eventually defeat Christians are deceit and persuasion. Let’s look at some examples of those two strategies when it comes to keeping you from conquering your six square feet.

Deceive You Into Believing That Unbelieving Politicians or Others In Our Woke Culture Are The Real Enemy

*“....even Satan **disguises himself** as an angel of light.”*

2 Corinthians 11:4

As I said in Chapter One the real battle is divine good versus evil, not the people who believe lies over God’s truth. It is easy to attack “anti-Biblical” people but they are simply people being deceived by Satan to perpetuate his doctrine of evil.

Let me ask you a question. When certain world leaders, politicians, or people who support anti-Biblical cultural issues are you tempted to get frustrated, angry, fearful, worried, etc.? If I were to write the name of a certain politician, cultural issue, or media personality that really gets under your skin, isn't it easy to point fingers at that person and justify your criticism and frustration towards them? I understand because that is where my flesh can take me if I let it.

However, think about this for a moment: What if those you struggle with are not Christians? If so, is it possible they are like a puppet simply being controlled by another force/power? Is it possible that the one who is really pulling the strings (i.e., controlling that person) is Satan and his demonic forces? If they are not Christians, can't Satan influence or even possess them?

Can't he insert evil and lying thoughts and ideas into their minds that influence or cause them to believe what they believe? The truth is that non-Christians are simply Satan's puppets who are being deceived by his thoughts, lies, and falsehoods. Since they don't know and are not grounded in God's truth, they are subject to believing anything and everything Satan whispers in their ears.

As much as my flesh may want to dislike these people, I know in my heart they are simply pawns on Satan's chessboard who are under his influence and control to carry out his plans. Without turning to Christ for salvation, they are in total bondage to Satan and their flesh. (just like you and I were before we were saved.)

Persuade You To Keep You Focused On What You Can't Control

Focusing on things we cannot control (e.g., politicians) is a tool of the enemy to keep our eyes off Jesus. When I look around Christendom today, I see people who want to control what is out of their control with the result they are constantly frustrated, angry, etc. This is a dangerous place to be because Christians

who are caught up in this play right into Satan's hands.

Persuade You That You Are Of Little or No Value

Think about it. If Satan can persuade you that you are of little or no value to God in winning the battle then why even fight? Satan's greatest fear is that you know, believe and engage the Spirit's power in you to influence, impact and even change everyone who comes into your six square feet. He cannot afford for you to conquer your six square feet because he knows what will be the result if enough believers choose to do so.

Persuade You That You Are Not Qualified

We learned earlier that God is not looking for the qualified. He is looking for those who are willing and available. The enemy on the other hand will whisper in your ear that you are not qualified or good enough or capable enough to conquer your six square feet. I remember early on in ministry the enemy inserting thoughts like this, "Who are you to be ministering? You have never been to Bible school or seminary. You are such a mess, you aren't capable of helping anyone." Satan is a master at creating doubt about our lack of being capable.

The Ultimate Strategy Of Satan: To Persuade You To Keep Your Focus On Yourself

I call this the "what about me" strategy. We all have needs and Satan can play on those needs by persuading us to be "takers." By that I mean, we become so self-focused we are not looking for people to minister to or encourage. Instead, we are looking to people to encourage and minister to us.

If the enemy can keep you focused on yourself and persuade you that you're too needy to give, you will never win the battle for your six square feet. If you are only looking at yourself, you will not be looking to Jesus to meet your needs and make you available for Him to meet others' needs through you.

Satan and his demonic forces are working non-stop to destroy your witness, Christianity, our culture and our country. If we don't realize where he is working then we will become casualties and not conquerors. This is why Paul warns us in 1 Peter 5:8:

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

1 Peter 5:8

Good News!

*"but thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**" 1 Corinthians 15:57*

Even though as Christians we must be alert and aware of Satan's strategies, we must remember that Satan has already been defeated. For you and me, he was defeated at the cross. Therefore, we not have to fear him or his demonic forces. The truth is that we are victorious over Satan if we walk in Christ's victory. And if we do, he is nothing more than a "toothless" lion who might gum you but can't devour you.

Chapter Five

Characteristics of A Conqueror In Christ

I thought it might be helpful at this point to share with you some key characteristics of what I believe a conqueror in Christ looks like. Just a reminder that when I say “conquer in Christ” I am referring to you depending on Christ to live through you in every interaction you have with others. We see this in Paul when he writes:

*“For I will not presume to speak of anything **except what Christ has accomplished through me...**” Romans 15:18*

Therefore, what are some of the characteristics of a conqueror?

Spiritually Alert/Aware

*“....so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be **alert and sober.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:6*

The key characteristic of a conqueror in Christ is being spiritually alert and aware. Awareness that there is a battle and awareness of the real enemy we are fighting against. Being alert like a point man in a military patrol, who is looking for opportunities to engage people who come into their six square feet. This includes a spiritual awareness of the Holy Spirit’s presence and what He wants to do or say through you.

Spiritual Willingness

*“so that **you will** walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10*

The spiritual cousin to awareness is spiritual willingness. I can be aware and vigilant but I also need to be willing to be used of the Lord in every encounter. You can have vast Biblical

knowledge but if you are not willing to engage the people the Lord brings across your path today, you cannot conquer your six square feet. If you find yourself unwilling, seek the Holy Spirit to give you the willingness.

Seeing Past The Externals of People

Since Christ lives in us, we now have “spiritual” eyes to see people as Jesus did. Rather than just seeing others externally, we can look beyond that and see their hearts. We see this in 1 Samuel 16:7:

*“The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them.
People judge by outward appearance,
but **the Lord looks at the heart.**”*

As I meditated on this verse, I asked the Lord, When You look into a person’s heart, what do You see? This was His response.

He sees:

- People’s needs.
- People’s woundedness.
- People’s pain.
- People’s struggles.
- People’s fears.

We see an example of this in Matthew 9:36:

*“**Seeing the people**, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.”*

Seeing others in this context requires supernatural sight rather than just physical sight. By supernatural, I mean this kind of seeing is Spirit-produced and can only occur as we seek the Lord to give us spiritual eyes to see. The word “see” in the Bible means to discover, to examine, to understand and to discern or perceive.

A great example of this was Elisha's servant who could not see the chariots of fire around the mountains until Elisha prayed this prayer.

*"Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, **open his eyes that he may see.**" And the **LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw**; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." 2 Kings 6:17*

I continuously pray Elisha's prayer for two reasons. First, I realize that if the Lord does not give me His eyes to see, I will never see into another person's heart. Second, when I pray this prayer, the Lord moves my focus away from me and my struggles and gives me the desire to look at the heart of those He brings into my six square feet today.

My challenge for you today, is to first seek the Lord to give you eyes to see beyond yourself, and see the heart of everyone who comes into your six square feet.

