



HOUSE OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Where Jesus Christ is still Lord

Our Vision

Our Goal and desire is the same as that of our Lord Jesus Christ, to fulfill God's end-time calling to enlarge the Kingdom of God, by reaching the multitudes with the gospel of Christ for all levels of our society. We are bringing glory and honor to the Father of our Lord Jesus by teaching and preparing God's people for works of service through the Word and Anointed Worship, through the manifested presence and revelation power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell, Sr.
7406 Alban Station Court B-206A
Springfield, VA 22150
email: pastor@hopic.org
www.hopic.org

Phone: 703-866-4140



Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell Sr.



HOUSE OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

*Ministering the truth of God's Word
in the power of the Holy Spirit!*

Developing our Spirit Man

- Understanding the Spirit Man
- Feeding the Spirit Man
- Walking in the Spirit

SPIRITUAL GROWTH SERIES

HOUSE OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Booklets written by Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell, Sr.

Understanding the Lord's Passover

Developing Oneness (Unity) Through the Love of God

Developing the Kingdom of God Within Us

*Receiving the Wisdom, Understanding,
and Knowledge of God*

Guidelines For HOPIC'S Home Cell Groups

Developing Our Spirit Man

Changed By His Glory

Understanding Our Redemption

Contact Information :

House of Praise International Church

7406 Alban Station Court B-206A

Springfield, VA 22150

email: pastor@hopic.org

www.hopic.org

Phone: 703-866-4140



HOUSE OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

*Ministering the truth of God's Word in
the power of the Holy Spirit!*

Table of Contents

<i>Understanding the Real You</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Put the Word of God First Place in Everything</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Meditation in (Eating) the Word</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Praying in the Spirit</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Hearing</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Declare it</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Acting on the Word</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Always Walk In Love</i>	<i>17</i>

Always Walk In Love

Without faith it is impossible to please God and **faith works by love**. Walking in Love is the **LAW** of the new covenant. John 13:34. "I love you so much that I just want you to understand everything that I say. And because you have opened up your heart to me I am just grinning from ear to ear (an expression that you would use). You see, I am a part of you. I have the same desires. I have the same feelings. I get tickled just like you do. When things are just enough to make me just so happy, I just can't even stop grinning. I can't even wipe the smile off my face — because you said that you loved me. You've just submitted yourself in prayer. And you're just saying that I am so good and that you want to give all to me and that you want to draw close to me. I'm just so thrilled

I don't know what to do. You see I use the same words that you use for we are even one. You are only expressing me. You see, I am with you right now! I'm around you, I am in you, I am over you, I am under you and we even sit in a chair together. We sit on the floor together.

I was with you when you combed your hair. I was with you when you put your skirt on and your trousers on. I was with you when you put your socks and your shoes on. I was with you when you did your finger nails. I was with you when you filed your toenails, when you cut them down. I was with you when you pricked yourself. I was with you when you clipped your hair off. I was with you when you did all things. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I am Love and when you walk according to My Spirit within you, you are walking in My Love.

Understanding the Real You

GOD IS SPIRIT. JN 4:24 God is the Father of spirits. Heb. 12:9 Law of Genesis 1 is everything reproduces after its own kind. God said in Gen. 1:26-27 "*let us make man in our image and after our likeness.*" The Lord God formed man of the Dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Gen 2:7 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the almighty hath given me life. Job. 33:4 the Lord formeth the spirit of man within him. Zech. 12:1 you see, the body without the spirit is dead (James 3:26). Man is a spirit but lives in an earthly body (I Cor. 15:44). "*...till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.*" Gen 3:19

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Eccl. 12:7

We are spirit. THE REAL YOU is the spirit and you are simply housed with a physical body for this earth. Paul in II Cor. 5:1-4 called the physical body a "*tent*" (clothing for the spirit man). We are not just flesh & bone. Inside the tent (house) is the real home (person). I Thes. 5:13 says man is a tri-part being, spirit, soul and body.

