**THE DIRECTORATE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**AT A GLANCE**

The Directorate of Christian Education (DCE) is an arm of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Established in 1992, DCE is saddled with the responsibility of nurturing members of the Church with the undiluted Word of God, from the cradle to the point of maturity in Christ. This is currently being accomplished through some of the fundamental agents of Christian Education – Sunday School, House-fellowship, etc.

Sunday School was the first to be established of all the training arms of the mission. It was and still remains a powerful medium of developing manpower for all arms and units in the church. Sunday School was established in 1952 as soon as the church commenced Sunday services. Many members have been drawn into the church through the instrument of the Sunday School department.

In line with the overall vision of the Church, DCE’s primary objective is to raise, grow and mature believers with sound Christian life and culture who will, in turn, disciple others for Christ. This is carried out through teaching and training of man-power. By the grace of God, DCE has over the years, provided the Church with a pool of resource personnel and leaders in various capacities in the mission for kingdom services.

In order to fulfill the divine mandate, DCE has the following units in place:

1. Administration/Secretariat
2. Finance & Marketing
3. Research &Training
4. Languages & Translation
5. Data & Statistics
6. Inspection
7. Rural Education & Evangelism
8. Sunday School Coordinators
9. House-Fellowship Coordinators

DCE has materials and manuals published for the spiritual nourishment and edification of the body of Christ. Many of these publications are also available in other languages (local and foreign). It is our vision to reproduce, in Christ, souls that will be heavenly conscious and earthly relevant.

1. **RIDING ON THE WIND – PART ONE**
2. **RIDING ON THE WIND – PART TWO**
3. **JEHOVAH SHAMMAH**
4. **THE LORD IS OUR PEACE**
5. **SHEPHERD OF OUR SOUL**
6. **THE GREAT PROVIDER**
7. **JEHOVAH ROPHEKA**
8. **THE BANNER OVER US**
9. **NO MORE FILTHINESS**
10. **GODLY COUNSEL**
11. **GOD’S LEADING**
12. **BE YE HOLY – PART 1**
13. **WEEK THIRTEEN - QUARTERLY REVIEW**

# BE YE HOLY – PART 2

1. **PURITY BEFORE POWER**
2. **THE PRICE OF PURITY**
3. **HOSPITALITY**
4. **PROCRASTINATION**
5. **VENGEANCE**
6. **IN HIS PRESENCE - PART ONE**
7. **IN HIS PRESENCE - PART TWO**
8. **THE ANOINTING– PART ONE**
9. **THE ANOINTING– PART TWO**
10. **THE ANOINTING– PART THREE**

# FAITH THAT WORKS

# WEEK TWENTY SIX – QUARTERLY REVIEW

# EVER INCREASING FAITH

1. **KNOWING GOD’S WILL IN MARRIAGE**
2. **CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP**
3. **PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE**
4. **PASTORAL COUNSEL AND ROLES IN MARRIAGE**
5. **THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND HOME**
6. **CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE (PARTNERSHIP)**
7. **MARITAL ABUSE**

# RESTITUTION - PART 1

# RESTITUTION -PART 2

1. **ALL SCRIPTURE**

# DIVINE MISSIONS – PART ONE

1. **WEEK THIRTY-NINE - QUARTERLY REVIEW**
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3. **DIVINE MISSIONS – PART 3**
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5. **SOUL WINNING: AN UNUSUAL STRATEGY**
6. **PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**
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# RAPTURE - PART 1

# RAPTURE – PART 2

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# THE JUDGEMENT

# ETERNAL REWARDS

1. **WEEK FIFTY-TWO - QUARTERLY REVIEW**

PREFACE

The importance of Sunday School as an agency of Christian Education and church growth can never be over emphasised. This is particularly true for the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Ours this time around is a heart of gratitude expressed to the Lord, God Almighty, as we present this special edition of the Sunday School Manual, marking the twentieth anniversary of the Directorate of Christian Education, which coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Our counsel to you now and always is to be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

Are you ready?

Pastor E. A. Adeboye

GENERAL OVERSEER

**LESSON 1 September 4, 2011**

**RIDING ON THE WIND – PART ONE**

**MEMORY VERSE**: "***And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.***

***And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.***" Acts 2:1-2

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Galatians 5:13-26

**INTRODUCTION**

The Holy Spirit will always be associated with the day of Pentecost. Pentecost will always be associated with the wind of God and the sovereign operation of the Holy Spirit. As we begin this series on the Holy Spirit, we shall talk about the wind as symbol of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus' name.

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**OUTLINE**

* 1. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A POWERFUL WIND**
	2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A REVIVING WIND**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A POWERFUL WIND**

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came as a mighty rushing wind - **Acts 2: 1-2.** This should not surprise us since the wind is part of the treasures of God – **Jeremiah 10:13**. In fact, at creation, the Holy Spirit manifested as the very breath of God that turned man from an ordinary lump of clay to a living soul - **Genesis 2:7. The Holy Spirit is sovereign. He does as He pleases - Psalm 115:3 -** just as the wind blows wherever it pleases (John 3:8) which is why God can save whoever He chooses **(Romans 9:14-16.)** Part of what the Holy Spirit can do is to make the impossible possible - **Luke 1:34-37.** For example, He could blow a valley full of dry bones and resurrect a mighty army **- Ezekiel 37:4-10.** Similarly, He can heal any land if God's people would meet the divine requirements **- 2 Chronicles 7:14.** One of these requirements is to pray tirelessly **­(Luke 18:1)** and unceasingly - **1 Thessalonians 5:17**.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A REVIVING WIND**

How can anyone pray without tiring and without ceasing? It is only through the help of the Holy Spirit who keeps supplying the "second wind" to the prayer warrior - **Romans 8:26**. It is, therefore, the Holy Spirit who can help us to pray foundation-­shaking prayers - **Acts 4:31**. The Holy Spirit keeps strengthening and reviving the prayer warrior even in the time of trouble - **Psalm 138:3, 7** ­until victory is won - **Psalm 138:8**.

**CONCLUSION**

When the wind of the Holy Spirit blows, a lump of clay can become a living soul, dry bones can live and a prayer warrior can pray ceaselessly and tirelessly. In short, when the wind of the Holy Spirit blows, the impossible can become possible.

 **QUESTIONS**

1. What was the first work the Holy Spirit did in man?
2. How do we know that the Holy Spirit is sovereign?
3. How can we pray without ceasing?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

 MON: Isaiah 41:16 - Do not worry anymore. The wind shall blow and the threshed

 mountains and hills shall be no more.

 TUE: Psalm 147:18 - God's word will not go unfulfilled. The wind would blow to your credit.

 WED: Jeremiah 22:22 - The wicked will not go unpunished. The wind of the Lord shall uproot them.

 THUR: Isaiah 11: 15 - Your seas of trouble will part as the wind will miraculously blow again.

 FRI: Proverbs 11 :29 - Just as the word is two-edged, so, the wind has dual effects.

Desire the positive one only.

 SAT: Amos 4: 13 - The Lord of hosts, the Creator of the wind shall fight for you.

 SUN: Psalm 135:7 - Release the wind, oh Lord, and send your revival.

**LESSON 2 September 11, 2011**

# RIDING ON THE WIND – PART TWO

**MEMORY VERSE:** “***Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost***.” **Acts 2: 38.**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 11: 9-13.**

**INTRODUCTION**

There are steps to guide us to receiving the Holy Spirit baptism. We also need to know the Baptiser and the evidence of being baptised in the Holy Spirit. These will be our focus in this study.

**OUTLINE**

1. **HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
2. **THE ACTUAL BAPTISM, THE BAPTISER AND THE EVIDENCE**

**HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

 The following steps will guide any sincere candidate for the baptism of the Holy Ghost: -

1. Be born again - **Jn. 3: 3; Acts. 3: 19.**
2. Be desirous and thirsty for the baptism of the Holy Spirit - **Ps. 37: 4; Ps. 42: 1; Isa. 55: 1**
3. Believe that the promise of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for you and all believers - **Acts 2: 33.**
4. Identify the Lord Jesus Christ as the right source of the baptism in the Holy Ghost - **Matt. 3: 11**.
5. Have confidence also in His word, which will never fall to the ground but is forever settled in Heaven - **Jn. 7: 37-39; Ps. 119: 89**.
6. Then ask Him and He will answer, *“For every one that asketh receiveth;..”* - **Lk. 11: 10.**
7. Praise and thank God in advance for your baptism because He is the giver of good gifts - **Jam. 1: 17; I Thess. 5: 18**.

**THE ACTUAL BAPTISM, THE BAPTISER AND THE EVIDENCE**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Baptiser - **Matt. 3: 11**. The process of baptism in the Holy Ghost involves finding time to come before the presence of God, our Maker, in worship, praise, thanksgiving and with a right mind - **Ps. 100: 4, Ps. 66: 18**. The focus of attention at this time should be Jesus, who is the Author and the Finisher of our faith and the rewarder of the faithful and the diligent - **Heb. 12: 1-2, 11: 6**. After asking prayerfully and in faith, the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance, which is evidenced in the speaking of tongues - **Acts. 2:1-4; Acts. 10: 44-46**. This baptism initiates the believer into POWER, the divine ability to do exploits, “greater works than these…” as Jesus prophesied - **Lk. 24: 49; Jn. 14: 12**.

## CONCLUSION

The baptism in the Holy Ghost is for you to make you strong, ride high in God and be perfect as God intends you to be. If you are born again, then, ask for the baptism in the Holy Ghost and the Baptiser will do it now in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

## QUESTIONS

1. List the steps to the baptism of the Holy Ghost?
2. What is involved in the baptism of the Holy Ghost?
3. What is the initial evidence of baptism in the Holy Ghost?

### BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mon**: Jn. 1:. 25**- The Holy Spirit can be received by impartation.

Tues: **Num. 24: 2**- In the days of old, the Holy Spirit periodically came upon the prophets as the need arose. Thank God for the dispensation of grace that makes the Holy Spirit resident in the new man.

Wed: **Jn. 3:10** – Management becomes easy when it is quickened by the Holy Spirit.

Thurs: **Judg. 14: 6**- The man of God does exploit by the Spirit of God.

Fri: **I Sam. 10: 10** – Any ordinary fellow becomes extra-ordinary only by the Holy Spirit.

Sat: **I Sam. 16: 13-14** – The departure of the Spirit of God from man may create a room for evil spirits.

Sun. **Acts. 19: 2-7** – God is no respecter of persons. You too can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit if hands are laid on you.

**LESSON 3 September 18, 2011**

**JEHOVAH SHAMMAH**

**MEMORY VERSE: “…*and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there***.” **Ezekiel 48:35b.**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 28:10-19**

**INTRODUCTION**

‘Jehovah’ simply means the Self Existent Eternal One. Thus far in the human history, God has manifested His glory and almightiness at different times, using such occasions to bring about new revelations of Himself and His Name to mankind. The Revelation of Jehovah is inexhaustible. May the Holy Spirit, through the medium of this teaching, bring us to the realm of supernatural understanding of Jehovah and, in the process, bless us mightily in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

1. JEHOVAH SHAMMAH
2. LET US BE WARNED

**JEHOVAH SHAMMAH**

Jehovah Shammah simply means, *"The Lord is there" -* **Ezekiel 48:35b**. The assurance of the presence of the Lord dates back to the days of biblical Patriarchs of old, especially in their life's pilgrimage and it is still remarkably true today in the lives of heaven- bound pilgrims. Examples include Jacob - **Genesis 28:15, Genesis 31:3**, Moses - **Exodus 3:12**, Israel -**Exodus 29:45**, Christians - Matthew 28:18-20. Furthermore, God’s presence affords unparalleled rest -**Exodus 33:14**, courage when the battles of life are raging –**Deut. 20:1** and comfort in various trials of life -**Isaiah 43:1-5**. This assurance of divine presence is not limited to a large gathering of people only but extended to the smaller groups of two or three people as well - **Matthew 18:20**. It is a promise of a lifetime - **Matthew 28: 20**.

**LET US BE WARNED**

God is love and His presence will express His love in all its ramifications especially to His children - **1 John 4:8, 1 Jn. 3:1-3, Heb.12:6-11**. He is the Consuming Fire too -**Heb.12:29**. This was the reason the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into fire were slain by the fire while these' innocent three Hebrew men were spared instead - **Daniel 3: 19-26**.

**CONCLUSION**

Now that we know that Jehovah Shammah is the Lord that is always there for us, we will not be doing too much if we give Him all the true worship He deserves today and then tell Him the desires of our hearts - **Phil. 4: 6**.

**Questions**

1. Give the biblical meaning of Jehovah Shammah.

2. Give biblical proofs of God as Jehovah Shammah.

3. Give at least one example to illustrate Jehovah Shammah as a Consuming Fire.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: II Corinthians12:7-9 - The presence of the Lord today in our lives will grant us supernatural strength.

 TUES: Psalm 40:1-5 - The presence of the Most High God today will not only elevate us to our rightful position in Christ but also put a new song in our mouths.

 WED: Exodus15: 3-5 - Are you fighting any battle? Be assured, you are on the winning side already as long as you remain on the Lord's side.

THURS: Exodus15:6. Psalm 37:23-24 - Let us confidently trust and rest on the glorious right hand of the power of the Almighty. He will not disappoint you.

 FRI: Exodus15:7-8 - Prophesy GREATNESS into your life today even as you

 host His Excellency in greatness. I

 SAT: Psalm 139:13-14 - Christians have a duty of a lifetime to sincerely praise our God.

 SUN: Romans 9:14-18 - Jehovah Shammah in His sovereignty is willing to demonstrate His mercy to us today. Let us call on Him for mercy.

**LESSON 4 September 25, 2011**

**THE LORD IS OUR PEACE**

**MEMORY VERSE: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;” Ephesians 2: 14.**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 6: 12-24**

**INTRODUCTION**

The peace of God is incomprehensible but capable of keeping our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. The Lord in His sovereignty gives peace to His people. Today, we will be looking at God as Jehovah Shalom, the Lord our peace. May the Holy Spirit continue to teach us as usual and help us to be doers of the word in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

 1. JEHOVAH SHALOM

 2. NO PEACE FOR THE WICKED.

**JEHOVAH SHALOM**

Jehovah Shalom means *'The Lord our Peace" -* **Judges 6:24**. This is the divine manifestation we need in our Christian pilgrimage when there seems to be fear and confusion- **Genesis 43:23a**, stiff oppositions, hatred, doubts and the like - **I Samuel 25:6,35, Luke 24:36, John 20:20-21**. This divine identity proclaims God's presence in any home where His children are and when they are operating under delegated divine authority, it becomes the anointed language of every true ambassador of Christ with which to greet on the field of personal evangelism- **Luke 10: 5**.

Again, this Is one of the ways Jehovah God finds expression in the lives of the truly born again Christians- **1 Peter 5:14**, a legacy left with the disciples of Christ -**Isaiah 26:3, John 14: 27.**

**NO PEACE FOR THE WICKED**

Who is the wicked? He is the unfaithful one, full of evil plots, lies, flatteries, bitter word, mischief and all forms of iniquities - **Psalm 37:12, Psalm 52:3, Psalm 64:3, Proverbs 14:6, Isaiah 1 :4**. The wicked or the carnally minded is, therefore, never a candidate for peace - **Isaiah 57:19-21, Romans 8:6, Galatians 6:16**. He is instead exclusively reserved for destruction - **Ezekiel 7: 25, Ezekiel 13: 10**.

**CONCLUSION**

Let us give allowance to the peace that our Lord and Redeemer has left for us, being obvious of the danger in doing otherwise. Remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace -**Isaiah 9:6**.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who is Jehovah Shalom?

2. Give at least two Biblical references on Jehovah Shalom.

3. Peace is only reserved for the righteous. What is the lot of the wicked?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: Psalm 29:11: The Lord in His sovereignty gives peace to His people. May we remain His people.

TUE: Psalm 119: 165: There is an antidote to offence and that is great peace derived from God's word.

 WED: Philippians 4: 7: The peace of God is incomprehensible but capable of keeping our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

 THUR: Acts 1 0:36:The only message of God through Jesus Christ to the world is peace. Has the message located you?

 FRI: Romans 5: 1: The only condition for lasting peace is a justified life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

 SAT: Proverbs 1 0: 27: It is very dangerous to be wicked.

 SUN: Ecclessiastes1 0: 8: Remember there is a snare on the way of the wicked. Do not be one.

**LESSON 5 October 2, 2011**

**SHEPHERD OF OUR SOUL**

**MEMORY VERSE: “The** LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.” **Psalm 23:1**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: John 10:1-16**

**INTRODUCTION**

The shepherd guides, leads, supplies, protects and cares for his sheep. The Lord God Almighty is the Shepherd of our soul. In our study today, we will see attributes in Him to confirm this. As we do so, may the Holy Spirit continue to reveal more truths to us in Jesus' name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

1. JEHOVAH ROHI

2. BEWARE OF HIRELINGS

**JEHOVAH ROHI**

Jehovah Rohi simply refers to the *Lord our Shepherd.* Jesus is His name - **Psalm 23:1, John 10:11, 14**. The Shepherd, ordinarily, is a keeper of sheep. This divine attribute places on him divine responsibilities for spiritual leadership, guidance, teaching, restoration, supply of superabundance, protection and fullness over the sheep - **John 10:4, Psalm 23:2-3, Joel 2:24, Psalm 25:9, John 10:10, Philippians 4:19.** The good Shepherd builds a supernatural confidence in the sheep, which assures them of good and victorious life now and in the future despite some obviously negative situations around - **Psalm 23: 5**. In His sovereignty, He gives assurance of His mercy and goodness - **Psalm 23:6, Ps. 34:8**. He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith, disciples effectively and an appreciative Chief Shepherd as well - **John 10:9, Hebrews 12:1-2, John 10:15, Psalm 23: 2**.

**BEWARE OF HIRELINGS**

Unlike the good Shepherd, the hireling can be compared to the false shepherd. He works for wages only and by contract. He does not care for the welfare of the sheep at all - **John 10: 12-13**.

The hireling is not a man of vision. He is ignorant and without understanding - **Isaiah 56:10-12**. Hirelings always scatter the flock of God and lead them astray. They prey upon the flock of God instead of feeding them regularly - **Ezekiel 34:2-3**. They are very selfish and therefore not ready to risk their lives for the sheep/flock - **Acts 20:29.** The sheep do not know their voice and therefore can neither identify nor follow them - **John 10:5-6**. They might manifest their traits by perverting the teaching ministry - **Matthew 5:19, 15:9, I Tim.1: 7, 2 Tim. 4:3**.

**CONCLUSION**

The Lord our good Shepherd is always willing to carry out His numerous duties in the lives of His sheep. Decide to be His sheep today and enjoy numerous privileges. Prayerfully identify the hireling but dissociate yourself from them.

**QUESTIONS**

1.Who is Jehovah Rohi?

2. Mention at least two characteristics of Jehovah Rohi.

3. Why should Christians beware of the hirelings?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: Isaiah 56:10-12 Beware of watchmen that *are* blind.

TUE: John 10:34 - Ye are gods.

WED: I Peter 2:25: Jehovah Rohi will receive you back home no matter how far away you wandered.

THU: Jude 24-25: Remember our Good Shepherd can guide you from stumbling. Let Him lead you today.

FRI: Romans 16:17-18: Beware of those who cause divisions. They may be hirelings serving their own bellies only.

SAT: 2 Corinthians 11:14-15: Remember, Satan may come as an angel of light, therefore keep your spiritual eyes open.

SUN: - John 16: 13: It takes a Holy Ghost filled life to discern the spirit of error. Get filled today.

**LESSON 6 October 9, 2011**

**THE GREAT PROVIDER**

**MEMORY VERSE: “ Behold** the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” **Matthew 6:26.**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 22:8-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

Provision is from the Lord. God is our Great provider. As we study this attribute of the Almighty today, may The Holy Spirit reveal more of Jehovah to us today in our study in Jesus Name. Amen.

**OUTLINE:**

1. JEHOVAH JIREH.

2. FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS

JEHOVAH JIREH.

Jehovah Jireh simply means the *Lord will provide -* **Genesis 22: 8,14**. God in His providence will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. - **Phil.4:19**. He did so to Israel while in the wilderness of confusion and despair - **Deut. 2: 7**, Elijah despite a devastating famine in the land -**I Kings17: 6, 16**, the hopeless widow in debt -**2 Kings 4:6** and the faithful followers of Jesus who needed to be fed after some days of stay with Him - **Matthew 14: 20**.