[**Note:** If you would like to read more on this topic, I have written a booklet called *Eyes To See* that you can read online or download from our website at www.christislifeministries.com]

Seeing The Value To God Of Every Person Who Comes Into Your Six Square Feet

When you are driving down the road and see the homeless person on the side of the road, what are your first thoughts? Do you feel love or compassion or are you tempted to be condescending, critical or judgmental because of his looks, the way he smells or his status as a homeless person? I must admit that if I were to look at this man in the flesh my thoughts would trend towards being critical and judgmental.

Instead of the homeless person, what if it is the boss you dislike, an ex-spouse, your prickly mother-in-law, the politician you dislike the most or the most unlikeable person in your life?

Is it a challenge for you to see and value that person the way God does?

The Lord is persuading me that not only do I have eternal, inestimable and infinite value to God but so does everyone else who comes into my six square feet today. It may be a homeless guy or my server at lunch or even the foreign person who I can't understand over the phone when I have a question about my credit card. Our tendency is to look past people like this and not even ask ourselves the question of how valuable they are to God.

Right now, I have a very unlikable, toxic person in my six square feet. My flesh wants to judge, be critical and write off/cancel this person. Instead, I have continually asked this from the Lord:

"Give me Your eyes to see the value this person has to you. Remind me, that like me, You chose this person to be born out of 500 million possibilities at conception. You went to the cross for them. You love them unconditionally. You created them for a personal, intimate relationship with You. And you want to touch them through me."

Initially it was very hard to even ask the question about this person's value because of how toxic they are to me. But now, as I have sought the Lord to see how valuable this person is to Him, God is softening my heart by moving me away from focusing on their fleshly behavior and giving me eyes to see their infinite value to Him. Even now as I write, I find myself feeling a growing compassion for this person as God reveals to me their value to Him. [Note: I have set boundaries with this person but boundaries are no excuse for not valuing and loving them.]

What about the value Jesus places on others? How much did He value the woman caught in adultery or the Samaritan woman He met at the well who had been married five times and was living with a man who was not her husband? Because of their failures and sins, wouldn't it have been easier to avoid, write off

or judge these two? Yet what do we see in the heart of our Lord? We see the eternal value these two women were to Him.

I wonder if there is a direct correlation between how much you believe you are valued by God and how much you value others? In other words, doesn't the extent to which you feel valued by God determine how valuable you perceive others are to God. You might want to give that some thought.

My challenge to you is to focus on everyone who comes into your six square feet every day and ask the question, "How valuable is he or she to God?" As you do, I pray that over time you will find yourself looking past their appearance, personality, sins and failures and seeing them through the same eyes Jesus sees you. As you grow to value them, valuing leads to loving and loving is what conquering your six square feet is all about.

Being A Good Listener

What I have discovered over my many years of life is there are more talkers than listeners. I know because I was much more of a talker than a listener. When I was with someone, I could hardly wait to tell them something or hardly wait until they finished talking so I could tell them my opinion about what they were saying. I was a terrible listener. However, God is breaking me of being a talker and is teaching me to be a listener.

As God is transforming me, I find myself being less self-focused and more focused on other people. Rather than think about what I am going to say next, I am more focused on what they are telling me. But I am not only listening to them, I am simultaneously listening to the Holy Spirit in case He wants to say something through me. I find it very difficult to listen to the Spirit if I am focused on what I am going to say.

I want to share with you now three results of God transforming me in the area of listening.

1. Being “All There”

Jim Elliot, the martyred missionary in Ecuador, famously said, *“Wherever you are, be all there.”* When I thought about the phrase, “be all there,” words like “focused,” “engaged” and “attentive” came to mind. Let me ask you, how does it make you feel when you are in a conversation with someone and they are distracted? They may be constantly checking their phone or distracted by something else.

For me, it sometimes makes me feel less important and undervalued. If someone’s lack of attention or focus, makes me feel that way, doesn’t it stand to reason that our lack of attention and focus would make someone coming into our six square feet feel the same way? Don’t they want us “all there?” Don’t they want to feel important and valued?

What better example is there of being “all there” than Jesus. I was imagining what it would be like to be in the presence of Jesus when He walked on the earth. Imagine Him calling you out of the crowd and you are standing in front of Him. Even though He is surrounded by several people, He does not look to the left or right. He is not distracted by the noise of the crowd. His attention is totally fixed on you-totally engaged, focused and attentive. How would that make you feel?

My wife and I got a taste of this when we first met Max Lucado several years ago. (In case you don’t know, Max is a prolific author and senior pastor of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio). We were visiting Max’s church one Sunday with some friends who are members there. When the service was over, we followed our friends out of the worship center into a huge hallway. The hallway was packed with hundreds of folks. We were walking behind our friends down this very crowded hallway when all of a sudden, my friend took a hard right turn and began walking toward Max who was standing against the wall by himself.

My friend introduced us to Max and we spent the next three minutes talking with him. He asked about our personal lives and the ministry. During our time together, he was totally focused on us and our story. He was not looking past us to greet others. Nor was he distracted by all the crowd noise. He was treating us as if there was no one else in the hallway and he had all the time in the world. I can't remember all that we talked about, but I will never forget how engaged he was every moment we were with him. It made me wonder if this was how it would feel to be in the presence of Jesus.

I must confess that in the past when I was with someone (including my wife), I was not fully engaged. I would find myself being distracted thinking about who I was going to meet with next or what I had to accomplish the rest of the day. But, as I have been seeking God to transform me in this area, He is breaking me of this habit and now I find myself being more and more "all there."

Why is this so important? First of all, focusing on someone is loving them. In fact, I believe it is one of the greater expressions of love. Second, one of the spiritual benefits for me of focusing on someone is that God continues to open my spiritual eyes to their immense and infinite value to Him.

Finally, if someone is struggling, focusing on them allows me to listen to the Holy Spirit and share with them a word of truth or hope concerning their struggle. Therefore, seek to be "all there" with whomever God brings into your six square feet today.

2. Being Discerning

Discernment has been a wonderful outgrowth of my becoming a better listener. I define discernment as the spiritual ability to determine both (1) what is really going on behind what that person is saying, and, (2) what to say or not to say to encourage, give comfort or to help them in some way.

This is not a human discernment. Rather, it is a Christ-produced discernment. As I listen to not only what a person is saying, I am listening to the Spirit in order to discern how He wants me to interact with this person. What I have discovered is the more I grow up spiritually, the more discernment I experience.

3. Being A “Safe” Person

We all have different levels of relationships, starting with our spouse (or close family member or friend) at one end moving to a perfect stranger at the other. Regardless of the level of relationship, I feel you and I are called to be “safe” people. In fact, I believe it is a key factor in conquering our six square feet. I define a “safe” person as one you are able to trust with your most personal thoughts, heartaches, struggles, etc.