There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the almighty giveth him understanding. Job 32:8

The spirit of man is the candle (lamp) of the lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly. Prov. 20:27 (a lamp is a mechanism through which light shines).

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path. Ps 119:105

The entrance of your words give light; it gives understanding to the simple. Ps 119 130.

The Word is God—He was made flesh. John 1:1, 14 Jesus is that Word. I Jn. 1:5, Jn 8:12 God is light — Jesus, the word, is light. Thus the light is the voice of God speaking to you.

THE PHYSICAL BODY.

Your physical body must be submitted to God!

You cannot however unless you first realize that you AND God are spirit beings and you must reach God in the spirit realm. **THEREFORE YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN:** Jn 3:36; I Peter 1:23; II Cor. 5:17; Rom. 10:9-10.

You see, we communicate (through prayer) by the resources that God created us out of (spirit). We communicate with God through the communion of the Holy Spirit. II Cor. 13:14 It is through the power of the Holy Spirit we put to death the evil deeds prompted by the body. Rom. 8:13; Rom. 6:12-13.

Paul said in I Cor. 9:27, "I keep under (discipline, subdue) my body (by fasting and prayer). How? James 3:26 says "we are able to bridle the whole body through the tongue"

YOU ARE SPIRIT AND YOU HAVE GOD'S LIFE IN YOU.

When you are born again, you receive eternal life (the divine nature of God – II Pet. 1:4)

If you have Jesus, you have eternal life. I Jn 5:12 That Life came out of God (Gen. 2:7) and you are now righteous (in right standing with God).

You are not OF YOURSELVES, you are (the offspring) of God. I Jn. 4:4 You are NOW SONS (children) OF GOD. I Jn 3:2

LET THAT DIVINE LIFE THAT IS IN YOU speak to you and lead you; you speak out of that life and live and walk out of that life from within you., BECAUSE IT IS THE SPIRIT MAN WHO IS THE ONE WHO IS TO BRING YOU BACK TO GOD, NOT YOUR FLESH!

DEVELOPING THE SPIRIT MAN.

God has given us grace, made us ONE with Christ and desires that we attain (develop) a ONENESS in the faith with Christ to be ministers for Him to the world thru the gifts given us. Eph 4:4-13 In order to do this, Eph 4:15 – says we are to "grow up" in Him in all things – each joint supplying and the body grows to full

Acting on the Word

When your ACTIONS (movement) are within the divine process revealed, you are being motivated (led) by those spiritual forces, here in the earth.

All things God made are good! Because you were created in His image and likeness, when you become of age (mature, grow up), YOU have the ability to make all things work for good. Maturity comes when you learn to just receive God's word, without questioning.

However, you understand that Satan is the God of this world! Everything **He** does is nothing but perversion (meaning to cause a **contrary** action, a turning away from what is right, **or righteous**).

So, when you DO NOT exercise (act on, do) the words that God reveals before (unto) you, **YOU pervert** and tilt the scale of justice AND receive the wrath from the end, which is NOW! You see Jesus is the Alpha (beginning) and the Omega (end).

In other words, when you **don't** activate God's Spirit **by** acting upon the revealed word of God, you activate **your own spirit** AND when you walk according to your flesh, you are walking according to what is in the world and SATAN IS THE GOD OF the world.

But, when you walk according to **God's Spirit**, you walk according to what's in the heavens, which can cause all things to work for your good.

naught things that **are**.” In other words, God uses **spiritual forces which are not seen** TO nullify natural things that **are seen**.

Jesus said “My words are spirit”. John 6:63 Paul said we having the same spirit of faith — **also believe** and **therefore speak**.” II Cor 2:14 Paul was quoting David when he said “I believed, and therefore have I spoken”. Ps 118:17 “He said I shall not die but shall live and DECLARE the works of the Lord”.