When God decides to supply our needs, it can turn out to be an overflowing experience - Psalm 23: 5, a treasure of goodness - **Psalm 31: 19**, spiritual feast -Matthew 22:4, a glorious and an everlasting inheritance – **Matt.25:34**.

**FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS**

Jehovah Jireh in His Sovereignty is willing to bless all genuine Christians provided some conditions are fulfilled. They should be willing to give their substance to God - **Exodus 25:2, Luke 6: 38**. The giving that will be honored, acceptable and rewarded by God should be with all simplicity, given cheerfully, regularly and proportional to our blessings - **Romans 12: 8; Matthew 6:3; Matthew 10: 8; I Cor.16: 2; 2 Cor.9: 7, Deuteronomy 16: 17.** A major condition to be fulfilled also is regular payments of tithes before the opened-heaven experience promised by Jehovah Jireh is achieved - **Malachi 3: 8-12**.

**CONCLUSION**

It is clear from our study that God is not happy to see His children lack anything good. We must ensure however that the conditions are fulfilled.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who is Jehovah Jireh? Support with a Bible reference at least.

2. Give at least three conditions for our physical blessings.

3. Recite Luke 6: 38.

 **BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: I Chronicles 29:9: The motive behind our giving and our attitude in giving as well matters much.

 TUE Ezra 8: 28: Let us constantly give freely and willingly our substance unto the Lord.

 WED: Proverbs 3: 9:The first fruit of our promotion belongs to God. Always remember that to obey is better than sacrifice.

 THUR: Acts 11: 29: You can choose to be your brother's keeper by sending today, a relief.

 FRI: Isaiah 58: 1 0: Giving to God may be in the form of giving to the poor, hungry and in short, the needy. Start today.

 SAT: Proverbs 11: 25:There is no other short cut to your financial enlargement than to be liberal.

 SUN: 2 Corinthians 8:9-11: Our spiritual worship is not complete if we fail to drop our offering and regularly sow into the lives of the Godly ministers too.

**LESSON 7 October 16, 2011**

**JEHOVAH ROPHEKA**

**MEMORY VERSE:** " And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.”Exodus 15:26

**BIBLE PASSAGES: Isaiah 53:1-5**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Lord God Almighty will not allow diseases to come upon His children. He is the Lord our healer. In our study today, we want to see His promises for our healing and His methods. May the Holy Spirit continue to explain more of our God to us in Jesus' name. Amen.

**OUT LINE**

1. **JEHOVAH ROPHEKA**
2. **HIS METHODS**

**JEHOVAH ROPHEKA**

The Almighty God revealed Himself as God that heals us, that is to say, He is ‘Jehovah Ropheka’. He will not allow any terrible disease to come upon His children - **Psalms 103:3, Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 7:15.** Jesus, our Redeemer bore all our diseases and carried our sorrow - **Matthew 8:15-17** - and by His stripes we were healed - **I Peter 2:24**. Little wonder then that He said healing is the children's bread - **Matthew 15:22-28**. Sin brought curses, shame and sicknesses but the Lord Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law so that all the blessings of God might become those of His children - **Galatians 3: 13** - including total health - **3 John 2.** Our healing and health became paramount in the heart of Jehovah Ropheka that He anointed Jesus, His only begotten Son and our Saviour, primarily for that purpose – **Acts 10:38**. Many times, He has employed the services of His Word through His anointed vessels or directly when it is inspired by the Holy Spirit in the heart of the recipient, to bring healing and health to the people - **Psalm 107:20, Proverbs 4:20-22.** Examples abound in the word of God - **2 Kings 5:10, John 4:46-51, Matthew 8:3, Mark 5:25-29, Luke 13:11-13, John 5: 5-9.**

**HIS METHODS**

Various methods and approaches are engaged in the word of God for the healing of God's children and are always available to contemporary Christians today. Individuals can pray and obtain *their* healing and health - **John 14:13-14**. Two or a group of believers can pray *in* perfect agreement a prayer of faith for the sick and they will be *healed -* **Matthew 18:19-20**. Another method could be through the laying of hands on the sick and the sick will recover- **Acts 9:17-18, Acts 28: 8.** Healing and health can be obtained through the ministry of the Elders in the church who anoint the sick with oil and pray the prayer of faith - **James 5: 14-15, Mark 6:12-13**.

**CONCLUSION**

Today as we have been given fresh assurance of divine healing and health, let us take every available advantage of His promises, anointing and victory through prevailing prayers. Remember, healing and health are the children's bread.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the revealed name of God in Exodus 15:26?

2. Summarize the story in Matthew 15: 22-28.

3. Mention at least three (3) approaches to divine healing.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: Jeremiah 30:17: Do not write off yourself. That sickness is not unto death. You shall live in Jesus’ name.

TUE: Exodus 8: 11: Whatever may be happening around us, be it outbreaks of disease or sicknesses, they will not come near us.

WED: Psalm 91: 7: Relax, God is in control.

THUR: Isaiah 38: 19: Only the living shall praise the Lord.

FRI: Psalm 118: 17: We are saved to declare the works of God and His glory.

SAT: Psalm 91: 16: God’s promise is long life for His own. Let us, therefore, reject any contrary opinion.

SUN: I Peter 3: 10: Long life is a divine blessing but crucify any sinful nature or carnality

**LESSON 8 October 23, 2011**

**THE BANNER OVER US**

**MEMORY VERSE: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 17:8-16**

**INTRODUCTION**

Our God is a man of war, Jehovah Nissi. He is our banner. He has been fighting our battles for us without losing any. In our study today, we will be introduced to the Jehovah Nissi and our weapons of warfare.

**OUTLINE**

**1. JEHOVAH NISSI**

**2. WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE**

**JEHOVAH NISSI**

Jehovah Nissi refers to the ‘*Lord our Banner’-* **Exo.17:14-16***,* which implies that God is a man of war. Banners are symbols of freedom and victories in warfare. Little wonder then that Christians, therefore, are automatically warriors too - **Ephesians 6:10-12, 2 Tim. 2:3; I Tim. 1:18, 6:12**. We do not fight against flesh and blood but against demons on very destructive assignments -**Ephesians 6:12**. From time immemorial, Jehovah Nissi has been fighting our battles and has not lost any -**Exodus 23:27, I Samuel 17:1-58**. He has assured us as Christians of victory over spiritual forces, afflictions, the world and the lusts therein - **Luke 10:19, Romans 8: 35-37, I John 5: 4**.

**WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE**

Our weapons of warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God for exploits - **2 Cor. 10:4.** They are described as the whole armoury of God -**Ephesians 6:13-18,** a comprehensive armoury containing the following; girdle of truth, breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, *the* sword of the spirit, all prayers, the blood of Jesus –**2 Cor.6:7, I Thessalonians 5:8, Rev.12:11, Hebrews 4:12**. Others could include supernaturally assigned angels -**Psalm 34:7**, wall of fire- **Zechariah 2: 5**. The list is inexhaustible because God can decide to use any new method depending on the occasion and the particular need -**Exodus 14:20, 2 Kings 6:17**.

**CONCLUSION**

It is not an accident that Christians are soldiers. It is simply a matter of being true children of the Father who indeed is a warrior. Cast out fear but engage your weapons of warfare and victory is certain to come your way.

**QUESTION**

1. How could you describe Jehovah Nissi? . ,

2. Mention some of our weapons of warfare.

3. Quote 2 Corinthians 10: 4.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: 2 Chronicles 20:29 - The only way to overcome the enemy is to totally submit to Jehovah Nissi.

TUE: 2 Chronicles 32:8 - Regularly be on the Lord's side and obtain help in the days of trouble

WED: Isaiah 31 :5 - May the Lord's hand remain our defense.

THUR: Psalm 18:2 -A mighty fortress is our God. Trust Him today.

FRI: Psalm 17:8 - Where else shall we run but to make the Lord our hiding place.

SAT: Proverb14:26 - Jehovah Nissi remains our refuge. Therefore in Him only we have confidence.

SUN: Revelations 2:26 -Let us contend earnestly because we shall overcome and be rewarded at last.

**LESSON 9 October 30, 2011**

**NO MORE FILTHINESS**

**MEMORY VERSE: "** In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” **Jeremiah 23:6**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Jeremiah 23: 5-8**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Chief Shepherd, has been anointed with the oil of gladness above his fellows, having righteousness and faithfulness as the girdles of His loins and reins. Our study today will focus on this attribute of the Almighty.

**OUTLINE**

**I. JEH0VAH TSIDKENU**

**2. LIKE JESUS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**JEH0VAH TSIDKENU**

Jehovah Tsidkenu means *The Lord our Righteousness-* **Jeremiah 23:6**. In His wisdom and sovereignty, He condemned the unfaithfulness, disobedience and neglect of duty of the leadership of Israel. His righteousness shall be revealed in a new order of dominion, prosperity and justice in the house of David, where Israel will dwell in safety and equally enjoy total salvation of God - **Jeremiah 23:2-5**. This is why the Lord Jesus Christ himself, who is the Chief Shepherd - **1 Peter 5:4** - has been anointed with the oil of gladness above his fellows - **Psalm 45:7,** having righteousness and faithfulness as the girdles of His loins and reins - **Isaiah 11: 5.** He lives forever interceding for the saints - **Hebrews 7:25, Isaiah 53:12; Isaiah 59:16**. At the second coming, His righteousness will judge and destroy completely every opposing kingdom to his godly reign - **Revelation 19:11**.

**LIKE JESUS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Our new life has earned us righteousness by grace through faith in Christ alone - Romans 10:9-11; Ephesians 2:9. His righteousness in us is the same word in our hearts and mouths - **Rom.10:8; Deut.6:6; Col.3:16**, mighty in influence, building faith that destroys every doubt - **Rom.10:17,** devouring every spiritual chaff - **Jer.5:14,** and crushing every stumbling block on the pilgrim's way - **Jeremiah 23:29**. It is absolutely defensive in nature - **Eph.6: 14,17** and probing into defaulted aspect of our Christian life -**Heb.4:12**, thus ensuring cleanliness in all spheres of our life - **John 15:3; 17:17**. It is also profitable for instruction in righteousness - **Deut. 4:10; 11:19** - but dangerous to scoffers and the ignorant - **Mt.22:29; Jn.20:9; 2Pet.3:3-5**. Hence, the need for us as Christians to sow nothing more but righteousness to be able to experience more rains of righteousness - **Hos.10:12** - and even make it our waking and sleeping thought -  **1 Cor. 15: 34**.

**CONCLUSION**

It is our prayer today that you become born again and become the righteousness of God in Christ - 2 Cor.5:21- to enable you enjoy other benefits too. Pray through today.

**QUESTION**S

1. What do you understand by Jehovah Tsidkenu?

2. What was the urgent need of the Nation of Israel at the time this name was revealed?

3. What was the message in 2 Cor.5:21?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: Psalm 48:10 - Your life story may change today if you will allow God to lay His right hand of righteousness on you.

TUE: Psalm 119:137 - God is forever righteous and upright. Therefore surrender to His verdicts for your life.

WED: Matthew 5:20 - Ensure that your righteousness is of Christ only because other forms of it may be gimmicks of the devil.

THU: Philippians 1: 11 - Fruits of righteousness will certainly glorify God only.

FRI: Proverbs 14:34 - Let us pray that righteousness will reign in our nation and equally witness Jesus, the Author and Finisher

of faith to someone today.

SAT: Titus 2: 12 - It is possible by the grace of God to live a godly life. So don't deny yourself of your benefit in Christ.

SUN: I Timothy 6:6-11 - God has a pattern for righteousness. Let us follow it.

# LESSON 10 November 6, 2011

**GODLY COUNSEL**

**MEMORY VERSE: “**He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.” **2 CHRONICLES 22: 3**

**BIBLE PASSAGE – Job 2: 9 - 10**

**INTRODUCTION**

People say a lot of things around us and some of the talks could be careless or foolish. They could come as casual talks or counsel. The talks could come from casual friends or even very close relations - **2 Chr. 22: 3.** The wife of Job gave birth to ten children and was married for several years. Consider her counsel and her husband’s response. Consider how people who are close could give counsels that would affect lives positively or otherwise - 2 **Chr. 10: 10 – 11.**

**OUTLINE**

**1. NO EXCUSE**

**2. EXAMPLES OF FOOLISH COUNSELS**

**3. OUR REACTION**

 **NO EXCUSE**

Note the word “Then” that starts verse 9 of our Bible passage. Remember that Job had lost all and was not in the best position humanly speaking, ‘Then………………’

Wealth was gone, children (sons and daughters) were dead and Job was afflicted with boils. What else was left?

* Why did his wife give her comments?
* Did Job have any reason against God?
* Discuss conditions under which people give foolish counsels. Can there be reasons to justify them?
	+ - What is the implication of Job’s response?
1. **EXAMPLES OF FOOLISH COUNSELS**

It is not good to always think that it is all over. It could mean that our trust and hope in God is over. Consider the result of the spies in **Num. 13: 30 – 14: 1-2.** Consider **Ex. 14: 11-12** and **Num. 20: 4-5**. Note the result in **Num. 26: 65.**

Some examples of foolish counsel in the Bible:

* + To sin – **2 Sam. 13: 5.**
	+ For popularity – **2 Sam. 16: 21.**
	+ Vengeance – **1 Sam 24: 4; Est. 5: 14.**
	+ Envy – **Est. 3: 9; Dan 6: 8.**
	+ Add to the list
	+ Give some examples of today’s foolish talk, “Is death not better …… “
1. **OUR REACTION**

Our reaction should be to count our blessings, name them one by one and appreciate God in all situations - **1 Thess. 5: 18.** Think of God’s mercies that cannot be seen but with eternal values - **2 Cor. 4: 15-18.** Examples:

* Salvation which is by grace – **Eph. 2:5**
* Provisions in Christ Jesus - **Eph. 1: 3**
* His promise to take you home to be with Him forever - **Jn. 14: 1-3**
* The unseen battles that He fights

Add to this list.

**CONCLUSION**

The devil can use our flesh, friends or even people close to us with foolish talks. The devil can drive us into foolish conclusions and even foolish actions. You must remember that your Redeemer lives - **Job 19: 25 -**  and that weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning- **Ps. 30: 5.**

**QUESTIONS**

1. What kind of people will influence your lives with their opinions or counsels?
2. Give some examples of wrong counsels.
3. What should be our reactions when things seem not to be working well?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Psa. 1: 1 -** A way out of wrong counsel is to avoid listening to any of it.

**TUE: 1 Sam. 24: 4 -** Refuse to be persuaded by evil counsels.

**WED: 2 Sam. 13: 5 -** Beware of your friends because of their counsels.

**THUR: Esther 5: 4 -** Beware of gallows counsel so that you don't become a victim.

**FRI: 1 Kg. 12: 28 –** Do not accept any counsel to serve just any god.

**SAT: Dan. 6: 8 -** No weapon formed against you shall prosper.

**SUN: Mk. 6: 24 -** Refuse to give the counsel of John the Baptist's head.

# LESSON 11 November 13, 2011

**GOD'S LEADING**

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Num. 9:15-23.

**INTRODUCTION**

There was perfect leading by God on the journey of the children of Israel. The length of stay in a place and how fast to move was dictated by the Lord. They were led by the Lord as pillar of clouds by day and pillar of fire by night - **Ex. 13: 21**. None of the children of Israel asked any question on the leader­ship of the Lord. If there was any disagreement on leadership, it was not about the pillars of clouds and fire. God is still leading His children today on their journey to Heaven.

**OUTLINE**

1. THE NEED FOR GOD'S LEADING
2. METHODS OF GOD'S LEADING TODAY

**THE NEED FOR GOD'S LEADING**

The Lord led the children of Israel to what they felt was bad so that their enemies would perish in the Red Sea. The pillar was light to Israel but darkness to the Egyp­tians - **Ex. 14:19-20**. Jesus Christ was led by the Spirit of God to be tempted in the wilderness - **Matt. 4: 1**. God's leading will surely make one steadfast, not going astray - **Jn.16:13**. The leading of God is required when judgment is to be pronounced - **I Kings 21:17, 2 Kings 1:3-4**. The leading of God is essential, more so for the way to the kingdom of God which only God knows - **Isa.42:16, Isa.30:21, Exo.13:21-22**. Daily living requires divine leadership - **I Kings. 19: 15: Exo. 3: 10: Gen. 24: 27**. Divine supplies are often guided by God - **I Kings 17: 3-4. John 2:1-6**.

**METHODS OF GOD'S LEADING TODAY**

Children of God are led by the Spirit of God - **Rom. 8: 14** - but the methods of leading are many. The Holy Spirit is given to man to guide into all truths - **John 16: 13: Acts.8:26-28**. God can equally lead in visions. God led Jacob to Egypt- **Gen. 46:2-6.** God led Paul to Macedonia through a vision-**Acts.16: 9-10**. Paul was led to continue in Corinth - **Acts. 18: 9-11**. Peter and Cornelius were connected by the spirit in a vision - **Acts 10: 1-25**. God can equally lead His Children through dreams. In **Matt. 2: 13-15**, Joseph was instructed in a dream to carry Jesus Christ to Egypt for safety.

Another method of God's leading is through His words. The word of God is lamp - **Ps. 119: 105**. The word of God is sure and stands forever - **Isa. 40: 8, Ps. 119: 8-9; Matt. 5: 18, 24: 35**. The word stands as a very good guide. The word of prophecy is another method of God's lead­ing. Agabus prophesied the suffering of Paul - **Acts. 21: 10-14**. It must be noted that holy men of God were led by the Holy Spirit to prophesy - **2 Pet. 4:19-21**. There are other methods of God's leading such as the still - small voice - **I Kings. 19: 12**.

**CONCLUSION**

That there are false leadings today does not erase the fact that God is still in the business of leading His children. He led the children of Israel in the wilderness. He led the early Christians and He is still leading today.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why is God's leading a must for the pilgrims?
2. Mention some of the ways through which God leads His children.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon:** Ps. 23: 2 - He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

**Tue:** Ps. 48: 14- For this God *is* our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide *even* unto death.

**Wed:** Ps. 25: 5a - Lead me in thy truth, and teach me.

**Thur:** Gen. 24: 27b - I *being* in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.

**Fri:** Gen.12: 1 - God always leads aright.

**Sat:** Judges 6: 14 - Go in this thy might.

**Sun:** Deut. 32: 11-12 - God leads us with His great hands.

**LESSON 12 November 20, 2011**

# BE YE HOLY – PART 1

MEMORY VERSE: *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; -* 1 Peter 1:15

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 15:1-5

**INTRODUCTION**

It is the counsel of God for every believer to prosper and to be free from sickness – **3 Jn.2**. God’s storehouse is full of blessings prepared for His children because His thoughts towards us are good and not evil. However, to partake and take abundant benefit of these blessings, He demands that we be holy like Him – **Ps. 84:11.**

## OUTLINE

**1. WHY BELIEVERS MUST BE HOLY**

**2. BENEFITS OF HOLINESS**

**WHY BELIEVERS MUST BE HOLY**

Our God is a holy God and He commands every believer to be perfect in His sight. God desires to use believers as His chosen vessels to reach out to the numerous sinners out there, hence, believers must be holy. Holiness is necessary for a believer to do exploits and do even greater works than Jesus did. Sinners cannot fellowship with a holy God. The believer must be holy in order to be able to see God on the last day – **Eph.1:4; Gen.17:1; 1 Jn.1:3-7; Jn.14:12; 1 Cor.6:13.**

**BENEFITS OF HOLINESS**

A holy believer receives classified information from God. God builds a wall of protection around such a believer. The believer will also have peace with his enemies. He will receive divine provision and long life. Living holy enables every believer to enjoy God’s presence and living ever with God in eternal life - **Amos 3:7; Gen. 18:12-21; Pro.18:10; Pro.16:7; Job 11:10; 1 Kgs.5:1-4; Pro.3:1-2; Pro.4:10; Pro.9:11.**

**CONCLUSION**

The benefits of holiness are inexhaustible since God cannot be separated from His holiness. Living holy must be the yawning of the heart of a true believer, day by day. Do you strive to be holy?

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why must believers be holy?
2. Mention some benefits of holiness.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: Phil.4:19 – Do not worry anymore. The holy God will take care of your daily needs.