When I meet with pastors and other individuals, the words I love to hear the most are: “I want to share something with you that is very personal and confidential.” I am honored that someone sees me as safe enough to say those words. I am humbled when someone deems me safe enough to share some of their deepest thoughts.

Before the Lord began transforming my heart, I would never have been considered “safe.” I was too self-absorbed, too prideful and too self-protective. But now, the Lord has moved me to a place where one of my strongest desires is to be a haven where others know they can trust me with their deepest thoughts.

If I come to you to try to determine if you are safe or not, these are a few things I will be looking for.

First and foremost, I want to know how trustworthy you are. Being trustworthy is the foundation from which deeper relationships are built. To the extent I know I can trust you, the deeper I will be willing to go with you.

In addition, I look for these qualities in a “safe” person.

- You are compassionate and empathetic, when I am sharing a deep personal struggle with you.
- You are not trying to “fix” me or necessarily solve whatever it is I am struggling with.
- I don’t feel guilty, shamed or condemned.
- You won’t be critical, judgmental or condescending.
- I feel loved.

Let me wrap up with a personal story. A pastor of a local church called me one afternoon and asked me to come to his office because he had something very personal he wanted to share. When I got there, he said that he only had about forty minutes to meet. He started in and three hours later he finished sharing some very personal issues that he was struggling with. He thanked me for coming and being such a great encouragement to him. I wasn’t sure what he meant because all I said in the entire conversation was “Hi” and “Thank you for sharing.” All I did was sit there for three hours and listen.

As a talker, I thought I could contribute something to the conversation but all the Holy Spirit wanted me to do was listen because the real conversation was between my friend and the Spirit. I will never forget that meeting because it was an invaluable lesson in becoming a safe person.

I believe safe people are what an unbelieving and struggling world is looking for. If that is true, shouldn’t Christians be the safest people on earth? People like you who can be trusted to handle, with the utmost care and love, others’ struggles, heartaches, and any other issue they are facing.

I hope this chapter has helped you identify some of the characteristics of a conqueror. In the next four chapters, I will be sharing the practical application of what it looks like to conquer your six square feet.

Chapter Six

The Four Swords

Sword #1 - LIFE

In the next four chapters I want to talk about four key words when it comes to practically conquering your six square feet. They are: Life, Truth, Power and Love. I call these the four swords necessary to conquer your six square feet.

[**Note:** Before we get started, I want to clarify that when I use the words “we conquer” I mean Christ through you.]

As we know from Ephesians 6, everything about a Roman soldier’s armor was defensive except his sword. The sword was an offensive weapon that had to be wielded in order for the soldier to conquer his six square feet. For that reason, I am calling these four words the four swords. I want to break each of these words down starting with the sword called “Life.”

What Is The Sword of Life?

When I talk about the sword of “Life” I am referring to John 14:6 where Jesus says I am the LIFE. I hope that most of you know what Jesus means when He says He is THE Life. For those of you who don’t, let me share a very key truth that so many Christians today don’t understand. For 30 years I thought it was up to me with God’s help to live a “successful” Christian life because that is what I was taught. I was told to take God’s word and use my own strength, ability, willpower and self-discipline to make my life “work.”

I was a type “A” guy so all you had to do was tell me what to do to live the Christian life and I would do it. I worked very hard “striving” and hoping God would help to live the Christian life. I did the very best I could in my own strength and resources only to find my struggle was futile. It took me 30 years to discover that what I was taught about living the Christian life was a lie.

The lie is that you, in and of yourself, with God's help can successfully live the Christian life. The problem is that after living what I call "A" Christian life for 30 years, I was not experiencing any of the freedom, victory or transformation that God promises. In fact, I was experiencing just the opposite. I was in deeper bondage to my fleshly behaviors of anger, controlling, manipulation and being self-absorbed, to name only a few. After 30 years, my deep-seated struggles, fear, anxiety, inadequacy and rejection only got worse. What was I missing?

What I was missing was the foundational truth of living the Christian life. This truth comes in two parts. Part one is that the Christian life is not about my striving or trying to keep the rules or God's commands. Rather, the Christian life is a Person. It is Jesus Christ. When He says I am THE LIFE, He is declaring that He Himself is the Christian life. Think about it. There is only one Person who has led a perfect Christian life and this is Jesus.

Part two is that it is Christ, not you, who is the Source from whom you are to live the Christian life. Christ being your Source means that it is His life and power in you that will transform your life. And isn't that what we all want?

What does transformation look like? I believe it is summed up in 2 Corinthians 3:18:

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are **being transformed into His likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

Transformation is being transformed into the likeness of Christ. Let me share two definitions of Christ-likeness. The first definition is that we can be supernaturally transformed to think, believe, choose and behave more like Christ. Isn't that what we all want? How radically would our lives, and the lives of those around us, change if we were experiencing that. In addition, Christ-likeness is who Christ is in us. Paul gives us an example of this in Ephesians 2:14:

*“For **He Himself is our peace**, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.”*

Ephesians 2:14

We see from this verse that Christ is not giving us peace-He IS our peace. In other words, if we need peace Jesus is the “source” of our peace. Here are some other examples of what Christ is in you:

Christ Is Your:

Unconditional love	Victory	Worth
Acceptance	Faith	Freedom
Patience	Strength	Peace
Forgiveness	Understanding	Security
Fearlessness	Wisdom	Discernment
Christ-confidence	Adequacy	Humility
Boldness	Righteousness	Selflessness
Rest	Compassion	Courage
Hope	Gentleness	Control
Faithfulness	Power	Joy

When you look at your circumstances, struggles, relationships, etc., what is it from this list that you need? Because of my struggles I needed Christ’s love, His acceptance, His adequacy, and His peace. The good news is that I no longer have to “try” and produce these Christ-like characteristics through my own effort. All I have to do is depend on Christ (who lives in me) to meet whatever need I have. Isn’t that God’s promise in Philippians 4:19?

*“And my God will supply **all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

As a result of hearing, believing and walking in this foundational truth, my life has been and is being radically transformed. I no longer live in fear, anxiety, inadequacy or rejection. God is setting me free from my anger, manipulation

and controlling behaviors. Why? Because I am no longer striving in my own strength to try to live the Christian life. I am now trusting Christ to live His life in and through me according to Galatians 2:20.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

If you are not experiencing ongoing spiritual transformation, I would encourage you to read my booklet titled, *"A" Life? Or The Life?* You can download it or read it on our website: www.christislifeministries.com

Expressing Christ's Life In Your Six Square Feet

"always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

After reading this verse one day I looked up the word "manifested" in the Greek. One of the definitions is *"to make known that which was hidden."* What Paul is saying is that Christ not only lives in us, He wants to manifest Himself or make Himself known to others through us.