We must “Declare” to ourselves what God’s covenant word reveals about us, regardless of the circumstances or how we feel about it.

Paul in Romans 10:6-8 says the righteousness which is of faith **says**. Nothing is more important to your faith than declaring what God has said about you with your own voice. **Giving voice to Gods word** is a method of “calling for things that God has given us by promise and are not yet manifest”.

You are not denying what exists. You are simply denying it the right to exist in your life any longer because; Gal. 3:13 “we are redeemed from the curse of the law”. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so! You are establishing what God said to be true, though it is not yet a reality in the natural. God has given us all things II Pet. 1:3-4. We are simply calling for what God has already given us, though it is not yet manifest. **We must however know the promise**. THIS IS GOD’S METHOD TO RECEIVE.

We are not “calling **things that are** as though they are not”. **Don’t deny you are sick if you are sick**. It won’t make you well. But mix faith with God’s word and it will cause you to be fully persuaded and healing etc, will come. You are not lying when you confess your healing, you are calling for healing which God has already provided though it is not yet manifested. We are practicing God’s medicine, calling our body healed. Mk 11:23.

maturity, building itself up in love.

HOW IS THIS DONE? Letting the word rule (govern) until it becomes real and takes over your thinking; by listening to your spirit man who has fed on God’s word and yielding to His direction (leading). Drink the sincere milk of the word (I Pet. 2:2-3) until your spirit rules your thinking faculties and in turn you will then rule (govern) the senses (flesh).

You know the word so **grow in** grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Pet. 3:17-18 Learn of Him. Learn who you are in Him and What your rights and privileges are and begin to declare them.

After developing and cultivating your spirit properly, you cause growth through putting into practice\action what the word says regarding a matter.

WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH.

We saw that the spirit of man is the real person. Rom. 7:22; I Pet 3:4 Man is in the same class as God (Jn. 4:24).

We know that God, who is spirit, took on a man’s body and when He did He was no less God than He was before He took on the physical body.

God is only revealed to man through his spirit. It is the spirit of man which contacts God. The things of God are foolishness to the **natural man**. I Cor 2:14.

II Cor 4:16 tells us the “outward” man perisheth, but the “inward” man is being renewed day by day. God strengthens you, empowers you in your “inward man”. Eph 3:16 .

When Holy Spirit comes into us, He comes in to dwell in our spirits. Holy Spirit communicates with our spirit NOT our minds. THEN OUR spirit reaches and influences our mind. He will not however force you to act upon the revelation. It is our choice to act upon it or not.

Our spirit has a voice. It is sometimes referred to as our conscience, that hunch, intuition, or guidance. That inward voice seeks to give guidance to our minds. DON'T ignore it!

Godly wisdom comes from God, not from the senses, so you will be using God's wisdom in your life. James 3:17.

Believing with the spirit or heart means:

We believe what our spirit says, NOT our intellect.

That inward conviction called assurance is faith.

We get faith that our intellect cannot obtain, through the Word of God. Our spirits become filled with assurance AS we MEDITATE in God's word. You see the word is the FOOD that builds the spirit, makes it strong and gives it quiet assurance.

Sense knowledge is believing only in what one can hear, feel, taste, smell and see, based upon information received from the 5 senses of the flesh.

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart. I Pet. 3:15. Make Jesus Lord of your life. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father; His word is in our hearts. Trust in it. It is His wisdom. Prov. 3:15. Believing is knowing (being assured) in our heart. Our heart takes courage as we read the word – our assurance becomes deeper.

Greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world. He, the Word of God, is master over all.

BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD IN YOU.

The Word in I Pet. 3:4 calls the spirit man the "hidden man" of the heart, the real man, the only part of us that has been recreated and can know God and fellowship with Him. It's hidden to "head knowledge" only. The natural man knows something is there but he calls it our subconscious.

God contacts us, through His word, through the mind of the spirit. The Holy Spirit operates through the word of God only.