TUE: Ps.1:3 – God’s words are yea and amen. He will cause believers to flourish like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

WED: Jer.29:11 – God’s thoughts for His people is to bring every of their expectations to fulfilment.

THURS: Job 1:10- God protects believers from every attack of the wicked. He will protect you too.

FRI: Ps.68:1 – The Lord of hosts will arise and destroy all your enemies and scatter them.

SAT: Is.1:19 – Willingness and obedience on the part of people bring goodness their way.

SUN: Is.1:18 – God’s invitation to sinners is on daily basis.

 **Week 13 November 27, 2011**

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**YOUR PRIVILEGE:**

* **TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY**
* **TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINES**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
* **ETC**

**LESSON 14 December 4, 2011**

# BE YE HOLY – PART 2

**MEMORY VERSE:- *…I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.* Genesis 17:1b**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 24:3-10**

**INTRODUCTION**

In our last lesson, we considered why believers must be holy and some benefits of holiness. Today, we shall look further into the benefits of holiness and why God does not condone unholy living.

## OUTLINE

**1. OTHER BENEFITS OF HOLINESS**

**2. WHY GOD DOES NOT CONDONE UNHOLY LIVING**

**OTHER BENEFITS OF HOLINESS**

There are many rewards attached to holiness. One of them is answered prayers – **Lk.1:13; Ps.34:15-17.** The tomorrow of a righteous person is determined by God – **Is. 3:10: Jer.29:11.** A man that fears and obeys God will enjoy divine health – **Ex.15:26**. He also enjoys supernatural provisions from the El-Shaddai God – **Ps.92:12**. The cup of a holy child will always overflow and as well enjoy overtaking blessings – **Ps.23:5; Dt.28:1-2**. Lastly, he that loves to do that which is right in God’s presence will be victorious, promoted and endowed with supernatural anointing **– Dt.28:7; Heb.1:9**.

**WHY GOD DOES NOT CONDONE UNHOLY LIVING**

If two do not agree, they cannot walk together. God cannot condone sin because everything about Him is holy and hence Christians are commanded to be perfect in holiness, body, soul and spirit. Our glorious God lives in holiness. His throne is holy. The angels around are holy and holiness is their song. In fact, He also lives in a holy city.

 **Rom.6:19, 22; 2 Cor.7:1; Eph.4:24; 1 Thess.4:7; Ex.15:11; Ps.47:8; Rev.14:10; Rev.4:8; Rev.22:19.**

**CONCLUSION**

A nation that fears God and lives righteously shall be exalted. Disobeying God’s instructions will lead to divine rejection and eternal condemnation.

**1 Sam.15:22-23; Rev.22:14-15; Pro. 14:34.**

**QUESTIONS**

1. Supply the right answers to the question in Psalm 24:3.
2. What are the other benefits of holiness?
3. Why will God not condone ungodliness?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: **Rev.3:7, Rev.4:8** – God expects us to be holy.

TUE: **Heb.12:10** – God chastises to make holy.

WED**: Jn.17:17** – God uses His words to make us holy.

THURS: **Ps.99:3** – God’s name is holy.

FRI: **Ps.47:8** – God’s throne is holy.

SAT: Is.57:15 – God dwells in holiness.

SUN**: Ps.145:17** – God’s ways are holy.

**LESSON 15 December 11, 2011**

**PURITY BEFORE POWER**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” **Hebrews 1:9**

**BIBLE PASSAGE**: **2 Timothy 2:15-22**

**INTRODUCTION** It is a popular saying that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. This is why power can be a dangerous thing if it is in wrong hands. This why the All Powerful God is at the same time the thrice holy God - **Isa.6:1-3.** The Omnipotent God is at the same time the one whose name is Love and Light. It is only reasonable that purity should precede power.

**OUTLINE**

**1. WHY PURITY MUST PRECEDE POWER**

**2. HEAVEN IS THE GOAL**

**WHY PURITY MUST PRECEDE POWER**

Everyone wants power of one kind or the other. There is a natural joy common to man in being the number one, the head or the one in control. God wishes His children to be powerful. He wishes them to be the head and not the tail, to be the first and not the last. In fact, to be above always – **Deut.28:13**. This may be why God is very strict about the purity of His children. Wanting them to be powerful, He at the same time insists that they must be holy and perfectly so – **Mt.5:48**. He even said that the precondition for obtaining power is total obedience to His will – **Deut.28:2**. This is probably because the more powerful a Christian is, the more severe will be the attacks from forces of darkness on him or her. It will, therefore, require the purity as of light to constantly frustrate the enemy – **Jn.1:5**. A good example of how a powerful child of God will face severe attacks for no other reason than being number one is found in the case of Daniel – **Dan.6:1-4**. Hence, to be a vessel unto honour, a Christian must purify himself – **2 Tim.2:20-21.** In any case, power of the divine type is a holy thing and holy things are not for dogs – **Mt.7:6**.

**HEAVEN IS THE GOAL**

The goal of every Christian should be making it to Heaven at last. It will be unfortunate to have used divine powers to heal, deliver and bless others and still fail to make it to Heaven. Hence, purity is crucial at all cost – **1 Cor.9:24-27**. The Lord Jesus Christ warned of the possibility of a miracle worker being excluded from Heaven because of lack of holiness – **Mt.7:22-23**. The Bible did not say, “Without power no man shall see God” but “Without holiness no man shall see God” (**Hebs.12:14**.)

**CONCLUSION**

Power can be sweet and dangerous in the wrong hands but it can be sweet and useful in the right hands. In the hands of pure, holy, compassionate, Christ-like children of God, power can be very useful. If you desire power, do not forget your ultimate goal, which is Heaven.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In what ways can power be dangerous?

2. Why do you think God insists that His children must be pure?

3. How can power prevent a child of God from reaching Heaven?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Mon. **Jer.15:19-21** – Remain pure and God will always defend you.

Tues. **Lev.10:8-10** - Put a difference between holy and unholy things.

Weds. **Mt. 7:21** - It is the will of God to be pure.

Thurs. **Acts 9:18-23** – God will purify you before using you.

Fri. **Mt.7:22 –** You risk being excluded from Heaven if you are not holy.

Sat. **Mt.7:6 –** Do not be a dog. Be pure.

Sun. **Mt.5:48 –** Like Father, like son. Be holy as your Father is holy**.**

**LESSON 16 December 18, 2011**

**THE PRICE OF PURITY**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” **Matthew 5:6**

**BIBLE PASSAGE**: **Genesis 39:1-14**

**INTRODUCTION** It is a common practice in marketing to place prices on articles for sale. The value of an article determines its price. Purity is of eternal value and, therefore, must be priced accordingly. May the Holy Spirit teach and bless us as we examine this important aspect of the Christian life.

**OUTLINE**

**1. WHAT IS PURITY?**

**2. THE PRICE OF PURITY ILLUSTRATED**

**3. AFTER THE CROSS IS THE CROWN**

**WHAT IS PURITY?**

Purity is absolute cleanliness of body, soul and spirit, expected of anyone who will want to ascend to the hills of the Lord – **Ps.24:3-4**. It is the only condition to see God and dwell where He is – **Matt.5:8**. It is a springboard for charity and other Christian virtues, for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks – **1 Tim.1:5; Mt.12:34b-35a**.

**THE PRICE OF PURITY ILLUSTRATED**

The prosperous, pure, gracious, honoured and favoured Joseph at Potiphar’s house, later paid the price of not yielding to temptation. These include false accusation, ridicule, demotion, dishonour and imprisonment – **Gen.39:7-20**. It is written that whosoever will live a godly life in Jesus Christ cannot but suffer persecution – **2 Tim.3:12**. There can be no crown without a cross. However, the suffering of this present time can never be compared to the glory that is to be revealed – **Rom.8:18**.

**AFTER THE CROSS IS THE CROWN**

The pure are fearless and bold – **Job 11:15; Pro.28:1**. They shall be privileged to rapture with the Lord at His appearance – **Eph.5:27; 2 Pet.3:14.** The pure shall be enthroned with God – **Rev.3:21**. Therefore, the pure are privileged:

a. To eat spiritual food – **Rev.2:7.**

b.To have a new name – **Rev.2:17.**

c.To rule over nations.

d.To be clothed with the robes of righteousness.

e.To inherit all things – **Rev.21:7**.

**CONCLUSION**

Prices should be readily paid for any noble Christian venture. As Christians whose aspiration is to make Heaven, there must be a strong determination never to tarnish the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who paid the greatest price for our redemption with His precious blood, no matter the cost. His grace is our sufficiency – **Phil.4:13**.

**QUESTIONS**

1.What is purity?

2.How does the life of Joseph illustrate the price for purity?

3.What are the benefits of purity?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Mon. **Lev.11:45** – Be holy for God is holy.

Tues. **2 Cor.7:1** - Cleanse yourself of all filthiness.

Weds. **Heb.12:14** – Without holiness, you shall not see God.

Thurs. **1 Pet.1:16** – Remain holy.

Fri. **2 Pet.3:11** - Be of holy conversation.

Sat. **Mt.5:20** – Be righteous to enter Heaven.

Sun. **Hos.10:12** - Sow righteousness.

**LESSON 17 December 25, 2011**

**HOSPITALITY**

M**EMORY VERSE**: “***Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*** ” **1 Peter 4: 9-10**

**BIBLE PASSAGE -** **2 Kings 4: 8-18**

**INTRODUCTION**

Hospitality is the friendly, generous reception and entertainment of guest, visitors, or strangers. To be hospitable is to offer a home away from home to meet needs and offer rest to those in need. Paul urged the Corinthian brethren to shelter and support Epaphroditus, one of the brothers in Christ during his visit to the church in Corinth. **Phil 2: 28-30.** May the Lord help us to make our home/church a happy welcome to guest and visitors in Jesus’ name.

**OUTLINE**

**1. WHY YOU SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE**

**2. CHRIST WAS ENTERTAINED IN VARIOUS HOMES**

**3. EXAMPLES OF HOSPITALITY AND RESULTS**

**WHY YOU SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE**

The first important reason you should be hospitable is because God commands it – **Deut.** **10: 19, Rom. 12: 13; 15: 25-27.** It is a key to miracles – **Gen. 18: 2-14; 2 Kgs. 4: 8-18.** You can entertain angels unknowingly when you are hospitable - **Heb. 13: 2.** Sinners could equally give their lives to Christ when you are hospitable - **Lk. 7: 36-39; 1 Cor. 10: 31; 2 Cor. 9: 1.**

**CHRIST WAS ENTERTAINED IN VARIOUS HOMES**

Several people entertained Jesus Christ at different times and at different locations. Jesus was entertained in the house of Matthew - **Mt. 9: 10.** He was in the house of Simon the leper - **Mk. 14: 3**. Jesus was in the house of a Pharisee who requested for Him to eat with him - **Lk. 7: 36.** Jesus was entertained by Martha and Mary in the house - **Lk 10: 38.** He was also in the house of Zacchaeus – **Lk. 19: 5-7.**

**INSTANCES OF HOSPITALITY**

The following are some instances of hospitality in the Bible

* Abraham’s house - **Gen 18: 4.**
* Lot’s house - **Gen 19: 2.**
* Laban’s house - **Gen 24: 31.**
* Shunammite woman - **2 Kg 4: 8-18.**
* Dorcas - **Acts 9: 36-39.**
* Lydia - **Acts 16: 15.**
* Keeper of prison - **Acts 16: 34.**
* Phebe - **Rom. 16: 1-2.**
* Churches of Macedonia - **2 Cor. 8: 1-4.**

**CONCLUSION**

Hospitality can open doors to our needs and miracles. God wants us to be generous and be a true giver. He is always doing something in return for our gracious hospitality. When we encounter brethren and men of God who can benefit from our support, we should not hesitate to offer hospitality to them. We should not give the excuse of being tired or not having enough to entertain.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why should you be hospitable?
2. Give examples of those who entertained Jesus Christ
3. Mention some instances of hospitality

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Ex. 2: 20** - You should train your children by example in hospitality.

**TUE: Neh. 5: 17 -** Your hospitality should not be limited.

**WED: Job 31: 32 -** No group should be left out in hospitality.

**THUR: Acts 21: 8 -** You must be hospitable even as a man of God.

**FRI: Acts 28: 7 -** Your actions are recorded by both Heaven and man.

**SAT: Acts 28: 2 -** Hospitality should include families and nations.

**SUN: Lk. 14: 1 -** Unexpected eyes are watching your level of hospitality.

**LESSON 18 January 1, 2012**

**PROCRASTINATION**

**MEMORY VERSE: "** Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. " **Proverbs 27: 1**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 9: 59- 62**

**INTRODUCTION**

To procrastinate is to put off a required action until a future time. It means to defer or to postpone. Life is full of decisions and time is often of essence in these decisions. Procrastination is, therefore, a character flaw that affects millions of people in every walk of life. While it is regarded as normal for people to procrastinate, it can become a problem that can hinder normal life functioning. It cuts across all areas of life, from accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to attending to assignments by students and many other areas. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will teach us as we study in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

**1. CAUSES OF PROCRASTINATION**

**2. EFFECTS OF PROCRASTINATION**

**3. SOLUTION TO PROCRASTINATION**

**CAUSES OF PROCRASTINATION**

People procrastinate because of their personal convenience - **Acts 24: 25**. This is a major reason people do not give their lives to God immediately they hear the word. Procrastination happens when people are sluggish and show spiritless attitude to the things of God - **2 Chr. 24: 4-5.** One other cause of procrastination is laziness - **Pro. 26: 13-16; 10: 4.** When people allow worldly entanglement it could lead to procrastination - **Gen. 19: 16; Matt. 19: 22.** Consideration of family pressure at the expense of God's business could lead to procrastination of God's business - **Matt. 8: 21; Lk. 9: 59-62.** Elisha ran after Elijah immediately at the expense of family business - **1 Kings 19: 20-21**. Environmental distraction is another cause of procrastination - **Ecc. 11: 4**. We can add to this list.

**EFFECTS OF PROCRASTINATION**

One of the effects of procrastination is loss of fellowship and opportunities - **Matt. 25: 11-12; Lk. 13: 24-25.** Procrastination could cause one to be caught off guard and be met unprepared - **Matt. 24: 48-51.** We could lose souls if we procrastinate in witnessing - **Jer. 8: 20.**

**SOLUTION TO PROCRASTINATION**

Proper planning and constant reminder is a solution to procrastination - **Lk. 14: 28**. Priorities should be set right - **Ecc. 3: 1; Isa. 56: 12;** **Acts 24: 25**. Self discipline could help against procrastination. This includes the areas of eating, talking, watching TV, movies, use of telephone and other areas of distraction. It is always better to focus on today and not tomorrow - **Matt. 6: 25-31**. Always remember that you are here on earth temporarily and let this guide you in your commitment to the work of God - **Hab. 2: 3; Matt. 24: 48-51**.

**CONCLUSION**

You may procrastinate but time does not. It keeps on moving. Time waits for no man and the lost time can never be regained. Today’s duty that is put off till tomorrow usually gives you a double burden to bear. The best way is to do it at the proper time. Christ will come like a thief in the night. Repent now and do not postpone your salvation. Tomorrow might be too late -**2 Cor. 6:2, Deut. 23:21, Ecc. 5:4, 12:1.**

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the meaning of procrastination?
2. What are some causes of procrastination?
3. Mention some effects of procrastination.
4. What are the solutions to procrastination?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Gen. 19: 16** – Family ties is a major cause of procrastination.

**TUE: Acts 24: 25** – Immediate decisions are necessary for things of God.

**WED: Acts 17: 32** – Death is an appointment and resurrection follows, so, act now.

**THUR: Lk. 9: 61** – Every family bond that separates you from God must be cut today.

**FRI: Ecc. 3: 1** – Time is of essence to opportunities. It may never be regained.

**SAT: 2 Sam. 20: 5** – God has His set time and He cannot be late.

**SUN: Pro. 10: 4** – Do not allow procrastination to slow you down.

# LESSON 19 January 8, 2012

**VENGEANCE**

**MEMORY VERSE - "**See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." **1 Thessalonians 5:15**

**BIBLE PASSAGE -** Romans **12:14-21**

**INTRODUCTION**

Vengeance is seeking to harm someone in return for a perceived offence or injury. God forbids us to avenge ourselves - **Lev. 19: 18**. How do you respond when someone wrongs you or tries to discredit you? Do you rehearse old offences and feel hurt again? It is our prayers that the Lord will teach us how to close the door on past hurts in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

**1. CAUSES OF VENGEANCE**

**2. SOLUTION TO HURTS**

**3. WHY YOU SHOULD NOT AVENGE**

**CAUSES OF VENGEANCE**

One of the causes of vengeance is failure to forgive. People try to take vengeance on past sins not forgiven. The Lord teaches us to forgive - **Matt. 18: 21-22; 6: 14-15**. Jesus Christ commands us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us - **Matt. 5:44.** People go into vengeance when they try to avenge a perceived wrong - **2 Sam. 10:1-5.** Not letting go of the past is another cause of vengeance - **1 Kings 2: 5-9; Mk.6: 24-25**.

**SOLUTION TO HURTS**

God does not want His children to avenge themselves. You must, therefore, never reward evil for good - **Prov. 17:13; 2 Sam. 14: 29-33; Luke 6:31; Rom. 12:20-21.** Learn to leave judgments to God - **Ps. 94; Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30.** God is a better judge. You are limited but God is not - **Acts. 12: 1-23.** Pray for the spirit of forgiveness. Be Christ-like because in spite of all Jesus Christ suffered, He prayed for His persecutors - **Luke 23: 34; Phil 2: 5-8.**

**WHY YOU SHOULD NOT AVENGE**

* It is God’s command - **1 Pet. 3:19; 1 Thess. 5:15; Prov. 20: 22.**
* God’s vengeance could be much more than yours - **2 Sam. 12: 7-14; Rom. 12: 17-21; Prov. 25: 21-22.**
* Your refusal to avenge makes you better than others - **Acts 7: 59-60.**
* Your good can change others - **Rom. 12: 21.**

**CONCLUSION**

As true children of God we should be Christ-like. Jesus never sought revenge even when He was being nailed to the cross. He offered forgiveness. Leave vengeance to God and allow Him to be the only Judge.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is vengeance?
2. What are the causes of vengeance?
3. What are solutions to hurts?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Ex. 22: 24** - God's vengeance can be terrible. Leave vengeance to Him.

**TUE: Lev. 20: 5** – Do not toy with sin because of God's vengeance on sinners.

**WED: Num. 14: 12** - God will avenge you of your enemies.

**THUR: 1 Sam. 2: 25** - The wrath of God will come on disobedience.

**FRI: 2 Kg. 9: 7** - God does not allow anyone to cast insults on His prophet.

**SAT: Pro. 20: 22** - It is God's wisdom to leave vengeance to Him.

**SUN: 1 Cor. 6: 7** - Settling issues in court amongst brethren is not of God.

**LESSON 20 January 15, 2012**

**IN HIS PRESENCE - PART ONE**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:**”** **Matthew 7:7**

**BIBLE PASSAGE**: **Matthew 6:5-15**

**INTRODUCTION** It is a common practice to lock up valuables in special rooms and with special keys. Where to keep these valuables, whether in the outer rooms or in the inner strong rooms, depends on how valuable they are to you. Though there are different keys to these rooms, there is a master key, however, that is available to the master of the house to unlock at will any of the doors to these rooms. Today, we will begin to examine the spiritual master key of the house to unlock doors to answers to petitions of God’s children, that is, prayer.

**OUTLINE**

**1. WHAT IS PRAYER?**

**2. WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?**

**3. WHERE AND WHEN CAN ONE PRAY?**

**WHAT IS PRAYER?**

Prayer, simply put, is the soul of man talking to God. It is worship addressed to God the Father, in the name of God the Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit – **Acts 12:5; Jn.14:13; Eph.6:18; Rom.8:26-27.** Prayer should consist of the following:

1. Adoration i.e. praises and worship of God for what God is e.g. God is good, merciful, kind, powerful, faithful, just etc. When you praise God for what He is rather than what He has done for you, it is true worship - **Ps. 95:6**.
2. Confession and repentance from every known sin - **Ps. 32:5.** Washing in the blood of Christ will follow. If you are already sanctified and you have no sin to confess, wash in the blood all the same. You can never be too clean.
3. Thanksgiving. Be thankful for anything and everything that God has done - **Phil. 4:6.**

(d) Supplication i.e. intercession, requests, petitions and desires can now be addressed to God, in the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit **- I Tim. 2:1**.

**WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?**

God commands us to pray – **Lk.18:1; 1 Thess.5:17; 1 Chro.16:11; Jam.5:13; Ps.50:15.** Jesus prayed and Christian followers of Jesus are expected to pray – **Mk.1:35; Lk.6:12; Lk.3:21**. The early Church prayed, so, churches too should pray – **Acts 4:23-31; Acts 12:5-6; Eph.1:15-20; Col.4:12.** The believers of old prayed too e.g. Moses in **Exodus 15:23-25**; Jesus, **Matt.26:39-42**, David in **Psalm 51:1-2** and Elijah too - **1 Kgs.18:37-39; Jam.5:17-18.**

**WHERE AND WHEN CAN ONE PRAY?**

We can pray everywhere - **I Tim.2:8**, in the closet - **Mt.6:6**, or in the church, - **Lk.18:10**. Private prayer may be made in the secret place. Family prayer will involve a large group and may be made in the sitting room while public prayer may be made before the congregation.

We can pray in the morning - **Ps. 5:3**, at noon and in the evening - **Ps. 55:17**, day and night - **Ps. 88:1**, daily - **Ps. 86:3**, and always **- Lk. 18:1**. It is not only when you are on your knees with your eyes closed that you can pray. You can pray as you drive to work, while at work or while resting. Singing praises to God is also a form of prayer. Pray without ceasing – **1 Thess. 5:17.**

**CONCLUSION**

We have just discovered some fundamental truths about the master key, especially the aspects of when and where to apply it. Let us, therefore, act now and present all our petitions to God in the name of Jesus Christ. It is certain that He will answer accordingly to His perfect will for us.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is prayer?

2. Where can we pray?

3. Why should we pray?

4. When can we pray as believers?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Mon: **Mk. 11:24** - God is ready to answer us when we pray to Him in faith.

Tues: **Jn.15:7** - Requests placed before God will be answered according to the word of God only.

Wed: **I Jn.5:4-15** - The will of God is an essential condition to answered prayers.

Thurs: **Phil. 4:6** - Anxiety is a negative response or reaction to situations. Pray instead of being anxious

Fri: **Heb. 4:6** - The divine promise of eternal rest is obtainable only through faith.

Sat: **Lk.18:1** - Do not be scared by prayers. Though time and energy consuming, the prayer time is always a blessing time after all.

Sun: **Jn.16:24** - The name of Jesus is the needed prerequisite in all our requests to God, for our prayers to be answered.

**LESSON 21 January 22, 2012**

**IN HIS PRESENCE - PART TWO**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” **Philippians 4:6**

**BIBLE PASSAGE**: **Philippians 4:4-9**

**INTRODUCTION** In our last study, considerations were given to the definition of prayer, reasons for praying and where and when to pray. Hopefully, most of us should have cultivated the regular attitude of prayer by now, as we consider other aspects of prayer today. May the Holy Spirit help us even as we continue in our studies on the master key, prayer.

**OUTLINE**

**1. FOR WHAT SHOULD I PRAY?**

**2. HOW SHOULD I PRAY?**

**3. WHY ARE SOME PRAYERS UNANSWERED?**

**FOR WHAT SHOULD I PRAY?**

Subject for prayers includes the following:

1. Pray for the sick - **Jam.5:13-16.**
2. Pray for all men, for the President, Governors, Commissioners, the General Superintendent, Pastors, Deacons, workers, the Choir, the ushers, the Sunday School Teachers, the children, the youths and the elders - I **Tim.2:1-4.**
3. Pray for every Christian to be made perfect in Christ Jesus - **Col.1:28.**
4. Pray for your enemies - **Mt.5:38-48.**
5. Pray for wisdom and understanding - **I Kgs.3:5-9.**
6. Pray for personal safety and the safety of others - **Dan.6:18-23.**
7. Pray for a longer life - **Isa. 38:1-5.**
8. Pray for the second coming of Christ, that you may be able to do the will of the Lord, to receive daily bread, forgiveness, guidance, victory over temptation and sin - **Mt. 6:9-13.**
9. Include your own individual requests.

 Do you think it is still difficult to pray without ceasing?

**HOW SHOULD I PRAY?**

1. The Holy Spirit should guide us in our praying - **Rom.8:26-27**.
2. We must pray with faith in the existence of God - **Heb.11: 6**.
3. We must pray persistently - **Lk. 18:1-8.**
4. We must pray with humility - **2 Chr.7:14.**
5. We must not ask God to do anything contrary to His will - **Mt. 26:39**.
6. We must forgive others if we want God to answer our prayers - **Mk.11:25**.
7. We must be obedient to God - **I Jn.3:22**.
8. We must not stray from the way - **Jn.15:7**.
9. We must pray in Jesus’ name - **Jn.16:24**.

**WHY ARE SOME PRAYERS UNANSWERED?**

There are four major causes of unanswered prayers, namely:

1). Unbelief - **Jam.1:6-7**.

 2) An unforgiving spirit - **Mk.11:25.**

3) Sin - **Ps. 66:18.**

4) Asking amiss i.e. asking with wrong motives or against the will of God - **Jam.4:3**.

**CONCLUSION**

Has any of your prayers been answered? Do you enjoy talking to the Almighty God? God enjoys listening to you as you talk to Him. Any sinner is privileged too to pray a simple prayer that God should be merciful to him or her

**QUESTIONS**

1. List some terms of prayers.

2. How should a Christian pray?

3. Mention four reasons some prayers are unanswered.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Mon. **Ezra 9:5** - Pray in humility.

Tues. **Dan.6:10** - Pray with boldness.

Weds. **1 Kgs.8:22** – Pray with a surrendering heart.

Thurs. **Lk.22:44** – Pray fervently.

Fri. **Eph.6:18** - Remember to always intercede as you pray.

Sat. **Ex.2:23** – The Lord hears prayers.

Sun. **Jam.4:3 –** Do not ask amiss for lustful pleasure.

**LESSON 22 January 29, 2012**

**THE ANOINTING– PART ONE**

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” **Joel. 2: 23**.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts. 4: 5-20

## INTRODUCTION

What is anointing? What are the conditions for maintaining the flow of anointing? May the Comforter teach and bless us in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

1. **WHAT IS ANOINTING?**
2. **CONDITIONS FOR MAINTAINING THE FLOW**

**WHAT IS ANOINTING?**

Anointing is the outflow of the Holy Spirit through a sanctified vessel. It is a divine enabling grace - **Acts. 4: 5-20**. It is likened unto Rain - **Zech. 10: 1; Joel. 2:23**, but it is neither the “WELL” of water springing up into everlasting life… **Jn .4:14**, nor the flowing “RIVERS” of living water… **Jn. 7: 38** - for these are referring to the operations of the Holy Ghost at the new birth and at baptism of believers (not of water) respectively. This is the Rain of the POWER of God from above to increase the water levels of both the “WELL” and the “River” to bring about the overflow -**Lk. 4:18-19**. The anointing determines the volume of water in the rivers, which in turn determines the functions to which they can be put.

Similarly, for example, the level of anointing in a man determines the number of people he can carry along or his productivity as a man of God e.g. compare - **Acts.2: 41** with **Acts 4: 8-32** when three thousand and multitudes of people received Christ respectively after baptism in the Holy Ghost. The Lord Jesus, as a perfect example, came under strong anointing and His fame went abroad - **Acts. 10: 38**. Anointing makes the Christian life active and full of results. As it were, it enthrones the believer - **Jn. 14: 12; I Pet .2: 9; Rev. 1: 6**. The anointing breaks every yoke of the devil and demolishes any mountain etc - **Isa. 10: 27.**

### CONDITIONS FOR MAINTAINING THE FLOW

1. Love for righteousness, hatred for iniquity. The Lord Jesus never ran out of anointing because He loved righteousness and hated iniquity - **Ps. 45: 6-7; Jn. 14: 30; 2 Cor. 5: 21, Ps.51:10**. Sin places a limit on anointing. Paul, a successful Apostle, was no exception - **I Thess. 2: 10**. God enjoins us to “DO” righteousness also - **I Jn. 3: 7**.
2. Walking in Love. If a believer is to constantly flow in anointing, love for God, himself, the ministry, the church and people in general must be paramount. A release of fresh anointing always followed the compassionate feelings of the Lord Jesus - **Jn. 11: 35, 43-44, Mk. 6: 34-41**.
3. Living a life of praise. A life of praise increases the flow of anointing. Murmuring and complaints keep anointing far away so do not engage in either e.g. the journey that would have taken the anointed Israel forty days lasted forty years because of murmuring - **Josh. 5: 6**.

#### CONCLUSION

All true believers that want to succeed in the pilgrim’s way must equally desire ever- flowing anointing. The Kingdom of God is not in words but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power. Samuel was a highly anointed man of God that did not allow any of his words to fall to the ground - **I Sam. 3: 19**. Pray for your anointing now in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### QUESTIONS

1. Define anointing.
2. Explain anointing as the rain of power.
3. What are the conditions for maintaining the flow of anointing?

### BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mon: **I Sam. 12: 3-4** – The anointing in the life of any true minister of God separates him into a divine position of integrity that no one can query.

Tues: **Ex. 29: 36** – Not only is God interested in the sanctification of the altar of God but also the anointing as well.

Wed: **Ex. 30: 26** – It is good that every sanctuary of God be anointed so that God can be there.

Thurs: **Ex. 40: 10** – An anointing service sanctifies vessels unto honour for the master’s use.

Fri: **Lev. 8: 11** – God is a respecter of procedure. He wants to anoint you too.

Sat: **Num. 7: 1** – Every vessel of honour must be anointed.

Sun: **Lev. 8: 30** – Priests must be anointed.

**LESSON 23 February 5, 2012**

**THE ANOINTING– PART TWO**

**MEMORY VERSE: “**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him”. *Act.10:38*

## BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 10: 1-19

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we examined in this series the fact that anointing is the divine enabling grace, otherwise referred to as RAIN-POWER. This Rain Power comes about after repeated in-filling with the Holy Spirit whose continuous flow is dependent on certain conditions including love of righteousness, hatred for iniquity, walking in love and living a life of praise. May the Comforter Himself teach us and bless us more as we continue with the series in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

1. **THE GATEWAY TO ANOINTING**
2. **QUALIFICATIONS FOR AND THE EFFECTS OF ANOINTING.**

## THE GATEWAY TO ANOINTING

Thirst is the gateway to anointing. King David, for example, craved for it - **Ps. 42: 1**. This craving should be a continuous one to keep the seeker constantly in the flow **- Isa. 55: 1**. Other great men of God such as Moses and Paul also had similar craving, which God satisfied - **Ex .33: 12-14; Phil. 3: 10**. After great achievements, God enjoins the Spirit-filled believer to stand - **Eph. 6: 13** - as this opens doors to greater heights in the pilgrim’s journey - **Phil. 3: 13-14**.

Additionally, a constant realisation of one’s emptiness/ nakedness before his/her Maker triggers one into increased anointing e.g. the Lord Jesus Christ, who despite His baptism with the Holy Spirit after His water baptism at Jordan river, still craved for the fulfilment of prophecy over Him - **Lk. 4: 14-21.**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR AND THE EFFECTS OF ANOINTING**

Those who qualify for anointing include the unworthy e.g. king Saul - **I Sam. 10: 11-12**, foolish (by worldly standard) **I Cor. 1: 26-28**, humble (self- abased) **I Pet. 5: 6; Jam. 4: 6** and the just - e.g. Moses - **Ex. 3: 11-12 ,4: 10-12**.

Talking about the effects, the anointing transforms the believer. He becomes “another person” as it were, e.g. King Saul - **I Sam. 10: 6**. When backed up with biblical fasting, it speeds up the spirit of man - **Isa. 58: 1-8** - thus increasing the flow of anointing and making difficult cases a walkover - **Matt. 17: 21**. Consider the fasting lives of great men such as Paul and Moses - 2 **Cor. 11: 27; Ex. 24: 18; Ex. 34: 29-35.**

### CONCLUSION

Brethren, do not rest when you should be doing exploit for God. As the Lord satisfied the thirst for anointing of David, He can do likewise for you. Do not write off yourself but come before God as you are and be sure He will satisfy you in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## QUESTIONS

1. What essentially is the gateway to anointing?
2. Who qualifies for anointing?
3. What are the effects of anointing?

## BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mon: **Ps. 38: 9** – God will satisfy a sincere groaning and desire for anointing.

Tues: **Ps. 27: 4** – It takes an anointed vessel to desire nothing but the presence of the Lord all the time, therefore, desire anointing.

Wed: **Lk. 6: 21** – Lord, satisfy me physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually today, in Jesus’ name.

Thurs: **Ps. 63: 1** – Satisfy me today, oh Lord, as I seek you early.

Fri: **Ps. 63: 5** – As you satisfy me today with your abundance of grace, my mouth shall be full of laughter and I will praise you.

Sat: **Ps. 107: 9** – Your word is truth; I shall certainly be a partaker of your good news today.

Sun: **Ps. 23: 5** – My cup shall overflow.

**LESSON 24 February 12, 2012**

**THE ANOINTING– PART THREE**

**MEMORY VERSE: “***Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*” **Luke 10: 19**

### BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 8: 35-39

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week’s study emphasised the gateway to anointing, who qualifies for it and the effects on the recipients. Hopefully, we must be flowing in anointing by now, rich enough to prepare us for battles and assure us of victories. May the Comforter continue to enrich our spirit man in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## OUTLINE

1. **ANOINTING FOR WARFARE**
2. **ANOINTING FOR VICTORY**

**ANOINTING FOR WARFARE**

All genuinely born again Christians, by our calling, are daily involved in spiritual warfare - **Eph. 6: 10-12**. In every spiritual battle, however, there is always a Lord mighty in battle to confront it on behalf of the Christian warrior - **Ps. 24: 8**. His might can be engaged in any battle through the following:

1. The knowledge of the word of God: - The Holy Spirit, resting on the word of God inside a believer, brings the enemy under his feet - **Dan. 11: 32; Jn. 8:32.** The word spoken creates a way of escape for the believer - **Heb. 2:3.** These words are sharp and quick - **Mt. 28:20; 1 Jn. 4: 4; Pro. 24: 5**. The believers of old, as well as the contemporary ones with the true and accurate knowledge of their God, never lose any battle. For example,
2. David defeated Goliath - **I Sam. 17: 36-37**. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego defied Nebuchadnezzar - **Dan. 3: 16-18**. Daniel survived the lions’ den - **Dan. 6: 21-22** and Paul and Silas in prison - **Acts. 16: 25-29**.

 (b) Confidence - **Ps. 125: 1-3.** Maneasily becomes a victim of what he fears **- Job. 3: 25** - but confidence triggers anointing in battle. It is built on: (i) Righteousness - II **Cor. 5: 21**. The righteous is as bold as a lion. Who will stand if God marks iniquity? - **Ps. 130: 3**. (ii) Ever-abiding presence of God - **Matt. 28: 2**. (iii) The Name of Jesus. The anointed Name of Jesus, which means Saviour from all harassment of the enemy - **Phil. 2: 9-11**. (iv) The voice of the Lord - **Ps. 29: 5**, which can never be withstood by any obstacle, no matter how strong.

**ANOINTING FOR VICTORY**

The anointing backing up the believer constantly grants resounding victories. e.g. Samson conquered each time the Spirit of the Lord came upon him **- Judg. 14: 19**. David, the man after God’s heart, right from the day he was anointed fought battles but never lost any because of the anointing - **I Sam. 16: 3**. The Lord Jesus Christ is also a perfect example of resounding victories. His mission was to destroy the works of Satan **- I Jn. 3: 8**. He conquered the hosts of hell - **Mk. 1: 24**, and the seas - **Matt. 8: 27**, death - **Lk. 7: 14; Jn. 11: 43** and physical assailants (obviously possessed by the demons of accusation and murder) - Jn**. 18: 3-6**. It was the anointing that typified the tribe of Judah as the conquering tribe - **Gen. 49: 8-12**.

 The Lord Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and every born again child of God automatically belongs to the conquering tribe with the conquering anointing -**Rev. 5: 5; Eph. 5: 8; 2 Cor. 2: 14.** This ever-conquering anointing, manifests in fearlessness as a weapon of conquest. It also uses absolute obedience to divine instructions as weapon of conquest - **2 Tim. 1: 7; Jn. 8: 28**

#### CONCLUSION

Assurance of victory in any battle of life is the promise of the ever-conquering Lord Jesus to every truly born-again Christian. Engage His MIGHT now in whatever battle that is confronting you and obtain your victory.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What is the confronting anointing in warfare?
2. How do you engage this might of the Lord in battle?
3. Prove from the Bible that the Lord Jesus Christ and truly born-again Christians are rightful possessors of ever conquering comforting anointing.

#### BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mon: **Jn. 16: 33** – By the Comforter, we have peace, joy and victory.

Tues: **Rev. 3: 21** – We shall overcome and reign.

Wed: **Judg. 1: 1-2** – Whoever the Lord commissions by His power always become an overcomer.

Thurs: **Heb. 13: 5** –My Commander – in – Chief, my Chief Commissioner, will never leave me nor forsake me.

Fri: **Matt. 28: 20** – As I willingly obey my Lord, He will give me power to attain to the end.

Sat: **I Jn. 4: 4** – I am persuaded because Jesus in me is greater than any circumstance.

Sun: **Rev. 3: 5** – The anointed victor is not a loser after all. He shall have a new name in Heaven.

# LESSON 25 February 19, 2012

# FAITH THAT WORKS

**MEMORY VERSE:** “***Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” -* James 2:17**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: James 2:14-20**

**INTRODUCTION** In this study, our focus shall be on faith that works. Therefore, we shall, for the sake of today’s lesson, define faith as the “work of righteousness.”

## OUTLINE

**1. FAITH THAT WORKS**

**2. SOME WORKS OF FAITH**

**FAITH THAT WORKS**

Our faith in the Lord Jesus has brought to us a common salvation through our confession – **Rom.10:9.** This is the start of our relationship with Him. He first did something for us through our faith in Him. Then, we too should reciprocate by doing something for Him. We can put faith into action in the following ways:

i. We can rise for the salvation of others. This can be done through a daily testimony of Christ – **Titus 2:11**.

ii. Our faith in the all-sufficient God can propel us to share our food with the poor and provide clothing for the naked, particularly the believers – **Jam.2:14-16.**

iii. Our faith in the prayer-answering Saviour will move us from selfish and self-centred prayers to fervent prayers for the sick, destitute, government, nations and the church of God universal – **Jam.5:14-19; 1 Tim.2:1-5.**

iv. Through our faith in God, we can be more submissive to Him in various ministerial assignments – Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher – **Eph.4:11.**

v. Through our faith in Him, believers can perform signs and wonders. We can cast out devils **– Mk.16:17-** loose the bands of wickedness, undo heavy burdens, deliver the oppressed and break every yoke **– Is. 58:6.**

**SOME WORKS OF FAITH**

A living faith produces certain results that could be called the works of faith because faith without works is dead. These works include ability to resist the devil and to overcome the world. Living faith also produces good report i.e. has a positive perception of circumstance. Saints overcome all difficulties by a living faith. In fact, anything that is not of faith is sin. **Jam.2:21-25; Gal.2:20; Rom.11:20; 2 Cor.1:24; 1 Pt.5:9; Eph.6:16; Heb.11:2; Mt.17:20; Rom.14:23.**

**CONCLUSION**

The kingdom of God does not permit idleness. It requires everyone to work out his or her salvation with fear and trembling. It is by doing this that we can please the One who chose us. Is your faith evidenced by works?

**QUESTIONS**

1. When is faith regarded as dead?
2. State some works that are evidences of living faith.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

MON: **Num.13:30** – Your inheritance in Christ is still available for you if have the faith to claim it.

TUE: **Job 19:25** – Your circumstances does not really matter as long as Christ is with you. He cannot fail.

WED: **Dan.3:17** – No fire of the enemy can hurt a man of steadfast faith who remains in Christ.

THURS: **Dan.6:10** – Faith in Christ conquers fears that lead to sin.

FRI: **Matt.16:16** – Faith produces revelation of divine secrets.