Dan Stone said in his book *The Rest of The Gospel* that it is Christ IN us, Christ THROUGH us and Christ AS us. I will never forget the first time I read this 20 years ago. I understood "in us" and "through us," but I was a little perplexed about what "as us" meant. Now I realize that "as us" means Christ manifesting His Christ-likeness (forgiveness, compassion, patience, hope, etc.) through us to others.

You see, we were not designed just to be "containers" of Christ's life. We are to become expressors as well. A pastor friend of mine continually says we must "leak out" what we are experiencing in Christ. Sometimes "expressing" means talking but sometime expressing is non-verbal. Let me give you two examples.

For just a minute, assume you are at a gathering and Jesus walks in the room. Let's assume that you don't know it is Jesus but can you imagine what it would be like just to be in His presence? Paul describes it this way in 2 Corinthians 2:14:

*"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and **manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him** in every place."*

Can you imagine the sweet aroma of Jesus permeating the room? What is the "aroma?" It is such things as His peace, joy, strength and humility just to name a few. While Jesus was on earth, He was an expressor. He was expressing the character of God according to Hebrews 1:3:

*"The Son radiates God's own glory and **expresses the very character of God**, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command."*

Now that Christ lives in you, He wants to express the fragrant aroma of His character through you to everyone who comes into your six square feet. As you grow into Christ-likeness, over time, the aroma of Christ will "leak out." The more you grow into Christ-likeness the more you will be thinking, believing and behaving like Jesus. Don't you think people at some point will see that in you?

Let me share a personal story to explain. I would like to say I am naturally a compassionate person. The truth is that apart from Christ I don't have a compassionate bone in my body. Since compassion is certainly what hurting people would like to experience through me, early on in my growth into Christ-likeness, my desire was to be an expressor of Christ's compassion. In order for that to occur, I became very intentional in my pursuit of God to transform me into becoming a compassionate person. My prayers went something like this: "Lord, transform my heart so that I can be an expression of Your compassion to others."

I will never forget how the Lord answered that prayer. I had been meeting with a couple for some time and at the end of one of our meetings, the wife said, "Thank you for being so compassionate." I was pleased to hear this because it was an answer to prayer. In addition, I was a little surprised because at the time she said that I was not feeling compassion. I then realized it was a supernatural exchange where Christ's compassion was flowing through me to them even though I was not feeling it.

So how do we practically conquer our six square feet as expressors of Christ's life?

First, we need to intentionally seek the Holy Spirit to transform us into Christ-likeness. What characteristics of Christ would you like to experience more of? Look again at the list of Christ-like characteristics and begin seeking the Lord to transform you to experience those characteristics.

As you are being transformed, Jesus will be expressing those characteristics through you to others both verbally and non-verbally. Here are some examples. If you are seeking to be transformed to live from Christ's humility, over time people will see, experience and be drawn to that humility in you. Christ's humility will be expressed through your words, your manner, and your actions.

Let's assume you struggle with sharing the gospel because of fear of being rejected. You begin seeking God to transform you to experience Christ's courage and boldness. Over time you will find yourself not only wanting to share the gospel but sharing it with Christ's courage and boldness.

A big one for me is being transformed into Christ's selflessness. For too many years, I was self-absorbed, not caring about anyone but me. As I have sought God to transform me to be more selfless, He is supernaturally replacing my selfishness with His selflessness. Some of the ways it manifests itself is

putting aside my busy schedule to take a phone call to minister to a hurting person. And by doing small selfless acts for my wife that I never did before.

Think about every encounter you have today. You will be expressing something. Either it will be Christ-likeness or not. Therefore, my prayer for you is that you will seek not only to be transformed into Christ-likeness but to be an expressor of Christ's life. Why? Because today, Jesus wants to manifest His Life uniquely through you to transform hearts and change destinies. That sounds like conquering your six square feet to me.

Chapter Seven

Sword #2 - TRUTH

*“For the word of God is living and active and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

Where Many Christians Are Today

Hebrews 4:12 summarizes the sword of truth. What I love about God’s truth is that it is absolute. There is no gray area. It is either God’s truth or it is not. What troubles me (and I hope troubles you) is that in our culture today, Christians are distorting, watering down, compromising or simply not believing God’s truth.

For example, I recently read an editorial by a woman who was against a new Texas law that prevents abortion taking place after the first six weeks of pregnancy. She says, “I am a Christian who values life, loves babies and children.” Then she goes on to quote the late Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: “It is essential to women’s equality with man that she be the decision maker (when it comes to abortion.) How can you possibly be a Christian and support abortion at any point in the pregnancy? How can you make any decision that contradicts God’s word?”

She reveals her ignorance of or her resistance to the truth by contradicting it. Unfortunately, I am seeing more and more Christians like this lady who don’t know the truth or choose not to believe the absoluteness of it. The truth is that there is not and cannot be any compromising, rationalizing, or relativizing when it comes to God’s truth.

I have absolute confidence in God’s truth because truth works. It replaces lies, renews the mind, sets people free, transforms lives and changes destinies. It is like a surgical knife

that is cutting out the lies in our hearts and replacing them with His truth. When it comes to those who come into my six square feet, I am thinking: “What truth do they know? What lies are they still believing? What truth does the Lord want to say through me to make a difference in their lives?”

Doers Of The Word

This is why we must learn the truth in God’s word. But, knowledge alone is not enough. As the Lord reveals or makes the truth personal in our lives, we must apply the truth. Once we do, we will experience the truth working in our lives to give us victory, freedom and transformation into Christ-likeness. As we are being persuaded of the truth, we are to become expressors of the truth. This is what Paul means in James 1:22:

*“But prove yourselves **doers** of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”*

A “doer” is one who lives from and expresses God’s truth to others. What I have discovered in my own life is that as I am experiencing more freedom, victory and transformation, I can’t contain it. I want to share the truth with anyone who will listen because I know it will transform their lives as well.

I believe one of the key ways to be an expressor is to bear witness to what God’s word is doing in you. For example, if you are being set free from unforgiveness towards your father, the Lord may bring someone into your path today who is struggling with this same problem. This gives you the opportunity to bear witness to this person on how the Holy Spirit transformed you to forgive your father.

Four Practical Principles

When it comes to speaking truth to those who come into my six square feet today, there are four practical principles that I apply: being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, drawing on Christ’s

discernment, sensing God's timing concerning whether or not to speak the truth and realizing I am a seed "thrower."

Let me break these four practical principles down. First, being sensitive to the Spirit means that when I am with someone, whether it is my wife or a perfect stranger, I am listening for what the Spirit wants to say through me. This is because the Spirit knows both what is really going on in a person's heart and what that person needs to hear.

