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General Overseer



# Digging Deep



**501 - 600**

**THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH OF GOD**

*1-9, Redemption Way, Ebute-Metta, Lagos State, Nigeria*

# Digging Deep

**Outlines**

**501 - 600**

This Edition 2008

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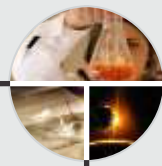
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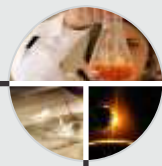
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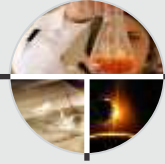
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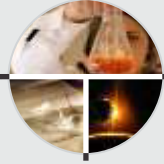


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## Introduction

**H**ow does one determine a life that has been fruitfully and usefully spent? How does God measure success in the life of an individual? Is it by the fleet of cars and rows of houses he has? How does God measure failure in the life of an individual? Is it by poverty or lack of education? Certainly not. God's standard is different from human standards, Luke 12: 15. And we are concerned about God's standard in this series. May the Lord open our spiritual eyes to see those things that are of God in Jesus, Name. Amen.

### **1. JESUS CHRIST'S LIFE IS A PATTERN OF A FRUITFUL LIFE**

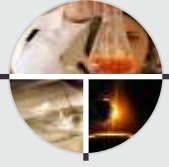
A fruitful life is one that puts Jesus first in all things. A life that starts with Jesus and ends with Him. A life that recognizes that Jesus never changes and His standards remain the same today as ever. A life of wisdom, gloriously lived in the fear of God. A life without a stain, without a blemish. A honest life of hard work and soul-winning, spent in turning sinners to righteousness.

**Col. 1:17-19; Matt. 28:18; Rev. 1:10-11; Jhn 7:5; I Cor. 8:6; Heb. 13:8; Pro. 3:35; Dan. 6:1-4; Phil. 2:15; I Pet. 2:12; Dan. 12:3; Matt. 4:19; Matt. 4:19; I Cor. 11 :1 ; 1 Thess. 3:9; Eccl. 4:5.**

### **2. A FRUITFUL LIFE IS A LIFE OF LOVE**

A fruitful life is a life that loves God. A life spent joyfully reading the word of God and meditating therein. A life spent obeying God and keeping His commandments. A life of peace, double portion of peace, based on holiness and absolute trust in God'.

Deut 6:5; Ps. 119; 162; Ps. 138:2; Ps. 119:97; John 14:23; John 15:14; Ps. 119:163, 165; 15:26:3.



## Introduction

**I**n the first part of the series, we saw that as far as God is concerned, what makes your life fruitful is not necessarily how much material wealth you possess. Also, that God's standard of measuring fruitfulness is different from man's standard. Some of the things we have learnt so far as contributing to a fruitful life are (i) putting Jesus first (ii) holiness, (iii) following the footsteps of the Lord (iv) loving God (v) reading and meditating on the word of God (vi) doing the word of God (vii) wisdom based on the fear of the Lord. We shall continue to look at those things that make a life fruitful. May the Holy Spirit teach us today, in Jesus Name. Amen.

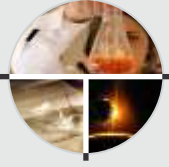
### **1. A FRUITFUL LIFE IS ONE OF COMPASSION AND ACTIVE LOVE**

Compassion, particularly for the downtrodden, the sick and the unhappy captives of Satan, is an ingredient for a fruitful life. Love for our fellow men, as demonstrated by giving our best be it money, time, tracts, comfort etc. is another ingredient. A life of love is a life of obedience to God who commanded us to love our neighbours like ourselves. Hence it is a godly, fruitful life, Matt. 9:36; Mark 1:40-41; **John 3:16; Acts 3:b-o; John 15:13; John 15:12; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:7-12; Mark 16:15-16; Col. 1:5-8.**

### **2. FOR A LIFE TO BE FRUITFUL, IT HAS TO BE SACRIFICIAL**

A fruitful life has to be a life of sacrifice; sacrificial living, sacrificial giving and even sacrificial praising of God. That is how Christ lived His life; that is how we must live our own because He is our example.

**Luke 21:4; Mark 26:7; I Kings 17:13-15; Ps. 107:21-22; Ps. 116:17; Jer.17:26; Jer. 33:11; Jbnah 2:8-9; Heb.13:15;" Cor.8:9; Eph. 5:2; I John 3:16.**



## Introduction

**U**p till now we have found many ingredients that make up a fruitful life. Some of these are, (i) putting Jesus first (ii) holiness (iii) studying and doing the word of God (iv) compassion (v) love (vi) sacrifice (vii) faith, etc. We want to look at another great ingredient of fruitfulness. It is fellowship with Jesus. May the Lord teach us Himself through His Holy Spirit in Jesus, Name. Amen.

### **1. JESUS IS THE FRUIT-BEARER: NO ONE CAN BEAR FRUITS WHEN CUT OFF FROM HIM**

Our Lord Jesus Christ made the condition for fruit bearing clear; constant fellowship with Him. For one thing, those who fellowship with Christ always get whatever they ask for and secondly, they have an assurance that they will not backslide. Even through fellowship with God requires satisfying some conditions, there are always a few people in every generation willing to pay the price of separation from the world and fellowship with God. Are you going to be one of them in this generation?