SAT: **Lk.7:50** – Your faith is the strength of your victory.

SUN: **2 Tim.1:5** – Faith is contagious.

**WEEK 26 February 26, 2012**

 **WEEK TWENTY SIX**

**SECOND QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**WELCOME TO THE SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**YOUR PRIVILEGE:**

* **TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY**
* **TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
* **ETC**

# LESSON 27 March 4, 2012

# EVER INCREASING FAITH

**MEMORY VERSE:** ***But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. -* Hebrews 11:6**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:1-16**

**INTRODUCTION** Faith is very important to Christians. It makes us behave as if we have got something that we expect but which we really have not got but we know it would surely come. In the Christian race, we cannot do without it. In actual fact, every one of us exhibits a measure of faith but, perhaps for many, not as much as the patriarchs. With it, they obtained a good report, escaped death and were declared righteous. God wants our faith to increase continually. With it, we will easily get to the height which He has prepared for us physically, spiritually, financially, in our marriage, in our ministry and materially – **Heb. 11:1**.

## OUTLINE

**1. HOW TO OBTAIN FAITH**

**2. HOW CAN OUR FAITH INCREASE CONTINUOUSLY?**

**HOW TO OBTAIN FAITH**

Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith - **Heb.12:2**. Faith is produced by reading, hearing or studying the word of God and obeying it. Faith comes when we remember the things that God has done for us in the past and we share our testimonies – **1 Sam.17:37.** Being a gift of God, we can also obtain faith by asking in prayers - **Lk.17:5; Rom.12:3; Eph.4:7; 1 Cor.12:7, 9, 11; Acts 8:12; Rom.10:14-17; Jn.20:31; 2 Tim.3:15.**

**HOW CAN OUR FAITH INCREASE CONTINUOUSLY?**

It is important that our faith increases every day. This can be so if we study the word of God the more so that we can receive more revelations from Him. We must also pray persistently to God to increase our faith. Another important thing is that we must be determined to stay out of sin and obey the word of God. We must also be prepared to confess and demonstrate our faith always and everywhere. Finally, we must separate ourselves from unbelievers and the ways of the world and be prepared to go all out for Jesus**- Ps.119:18; Heb.11:13; 1 Thess.5:17; Lk.18:1; Jam.1:21-22; Jam.2:17-18; Gal.2:20; 1 Jn.2:15; Jam.4:4; Rom.8:35-39.**

**CONCLUSION**

What has faith accomplished for you? Thank the Lord for them and ask Him to increase your faith everyday till you meet Him in glory.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is faith?
2. How is faith obtained?
3. How can we increase our faith?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON:** **Is.28:16** – Jesus is tasted and sure. Believe in Him and lean not on your own understanding.

**TUE:** **Jude 1:3** – In this perverse generation, earnestly contend for the faith of the true Gospel.

**WED:** **Lk.22:32** – In the midst of temptations or adversity, do not allow your faith to fail.

**THURS:** **Lk.17:5** – Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

**FRI:** **Matt.17:19-20** – With faith comes power to heal.

**SAT:** **Gal.2:20** – Live by the faith of Jesus and let His soul have pleasure in you.

**SUN:** **Acts 14:27** – Ask the Lord to open the door of faith in every dark parts of the world.

**LESSON 28** March 11, 2012

**KNOWING GOD’S WILL IN MARRIAGE**

**MEMORY VERSE: “**House and riches *are* the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife *is* from the LORD.” **- Proverbs 19:14**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 24:1-19**

**INTRODUCTION**

Marriage is the legal relationship between a husband and wife that lasts for a life time. The step taken before going into this journey is very important to prevent pitfall - **Gen.2:21-22**. In knowing God’s will, therefore, you do not have to rely on vague hunches and weird rituals. As a child of God, you have His word, it is spirit within you, and His men to guide and counsel you.

**OUTLINE**

**1. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD FIRST**

**2. GODLY COUNSEL FOR MARRIAGE**

**THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD FIRST**

Marriage is a creation of God. It all started from Him - **Gen.2:18**. God will only guide His own - **Jer.10:23**. He will not play a guessing game with His people. He wants us to know and do His will and He is actively involved in revealing it. Therefore, before seeking God’s will in marriage, first have a relationship with Him - **Ps.119:130; Ps.119:105**. Develop your God’s gift and master how God guides your steps - **Ps.85:8**. This will reduce stress, give your life meaning and prepare you for eternity – **2 Pet.1:3-4**. You must be found working - **Gen.2:15-18**. Marriage is not for lazy people. Marriage is for adults.

**GODLY COUNSEL FOR MARRIAGE**

God does not want His people to be joined with unbelievers – **2 Cor.6:14-16; 1Cor.6:15-17.** How do we recognise His will in marriage?

* 1. Through the word of God - **Prov.3:5-7**. God has placed His word in our hands so we can have a much more objective set of guidelines to follow than dreams, feelings and impulses. Despite your dreams and conviction, pray to have scriptural backing - **Prov.18:22; Gen.2:22; Prov.19:14.**
	2. God will work in you to do His will. He will use circumstances and situations to perfect His will for your life - **Rom. 8:28; Phil.2:12-13**. You must therefore remain sensitive, paying attention to doors He opens and closes to direct your path.
	3. Through the counsel of elders or spiritual heads in the church - **Ps.1:1; Pro.19:21; 11:14; 15:22; 20:5; Rom.15:14; Acts. 1:24; Titus 2:3-5.** Passion for sex may influence your hasty decision for self-pleasure, therefore, at that sensitive moment, do not despise Godly counsel from spiritual heads - **Judges 14:1-3, Prov.14:29; Isa.52:12**.
	4. The environment you are and your peers will also influence your choice. Therefore, keep company with believers and not unbelievers - **1 Cor.15:33; 1Sam.8:5-6.**

**CONCLUSION**

Prayer, pure word of God, worship, fellowship and service for God and right environment of good spiritual nourishment are factors that aid our spiritual sensitivity. Pray for our singles today.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is marriage?
2. What is the first thing to do in knowing God’s will in marriage?

3. Can you rely on impulses, feelings and dreams in knowing God’s will?

4. Why is it dangerous to rely on our own knowledge and power to choose a partner?

5. Mention three things you can rely on in knowing God’s will.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon: 1Cor.7:32** – Learn to please God first before seeking His will in marriage.

**Tue: Ps. 85:8** - God is still leading His people today.

**Wed: Pro.20:18** - Confirm your choice through Godly counsel.

**Thurs:** **Acts.1:24** - Always pray and rely on God concerning your choice.

**Fri: Judg.14:1-3** - Listen to your spiritual parents.

**Sat: Gen.2:15** - Engage in something profitable.

**Sun: Ps.25:9** - God will only guide the meek and the humble.

**LESSON 29** March 18, 2012

**CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP**

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:” Colossians 3:5

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 29:11-20

**INTRODUCTION**

Christian courtship is a period before wedding/marriage where a Christian brother and sister agree about many issues and see if they both share the same vision, hope and aspirations about marriage. Christian courtship involves two people that have agreed to walk together, in the direction of marriage – **Amos 3:3.**

**OUTLINE**

**1. THE IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP**

**2. LONG COURTSHIP NOT ADVISABLE**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP**

Courtship is very important and necessary for the intending couple to observe, if they want to enjoy their marriage. It is during the courtship that proper biblical foundation must be laid down in order to have a happy married life. It is a period to get to know each other intimately apart from carnal knowledge and illicit romance.

Before you venture into wedding plans, both of you must agree on a lot of things like what you both want for your marriage. Know each other’s strength and weaknesses, likes and dislikes and parents. Both of you must realise what marriage means **TILL DEATH DO US PART**!

Courtship is a time to plan for the wedding and the marriage. One vital issue that must be addressed during this period is to obtain the consent of both parents - **Gen.24:54-59.** It is a period to undertake marriage counselling lessons. After proposing to a lady and she has agreed to marry you, the next thing to do is to obey the Biblical injunction to prove all things - **1 Thess. 5:21**. Secretly indulging in bodily, emotional and sexual pleasure at this stage with your marriage partner is a sin - **Rom.12:1-2**. It is a potential sign of marital failure.

**LONG COURTSHIP NOT ADVISABLE**

Long courtship, in the interest of the two partners is not advisable. In some churches, long courtship of not less than two years is encouraged with the hope that with such time input, the couple will get to know each other properly. This can, however, easily expose the partners to sexual temptation and thus break the divine constitution – “Touch not; taste not; handle not.” (**Col.2:21**). Besides, human beings can pretend and hide true identities until after the real marriage. To save the intending couple, therefore, a minimum period of six months and maximum of one year is recommended or advisable.

**CONCLUSION**

Our heavenly Father is the best friend anyone can have but also the worst enemy a man can have. Remember, He is the one that ordained the institution of marriage. It will be dangerous for anyone to attempt to establish a home without Him. Courtship is not a period to play pranks. Watch and be warned.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is courtship?

2. Justify the fact that courtship is still relevant today in spite of the present civilization.

3. Why is long courtship dangerous and not advisable?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon: Eze.36:26-27** - The Holy Spirit in a heart of flesh enables the believer to do the will of God. Desire Him today.

**Tue: Eccl. 3:1-7** - There is time for everything. Wait for God’s approved time.

**Wed: Eph.3: 16-20** - Strength in the inner man is all that is needed to run the heavenly race correctly.

**Thurs: Matt.5:13** - Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**Fri: 2 Cor. 6:17** – Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separated. In order not to conform and spoil your testimony, hold on to God who is able to uphold you to the very end.

**Sat: 1 Tim. 6:6** – Anyone without Christ is ungodly and great loser. Hook on to God.

**Sun: Num.36:3 & 6** – Anyone who marries carnally is alien to the kingdom of God.

**LESSON 30** March 25, 2012

**PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 8:14**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” Psalm 127:1.

**INTRODUCTION**

Marriage is not for the unprepared. Proper preparation precedes the marital union. Many people prepare for the wedding ceremony more than the marriage itself. Preparation for marriage is a process one must undertake in order to have a successful marital future. May the Holy Spirit teach us as we study this topic in Jesus' name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

1. **HOW PREPARED ARE YOU?**
2. **WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER THIS MARRIAGE?**

**HOW PREPARED ARE YOU?**

Spiritual maturity has nothing to do with how long one has been born again but the ability to be able to discern the voice of God. It is also knowing the will of God and doing it. Spiritual maturity means to be led by the Spirit of God - **Romans 8:14 –** andliving a life of holiness and purity - **Hebrews 12:14**. When one is spiritually matured, the ability to receive instruction for one's marriage becomes easy – **Gen. 24:33-53**. You have to be mentally prepared to get married otherwise the marriage will suffer. The Bible did not specify the age that one must marry but it is important for us to note that marriage is not for boys and girls. Marriage is for the physically matured - Ecclesiastes **3:1**.

The one who is prepared for marriage must be emotionally healthy and independent. Your marriage will be a happy one if you bring your happiness and peace into it. Though the man is the primary provider in a marriage - **1Tim. 5:8**, the woman also has financial responsibilities which she must meet if a good marriage is desired.

**WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER THIS MARRIAGE**?

We look for people who bring balance into our lives, that is, people who compensate for our weaknesses and shortcomings. The truth is that, as the woman is looking for the right man to fix her life*,* so also the man is looking for "Miss Right" to fix his life. Every single preparing for marriage should stop thinking of what he or she will get out of the marital relationship but rather what to offer it. What are the treasures I am bringing in? Will my partner be ready to do almost anything to get married to me because of what I have to offer? Will my partner find it very difficult to replace me? Am I the very best I can be? -  **Proverbs 31:10 - 31.**

**CONCLUSION**

You will have an exciting marital future if you are emotionally, mentally, spiritually and financially prepared for marriage.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Mention ten ways by which a lady can add value to her marital relationship.
2. Is it good for a couple to have a common purse?
3. If one of the parties is not physically fit due to illness, would you advise them to go ahead with the marriage preparation?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon: Phil. 4:8** - Let our thoughts be pure.

**Tues: Eph. 4:26** - Be angry at sin.

**Wed: Matt. 26: 41** - Watch and Pray

**Thurs: 1 Sam. 3:9** God still speaks to those who take time to listen.

**Frid: Prov. 15:18** - Anger is only one letter short of danger.

**Sat: Ps. 100:4** - When there is a delay in the answering of your prayer, try praising God.

Sun: **Lev.20:10** - The sin of adultery is not ordinary as far as God is concerned.

**LESSON 31 April 1, 2012**

**PASTORAL COUNSEL AND ROLES IN MARRIAGE**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.” Proverbs 1:33.

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Proverbs 1:1-10**

**INTRODUCTION**

Counseling is the process of giving pieces of advice or useful suggestions to other individuals by a qualified person in order to help them solve their problems either in the present or for their future. Everyone needs such pieces of advice or counsels at a particular point in time so as to guide against taking steps of error. The Scripture says that ***“... in the multitude of counselors there is safety.***” (Proverbs 11:14b). Therefore, as marriage is a sacred institution that requires divine guidance before being entered into, such counsels should be given a prime of place.

**OUTLINE**

**1. CHARACTERISTICS OF PASTORAL COUNSEL**

**2. ROLES OF PASTORAL COUNSEL IN MARRIAGE**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF PASTORAL COUNSEL**

1. Pastoral counsel as divine instruction is usually aided or enhanced by the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of the genuine Counselor as in ( a) Word of Wisdom, (b) Word of Knowledge,

(c) Discerning of Spirit - **1 Corinthians 12:7 - 8**.

1. Pastoral counsel, which is usually from seasoned men of God, is like reality therapy – **Pro. 15:22**.
2. Pastoral counsel is not motivated or influenced by personal interest or propaganda sentiments as in the case of the withdrawal of Micah from David as wife by King Saul - **I Sam. 25: 44**.

 iv. It is such an advice given after having prayerfully requested from and listened to God by a seasoned minister of the gospel for inspirational guidance – **Ps. 5: 3; Deut. 29:29; Daniel 9: 3 - 4; 2 Cor. 1: 11.**

1. Pastoral counsel seeks to foster the happiness of both the person being counseled and the counselor – **Prov. 15:23; Prov. 27:9**.

 **ROLES OF PASTORAL COUNSEL IN MARRIAGE**

i. Just as devastating and destructive problem is to one's life, so greatly relieving and comforting is the timely divine or pastoral counsel - **Ruth 3:1 - 3**.

ii. It acts as veritable tools that cannot be brushed aside in the process of choice or decision making - **Joel 3:14**.

iii. It gives no room or chance for gamblers in the church where the counseling unit for intending Christian couple is being handled or well coordinated by genuine ministers of God. i.e. it prevents young men or women from dating more than one suitor at a time – **Prov. 13:20; Ps. 73:24.**

 iv. It brings about decent take-off of courtship between two children of God as the Pastor becomes the mediator between the intending young couple – **Ps. 11:3; Isaiah 58:12**.

v. It shows the young contemporary adults that marriage is not bondage or an unavoidable entanglement – **Jer. 23:22; Acts 20:27-28.**

**CONCLUSION**

Pastoral counsel is usually borne out of divine inspiration and is meant to show the possible ways out of certain problems. It also guides on what to do so as not to fall into the same problems over and over again - **Proverbs 11: 14**.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Mention characteristics of pastoral counsel in marriage.
2. What are the roles of pastoral counsel in marriage?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon: Prov. 24:6** – God will be our wise Counsellor.

**Tue: Prov. 15:22** - In the multitude of counsellors, purposes are established.

**Wed: Ps. 11:3** – May our foundations never be destroyed.

**Thurs: Amos 9:11** – God will restore your former glory.

**Fri: Jer. 23:22** – Good counsel turns us from evil ways.

**Sat: Prov. 20:18** – The presence of many counsellors brings peace.

**Sun: Prov. 11: 14** – In the multitude of counsellors, there is safety.

**LESSON 32 April 8, 2012**

**THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND HOME**

**MEMORY VERSE**: “In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works...” Titus 2: 7a"

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Titus 2: 1 -14

**INTRODUCTION**

A Christian family is an institution where parents are bound together by Christian love, where children are happy and spiritually instructed. It is a home where the Lord Jesus is the supreme head of the home.

A Christian family is one that radiates Christ, welcomes strangers and dispenses hospitality. A Christian family consists of God- fearing parents and children. The Christian family is the bedrock of the nation and the glory of the Christian church. May God grant us Christian families.

**OUTLINE**

1. **DUTIES OF THE FATHER**
2. **DUTIES OF THE MOTHERS IN THE HOME**
3. **DUTIES OF BOTH PARENTS**
4. **DUTIES OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME**

**DUTIES OF THE FATHER**

It is ordained by God that the husband should be the head of the home – **Eph. 5: 23**. For example, Abraham commanded his household faithfully - Gen**. 18: 19**. This is not to say that the wife is a slave but a help meet taken from the man’s side to remain a companion. It is the duty of the husband to love his wife as himself - **Eph 5: 25, Col.3:19**. This is the love expressed in 1 Corinthians 13, i.e. loving in health, sickness, poverty and prosperity. The husband is required to be faithful to his wife. God demands honesty, frankness and faithfulness between partners in a marriage.

It is the husband's duties to comfort his wife in times of sorrows - **I Sam. 1: 8**. He ought to consult with his wife on business matters and issues that affect the home, for they are a team. By the virtue of marriage, they have become one – **Mk.10:8**. The Christian husband should always put God first in his life - **Luke 14: 26**.

He is the priest of the home and he is responsible to establish a family altar for daily worship.

He is to listen and lead his wife with wise counsel - **2 Kgs. 4:8-10, Eccl. 4: 9-11.**

**DUTIES OF THE MOTHERS IN THE HOME**

Mothers are tremendous assets, hence, the major duty of a wife is to love to serve Jesus Christ – **Lk. 14: 26**. The wife is to obey her husband - **Eph 5: 22**. Sarah is a good example to follow - **1 Pet. 3: 6**. Wives are not only to respect their husbands but they are to love them too - **Titus 2: 4**. Husbands need a great deal of affection, too. The woman is not to be adorned with ornaments - **1 Tim. 2: 9-10**. Instead, wives are to be adorned with good work, including modesty and sobriety, meekness and have a quiet spirit - **1 Peter 3: 4-5**. A Christian wife must be trustworthy, hardworking and be an early riser – **Prov. 31: 11, 13, 15**. The responsibility of the wife is great but Jesus will give grace to those who ask Him.

**THE DUTIES OF BOTH PARENTS**

Parents are to realise that their children really belong to God – **Ps.127:3-5**. Therefore, parents who love their children shall find favour with God – **Tit. 2:4**. Parents should bring their children to the Lord at an early age- **Matt. 19: 13-14** - to train and discipline them for the Lord- **Pro. 22:6**. 0ne way of making their task easy is to bring the children to Sunday school and church. Teach them Bible stories at home and give them a part in family prayers. Teach them to obey God and the law of the country - **Deut. 32:46**. Parents are to provide for their children- **1 Tim.5:8** - and should be careful not to provoke their children to wrath -**Eph. 6:4**. Above all, let godly parents pray for their children. Pray that they would be saved to overcome sin.

**THE DUTIES OF THE CHILDREN**

Children are to honor their parents - **Ex. 20: 12**, obey them - **Luke 2: 51**, and pray for them. They must also return their parent's love, for love is a two-way traffic. They must be sober and show good examples in all things – **Tit.2:6-7**. Children must constantly remember that the children of today shall be the parents of tomorrow.

**CONCLUSION**

The secret of a successful Christian home is in the family altar, where Christ is crowned the Head of the home. Love is the second secret. Parents should also remember they are all children with a loving Father above who constantly demonstrates His love.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are the duties of the children in the family?
2. Mention the duties of fathers in the home.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon**: **Matt.22:37** – Love of God is the greatest commandment. Obey it.

**Tues**: **Mk.12:31** – Do you show love to your neighbours? If not, you are a disobedient Christian.

**Weds:** **1 Jn.4:7** – If you do not practise love, you are not born of God and do not know Him.

**Thurs:** **Heb.13:1** – Brotherly love should not cease.

**Fri:** **John 3:16** – Love is sacrificial. Such a love as that which induced God to give His only begotten Son to die for the world cannot be described.