Second, I draw on Christ's discernment to understand which truths the Spirit wants me to share.

Third, being sensitive to God's timing is crucial. For example, I have been in numerous situations where I may know the truth that a person needs to hear but the Lord (through inserting thoughts into my mind) stops me from sharing it because that person was not ready to hear. This is crucial because I have made the mistake in the past of sharing something or sharing it too quickly only to end up alienating the listener and closing his mind to the truth.

Concerning these first three principles, let me share, as an example, the Christians I talked about earlier who are frustrated or angry about the current political and cultural situation. I believe that Satan is continuing to keep Christians stirred up, frustrated and angry over political and cultural issues to cause them to miss opportunities to share God's truth concerning the issues we face in this country.

This happened to me recently when I was talking to a friend who was upset about how Christians in America are not standing up for the truth. She talked for several minutes in great frustration. She felt helpless to do anything about the situation.

The whole time she was sharing, I was asking the Holy Spirit how to respond. When she finished, I shared with her the following thoughts that the Spirit had brought to my mind:

"I understand where you are coming from and I agree that many in the church are not standing up for the truth like they should. However, I don't want you to be controlled by what believers are not doing because if you are overcome with anger it can sideline you concerning those who come into your six square feet. The truth is the Lord doesn't want you to be on the defensive. He wants to impact everyone you come in contact with today with His truth.

Therefore, do pray for the Christians in this country but be proactive by focusing on how the Lord wants to change the church one life at a time through you. It may be to encourage, share truth, write about the truth or do whatever the Spirit leads you to do. The key thing is not to let this issue rob you of your peace and joy and compromise your personal witness because God wants to change the church through you."

When I was through, she was calm and more hopeful because she realized she has a vital part to play.

The fourth key principle to keep in mind as you speak truth to someone is that you are a seed "thrower." Once God has given you the go ahead to share His truth, you are responsible to throw the seeds of truth out to others but you are not responsible for whether that truth is received or rejected.

Why? Because some of those seeds will fall on good soil (i.e., people who are ready to hear the truth) and some seeds will fall on concrete. The truth is that you are not responsible for the results. The results are in God's hands.

This one principle has helped me more than anything else: understanding that as a seed "thrower" of God's truth and not a producer of it has freed me from feeling responsible for whether or not the hearer has received the truth. It also has freed me from trying to make people believe the truth.

Let me share with you how I learned about being a seed thrower. I was substitute preaching for a pastor friend and I

noticed a man on the back row who, judging from his pained facial expressions, seemed to grow increasingly irritated the more I talked about living from Christ as our Source. He was getting so agitated that by the time I finished the closing prayer I looked up and saw that he was gone. I must admit my first thought was, “God is going to get this guy because he wouldn’t receive the truth.”

However, in that moment the Holy Spirit put this thought in my mind. “Bill, through you I have made an irrevocable and non-refundable deposit of truth into his heart. He can escape you but he can’t escape the truth because the deposit has been made.” What the Spirit revealed in that moment has changed forever my perspective on sharing the truth. This is because I am no longer fearful of someone rejecting the truth or even getting angry with me if they don’t like the truth I am sharing. This has set me free to share the truth because you and I are simply the messengers. God is responsible for what He does with that truth.

The final thought I have concerning God’s truth is that as I learn, apply, and experience the truth, my Christ-confidence grows. Christ-confidence is a spiritual confidence that grows as we believe and experience God’s truth in our lives. As my Christ-confidence grows, my desire to share God’s truth grows as well. I pray that as you walk in a moment-by-moment dependence on Christ your Christ-confidence will grow to a place where you cannot not share God’s truth.

Chapter Eight

Sword #3 – POWER

*“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the **power of the Holy Spirit.**” Romans 15:13*

Over my years in ministry, I have concluded that many Christians don't truly understand the magnitude of God's power that is available to them. As a result, they live fruitless and ineffective Christian lives using their own limited human power to try to live the Christian life. I know because I lived that life for 30 years.

In this chapter, I want to focus on the magnitude of God's power and how He wants to wield His sword of power through us to conquer our six square feet. I see truth going hand in hand with God's power like an iron fist in a velvet glove—the iron fist of power covered by the velvet glove of truth. What I have come to realize is the immense power that comes from speaking the truth.

What Kind Of Power Are We Talking About?

*“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of **the power** will be of God and not from ourselves.” 2 Corinthians 4:7*

The treasure that you and I have as Christians is the “surpassing greatness of the power of God.” What kind of power is that? Look at Ephesians 1:19, 20:

*“I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of His power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty **power that raised Christ from the dead** and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.”*

Think about it. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead resides in you.

In addition, God's power in you is the same power that:

- Created the heavens and the earth.
- Opened the Red Sea.
- Is holding the universe together.

Since you have the fullness of God living in you (Colossians 1:9, 10), you have all of His power available to you.

What Is God's Power Able To Do When It Is Released In You?

What can God's power accomplish within us? Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 3:20:

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the (God's) power that works within us..." Ephesians 3:20

Think about this verse for a moment. Paul is making a very bold proclamation when he says that what God can accomplish through His power is "abundantly beyond all that we ask or think." Paul is exclaiming this truth because he has experienced this power so mightily working in him that it has taken him to places of transformation that he never thought were possible. If God's power can accomplish this in his life, what do you think it can accomplish in your life?

God's Power IN You:

- Renews your mind to believe His truth. Romans 12:2
- Sets you free from your sin strongholds. John 8:32
- Heals your woundedness. Psalm 147:3
- Gives you victory over the flesh, sin, Satan, and the world. 1 Corinthians 15:57

- Transforms the way that you think, feel, choose, and behave. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Will draw you into an intimate relationship with Himself. Ephesians 1:5

I hope you have been living from Christ as Your Source long enough to begin to experience transformation. If so, it is because of the supernatural power of God working non-stop in your life. However, it does not stop there. God, in His transforming power, wants to do the same thing through you that He did through Jesus while He was on the earth. Look at Luke 4:18.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.”

Jesus was speaking about what the Holy Spirit was going to do through Him while He lived on the earth. Now that you have Christ living in and through you, He wants to do the same things mentioned in this verse. Why? Because it is His life and truth wrapped in His power that will accomplish these things and more. Therefore, will you allow the Lord to wield His power through you? If so, He will:

Save The Lost

“for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power.....” 1 Thessalonians 1:5

How many non-Christians do you think you will come in contact with today? Not all of them will be ready to hear the gospel but there may be one who is. If that person comes into your six square feet, will you have confidence in the power of the truth of the gospel? Remember that we are only seed throwers but we can share the gospel knowing that those seeds of truth are wrapped in the supernatural power of God. It may be proactive by sharing the gospel verbally or simply by leaving a gospel tract with someone.