Rom. 8:14 says that the Sons of God are "led by the Spirit of God". We know the Holy Spirit is IN OUR spirit and we yield our spirit to His leading.

Declaring It

Shutting ourselves in, spirit, soul and body through the Holy Spirit, with the Word of God and thinking on it, pondering on it, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal things to us that we have not yet received.

We look unto Jesus (the Word), as the author and finisher of our faith, through what He has accomplished for us on the cross at Calvary.

Faith cometh by hearing (Rom. 10:17). By looking and observing all the details of His atonement, looking again and again at the cross through the eyes of our spirit and soul, is the form of communication in which our spirit hears the utterances of the Holy Spirit and our doubts get dissolved. It all becomes very vivid, very real! Psalms 25:14 says the secret of the Lord, He will show them His covenant.

As we sow to the spirit, through the words of our mouth, Galatians 4:6 says we reap life eternal.

How do we declare things?

IN Romans 4:17 we see Abraham was fully persuaded that God would do what He promised. How? By calling those things that were not yet manifested as though they were.

God used this principle when in Genesis 17 He called Abram, Abraham, father of many nations BEFORE he had had the promised child. And he taught Abraham to do the same.

HOW did He do it?

He changed Abrams name to Abraham, which meant "father of multitudes" God had established it by promise **but Abram had to call it into reality by mixing faith with God's Word.**

The Apostle Paul also gives us insight into this principle. In I Cor. 1:27-28 he said that "things which are not are used to bring to

Hearing

Listen to what the Spirit of God in you is saying.....DECIDE (make a quality decision) to RECEIVE the light (revelation, understanding) revealed by the Holy Spirit from the word. Jesus said in John 10, “**my sheep hear** my voice”.

The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts as we take time to meditate in the word and pray in the spirit.

Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and we will know Him because He will dwell in us. John 14:16-17 He is in us waiting for us to communicate with Him.

Jesus tells us further the Holy Spirit will not speak on His own authority but will guide us into all truth and **will only speak unto us that which He hears from Jesus** (the Word) and **will reveal unto us** things to come. John 16:13-14 He will always glorify Jesus and will take of what is Jesus’ and declare (speak) it to us.

It is the living word which separates the spirit from the flesh. Heb. 4:12

Listening to our spirit and giving it right of way in daily life, letting it govern over our reasoning is “cultivating our spirits”.

Heb. 5:11 says that our “hearing can become dull” when we don’t practice what we receive.

As we meditate in God’s word, listen to the Holy Spirit and become doers of (act on) **the word we hear**, our spirits gain control over our minds.

Faith comes from acting on (practicing) the word, **NOT by study alone**.

Then when your movement (action) is within the process, you are being motivated (led) by the spiritual forces in the earth. We are walking in faith. **Know that nothing is too hard for you to understand**.

How can our faith harmonize with the declaration (confession) of our mouth? **Answer—Through** Meditation in the Word of God.

Holy Spirit will only reveal and lead us by what Jesus, the Word shows Him, so you can’t go wrong. John 16:13

Listen to your spirit man (your conscience is the voice of your spirit). Learn to follow it and always act in Love. For Faith only works through love. So always act upon what your spirit man says and you will always act in love.

BECOME GOD-INSIDE MINDED!

This means Jesus is now coming on the scene and taking over and He is doing it, according to the power that worketh in us Eph. 3:20.

I Jn. 4:4 – Ye are of God little children – (the spiritual offspring of God) and greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Learn to be aware of God’s presence in you.

I Jn. 5:12 - If you have the Son, you have LIFE. It is the source of our strength, our comfort – our faith builder, when we MEDITATE on it. When we meditate on God’s word, it seems “*all things are possible to Him that believeth*”.

Put the Word of God First Place in Everything

The world, and even the organized church offers you many things to trust in but you must build (establish) your life on the rock of God's word. It must be our foundation – Luke 6:46-49. – Establish your life on Jesus the rock and life cannot beat (defeat) you.

