



**RELATIONSHIPS –
EMPOWERED BY GOD –
CHRIST'S INVISIBLE IMPRINT.**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
and Acts 1:8**

**God will empower our
relationships so that others will
see the invisible imprint of
Jesus in our lives.**

What is imprinting?

Imprinting is a form of learning in which an animal gains its sense of species identification. Birds do not automatically know what they are when they hatch – they visually imprint on their parents during a critical period of development. After imprinting, they will identify with that species for life, crucial to their immediate and long-term survival. Birds have also been known to imprint on humans – meaning they are bonded to humans for life and will identify with humans rather than of their own species.

Who or what are you imprinted on? Many of us are concerned about our body in one way or another and we can become obsessive about it. We may have become almost imprinted on things such as gyms; weight loss diets; diet pills; plastic surgery – much of this is influenced by media. The many things that we have become imprinted onto may lead us away from God.

And it may seem strange, but once you become a Christian, another dimension is added to your being; you are now imprinted to God through the Holy Spirit and your body became the temple of the [Holy Spirit](#).

We may not acknowledge it, but great care was given to how our bodies were designed and divine power was placed into its construction – we are all God-breathed into life.

Think about this – in the Old Testament David’s son Solomon constructed a beautiful temple for God – containing gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, onyx, turquoise, fine stone and marble. This showed Solomon’s devotion to God.

The people were to know that God dwelt there. That is why it was furnished with such greatness: because it was to be the house of God. Note the day of the dedication of Solomon’s temple what happened- fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it.

But there is no such place in the age of grace – under the New Testament. This building we are in is not God’s temple. This building is not even a church, just the place the church meets. The eternal covenant, God’s desire to fellowship with His creation has become intimate.

Jesus said in John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, He will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

Our body is the temple of God. As such we must be careful where it goes; be aware of what it does; what it thinks about and how it reacts. The Holy Spirit lives within us. A person is in us. How can that be? We are not sure. It is a mystery. See how clearly the Bible bears this truth.

In John 14:15-17 Jesus makes the promise:

“If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.”

The result: The Holy Spirit is with us wherever we go and whatever we do. His power is available when we need it. The Scriptures are full of references to the Spirit and power.

As we read in Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will be energized with “explosive power.” It is said that the energy of the Holy Spirit will transform our lives in the same way that dynamite is used to blast open a mountain.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just to make us feel good – when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, our lives should bear the invisible imprint of Jesus.

With the Spirit indwelling us, every word, every thought, and every deed are in His view. The Holy Spirit knows us. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses. He knows our sinful acts and our holy deeds. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to build us up in the body of Christ to the glory of God. His purpose is to equip or enable us to be witnesses of Christ in the world. We are empowered by God's Spirit so that, when we interact with others, Christ is made known both by what we say and how we live our lives.

The Spirit regenerates; indwells; anoints; baptizes; empowers; sanctifies; comforts; gives joy; gives discernment; bears fruit and gives gifts.

Everyone of us, no matter who we are will bear an **Invisible Imprint**. An imprint of good or evil – the imprint of God or of Satan. Because our lives are not our own and the Holy Spirit dwells within us, people should see the imprint of God upon our lives. God empowers our relationships by His presence in our lives, so that our family, friends and acquaintances might see Jesus in us.

What imprint will others see upon your life? How will you affect those you come in contact with each day?

Every human being is a miracle. The mathematical odds that you would be born who you are through your parents is incredible. As your parents' child, you bear their resemblance. No two individuals are exactly alike and yet you can find family resemblances in each of us.

Likewise our lives can take on the imprint or family resemblance of our Father in heaven and ***John 1:12 tells us – that we can become children of God and as His children our lives should then be marked by His presence.***

What if you imprint on the wrong thing or the wrong person? What if you bear a family resemblance to God's enemy – Satan.

Jesus tells the Pharisees in John 8:44 that they belonged to their father the devil. Jesus plainly stated that how these religious men were living bore the mark of Satan.

There is no such thing as a morally neutral human being. You can neither coast through life free from moral choice, nor can you put your life in park and just remain where you are. Life is continually moving and you will respond to the situations and people that intersect your life – for good or evil.

Our body – yours and mine – will express the presence of the spirit being which dominates our mind. Our world is dominated by evil – sin is everywhere. Therefore, if we as believers are going to bear God's resemblance – if His invisible imprint is going to make our life, then we have to let His Spirit dominate our thinking.

His Spirit is going to have to empower us to turn off our TV's to meditate upon His Word. His Spirit will have to quicken us to get up early for time to pray. Unless we choose to respond to the impulses of the Spirit – to intentionally make room for God within our daily lives, Satan will find opportunities to crowd God out of our life and His imprint upon us.

What imprint are we likely to bear if we have no time for God?

Have you ever visited a person and, upon leaving, find that you are now feeling down-hearted and not joyful as you were when you first entered?

We can be affected by others – even unaware of the invisible imprint they have on our lives.

Take for example – an angry person – they can intimidate us.

Or a person who is overly sensitive – you have to walk on egg shells – they can motivate through guilt.

Or someone who is envious or jealous – not much fun to be around.

Or someone who is critical or over-bearing – they have an opinion about everything and of course they are always right.

Or how about the pessimist – it seems to rain everywhere they go – the light at the end of the tunnel is actually a goods train.

How many of these people do you know that are in the church – those who are supposed to be Christians?

Is it possible that you or I have any of these characteristics?

What does God's imprint look like?

If we want to know what God looks like being lived out in a person's life, then all we need to do is look at Jesus. God has given us the perfect example in Jesus; He lived His life within a sinful world and yet He was under the full control of the Spirit of God. No sin could be found in Him.

The fruit of the Spirit describes the invisible imprint that should mark the lives of believers:

Galatians 5:22-25. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Since we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the Spirit.

What kind of person am I? What kind of person are you?

We should all want to reflect Jesus so that people will recognise His imprint on our lives – but we are all still far from perfect this side of heaven.

God wants to empower our relationships – He wants us to bear His invisible imprint. God will give us everything we need to live a life that makes Him known to others.

In 2 Peter 1:3-4 Peter tells us that God has firstly given us everything we need for life and godliness; and He will empower our life and our relationships.

Secondly God has given these things in order that we might participate in the divine nature. We will bear the invisible imprint of Jesus.