To Change How Someone Thinks

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by
the renewing of your mind....” Romans 12:2*

I love this verse because it is a spiritual guarantee of what the power of God can accomplish, not only in your mind, but in the minds of others as well. When you speak truth through God’s power to another person, it can supernaturally change the way that person thinks. Have you experienced that before? I hope so because I have found there is nothing more amazing than to share truth with someone who is believing a lie and watch the Spirit of God supernaturally change how that person thinks, believes and acts to line up with His truth. This transformation may happen instantly or after some period of time. The timing is up to God.

[**Note:** When I use the word “supernatural,” I define it as how God transforms a person’s heart in such a way that there is no man-made explanation for how He does it.]

Think about it. Through you, a person who is believing a lie can be supernaturally changed to believe the truth. That is why we don’t need to try to persuade someone of the truth because truth spoken through God’s power will be persuasive enough.

To Set Someone Free

*“and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”
John 8:32*

We are all in bondage to something: a lie, a fleshly behavior, or a sin stronghold. I trust you have walked long enough in Christ to experience some degree of freedom from one or more of those. If you have, isn’t there something within you that says, “I want to see others being set free?” I hope so because today God may bring someone into your six square today that will be let out of a spiritual prison through you.

To Move Someone From Unbelief To Belief

When God changes someone's thinking through you, what that person believes changes as well. What if it were you the Lord used to change the mind of the lady editorialist I talked about earlier who says she is a Christian but believes in abortion.

If God's power through you supernaturally changed her belief so that she now believes that any and every form of abortion is murder, can you imagine how it would radically change what she writes? If her beliefs about abortion were changed, wouldn't that change our culture by at least one person? The answer is "Yes" because the Spirit through you can change our culture one life at time.

To Change The Choices A Person Makes

*He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet **I want your will to be done, not mine.**"*
Matthew 26:39"

When a person's thoughts and beliefs change, it follows that the choices that person makes will change as well. The Lord continues to conform us to His image because as He does, our choices fall more in line with His will. Doesn't it stand to reason that the more believers are making choices based on His will the greater the change in our culture will be?

Concerning our culture, isn't changing choices what change is all about. Any choice that is changed to line up with God's truth creates a change in our culture. I saw this in a man who went to prison for molesting a teenager. God saved him in prison and so transformed his heart that he is now discipling hundreds of college students about Life in Christ.

For those of you who remember Chuck Colson, one of the men involved with Watergate, you witnessed God perform a supernatural change when Colson came to know God right before being imprisoned and after his sentence established Prison Fellowship, an international ministry responsible for saving and discipling prisoners for over 40 years.

To Change Someone's Destiny

I will never forget the day Ian Thomas spoke these words to me on October 4, 1998:

"God never intended for you to live THE Life that only Christ can live in and through you."

Little did I know how these 18 words would forever change my life and my destiny. At the time I heard those words I was a commercial general contractor. I assumed that is what I was going to do the rest of my life. I had no idea those words would change the entire trajectory of my life. Instead of my constructing buildings, I am allowing God to reconstruct lives through His power that lives in me. What is the result of allowing God's power to work through you?

Living From The Divine "WOW" Of God's Power

I have witnessed the power of God work countless times in the hearts of unbelievers and believers alike. I never get tired of watching God's power change hearts and destinies. Every time I witness it, I have the same feeling Moses must have had when God opened the Red Sea. Moses was confident in God's power to do so but can you imagine the look on his face when it actually happened? Don't you think his first word was "WOW?" I feel the same way when I watch the power of God transform hearts.

Chapter Nine

Sword #4 - LOVE

*"If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but **do not have love, I am nothing.**"*

1 Corinthians 13:3

When I read 1 Corinthians 13:3 in light of the three previous swords: life, truth, and power, I realize there is one more sword that is essential in conquering our six square feet: the sword of love. I know the imagery of wielding a sword of love may be hard to grasp but we cannot conquer our six square feet with life, truth, and power alone. It must be wrapped in love as we see in Ephesians 4:15:

*"....speaking the truth in **love**...."*

Ephesians 4:15

Let me summarize the four swords this way:

It is Christ's expressing His LIFE through you, speaking His TRUTH by His POWER wrapped in His LOVE.

Life, truth and power without love makes us a noisy gong and clanging cymbal according to 1 Corinthians 13:1:

*"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a **noisy gong** or a **clanging cymbal.**"*

That is why Paul tells us that love is our highest priority.

"But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

Therefore, I want to look at some key truths concerning love and then give some practical application on how to conquer your six square feet in love.

What Kind Of Love Are We Talking About?

*And a second is like it: **You shall [agape] love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:39-40*

When it comes to the second commandment, the “love” Matthew is talking about is *agape* love. There are a number of other forms talked about in the Bible but the one I want to focus on is *agape* love. *Agape* love is defined as the divine love that only comes from God. *Agape* love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and selfless..

Loving others with *agape* love means that regardless of the depth of your relationships you love everyone equally. Think about it. When it came to *agape* love did Jesus love the disciples or the little children more than he did the self-righteous Pharisees? The answer is “no” because *agape* love is perfect, unconditional, and does not play favorites. When it came to *agape* love, Jesus loved the Pharisees, the little children, and His disciples equally.

God’s Love Is An Unstoppable Force

*“For I am convinced that **neither** death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **will be able to separate us from the love of God,** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38, 39*

Romans 8:38-39 promises that nothing will separate us from God’s love. In addition, Paul is telling us is that nothing and no one is going to stop God from loving you. Likewise, no one can

stop you from loving them with God's agape love because Christ's love is unstoppable.

When I think of this truth, it reminds me of one of my board members who called me periodically and says, "I love you Bill and there is nothing you can do about it." That is the unstoppable love of God.

How would knowing there is nothing anyone in your six square feet could do to stop Christ's love flowing through you change your desire to love those who are difficult to love or those who might reject your love?

Is Love What You Do Or Is It Who You Are?

Dallas Willard says this about love:

*"Our aim under love is not to be loving to this or that person, but to be **a person possessed by love** as an overall character of life. Love is not what you choose to do. It is what you choose to **be**."*

I believe Willard's statements are true for two biblical reasons:

1. You Are A Container of All Christ's Love

I shared earlier that as a Christian, according to Colossians 2:9, 10, you have the "fullness" of Christ in you which means you not only contain the fullness of such Christ-like characteristics as Christ's peace, joy, rest, forgiveness, you have the fullness of Christ's love in you as well.

Why is this important? As a container you possess all of Christ's love and are possessed by His love. Being a container of the fullness of Christ's love means that you don't have to produce Christ's love. Rather, you just need to make yourself available for Christ to "leak out" His love that you already possess.

2. In Your New Identity You Are A Lover

2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we have a new identity.