**Sat:** **Eph.5:25** – Love with a pure, ardent, self-sacrificing love as Christ loved the church.

**Sun:** **Titus 2:2** – Be sound in love, whether old or young.

**LESSON 33 April 15, 2012**

**CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE (PARTNERSHIP)**

**MEMORY VERSE: -** “I am the vine ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” - **John 15:5**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Cor. 3: 5-10**

**INTRODUCTION** As believers, we are co-labourers with God. We need God in the business and God needs us, but we need God more than He needs us. May the grace to make ourselves more available in partnership be given to us as we study at His feet in Jesus’ Name.

**OUTLINE**

 1. **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES**

 **2. THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE IN PARTNERSHIP**

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES**

 God is the vine and we are the branches. The vine needs the branches and the branches need the vine more. You need God and God needs you, but you need God more than He needs you. God is the Creator of Heaven and the Earth. God can do well without you but without God you can do nothing - **John 15:5.** God, in His supremacy, with all His power and might, is faithful in playing His part and in the keeping of His covenant – **Num. 23 : 19; Ps.62:11.** So, for you to enjoy the maximum benefit of the relationship, you must be:

 1. Saved - **John 3 : 3 – 5.**

 2. Faithful - **Heb . 11: 6.**

 3. Holy - **Heb. 12:14.**

 4. Obedient - **Is.1:19**.

 5. A cheerful giver – **2 Cor. 9: 7**.

**THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE IN PARTNERSHIP**

God instituted marriage for a purpose but it takes the effort of both the man and the woman for the marriage to work. Both of them must work towards a common goal. An excellent example is procreation. This is virtually impossible except a man and a woman come together for this common purpose. Then, God will now shower His blessings on them – **Gen.1:22; 1 Cor. 3: 6; Amos 3:3.**

**HUSBAND’S ROLES**

 He is the human head of the family – **Eph. 5: 25-33**.

 He must be able to rule his family well – **Col.3:20.**

 He must love his wife- **Eph. 5 : 25**.

 He is the priest of the family. He must establish and direct the family altar - **Eph. 6:4; Col.3:20-21**.

**WIFE’S ROLES**

 She must be a good help meet to her husband - **Eph.5:22-24**.

 She must love and respect her husband.

 She must be submissive to her husband.

 She must adorn herself with holiness and sobriety.

**CONCLUSION**

In partnership, there is need for team work with one goal, one vision and one purpose since both the husband and the wife are God’s representatives on earth. The day of accountability is coming, so, they must sacrifice everything possible to keep the relationship together in unity of purpose and with one spirit, all to the glory of God and their own blessing.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Mention the role of the husband in a marriage relationship.
2. Mention the relationship between God as the Vine and we as the branches.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Mon: **1 Tim 2:11-15** - God's order for the Christian home is clear enough.

Tues: **Gal. 3:13** - Homes turned to Christ are redeemed from every curse and become a blessed one.

Wed: **Pro. 31:10-31** - Are you a virtuous mother or wife?

Thurs: **Heb. 12:7-8** - Do not neglect discipline in your home.

Fri: **Titus 2:9-10** - Let every member of the home, including servants, be alert to their responsibilities.

Sat: **1 Sam. 3:13** - God will not spare parents who fail to correct their children who err.

Sun: **2 Tim. 1: 5** - Let us take a cue from Lois and Eunice as parents.

**LESSON 34 April 22, 2012**

**MARITAL ABUSE**

**MEMORY VERSE*:*** *“*The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.” **Psalms 11: 5**

**BIBLE PASSAGES: Malachi 2: 16-17, 1 Pet 3: 7-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

Marital abuse, whether or not it involves physical violence, is a one-sided oppressive relationship where one spouse uses unacceptable methods to maintain unhealthy control in the home. Domestic abuse affects people of all races, age, gender or background. Sadly, it is an evil that now manifests in Christian homes and the church of God. **Zephaniah 1:9 says,**  " In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit. " Abuse in its different manifestations is the most destructive tool that can be used by anyone against another person. Let us examine what the scripture says about DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR MARITAL ABUSE.

**OUTLINES**

**1. PHYSICAL ABUSE**

**2. VERBAL ABUSE**

**3. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

1. **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Physical abuse is physical torturing of a spouse’s body in order to subdue and control the partner. Assault or physical abuse is the most obvious form of domestic violence and also the most lethal. It is animalistic, physically damaging and emotionally traumatising - **Jer. 22: 3, Mal. 2: 16-17*,* Isa. 58: 3-4**

**Physical abuse can include the following:**

* slapping, kicking, shoving, and choking.
* pinching, forced feeding, pulling hair.
* punching, throwing things, burning (e.g. with a cigarette).
* beating, strangling, use of weapons (gun, knives, or any object).
* physical restraint, pinning against wall, floor, bed, etc.
* reckless driving, etc.

Assaults often start small, maybe a small shove during an argument, or forcefully grabbing your wrist, but over time, physical abuse (or battering) usually becomes more severe and more frequent and can result in the death of the victim.

**B.** **VERBAL ABUSE**

Verbal abuse is using spoken and written words that damage or injure people's feelings, erode their self-esteem and can fill them with fear and uncertainty, as well as hatred - **Gen. 30: 1-2; Eph. 4: 29,31**

i. Constant criticism ii. Degrading remarks iii. Lies and Deception - **Matt. 5: 37**

iv. Name calling v. Accusations vi. Threats vii. Railings and harassments

viii. Abusive words or cursing - **Pro. 4: 24; Col. 3: 8; Jam. 1: 26; 1 Pet 3: 10; 1 Pet. 2: 1.**
Verbal abuse like threats to hit or kill the other person, to leave, or take the children away, or withdraw financial support would result into an emotional trauma. It causes the other partner to live in fear.

**C. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

a. God hates strikers. The servant of the Lord must not strife - **2 Tim. 2: 22; Isa. 58: 3-4; Jer. 22: 3, Mal. 2:16-17; Psa. 11: 5; Zeph. 1: 9; Eph. 4: 31; Psa. 37: 9; Jam. 3: 14-16**

b. Requirement for leadership - **1 Tim. 3: 1-4, Tit. 1: 7.**

c. Words spoken can be a form of violence - **Eph. 4: 29; Jam. 1:19, 20;  Pro. 10: 6,11; Jam. 3: 10; Eph. 5: 3-5; Matt. 5: 21,22.**

**CONCLUSION**

Abuse in its different manifestations is the most destructive tool that can be used by anyone against another person. Most sadly, all these types of abuses deeply scar the emotions of a person and usually greatly alter their perception and their ability to live life to its fullest. However, there is hope in Jesus. He has come to heal the broken-hearted.

 **Psalms 72: 14.** He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight

**QUESTIONS**

1. Mention five types of abuses in the home.

2. What should you do if you are being abused by your spouse?

3. What can an abuser do to stop abusive attitudes?

4. What should the church do?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Jam. 3: 10** - A child of God guides his tongue.

**TUE: Psa. 37: 9** - Marital abuse is evil. Refuse to be cut off by God.

**WED: Matt. 5: 21** - Marital abuse could lead to murder. Avoid it.

**THUR: Mal. 2: 16** - You must avoid marital abuse because it is treachery.

**FRI: 2 Tim. 2: 22** - The heart is the centre of marital abuse, watch it.

**SAT: Eph. 4: 29** - God commands against verbal abuse

**SUN: 1 Pet. 2: 1** - Getting out of violent abuse requires your efforts.

# LESSON 35 April 29, 2012

# RESTITUTION - PART 1

**MEMORY VERSE: “ *And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.”* Luke 19:8**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 19:1-10**

**INTRODUCTION** Restitution is commanded by God to enable us follow peace with all men. It is an act of putting right what has been done wrongly. It is divine restoration of all things to their original order. In this lesson, we shall consider what restitution is and its blessings.

## OUTLINE

**1. WHAT IS RESTITUTION?**

**2. RESTITUTION AT VARIOUS DISPENSATIONS**

**3. THE BLESSINGS OF RESTITUTION**

**WHAT IS RESTITUTION?**

Restitution is an act of putting right what has been done wrongly, restoring what has been taken wrongly and repairing or giving any equivalent to loss or damage. This is a very important step for every believer for a clear conscience and good testimony. The doctrine has been taught at various dispensations.

**RESTITUTION AT VARIOUS DISPENSATIONS**

Restitution is not a new doctrine. It has been in practice before the law. Moses gave certain laws of restitution – **Lev.6:1-6, 24:21; Num.5:6-8; Ex.22:1-5.** The doctrine was also confirmed up to the time of the kings and prophets – **2 Sam.12:1-6; 2 Kgs. 8:1-6** - and to the Church age, right from the time of Jesus Christ and the apostles until now – **Lk.19:8-10; Philem. 1:7-12.**

**THE BLESSINGS OF RESTITUTION**

A heart of restitution has the following to benefit from God:

* Favour from God – **Lk.2:52.**
* Speedy answers to prayers – **Lk.11:9**.
* Fearlessness – **Ps.27:1.**
* Healing – **Ps.107:20.**
* Anointing for exploits – **Acts 10:38.**
* Hearing God from time to time.
* Protection – **Ps.105:15.**
* Heavenly provisions – **Ps.132:15-16**.

**CONCLUSION**

Restitution is an avenue to make your ways right with your fellow man while salvation makes your ways right to God. One is not complete without the other. Therefore, prayerfully take steps to put right those things you have done wrong.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is restitution?

2. Mention five benefits of restitution.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Ezek. 33:11** – God wants to rescue sinners from death.

**Tue: Ex.23:7** – The wicked cannot be justified.

**Wed: Micah 7:18-19** – God forgives and totally forgets.

**Thurs: Gal.12:16** – Jesus died for our sins.

**Fri. Heb. 13:12** – Let your heart be pure.

**Sat: Jn.16:13** – You will be guided to the truth of God.

**Sun: Rom.6:22** – Bear fruits and be perfect.

# LESSON 36 May 6, 2012

# RESTITUTION -PART 2

**MEMORY VERSE: - “*And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold*.” - Luke 19:8**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 22:1-13**

**INTRODUCTION** One of the biblical evidences of genuine repentance is restitution. It is only a genuinely converted believer that can take steps to make restitution of wrongs which were made atthe time of ignorance. It is the desire of God for us to correct past wrongs which are correctable. In this lesson we shall consider some of them.

## OUTLINE

1. **WHY MAKE RESTITUTION?**
2. **EXAMPLES OF RESTITUTION IN THE BIBLE**

**3. SOME SPECIFIC RESTITUTION TO MAKE**

**WHY MAKE RESTITUTION?**

We make restitution for three major reasons:

1. God commands it – **Lev.6:1-5; Ex.22:10-13**.
2. To have a clear conscience towards God and towards man – **1 Sam.12:1-5; Acts 24:16.**
3. It is the evidence of our conversion which shows our readiness to obey the scriptures – **Lk.19:8-9; Ezek.33:14-16.**

**EXAMPLES OF RESTITUTION IN THE BIBLE**

There are also examples of people who made restitution in the Bible. These include Abimelech, Joseph’s brothers, Old testament kings and prophets, Zacchaeus, during the time of our Lord Jesus and the apostles - **Gen.20:6-9, 14; Gen.50:15-19; 1 Kgs.20:34; Neh.5:11-12; Lk.19:8-9; Acts 23:1-5; Philm10:17-19.**

**SOME SPECIFIC RESTITUTIONS TO MAKE**

a. We should return things that we have stolen, picked or converted to our own use but which belong to another person or to our place of work. These include our tithes and first fruits, the non-payment of which is robbery and which we must restore - **Lev.6:2-5; Lk.19:8; Mal.3:8; Lev.5:14-16.**

b. We should replace things we have destroyed which belong to another person- **Ex.22:5-6; Ex.21:18-19.**

c. We should also reconcile with people we quarrelled with in the past – **Matt.5:23-25; Mt.18:15-17.**

d. We should make restitution of all lies and things wrongly said aboutsomeone and which has affected the person or is presently causing trouble – **2 Sam.16:5-8; 2 Sam.19:18-20; Acts 23:1-5.**

e. Marriages contracted contrary to biblical standards should also be visited. Lawful parental demands should be granted while people who have married another person’s spouse must prayerfully take steps towards restitution – **Lk.3:8; Gen.20:14; Rom.2:13-16.**

**CONCLUSION**

Do you have any restitution to make? Pray to God for help and take the right steps. The Holy Spirit will help you.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is restitution?

2. Why must we make restitution?

3. What examples can we find in the Bible?

4. Mention three examples of restitution you can make.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: 2 Tim.3:16-17** – God’s word has been packaged to perfect us and make us walk worthy of Him. Believe the word and obey it.

**Tue: 1 Sam.12:3-4** – God’s light should shine very bright in us to be able to stand without blemish before people.

**Wed: 2 Cor.13:5** – Examine your life and make amends where you have wronged others, to have a clear conscience before man.

**Thurs: Rom.8:26** – Let the Holy Spirit help and direct you in all steps you have to take.

**Fri. Mal.3:10** – Restore all the tithes you have stolen and make up your mind never to default again.

**Sat: Joel 2:25** – Make restitution and expect restoration of things the enemy stole from you.

**Sun: Col.1:21-22** – Jesus reconciled us to God through death on the cross. Give praises to Him for your salvation.

**LESSON 37** May 13, 2012

**ALL SCRIPTURE**

**MEMORY VERSE: “**All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: “ **- 2 Timothy 3:16**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17**

**INTRODUCTION**

 The Scripture is the compilation of prophecies (God’s words) from different prophets over a very long time. These formed the Bible. The Holy Book contains the Old Testament and the New Testament written by divine inspiration - **2 Tim 3:16**. God’s word is eternally true and never fails - **Ps 119:89,160; Isa 40:8; 2 Pet. 1:19, 1 Cor. 2:7-15**. Prophecy came not in olden time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. I pray that the Holy Ghost will use the power in His words to give us spiritual healing, deliverance, faith, rebirth ,wisdom and strength in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**OUTLINE**

**1. INSPIRED AND PROFITABLE**

**2. REMINDS ONE OF FALSE DOCTRINES IN THE LAST DAYS**

**INSPIRED AND PROFITABLE**

The Bible was written by divine inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness- **2Tim 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:13, 2 Pet.1:21, Heb.1:1.** ‘Scripture’ derives from the Latin word ‘’scriptura’’ which means ‘writing’ - **Exod. 32:15-16, 2 Chron. 36:22.**

What are the things that make the Scripture profitable: (i) Jesus Christ used the scripture to overcome Satan- **Matt.4:4,6,10 Matt.21:13**. (ii)These prophetic words are powerful – **Jn. 6:63; Ps. 33:6,9, Heb. 11:3**. (iii) God’s word is our spiritual weapon - **Eph 6:17,Jer 5:14; Jer. 23:29 Heb 4:12** (iv) It saves us and gives us spiritual rebirth-**1 Pet. 1:23** (v) it gives faith, truth, wisdom and strength - **Rom. 10:17; Ps.19 :7b** (vi) Meditation in the word causes prosperity and success - **Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2-3 ;1Tim 4:15**.(vii)It is the source of eternal life for the believers -**Jn. 5:39.**

**REMINDS ONE OF FALSE DOCTRINES IN THE LAST DAYS**

Doctrine is a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a group or sect. We have doctrine of man - **Matt. 15:9, 16:12, Eph 4:14**. For instance, there is doctrine of Balaam- **Rev 2:14**. We also have doctrine of the Nicolaitans - **Rev. 2:15.** The most important doctrine is the doctrine of Christ – **Matt.7:28-29; Mk. 4:2, Jn. 7:16-17**. We are to obey the doctrines of Christ - **Rom 6:17, 1 Tim 4:6, 13**. Other doctrines apart from that of Christ are of Satan and should be avoided- **Jer. 23:16, 21-22**.

In the last days, many will turn away from the doctrine of Christ to false doctrines similar to those of Balaam, the Nicolaitans and of Jezebel –**1Tim 4:1-2, 2 Tim.3:8-10**. The scripture has already warned us**- Rev 2:7a.**

**CONCLUSION**

Take heed to the scripture, it will surely be fulfilled -**Matt 5:18.**

 **QUESTIONS**

1. Define the scripture and give some of its importance.
2. Mention some doctrines of Satan.

 **BLESSES WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

***MONDAY:*** 2 Tim 4:13 - Give attention to doctrine.

***TUESDAY:*** 2 Tim: 4 15-16 - Continue in the doctrine till Jesus comes.

***WEDNESDAY***: 1 Pet.1:23 -The scripture can save us and give us spiritual rebirth.

***THUR SDAY***: Joshua 1:8 - Meditation in the scripture causes prosperity and success.

***FRIDAY:*** Rom.10:17 - The scripture gives faith and strength.

**SATURDAY:** Jn. 6:63 - The scripture has power to heal our soul, spirit and body.

***SUNDAY:*** Deut.28:1-15 ***-*** Obedience to the scripture brings blessings. Deut 28:1-15

**LESSON 38** May 20, 2012

**DIVINE MISSIONS – PART ONE**

**MEMORY VERSE: "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” John 20:21**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 12: 1-3**

**INTRODUCTION**

A great number of believers are indifferent towards missions and missionary work. Little do they know that missions is the heartbeat of God. God has been behind missionary activities since the fall of man. Today, we want to study about God and His missionary purpose to all nations. May the Lord open our eyes to see what He wants us to see, in Jesus' name.

**OUTLINE**

1. **GOD'S MISSIONARY PURPOSE**
2. **WHO IS A MISSIONARY?**

**GOD'S MISSIONARY PURPOSE**

If not for God who revealed to us through His word, we would not have known that we are supposed to take the Gospel to the whole world - **Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20; Luke 24:47.** God created man for His glory and to fellowship with Him but Satan came in and destroyed that fellowship - **Genesis 2: 19-22; 3:5; Isaiah 43:21**. God is interested in removing every barrier to that fellowship. God is a missionary God. We can see God's missionary purpose to all nations right through the Bible particularly after the tragic fall of man - **Genesis 3: 1-15; Jonah 1 :2**.

God's first reaction was to promise that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent, even though he would also suffer in the process - **Genesis 3:15.** Sin and defeat came to all people through the head of the human race, Adam. The defeat of Satan will come for all Adam's descendants (all nations) through this promise.

The covenant with Noah and his descendants - **Genesis 9:1-17**, was with all mankind in every nation. The call of Abram - Genesis 12 ­was not to give special privileges to a special nation but to provide a means for God to save all nations. God needed someone to keep the knowledge of the true God alive in the world. God's intention was to use a nation who would write down the revelations of God and preserve them as a message to all nations (the Bible.) In the nation, He used a family as the preserver of truth. God told Abraham, *"…***in thee all families of the earth be blessed."**- **Genesis12:3, 18:18, 22:18.** Therefore, the call of Abraham was purposely aimed at bringing salvation to all nations.

**WHO IS A MISSIONARY?**

Some people think a missionary is a white man who comes from a rich country, advanced in technology and education. Because of the advantages of his culture, he comes to help those less fortunate by starting schools, hospitals and preaching the Gospel. The word, "missionary" comes from the Latin word, *"mitto"* which means, *"to send."* The Greek equivalent is *"apostello."* A missionary then is someone who is sent with a commission from a higher authority - **John 20:21; Acts 13:1-3**. Some of the missionaries introduced to us in the Bible are Jonah, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy.

**CONCLUSION**

Since God takes missions seriously, we as His people should not do less. We must find our place in the business of preaching the Gospel to the whole world and play our parts well.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why is missions the heartbeat of God?

2. How do you know a missionary?

3. What kind of blessing is God talking about in Genesis 12:3?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

 MON: Jonah 1:4 - Do not cause people trouble by refusing to preach to them.

 TUE: 1 Corinthians 1 :18 - You are denying people the power of God if you fail to preach the Gospel.

 WED: 1 Corinthians 9: 16 - We are not doing God any favour if we share His love with sinners. It is a command.

 THUR: 1 Corinthians 9: 18 - We should not preach the Gospel with the intention of exploiting people.

 FRI: 1 Corinthians 9:29 - We must practice what we preach so that we would not be hypocrites.

 SAT: 2 Corin. 4:8 - Doing God's will may bring persecution but we must not relent.

 SUN: 2 Corinthians 4:5 - Jesus only should be our message and nothing else.