Jesus said "Seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things will be added unto you." Matt. 6:33
Prov. 4:20-27 Says it is life, health & healing unto us. He has made provision for all our needs, so make God's word the foundation for everything you do in life.

WHY? Because it is sure, for God says in His word "I am the Lord God and I change not."
Jesus Christ (the word) is the same yesterday, today and forever.
Heb. 13:8

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever. Isa. 40:8
The word of the Lord endureth forever (a sure foundation).
1 Peter 1:24-25

"Forever O Lord, your (covenant) word is settled (established) in heaven". Ps 119:89
My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Ps 89:34

Abraham, chose to believe God's word in the face of the testimony of his senses (testing), and did not yield to the senses.
Rom. 4:17.

Jesus said to Thomas that believing based on the 5 senses is "not faith at all". John 20:27 Let God's Word be the strong foundation for all your believing.

Praise and worship waters the seed (the word) in your heart, breaking up the fallow ground causing it to germinate.

Then when your ACTIONS (movements) are within the divine process revealed, you are then being motivated (led) by those spiritual forces, here in the earth.

As you open up your heart to God and say (declare) "Lord, I want to know all things, I want to see all things and I want to understand all things", know that as you SAY those words, **then** you activate the knowledge that you have received.

Then the spirit of wisdom, in the Spirit of Christ, which you have, begins to assimilate and begins to rise up out of you and **allows YOU to "HEAR"** and to CAUSE YOUR MIND TO RECEIVE (renewing your mind) all things that you have read, heard and think.

Praying in the Spirit

We must pray in the spirit to receive a fuller, greater, enlightenment (after meditating). Meditation in God's word will automatically lead you to fellowship (prayer) with God in the spirit.

PRAYER causes the voice of God to become stronger (have more power). **This** is **how** strength and power becomes available to us. (James 5:16). It invokes the Spirit of Might.

This power is based on **the seed planted** in our spirit through confession and meditation of the word. Luke 8:11 says "the seed is the Word of God". A SEED is an ovule, a fertilized ripened ovule of a plant, containing an embryo (**life** part) and is capable of germination to produce a new plant when watered, fertilized and nurtured (by the Word and the Spirit).

Everything necessary to cause that seed to grow is inside the seed. Each seed reproduces after its own kind.

As a child of God you have everything in you necessary to become a full grown, fully mature child of God. BUT the processes that you go through involves **more than just learning**. There is MORE than just WHAT YOU SEE! There is an UNSEEN heavenly force, which interacted in the beginning (Gen 1:1-2), (**that is God sent His Holy Spirit to do the work.**) (See Prov. 3:19-20; Rev. 4:5; Isa. 11:2).

These spirits NOW, AND in the beginning are in action – they work in a process, just as seed in the natural does.

BUT, though you **HAVE** everything in you necessary to become a full-grown person, you **need to be able to interact with the Spirit** that created the Heavens and earth. Why? It is the Spirit who quickens (gives life) to the word (and waters the seed). That life is the light of man (your direction for the next step) and it is the power of God. (Rom. 1:16). And "effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man makes tremendous power available. James 5:16 (Ampl.)

Meditating In (Eating) The Word

God began Joshua's ministry by informing him of the necessity of meditation in His Word. Joshua 1:8

It is also necessary the WE have a quiet time daily for meditation in God's word. Meditate means to think on, mutter and speak to oneself. You are to study, meditate and speak the word of God to yourself, **that** you may observe (perceive) to do all that is written therein; resulting in prosperity and good success. Isa. 55:8-10 explains why. His ways are so much higher than ours. We are to abide in the word and let it abide in us. John 15:7 Let it dwell in you **richly** (abundantly). Col. 3:16

In order to do this, we must meditate in God's word daily. Joshua 1:8; Mark 4:21-24 Meditation in God's word **will build (increase) our faith capacity** (i.e. the ability to contain, receive or hold; the amount of space that can be filled; and the power of receiving and holding knowledge) and causes us to begin to develop and cultivate our spirit man for growth.