*“Therefore **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (new identity); the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**”*

Having a new identity means that we are partakers of the divine nature.

*“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you **may become partakers of the divine nature.**” 2 Peter 1:4*

Part of being a partaker of the divine nature is that God has imparted to us His divine love in order for us to be lovers. Therefore, loving is not only what we do, it is who we are.

How Love Conquers Your Six Square Feet

We said earlier that we are not just containers of Christ’s life, we are to leak out that life to others. The same is true with agape love. We see this in Romans 5:5:

*“and hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out within our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

God has poured/leaked His love into our hearts so that we can leak it out to others. Therefore, what does it look like practically to conquer your six square feet in love?

1. Love Is Non-Judgmental

Love and judgment are mutually exclusive. What I discovered personally, is that you can’t love and judge at the same time. Agape love will not judge someone whose thoughts, ideas or

opinions are different from theirs. (You might want to read that statement again.)

To get to that place for me has been a very long journey but as the Lord continues to free me from my deep-seated judgmental attitude, it frees me to love and speak the truth in love. Being free from judging also allows us to focus on the Lord and how He wants to interact with a person when they come into our six square feet.

A practical example of this is that you are talking with someone whose views about politics or certain cultural issues contradict what you believe or what God's word says. As they express those views, you have a choice to make. You can immediately start judging that person and mentally get ready to defend what you believe with a fleshly attitude or you can choose not to judge and to listen to how the Holy Spirit wants you to respond to what they are saying. In love, you choose not to judge because through you the Spirit may want to save that person or bring them to life in Christ or perhaps just encourage them. This idea of loving and not judging is crucial in conquering your six square feet.

2. Love Never Takes Offense

In addition to not judging, in Christ you are unoffendable. One of my favorite books is titled, *Unoffendable*. It focuses on the idea that if we are living in Christ, we do not have to take ownership when someone tries to offend us. People do things all the time knowingly or unknowingly to offend us. The fleshly temptation is to take ownership of their offense and offend back.

As I look around at Christians and non-Christians alike, it seems like we are constantly being offended by something or someone. Offended by what a person believes or how they act or by such petty things as the way they dress. If you are being offended by those who come into your six square feet, how effective will you be in loving them? As with judging, you cannot love and be offended at the same time.

When you get to a place spiritually of being unoffendable, it frees you from reacting, retaliating or even be frustrated. Most importantly, it frees you to love.

I put this in practice when a Sunday school teacher I was having lunch with was telling me all the reasons why he hated my curriculum. He went on for about 40 minutes disputing all that I had written. He came just short of calling me a heretic. Can you imagine if I took offense at his remarks? Knowing the former me, in my flesh, I would have choked the guy. However, I did not take ownership of his offenses and was free to respond to Him in love. Even though he didn't receive what I had to say, I didn't leave the lunch frustrated or offended.

However, to get to that place where I was able to love him has been a journey but as a result, I find myself much more free and more available to God for Him to work through me with offensive people. As I am being transformed in this area, I find myself being more sensitive to people and less offensive to them.

3. Love Is Humble and Selfless

Love, humility and selflessness go together because the less I focus on me and my needs the more I can focus on you. Becoming more selfless frees you up from trying to conform them to your agendas and opinions. As a result, your primary concern will be for the other person and their needs. Being selfless allows you to focus on their issues and listen to the Spirit in order to know how to help or encourage them.

When I share truth in humility, I tend to get a lot further with someone than when I press into them with a self-righteous attitude. Think about the humility of Jesus. How spiritually attractive do you think His humility made Him? As human beings, we are wired to be drawn to humble people. Therefore, as we speak truth or express Christ's Life, let it be through the filter of humility and selflessness.

4. Love Makes Someone Feel Safe

We talked about being a safe person in a previous chapter. There is nothing that makes someone feel safer than knowing and feeling they are being loved. Once a person feels loved that love can be the key to unlocking their heart.

5. Love Unlocks A Person's Heart

I have seen God's love unlock many people's hearts including mine. I had padlocked the door to a heart filled anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, and woundedness. This went on for many years until God brought a man into my life named David Love. (Only God could bring a Love to a Loveless.)

When I first met David, I was head of the mission's committee at my church. A friend of mine recommended that I consider David and his wife (who were missionaries at the time) to be financially supported by our church.

I took David out to lunch to interview him but as we began to talk over lunch, I begin to feel the love of God through David. The next thing I knew, Christ's love through David was unlocking the padlock to the door of my heart. I couldn't resist it or stop it. Before I knew it, I started pouring out my very troubled heart and continued doing so for the next three hours to this perfect stranger. (Since then, David and I have become very close friends.) When I look back on that event, I saw and experienced the irresistibility of agape love unlock my heart.

There are many other characteristics of a love leaker we could talk about but I hope the ones I have shared will give you a better idea of what it means conquer your six square feet through love.

This wraps up the discussion concerning the four swords. I pray that the thoughts I have shared concerning the swords of

life, truth, power and love have helped you in understanding practically how to conquer your six square feet.

Speaking The Truth In Love

Let me finish this chapter with some thoughts about how we express the love of Christ. When it comes to expressing love, it can be expressed in many different ways. It may be a gentle, compassionate expression or it may be a bold proclamation. Expressing love may come in the form of confronting someone's lies with God's truth or correcting their false beliefs. Love may be simply listening and affirming.

Jesus loved the Pharisees as much as he did the little children. However, He expressed love to the Pharisees by getting in their faces and speaking truth. It was strong and bold. In contrast, the tone with the children was gentle and compassionate.

The key in how we express Christ's love is being sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Why? Because He knows exactly what we are to say, when to say it and most importantly how to say it.

Therefore, let me end by repeating how the four swords work together to conquer your six square feet.

It is Christ's expressing His LIFE through you speaking His TRUTH by His POWER wrapped in His LOVE.

(I have written a booklet called *Free To Love* that goes into greater depth on this topic. If you are interested, you can find this booklet under Discipleship Booklets on our website: www.christislifeministries.com)

Chapter Ten

You Have A Choice To Make: Casualty? Or Conqueror?

When I look at our six square feet, I see two choices. One is to be a casualty and the other is to be a conqueror. Let me share with you what I mean by being a casualty.

A Casualty

I define a spiritual “casualty” as any believer who, as a result of people, circumstances, culture, politics or events are:

- Being controlled by what they don’t have control over.
- Living in an ongoing state of frustration, anger, fear, or anxiety.
- Living in denial that there is a spiritual battle raging around us.
- Being so self-focused and self-absorbed that they don’t even see their six square feet much less the people that come into it.
- Sitting in a spiritual La-Z-Boy of indifference and apathy.
- Feeling powerless because they don’t realize, believe or engage the transforming power of the Holy Spirit who lives in them.
- Believing they are inadequate, helpless or incapable of making a difference in another person’s life.