**WEEK 39** May 27, 2012

**WEEK THIRTY-NINE**

**THIRD QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**WELCOME TO THE THIRD INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**YOUR PRIVILEGE:**

* **TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY**
* **TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
* **ETC**

**LESSON 40 June 3, 2012**

**DIVINE MISSIONS – PART TWO**

**MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." John 4:34**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 61:1-3**

**INTRODUCTION**

In our last lesson on divine missions, we were told who a missionary is so that we do not begin to have a wrong idea about him. Missionaries are people with a call. They are special. It is interesting to note that Jesus our Lord was a missionary. May the Spirit of the Lord open our hearts as we study, in Jesus' name.

**OUTLINE**

1. **JESUS AS A MISSIONARY**
2. **JESUS AS A SENDER OF MISSIONARIES**

**JESUS AS A MISSIONARY**

The most important aspect of the definition of a missionary is that a higher authority sent Jesus. Jesus said it several times that He was sent by the Father whom He said is greater than Him - **John 7:16, 9:4,3:17,17:4**. Jesus mentioned the fact that His father sent Him, forty three times in the Gospel of John as well as in the other Gospels. The purpose of this sending was that the world might be saved.

Another thing about a missionary is that his work usually requires a change in location as well as culture. Jesus left Heaven, a different place, with a different culture, different language and a different people to come to this earth that is different in every way to Heaven so that we would know and serve the true God. He came to provide us with salvation and reconcile us to God - **John 8:23; 5:33,38; Acts 26:16-18; Luke 19:10**.

What did Jesus do as a missionary? He taught publicly and ministered to the crowd. He taught both Jews and Gentiles such as the Samaritan woman in John 4 who recognised Him as the Saviour of the world. He met the Syro-pheonician woman (**Matt. 15:21-28**), the Roman Centurion (**Matthew 8:5-13),** healed the possessed man and other people in Decapolis (**Matthew 5:1-20; 7:31-37**.) Those Gentiles put their faith in Him as He helped them. He first sent them to the Jews and later to all nations. This is cross-cultural missions - **Matthew 28:19-20; 10:5­7**. We must teach, preach and heal. We must be ready to suffer in order to take the Gospel to those not yet reached who are lost. We must complete His work by taking the news to them - **Matthew 4:23**.

**JESUS AS A SENDER OF MISSIONARIES**

Jesus was not only a missionary but also sends out missionaries to all the nations of the world to preach the good news. Jesus, during His ministry on earth, said the good news about Him would be preached to the whole world. This did not materialise until His resurrection from the dead. Before He went back to Heaven, He commissioned all His disciples in what is generally known as, ''The Great Commission" to take the Gospel to all the nooks and crannies of the earth. We all are His disciples and therefore should be fully involved in carrying out His instructions - **Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21-22; Acts 1 :8.**

This instruction was given at various times. It was given on the resurrection day, as recorded by Mark, Luke and John, on the mount of Olives before His ascension and on the mount of Galilee as recorded by Matthew. This instruction was so important to Jesus that He had to give it more than once. He also gave Paul a similar call in Acts 26:16-18. The prayer of Jesus in **John 17:18** clearly shows that sending people out was part of what Christ was sent to do.

**CONCLUSION**

We cannot afford to disobey the Lord in this regard. If He takes it seriously, we must also.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why did Jesus repeat the instructions to preach to all nations several times?

2. Apart from Jesus and Paul, name three other missionaries in the New Testament.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

 MON: Isaiah 6:8-9 -We must be ready always to do God's work with our whole heart.

 TUE: Isaiah 5:14- People go to hell everyday in large numbers. Let us rescue them.

WED: John 3:3 - Before you tell others about Christ, Christ must be in you.

THUR: Matthew 5:9 - To make peace between God and man, this is our work.

 FRI: Hebrews 10:39 -No matter what we may be going through, going back is not the best option.

 SAT: 1 Peter 3: 15 - Christ must be the reason for anything we do.

 SUN: James 1 :22 - Let us do the word that we may see the Lord.

**LESSON 41 June 10, 2012**

**DIVINE MISSIONS – PART 3**

***MEMORY VERSE: "*** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”**Luke 24:49**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 2:1-24**

**INTRODUCTION**

Like any other work of God, the work of missions in particular must not be done in the flesh so that frustration, failure and discouragement would not come in. Today, we want to look at the power behind effective missionary activities.

**OUTLINE**

1. **THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MISSIONS**
2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT AS DIRECTOR OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MISSIONS**

The three Persons of the Trinity are all missions-minded. We have seen God the Father and God the Son in our previous studies. The Holy Spirit cannot be left out in this work of bringing the world to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In fact, the Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Trinity, is a missionary Spirit. He is a sent One. Jesus had promised His disciples before He left that He would not leave them comfortless and that He would send the Spirit of truth to be with the believers. The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost in a special and unmistakable way although before then He had been active in the world in various ways -**Acts 2:1-4; Genesis 1:2; 2Chro. 20:14; Judges 15:14**. He is sent by the Father in Jesus' name. - **John 16:7; 14:26, Luke 24:49; Acts 1 :4-5; John 14:16 - ­18, 25-26.** His ministry to believers is to teach and encourage them ­- John 16:13-15. He also has a missionary ministry to the unbelievers in convicting them -John 16:8-11- and in regenerating -**John 3:8**.

The Holy Spirit and missions are inseparable. Missions work cannot be effective neither can it succeed without the Spirit. Like in any other spiritual activity, the Holy Spirit is indispensable to missionary activities. The Holy Spirit is to missions what food is to the body. If one does not eat well, it will affect the body adversely. In the same manner, if one does not seek the help of the Holy Spirit, he would be labouring for nothing - **Acts 8:29**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AS DIRECTOR OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES**

The book of Acts shows the Spirit of God in action as the Apostles and other believers moved from place to place and nations to nations to preach the good news. The Holy Spirit was so important to the missionary activity of the Church that the work could not begin until the Holy Spirit arrived. As a matter of fact, Jesus specifically told His disciples that they could only carry out the great commission effectively when the Spirit must have arrived - **Luke 24:49; Acts 1 :4-5**. The Holy Spirit is the power behind missions (**Acts 1 :8.)** He is the One that can provide power for the work to stand.

It is significant to note that God decided to send the Spirit on the day of Pentecost when men *"from every nation under heaven"* were in Jerusalem. Since the message is for all nations, God sent the power to make the message effective on the day men from different languages, tribes and people were gathered. This is very instructive indeed and it shows how important this work is to God. What happened on that day of Pentecost reveals the missionary emphasis of the Spirit. The Spirit also empowered the disciples to speak in the language of all these people ­- **Acts 2:6**. Peter preached on the prophecy that God in Spirit was to be poured out on *"all flesh"* -**Acts 2:16-20** - that whoever called on the name of the Lord would be saved - **Acts 2:21** - and said the promise of the Spirit was available to *"all that are far off.* "(**Acts 2:38-39.)** Pentecost was the birthday of the missions as well as the Church.

The Spirit sent Philip to speak to the Ethiopian eunuch - **Acts 8:29**. He told Peter to go to the Gentile Cornelius - **Acts 10:19-20** - and authenticated the conversion of the Gentiles - **Acts 10:44-47** - to the Jews who did not want to accept them into the Church. It was the Spirit who told the prophets and teachers at Antioch to send out the first missionary team - **Acts 13:2** - and the Spirit Himself also sent them out­ - **Acts 13:4**. This agrees with the commission given previously to Paul on the road to Damascus - **Acts 26:16-18, 23** - and in the Temple (**Acts 22:21**) and through Ananias (**Acts 9:15-16**) that he was to be a missionary to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit prevented them from going to Asia Minor and directed them to Macedonia, a new continent. The Spirit continued to direct their movements. -**Acts 16:6-7; 16:8-10,19:21,20:22-23**.

**CONCLUSION**

It is unfortunate today that many believers do not reckon with the Holy Spirit any longer. No wonder, the apostles succeeded greatly because they allowed the Holy Spirit to have His way. We should follow their examples.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in missions?

2. Why must we give the Holy Spirit free room to operate in our lives?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

 MON: Acts 3:19 - We must turn away from anything we do that God does not approve of.

 TUE: 1 Corinthians 8:8- Too much of anything is not good so let us control our appetite.

 WED: Galatians 5:5- Too much of uncontrolled freedom leads to bondage.

 THUR: Ephesians 2:8 - Salvation is a gift. Our part is to receive it

 FRI: Colossians 3:1- Let your thoughts be more horizontal than vertical.

 SAT: Ephesians 4:12- Whatever God has given us, let us use it to His glory.

 SUN: Philippians 1 :15 - I must preach Christ because I love Him.

 **LESSON 42 June 17, 2012**

**DIVINE MISSION – PART FOUR**

**MEMORY VERSE: *"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."* Romans 8:30**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 26:12-20**

**INTRODUCTION**

In our past lessons on this series, we have had the understanding that the Trinity takes active part in the work of missions. In this final lesson, we want to learn about other things that we need to know to complete our understanding of this topic.

**OUTLINE**

1. **THE MISSIONARY CALL**
2. **QUALIFICATION OF A MISSIONARY**
3. **PREPARATION FOR THE WORK**
4. **YOUR ROLE IN MISSIONS**

**THE MISSIONARY CALL**

If by "missionary" we mean someone who is called to witness for Christ, then every Christian is a missionary. But this is not how the term would be used here. A missionary is one sent across geographical and/or cultural boundaries to proclaim the Gospel. If this is true, every Christian is a missionary. Then one may ask, how do I know I have been called as a missionary?

One of the ways by which you can know is through a burden or a desire. Has God put a desire in your heart to do missionary work? Such a desire may be temporarily aroused emotionally by an eloquent preacher or worker but if the desire or burden persists in your heart and follows you even without the words of others, it is likely that God Himself is putting it in your heart. Another way may be through a dramatic and outward circumstance and the word and the witness of the Holy Spirit whereby certain verses of scriptures on missions are imprinted on your heart. You can also have visions and dreams - Acts 16:9.

**QUALIFICATION OF A MISSIONARY**

For a person to be qualified as a missionary, he must be spiritual, if not, there will be problems. A carnal mind cannot understand the things of the Spirit -1 Corinthians 2:14. He must be genuinely converted - **John 3:3-5**, spirit-filled - **Acts 4:8, 13:9-10; Ephesians 5: 18** - must be sure of his call - **1 Timothy 1:12; Romans 1:1-4; Galatians 1:11-12,** disciplined in his spiritual life - **Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 9:27**, should be able to adapt to the new culture and environment - **1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Philippians 4: 12-13,** must be of healthy motive- **2 Corinthians 5: 14,** attend missions school - **2 Timothy 2: 15** and have ability to work with others -**1 Peter 3:8; Romans 12:18.**

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORK**

It is important that one has a solid training in the word of God before going to the mission field. There are many Bible schools and theological seminaries around. This aspect is very important because if one does not have a solid background, he may not be successful in the field. Subjects like Biblical Theology of missions, Evangelism, Discipleship and discipling, Cross Cultural Church Planting, Cross cultural Communication, Spiritual Warfare etc should be part of one’s missionary preparations. It is important to take the training either in ones country or in the country one intends to do the missionary work. If one decides to go overseas for the training, this may not be good enough because overseas training is aimed at training people from that culture and it might not be appropriate to you as an African.

Once one has decided to be a missionary, one has to decide the organisation one would work with. When considering any mission, one must find out their vision, what training they require, what fields they work in, their financial policies, the authority structure, field policies and any other thing that would make you know whether one would be able to fit in with them. One can belong to a denomination or church that has a mission programme and that sends out missionaries - **Acts 13:1-5**. One can also go out independently but then it is important to be sure of prayer and financial support in this regard. Paul had a church supporting him but also had a job (tent-making) to support himself.

**YOUR ROLE IN MISSIONS**

Every believer has a role to play in making the Gospel reach the ends of the earth. It is true that not all Christians are called to be missionaries, however, there are other ways of taking part in the work of missions apart from going to the mission field. Every believer must ask God to show him His plan for his involvement - **Leviticus 24:12­ - 14; Acts 9:6.** If you cannot be a full time missionary, you can be a tent­-making missionary. This means you can be doing your secular or professional job or be attending a school and witness for Christ through a consistent life and testimony as time and law of the land permits. This would be very useful in countries that are hostile to the Gospel where the Gospel cannot be preached freely. Another role you can play is by praying - **2Thess. 5:17; Mark 9:38; Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18-19.**

Prayer is work. You must be committed to praying for missionaries you know and the ones you do not know. Pray for breakthrough, pray that doors would be opened to preach the Gospel. Pray for countries that are hostile to Christianity particularly Islamic countries. You may also form a prayer group that would meet regularly to pray for the missionary work at home and abroad.

You can also be involved financially or giving money for mission work. There are churches, like the R.C.C.G., that are deeply involved in missions. You can send money to the supervising body for the furtherance of the work. Paul's ministry enjoyed the financial backing of friends like Aquila and Priscilla, and the church, both collectively and individually - **Romans 16: 1-5; Philippians 4: 15-18.**

**CONCLUSION**

God our Father has called us to be co-labourers with Him. It is a privilege for us to be in His service. So let us arise and do our part in reaching the perishing. You will only be remembered by what you have done for God.

**QUESTIONS**

1. How can you become a missionary?
2. If you are not a full time missionary, in what other way can you be involved in missions?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Psalm 65:2- God is the best confidant.**

 **TUE: Mark 10:15 -It is easy to receive when we have the faith of a child.**

 **WED: Acts 6:4 - When we put our priorities right, we will be successful.**

 **THUR: Psalm 62:11- Do not look for power elsewhere. God has it.**

 **FRI: Job 19:25- God sees all that we are passing through. He will help us.**

 **SAT: 2 Chronicles 20:17 - Let God fight your battle for you.**

 **SUN: 1 Chronicles 4:9-1 0 - God can change any situation, no matter how bad.**

**LESSON 43 June 24, 2012**

**SOUL WINNING: AN UNUSUAL STRATEGY**

Memory verse: “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, the I might gain the more.” I Cor. 9:19

Bible Passage: I Cor. 9: 19-23

**INTRODUCTION**

Our Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave us a mandate. Today, we will take a look at the mandate and strategies to help us fulfil this important mandate. May the Holy Spirit open the spirit of our understanding, in Jesus’ name.

**OUTLINE**

1. PRIMARY MANDATE OF BELIEVERS

2. UNUSUAL STRATEGIES

**PRIMARY MANDATE OF BELIEVERS**

Jesus Christ commands the believer to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature-Mark 16:15. Believers must ensure that the fruit he/she bears abide so that his/her prayers in life will never be hindered - John 15: 16. It is highly imperative to follow - up the convert so as to prevent loss - Col. 1:28. Souls won must always be prayed for and catered for- Col 1:9.

Our primary mandate as believers is to make soul wining a continuous practice till Jesus comes back in His power and glory- Act.1:6-8, 2 Tim 4:5. Part of our mandate *is* also to be highly committed even to the less privileged - Matt 25:41-45. Reason is that the Lord will come sooner than ever imagined.

**UNUSUAL STRATEGIES**

1. Small public address system fixed on top of your car blasting the gospel.
2. Sudden creation of gospel scene at a very busy road junction, like drama or
playlets.
3. Collection of G.S.M numbers and sending gospel bulk SMS.
4. Flying of helicopter to distribute gospel tracts in communities and later
follow it with preaching man to man.
5. Counselling outlet could be established to minister unto people's problems
one on one, free of charge. Showing of exceptional care to the counselee after meeting with them.
6. Through free medical care/visiting of hospital, orphanages from time to time - Acts. 20:34-35.
7. Signing-up with organisations like the Red Cross and witness for Christ as you minister to people in devastated areas - Matt 10:32.
8. Living a complete Christ-like life.
9. Establishment of vocational and Extra-mural classes in especially educationally disadvantage areas.
10. Reaching out to prisoners.

**CONCLUSION**

Ensure you break every barrier that limits your contact with souls.

Questions

1. How can souls be won in the ghetto and prison yard?
2. What could be done to win the *"MD/CEO"* of a multinational company for Christ?

**Blessed Week With The Holy Spirit**

 Monday: Mark 16:15 - Go and preach the gospel to every creature.

Tuesday: I Cor. 9:19 - I can gain more souls for Christ.

Wednesday: Acts. 10: 15 - What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

 Thursday: Matt. 25:45 - Love your neighbour.

 Friday: I Cor. 9:24 - Run so that you may win.

 Saturday: 1 Cor. 9:27 - Keep your body under.

Sunday: Col 1:9 – Win souls and care for them.

**LESSON 44 July 1, 2012**

**PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**

**MEMORY VERSE:**  “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” **Colossians 3:16**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalms 33:1-8**

**OUTLINE**

1. **PSALMS**
2. **HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**

**PSALMS**

Psalms literally means “song sung to a harp’- Ps. 98:5. This implies that psalms are ways of singing to God. Psalms are also what one sings to talk about God’s wondrous ways –– **Ps. 105:2,** Ps.33:2-5, 1 Chron. 16:9 - and to reflect the mercies of God on one’s life- Ps.89:1.One of the ways we can utilise our moment is by singing psalms – **Jam. 5:13.** Psalms are ways we can use to enter into the presence of God – **Ps. 95:2.** There are psalms of thanksgiving – **Ps. 30,** psalms of praise – **Ps 117, Ps.145:1,** prophetic **- Ps 2:1-12; 16:1-11,** penitential**- Ps 6:1-10; 25:1-22,** intercessional**- Ps 20:1-9; 67:1-7,** psalms ofafflictions **- Ps 3:1-8; 4:1-8,** didactic**- Ps 1:1-6; 5:1-12,** historical **- Ps 78:1-72; 105:1-45** etc

**HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**

Hymns are religious canticles, songs, or psalms. In Eph 5:19 and Col 3:16, Paul requires Christians to edify one another with "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." Matthew 26:30 says that Christ and His disciples, having supped, sang a hymn, and went out.

Hymns and spiritual songs are songs inspired by God and written by spiritual people or on spiritual subjects. – **Ps. 42:8.** One very good habit believers should cultivate is the act of singing hymns and spiritual songs. – **Eph. 5:19.** Today, we have all kinds of songs – including those that feed our pride and glorify the flesh and even the devil. Not using appropriate hymns and songs has seriously affected our worship. One of the fastest ways we can load our lives with the word of God is by singing hymns – **Col 3:16.** However, we must be born again before we can live a life full of hymns and spiritual songs. A life that is void of God will struggle with the messages in these hymns.

**CONCLUSION**

One of the ways one can maximise gains from psalms, hymns and songs is for one to be born again and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Hymns come from divine inspiration, therefore, one must be in the spirit to get the best from them.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are the source(s) of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs?
2. What are the benefits of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Monday: Ps. 42:8** – Let God’s song be with you always.

**Tuesday : Mark 14:26**  - God’s hymns lead us in the journey of life

**Wednesday: James 5:13 -** Sing psalms always.

**Thursday: 2 Cor. 1:4 –** God comforts us all the time.

**Friday : Col 3:16 –** Let God’s word dwell in you richly.

**Saturday: Ps. 105:2 –** Talk of all God’s wondrous works all the time**.**

**Sunday: Eph. 5: 19** – Let your mouth be seasoned with songs.

**LESSON 45 July 8, 2012**

**Christianity and Homosexuality (1)**

Memory Verse: “And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;” - Romans 1:28

Bible Passage: Rom.1:21-28

**INTRODUCTION**

Today, especially in the western world, homosexuals and lesbians have gained substantial momentum.  They have "come out" as the term goes, left their closets.  Through television, radio, newspapers, and magazines, they are preaching their doctrine of tolerance, equality, justice, and love.  They do not want to be perceived as abnormal or dangerous.  They want to be recognised and accepted socially, politically etc. In this study we shall examine the biblical perspective and the Christian worldview as touching this subject matter. Be blessed.

**OUTLINE**

**1. WHAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY?**

**2. SOCIETAL ATTITUDE**

**3. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

**WHAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY?**

Homosexuality is a relationship that involves having sexual intercourse with the people of the same sex. It is referred to as ‘lesbianism’ among the female gender. Homosexuality is not natural. A look at the male and female bodies reveals that they are obviously designed to couple.  The natural design is apparent.  It is not natural to couple male with male and female with female. Homosexual desires, which may *feel* natural, are actually unnatural. Other perverted sexual relationships are: paedophilia – an abnormal sexual attraction to children and bestiality – sexual relationship with animals.