Developing – means to expand and bring out the capabilities into active existence.

Cultivate – means to refine, care for by study and give attention to details of, in order to increase.

If we can only learn to develop our recreated spirit, we will develop our faith capacity, our faith ability, our love (Rom. 5:5) and our wisdom. Remember, wisdom is not a product of the senses (head knowledge), but comes down from above (James 3:15).

Meditation in God's word will automatically lead you into fellowship (prayer) with God in the spirit because of the **great joy** received FROM the light given.

MEDITATION on the word of God causes His VOICE to become bolder (confident, fearless, stand out, be more prominent).

HOW DOES MEDITATION CHANGE MY LIFE? Eph. 3:16-17 (ampl) Tells us it gives us the secret of the **RICH, spiritual understanding of the word**. Ability (power) and strength is given (thru the light) so Christ, through the word, may dwell in your recreated spirit, to the end that “being rooted and grounded in love, THAT we may be strong to grasp the “fullness (completeness) of His **redemption**, the reality of His **righteousness** and the **sense of mastery** over His enemies”. As we come into the experience of this, we will walk in His victory!

HOW DOES THIS TRANSFORMATION TAKE PLACE?

II Pet. 3:18 tells us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God desires that we understand all that He is:

- He is wisdom
- He is understanding (Prov. 8:12-14) and
- Knowledge came out of wisdom and understanding. (Prov 2:6)

When you receive Christ, you have the ability (power) to receive God's wisdom and understanding. **HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

As you abide in God's word, as you let it stay before your eyes day and night, all of the KNOWLEDGE will be eaten. Matt. 4:4.. man does not live by bread alone but by every word of God). It will go down into your belly (spirit) and it will assimilate in you and come up (be revealed in) wisdom and understanding and you can walk in all things and do all things in Jesus name.

- The entrance of the word gives light! Ps 119:130 Our meditation must be in God's word.
- My mouth shall speak wisdom and the MEDITATION of my heart (spirit) shall give understanding (light, revelation). Ps. 49:3

As we behold (look upon it), as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord, WE ARE THEN BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME (HIS) IMAGE by the Spirit of the Lord. II Cor. 3:18.

Take time to meditate in the word until it is built into your mental processes and your spirit man, until it governs your thinking.

Phil. 4:6-8 tells us what to think on. – Don't expect to feed on gossip, TV, etc and **grow in grace**.

In Rom. 12:1-2, we see here the implication that the mind needs renewing. How is this transformation going to take place?

By MEDITATING (feeding) in the word of God and letting the revealed light rule (control, be 1st).

It is God's wisdom.

It is God's ability.

It is God's Life.

As we feed on it, it cultivates and strengthens, and builds up our spirit. It builds into us every attractive thing you saw in Jesus' life, faith, wisdom, and God's ability (power).

For you have “put on the new man who is renewed in KNOWLEDGE (of the Word) according to the image of Him who created him. Col. 3:10 (we are changed into his image).

“Till Christ be formed in us”. The word never becomes “part of us” UNTIL we practice it in our daily lives. You can talk it all you want but it's never real until we act on it. Gal. 4:19

God's fullness (completeness) love, grace, wisdom, healing, ability takes us over and dominates us. Eph 3:19 (cp Jn. 1:16).

Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or thing, according to the power that works in us. Eph 3:20

“We are actually made one with Him – this means His image is going to be reproduced in us until, after awhile, it will no longer be us that lives but **Christ living through us.**” John 17:11

If you have ever wondered why you haven't received from God, here it is. He is limited to what we give Him to work with.

Ps 19:14 says Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable ...the person who controls his meditations will control his speech and conduct.