On a battlefield, once a soldier becomes a casualty then they can no longer fight. It the same with a spiritual soldier. If I am constantly living in frustration or concern about where our country is heading or I am so self-absorbed that I can’t see the pain or struggles of those in my six square feet, have I not become a casualty? And if I am a casualty, how effective will I be in evangelizing, encouraging, or letting Jesus express Himself through me to everyone who comes into my six square feet today?

What is the result of being a casualty? Simply put, the results of being a casualty is that no lives will be changed, no love will be exchanged and the battle for the hearts and minds of believers, unbelievers and this country will be lost.

A Conqueror

However, if you choose to be a spiritual conqueror you will:

- Clearly see the battle and the real enemy in the battle.
- Not be distracted or controlled by events or people that are out of your control.
- Realize the power of the Spirit in you to transform lives around you.
- Value and love everyone who comes into your six square feet.
- Intentionally seek the Holy Spirit to do whatever He desires through you to encourage, exhort, and transform everyone who comes into your six square feet.
- Grow in Christ-confidence that you are God's warrior through whom God will win the battle.
- Realize that that you have no other option but to let God fight and conquer through you.
- Not stop seeking to conquer your six square feet for the rest of your life.

The truth is that, as a Christian living in these times you cannot afford to be a casualty. Now is the time to stand up and become the conqueror that you are called to be. The truth is that you are not a casualty because God calls you a conqueror. And that is who you are.

What About Jesus and His Six Square Feet?

Like you, Jesus had His six square feet. Even though Jesus took many opportunities to speak to a variety of crowds, there are more instances of His one-on-one encounters with others recorded in His earthly journey. These are some of the instances how Jesus conquered His six square feet.

1. The Pool Of Bethesda – John 5:1-9

When Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda, he ended up healing just one man even though there were many afflicted people at the same pool. I imagine He would have liked to heal others, but the Spirit told him there would be just one. He walked in the Spirit's discernment to know which one to heal.

The lesson I take from this is that we must be attentive to the Spirit in discerning whom we are to speak or minister to out of all those who come into our six square feet each day. We will sometimes have a number of people we will encounter, but we must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in deciding whom He wants to minister to through us.

2. The Canaanite Woman – Matthew 15:21-28

Another favorite encounter of mine is the Canaanite woman who came to Jesus concerning her demon possessed daughter. During their verbal exchange it sounded like Jesus was putting this woman off. After all, she was a Gentile which in the Greek means “dog.” They went back and forth in their conversation, the woman persisting until Jesus agreed to heal her daughter. At the end of their conversation, Jesus said, *“O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish”* v. 28.

What stood out to me is the Lord's desire to make sure the woman was serious about her faith in His ability and willingness before He healed her daughter. As a result of her faith and perseverance, her daughter was healed.

3. The Money Changers – Matthew 21:12, 13

In these two verses, we see the righteous anger of Jesus in overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple. Jesus was wielding the sword of truth when He said in verse 13,

“It is written, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER’; but you are making it a ROBBERS’ DEN.”

This is a perfect example of the four swords. Jesus was expressing His life (i.e., boldness), speaking truth in the Spirit's power wrapped in His love. Don't miss the fact that even though this was a rather traumatic scene, Jesus was boldly, in love, conquering His six square feet.

There are many more examples of Jesus' conquering His six square feet but suffice to say, He expressed His life, His truth, His power and His love in every person He encountered. He is trusting you to depend on Him to do the same.

What Is At Stake?

When I see what is going on in this country and more personally in the hearts of Christians and non-Christians, I realize it is time for every Christian to come to grips with how high the stakes really are in this war. It involves the spiritual future of our kids and grandkids, our own spiritual freedoms, but most importantly, the spiritual destinies (i.e. their salvation or knowing Christ as Life) of everyone who comes into our six square feet.

What we need to understand is that Jesus isn't sending most of us out to foreign countries as missionaries, but only asking us to let Him live through us in our own homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, etc. Those are our six square feet. It's the ordinary people who walk into our lives every day that He wants to touch with His truth through us if we will only let Him.

When Jesus came to our earth, he set aside His glory, assumed the same fleshly limitations as we have. His mission then was to seek and save the lost (which was all of us). He always lived His life for the sake of others. His mission has not changed now that He lives in us. He continues to accomplish His mission through those Christians who are willing to let Him live His life through them to touch, save, heal, encourage, and love those who come into their six square feet.

As the truth of this reality becomes clearer to me, I want to know with confidence that you will be beside me or in front or in back of me conquering your six square feet because you and I are part of a spiritual army the Lord wants to use to win the hearts and minds of others. You know He can accomplish that without you but He so wants to do it through you for your sake as well as the sake of others. My challenge to you, therefore, is to seek the Lord non-stop to give you the willingness to go forth in His life, His truth, His power and His love to conquer and be victorious in His name.

*“Yet in all these things we **are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:37*

Blessings in Christ,

Bill Loveless

Where Can You Go From Here?

I hope this booklet has given you a clearer understanding what it means to conquer your six square feet. In addition to this booklet, I have written several more booklets and curriculum that are available to you on our ministry's website (www.christislifeministries.com). Online, you may either download the curriculum for free or purchase a written copy.

Christ Is Life Ministries

Website: www.christislifeministries.com

Email: bill@christislifeministries.com

Other Discipleship Booklets Available On Our Website:

- A Life? Or THE Life?
- Who Are You?
- Experiencing The Heart of God
- The Battle of the Mind
- Wounded
- Free To Love
- Eyes To See
- What Is Normal?
- Your Marriage
- Resolving Marital Conflict
- Stress? Or Rest?
- What's Next?
- What Did You Expect?
- Press On

CONQUERING YOUR SIX SQUARE FEET

(LIVING LIFE FOR OTHERS)

We know from Galatians 2:20 that Christ lives in us. He lives in us to transform us from the inside out. In addition, He wants to live through us to transform the hearts and destinies of those we come in contact with. This booklet focuses on what God wants to accomplish through you today to save, to encourage, and to transform others. He is inviting you to join Him in His eternal work in the hearts of those you come in contact with today. Will you accept the invitation and join Him?

In this booklet we will be answering the following questions:

- What is your six square feet?
- What does it mean to conquer your six square feet?
- What are the hindrances to being a conqueror?
- How do you conquer your six square feet?
- What will be the results of being a conqueror?



Bill Loveless is the director of Christ Is Life Ministries (CILM). CILM is a non-profit, non-denominational ministry that focuses on discipleship. We teach Christians that Christ is our only Source for living the Christian life and what it looks like to be transformed into Christ-likeness and be drawn into a deeper intimacy with Him.

For further information and to see the other materials being offered, please go to our website:
www.christislifeministries.com