**SOCIETAL ATTITUDE**

Pro- homosexual politicians and the homosexual community want legal protection for having intercourse with the people of the same sex. They also want their views taught in schools, promoted over the airwaves and codified in literature. The homosexual community also attempts to use political power to try and control the church.

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

The Bible has much to say about homosexuality:

1. Gen. 19:4—5 - ‘But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.
2. [**Lev.18:22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Lev.%2018.22) - " Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination."
3. [**Lev. 20:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Lev.%2020.13) - " If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them."
4. [**1 Cor. 6:9-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor.%206.9-10) - " Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."
5. [Rom. 1:26-28](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom.%201.26-28) - " For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient".

**CONCLUSION**

The Bible surely has crystal clear statements against homosexuality. Hence, it is difficult to see how different groups can say the Bible supports homosexuality.  But they try by redefining love, marriage, sex, homosexuality, etc. in order to accomplish their goal.  But the truth is that God created man and woman, not man and man, or woman and woman.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is homosexuality?

2. What is the attitude of the society to homosexuality?

3. What does the bible say about homosexuality?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Monday: Rom 1:28 -Retain God in your knowledge and ways.

Tuesday:1 Cor 6:20 - Honour God with your body.

Wednesday: 1 Cor 6:18 - Flee from sexual immorality.

Thursday: 1Thess 4:4 - Be self-controlled.

Friday: 1 Tim 5:22 - Keep yourself pure.

Saturday: Lev 20:13 - Homosexuality is an abomination.

Sunday: 1Thess 5:22 - Abstain from all appearances of evil.

**LESSON 46 July 15, 2012**

**Christianity and Homosexuality (2)**

Memory Verse: “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;” Ephesians 4:22

Bible Passage: Rom.1:21-28

**INTRODUCTION**

So far we have discussed what homosexuality really is, societal attitude and what the Bible says about it. Today, we shall be examining the dangers involved in homosexuality, Christian’s response to the homosexual and homosexual marriages.

**OUTLINES**

1. **The Danger Involved**
2. **Christian's Response To The Homosexual**
3. **Should homosexuals be allowed to marry one another?**

**THE DANGER INVOLVED**

Unlike other sins, this sexual sin has a judgment administered by God Himself: He gives them over to their passions and ‘to do those things which are not convenient--in the old sense of that word, that is, "not becoming," "indecorous," "shameful." ([**Rom. 1:26-28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom.%201.26-28)).  This means that their hearts are allowed to be hardened by their sins.  As a result, they can no longer see the error of what they are doing - **Prov.10:17, Heb.3:7-10**.  Without an awareness of their sinfulness, there will be no repentance – **2 Cor.4:3-4**.  Without repentance, there will be no forgiveness (**Act. 8:22**).  Without forgiveness, there is no salvation – **Heb.2:3, Rom.5:1, 2 Cor.7:10, Rom.10:10**.

**CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO THE HOMOSEXUAL**

Just because someone is a homosexual does not mean that we cannot love him (or her) or pray for them- **Lev.19:18,** [**1 Tim. 1:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Tim.%201.5).  Homosexuality is a sin and like any other sin, it needs to be dealt with in the only way possible- **Rom.13:9**.  It needs to be laid at the cross and repented of- **Rom.6:6, Eph.4:22**.

Christians should pray for the salvation of the homosexual the same way they would pray for any other person in sin- **James 5:16**, **1 Kings 13:6.**  They should treat homosexuals with the same dignity as they would anyone else because, whether you like it or not, they are made in the image of God- **Gen.1:26-27.**  However, this does not mean that Christians should approve of their sin.  Christians should not compromise their witness for a politically correct opinion that is shaped by guilt and fear - [**Col. 4:5-6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Col.%204.5-6).

**SHOULD HOMOSEXUALS BE ALLOWED TO MARRY ONE ANOTHER?**

The aching questions in the society and some churches are:  Should a woman be allowed to marry another woman?  Should a man be allowed to marry another man?  Should they be given legal protection and special rights to practice their homosexuality?

Although, our society does not rely on the Bible for its moral truth but on humanistic and relativistic morals upon which it builds its ethical structure, the Bible, of course, condemns homosexuality- [**Lev.18:22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Lev.%2018.22)**, 20:13.**  It takes no leap of logic to discern that homosexual marriage is also condemned.  Therefore, we must be prayerful, sober and vigilant – **1 Pet.5:8-9**.

**CONCLUSION**

You do not win people to the Lord by condemning them and calling them names.  This is why God says to speak with wisdom, grace, and love.  Let the love of Christ flow through you so that the homosexuals can see true love and turn to Christ instead of away from Him

**QUESTIONS**

1. **List some of the dangers Involved in the practice of homosexuality**
2. **What should be our response to the homosexuals?**
3. **Should homosexuals be allowed to marry one another?**

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Monday: 2 Tim 2:22 - Flee from all evil desires.

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:9 - The unrighteous have no place in God’s kingdom.

Wednesday: 1Thess. 4:3 - Abstain from fornication.

Thursday: Titus 2:12 - Live soberly, righteously and Godly.

Friday: Lev. 18: 22 - Flee from all abominable acts.

Saturday: Rom 12:9 - Cling to that which is good.

Sunday: 1 Pet. 5:8 - Be prayerful and watchful.

# LESSON 47 July 22, 2012

# RAPTURE - PART 1

**MEMORY VERSE:** **“*Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,”* 1 Corinthians 15:51**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**INTRODUCTION** The second coming of Christ prophesied by Daniel in Daniel 7:13 is a sound biblical fact. This return shall be in two stages. The first, “being like a thief in the night” to receive unto Himself His Church. This is popularly called the rapture. May the Holy Spirit Himself guide us into all truth, in Jesus’ name.

## OUTLINE

**1. WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?**

**2. WHEN IS THE RAPTURE?**

**3. WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE RAPTURE?**

**4. HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?**

**WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?**

The word, rapture, is not found anywhere in the Bible although it is used to describe this great upcoming and memorable event. The rapture is the sudden catching up or sudden disappearance of holy and faithful saints from the earth to meet with our Lord and Saviour in the air. It is also referred to as the translation or translocation of believers – **1 Thess.4:16-17; 1 Cor.15:51-58**. Examples of such translation in the Old Testament are; Enoch – **Gen.5:22-24; Heb.11:5** and Elijah – **2 Kgs.2:11**. It shall be as sudden as the twinkling of an eye – **1 Cor.15:52**.

**WHEN IS THE RAPTURE?**

The exact timing of the occurrence of the rapture is not known –**Matt.24:42, 44; Matt.25:13; 1 Thess.5:6**. We, however, know that it shall precede the tribulation – **1 Thess.1:10, 5:9; 2 Thess.2:12.**

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE RAPTURE?**

The following are to be expected at the rapture:

1. The trumpet of God shall sound – **1 Cor.15:52; 1 Thess.4:16.**
2. The dead in Christ shall rise first – **Jn.5:25; 1 Thess.4:16; 1 Cor.15:23.**
3. Saints which are alive shall be “caught up” to meet our Lord in the air – **1 Thess.4:17; 1 Cor.15:51.**
4. The dead in Christ and saints who are left shall have glorified or immortal bodies and live forever – **1 Cor.15:52-54; Phil.3:20-21; Col.3:4; 1 Jn.3:2.**
5. There shall be extraordinary chaos on the earth – **1 Thess.5:2-3; Mt.24:40-41.**

**HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?**

1. It shall happen suddenly – **1 Cor.15:52; 1 Thess.5:3; Matt.24:36-41.**
2. The power of God shall make the bodies of saints immortal – **Phil.3:21.**
3. The sudden “vacancies” produced by such disappearance shall give birth to the chaos.

**CONCLUSION**

The greatest calamity that could befall anyone who claims to be a believer is to be on earth a second after the rapture. The one who is coming back for His own “suddenly”, warned us to be prepared, at least six times in different parables. Are you alert and ready? **Mk.13:32-37.**

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the rapture?

2. Mention five things that will happen at the rapture.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon: Jn.3:16** – There is no salvation or eternal life without Jesus Christ. Thank God for His love towards us.

**Tue: Phil.2:12** – Believers must remain in the faith to be raptured. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

**Wed: Matt.25:10** – Be like the wise virgins. Be prepared when the Bridegroom comes.

**Thurs: Matt.24:44** – Live every moment like your last, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man comes.

**Fri. 1 Thess.4:16-17** – At the rapture, the saints will be caught up to meet with Jesus in the air.

**Sat: Phil.3:20-21** – Our bodies shall be transformed like Christ’s glorious body at the rapture.

**Sun: Rev.19:7-9** – The saints will be assembled at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

# LESSON 48 July 29, 2012

# RAPTURE – PART 2

**MEMORY VERSE:** **“*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* John 14:2-3**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 15:50-53**

**INTRODUCTION** Our last lesson revealed the meaning of the word, rapture. We also discovered events surrounding the rapture as regards timing and other issues. Today’s lesson will show us the reasons, the qualification as well as fallacies surrounding the rapture. May the good Lord teach our hearts and bless our lives with His truth by His Spirit, in Jesus’ name.

## OUTLINE

**1. WHY WILL THE RAPTURE TAKE PLACE?**

**2. WHO WILL BE RAPTURED?**

**WHY WILL THE RAPTURE TAKE PLACE?**

1. To resurrect the just of all ages from among the dead – **1 Thess.4:13-17; Ps.50:1-6.**
2. To take the saints out of the world before the tribulation – **Lk.21:34-36; 2 Thess.2:7-8; 1 Thess.1:10.**
3. That Jesus Christ might present to Himself a Church without spots or wrinkles **–Eph.5:27; Jn.14:1-3.**
4. To transform or change the bodies of all faithful saints from mortality to immortality –**Phil.3:20-21; 1 Cor.15:21-23, 42-44, 51-58.**
5. To assemble the saints at the marriage supper of the Lamb – **Rev.19:1-10.**
6. To allow the revelation of the anti-Christ – **2 Thess.2:1-8.**
7. To present saints to God the Father – **1 Thess.3:13; Jude 24.**
8. To make the saints whole in body, soul and spirit – **1 Jn.3:2-3; Rom.8:22-23**.

**WHO WILL BE RAPTURED?**

1. Those who are in Christ at His coming – **Jn.1:12; 2 Cor.5:17.**
2. Those who earnestly desire His appearance – **Titus 2:13; Phil.3:20.**
3. Those who love the Lord supremely – **Phil.3:7-10; Jn.21:15-17; Jn.14:15;; Mk.16:15-18; Lk.19:12-13.**
4. Those whose citizenship is in Heaven – **Phil.3:20-21; Eph.2:19.**
5. Those who will live holy even as He is holy – **1 Pt.1:16; Heb.12:14; 1 Jn.3:1-3.**

**CONCLUSION**

Let us be sober in watchfulness, always fellowshipping together and keeping the unity of the faith in the bond of peace – **1 Thess.5:6, Heb.10:25, Eph.4:3**.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Stating six reasons, why will the rapture take place?

2. Mention the categories of people that would be raptured.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Mon: Lk.13:3** – Repent today and you will not perish.

**Tue: Matt.25:13** – Watch and pray because His second coming is imminent and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is inevitable.

**Wed: Rev.21:27** – Remain holy as nothing that is defiled shall enter Heaven.

**Thurs: Matt.22:13** – Belong to Christ’s family and be branded for Him and you will not be cast away.

**Fri. 1 Tim.1:14** – Obedience is a great asset to cherish and display always.

**Sat: 2 Tim.2:19** – Stop pretending, the Lord knows those that belong to Him.

**Sun: Rev.19:7** – The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is a moment of great celebration. Do not miss it.

# LESSON 49 August 7, 2012

# THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

**MEMORY VERSE:** **- “…Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage *supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.* “ Revelation 19:9b**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 19:1-14**

**INTRODUCTION** Marriage, in this context, symbolises the union between Christ and the Church – **Eph.5:22-32**. It is, however, important to note that the second coming of Christ is the next event after the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. May the Holy Spirit teach us and bless us richly as we look at this topic in details - **Dan.7:13; 1 Tim.6:14; Acts 1:10-11.**

## OUTLINE

**1. WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE IS THE MARRIAGE?**

**2. ITS IMPORTANCE**

**3. WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE MARRIAGE?**

**WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE IS THE MARRIAGE?**

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is the consummation of the union between Christ, the Bridegroom, and the Church (without spot or wrinkles) – **Eph.5:27; Rev.19:1-14; Matt.22:1-14; Matt.25:1-13**. It is one of the greatest biblical prophesies. The marriage will take place before the second coming of Christ to the earth**.** Christ is the Bridegroom. The wife is the redeemed or saints of all ages who will have part in the first resurrection and who will live in the New Jerusalem forever –**Rev.2:9-10**; **Rev.21:2.**

**ITS IMPORTANCE**

1. To assemble the saints for the last supper with Christ.
2. To present the just of all ages to God the Father and fulfil their main eternal purpose.
3. To wipe away tears from the faces of the saints.
4. To take away the saints from the earth before the activities of the anti-Christ.
5. To take away the saints before the tribulation.

**WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE MARRIAGE?**

Those who will qualify for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb must be those who belong to Christ – **2 Cor.5:17**, earnestly desiring His second coming and watching – **Matt.25:1-13**. Included are those whose patience and visions are not darkened. Also, those who do not get distracted and lose focus completely before the Bridegroom comes, those whose holiness is not polluted and their garment not stained and those whose garment is righteousness and always right on time – **Matt.21:10-14; Rev.21:8-27; Heb.12:14**. Also included are those that obey His commandments and whose citizenship is in Heaven **–Rev.22:14-15; Eph.2:16; Matt.7:21-23.**

**CONCLUSION**

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb, like all biblical prophecies, will be fulfilled. Our Lord Jesus Christ will have His last supper with the Church without spots or wrinkles. Are you a member of His kingdom? Do you earnestly desire it? You cannot afford to miss it. Pray to God to keep you standing in Him and count you worthy of this great and unique event.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the marriage Supper of the Lamb?

2. Who qualifies for the marriage?

3. Name four important reasons for the Marriage?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: Heb.9:27** – No one will escape judgement.

**Tue: Matt.25:46** – Faithful ones will enjoy eternal life.

**Wed: 1 Cor.3:15** – Every man’s work shall be judged.

**Thurs: Matt.25:25** – Use your talent wisely.

**Fri. Rev.22:12** – Christ is coming soon.

**Sat: Heb.12:29** – God is a consuming fire.

**Sun: 2 Pt.3:10** – Be prepared for the day of the Lord.

# LESSON 50 August 14, 2012

# THE JUDGEMENT

**MEMORY VERSE:** **“*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* Hebrews 9:27**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 20:4-15**

**INTRODUCTION** Judgement is imminent. Whether we believe it or not, we are going to give account of all that we do here on earth, whether it be good or bad, righteous or wicked. We will all appear before the One that God has appointed to judge all, Jesus Christ.

## OUTLINE

**1. TYPES OF BIBLICAL JUDGEMENT**

**2. THE CRUCIAL JUDGEMENT**

**TYPES OF BIBLICAL JUDGEMENT**

The Bible speaks of at least seven different judgements:

1. The Saviour on the cross being judged for our sins.
2. The believer’s self-judgement – **1Cor.11:31; 2 Cor.13:5.**
3. The judgement of the believer’s works **– Rom.14:10; 2 Cor.5:10-11**.
4. The judgement of Israel during the Great Tribulation – **Ezek.20:30-44.**
5. The judgement of nations when sheep will be separated from goats at the second coming of Christ – **Matt.25:31-46.**
6. The judgement of the fallen angels reserved in darkness, waiting – **Jude 6-7; 2 Pt.2:4.**
7. The judgement of the wicked dead – **Rev.20:11-12, 15; Rom.2:16.**

**THE CRUCIAL JUDGEMENTS**

These are the two major final judgements for both believers and unbelievers:

1. The Judgement Seat of Christ.

This is the judgement of believers where each person’s work will be tested with fire – **1 Cor.3:13**. Also, to be tested are: our words, our thoughts, our secrets, our motives. This judgement will take place after the rapture. **Matt.16:27; Matt.12:36-37; Matt.15:19-20; Rom.2:16; 2 Cor.5:14.**

1. The Great White Throne Judgement

This is the judgement of the wicked. The sinners and all that reject Jesus Christ and the fallen angels. They will be judged according to their works as recorded in the book of life. It is going to be an impartial and open judgement. **Rev.20:5; Rev.20:11-15; Matt.7:21-23.**

**CONCLUSION**

Where will you appear? It is a crucial decision – Judgement Seat of Christ or the Great White Throne Judgement. The choice is yours.

**QUESTIONS**

1. State four types of judgements in the Bible.

2. Describe the judgement of the Great White Throne.

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: 2 Cor.5:17** – Judge yourself. Are you in Christ?

**Tue: 1 Cor.10:12** – Over confidence kills. Beware.

**Wed: Heb.2:1-3** – Salvation: a precious gem, guard it jealously.

**Thurs: 2 Tim.2:22** – Remove yourself physically from any situation that stimulates your desire to sin.

**Fri. Lk.18:8** – Will Jesus find you in faith when He comes?

**Sat: Matt.24:13** – Do not give up your salvation.

**Sun: Jam.1:25** – Be a doer and not a hearer only.

**LESSON 51** August 21, 2012

**ETERNAL REWARDS**

**MEMORY VERSE: “*And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”* Matthew 19:29**

**BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27**

**INTRODUCTION** The scriptures say do not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treads the corn. It also says the labourer is worthy of his reward. So, God has a reward for all that make it to the kingdom. We shall one day cross to the other side where we shall have exceeding and eternal weight of glory. **2 Cor.4:17**; **Ps.37:34; Ps.91:8.**

## OUTLINE

**1. TYPES OF ETERNAL REWARDS**

**2. OTHER TYPES OF ETERNAL REWARDS**

**TYPES OF ETERNAL REWARDS**

Jesus Christ has prepared crowns for rulers in His coming kingdom. These crowns and their qualifications are:

1. The crown of life – **Jam.1:12.** The qualification for this is that you must have endured temptation and remain faithful. Other qualifications include overcoming evil, loving the Lord and being faithful unto death – **Rev.2:10.**
2. The incorruptible crown – **1 Cor.9:24-25**. This is for those who patiently run the race to Heaven and who are temperate in all things.
3. The crown of rejoicing – **1 Thess.2:19**. You must be a soul winner to receive this crown.
4. The crown of glory – **1 Pt.5:4**. A crown for true pastors, missionaries and teachers.
5. The crown of righteousness – **2 Tim.4:8**. It is for those expecting the Lord. They are earnestly waiting for His coming.

**OTHER TYPES OF ETERNAL REWARDS**

Apart from crowns and leadership positions in His kingdom as kings and priests, the believer will also be privileged to:

1. Reign with Christ -**Rom.8:17-18.**
2. Behold His face - **Ps.17:15; Rev.22:4.**
3. Inherit all things - **Rev.21:7**.
4. Shine as a star - **Dan.12:3**
5. Be a pillar in the temple of God - **Rev.3:12.**
6. Have access to the tree of life - **Rev.22:1-5; 22:14.**
7. Be glorified with Christ - **Gal.4:7**.

**CONCLUSION**

Knowing that we have this wonderful rewards in serving God, what manner of people should we be? – **1 Jn.3:2-3**

**QUESTIONS**

1. List the various types of crowns.

2. List what qualifies you to have these crowns.

3. What other rewards will Christians receive?

**BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**MON: 1 Cor.15:58** – Your labour is not in vain.

**Tue: 1 Thess.1:3** – Your labour of love is remembered.

**Wed: Jer.31:16-17** – Thus saith the Lord: thy work shall be rewarded.

**Thurs: Pro.25:21-22** – Take care of your enemy.

**Fri. Ps.103:10** – Thank God for His mercies.

**Sat: Rev.22:12** – Will you tarry to the end?

**Sun: Jn.8:51** – You are assured of eternal life if you obey God.

**WEEK 52** August 28, 2012

##### **WEEK FIFTY TWO**

**FOURTH QUARTER INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**WELCOME TO THE FOURTH INTERACTIVE SESSION**

**YOUR PRIVILEGE:**

* **TO ASK QUESTIONS ON TREATED LESSONS FOR CLARITY**
* **TO GIVE CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE OUTLINE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS BETTER PERFORMANCE**
* **TO GIVE USEFUL SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

**ETC**