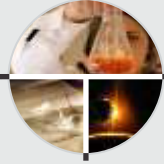
**John 15:4-6; John 15:7; Ps. 6:5; Acts 4:13; Ps. 73:8; Rev. 3:20; James 4:7; Rev. 3:4; Mill. 2:6; John 15:10; I John 2:6; Amos 3:3.**

### **2. THE REWARD OF A FRUITFUL LIFE IS ETERNITY WITH CHRIST.**

Continuous fellowship with Jesus in this life guarantees fellowship with Him in eternity. The Bible is full of examples of men who fellowshiped with God in this world and are fellowshiping with God in Heaven. A few of such men are Enoch, Noah, Elijah, Paul the Apostle and David. May we be counted with them after our lives here in Jesus, name. Amen.

**I John 2:28; Gen. 5:22-24; Gen. 6:9; I Kings 17:1; Acts 19:11-12; I Cor. 14:18; II Tim. 4:7-8; I Sam. 13:13-14; Ps. 119:162-164; Ps. 113:2-5; Ps. 71:10-15.**





## Introduction

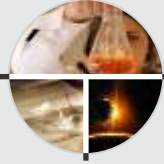
**I**n the third part of this series, we saw some ingredients of a fruitful life. These include compassion, active love. Sacrificial praising of God. These are in addition to the ingredients that we discovered in part one like putting Jesus First, holiness, loving God, reading his word and meditating on it and doing the Word of God. In this study, today, we want to look at one major ingredient of a fruitful life. It is called faith, Heb. 11:6, May the Almighty increase our faith greatly today even as we study at His feet in Jesus, Name. Amen.

### **1. FAITH IS THE FERTILIZER FOR THE TREE OF LIFE**

Faith is the fertilizer for the tree of life. If faith is absent, the tree of life of any man will be on a barren ground and fruitless. The Bible is full of great men and women whose lives were great testimonies simply because they had faith in God. From patriarchs to a harlot, they got their names immortalized in the Book of books by overcoming great odds through simple faith in the Almighty God. Some of these men and women include names like: Noah. Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua. Rahab, Elijah, the widow of Zarephah Elisha. Naaman, the Shunamite woman, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Mary, Paul and Silas, just to mention a few. They are human beings like us. Their God is our God. May our faith be greater than theirs in Jesus, name. Amen.

**Gen.6:13-32; Heb.11:7; Gen. 12:1-3; Heb.11:8; Gen. 22:19; Heb. 11:17-19; Gen. 18:9-15; Heb.11:11; Ex. 14:10-16; 15:23-25; 17:1- 7; Jbs.1 :6,7,9; 3:9-17; 6:1-20; Jbs.10:12-14; Heb.11:31; I Kings 17:1-6; 17:10-16; 11 Kings 2:19-22; 5:11-14; 4:18-37; Dan. 3:16- 18; Luke 1 :30-38; Acts 16:22-26.**

## I WILL REACH MY GOAL



### Introduction

**I**t is one thing to set a goal for oneself in life, but it is quite another thing to reach the goal set. Many never make it to the goal they set for themselves and have to live all their lives in frustrations. If it is true in the physical, it is even more so in the spiritual. Infact our Lord Jesus Christ warned that any step-that could divert our attention from reaching the goal must be avoided, Luke 9:62. May the Lord, through this study, enable us to reach our goals in Jesus Name. Amen.

#### 1. ONCE YOU SET A SPIRITUAL GOAL FOR YOURSELF, THREETHINGS COULD HAPPEN

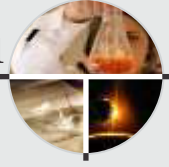
Once you set a spiritual goal for yourself, three things could happen, namely: (i) the enemy may put obstacles in your way or use diversionary tricks (ii) God may test your determination and (iii) if you pass God's test, He will intervene to help you reach your goal.

**Matt. 10:22; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9; Gen. 13:10-11; Gen. 22:1-8; Job. 17:9; 1 Pet. 1 :13; Rev. 3:11; II Kings 2:1-8.**

#### 2. GOD IS READY TO HELP IF YOU ARE DETERMINED

If you pass the Divine test depend on how determined you are to reach your goal. God will intervene to make sure that you arrive. He did it in the case of Abraham, Caleb, and Joshua, The Shunamite woman, Elisha, Peter and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. He is willing to do the same for you also.

**James 5:11; Gen. 22:10-13; 1:5-8; Num. 14:28-30; II Kings 4:25- 35; 2:9-12; Luke 22:31-32; 9:51; Luke 22:41-43; Rom. 15:25-26; Acts 14:19-22; Acts 20:22-24; Romans 8:35-39.**



## Introduction

**E**very Nation or Kingdom has an army of its own. And God, the King of all kings, has an army too. Just like satan has an army of demons, witches and wizards, etc. To God, His own army are Holy and Spirit - filled men and women who can lay hands on the sick for healing, who can cast out demons, etc. and just as satan is constantly recruiting more and more people into his army, so is the Army of the Lord constantly increasing in size and efficiency. May the Lord open our inner eyes to see the deep things of God as we study this series in Jesus, name. Amen.

### **1. GOD HIMSELF CHOOSES THE SOLDIERS IN HIS ARMY**

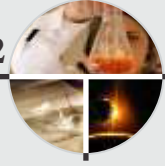
The Almighty God does not work with volunteers. He prefers to choose His soldiers by Himself. However, those whom He chooses invariably have certain things in common, namely: (i) absolute loyalty (ii) lack of fear and (iii) absolute holiness. In the same way, the recruiting of officers in His army is determined by His sovereign choice.

**John 15:16; I Pet. 2:9; I Cor. 1:2, 9; I Cor. 1:26-29; Rev. 2:10; Rev. 12:11 ; Pro. 28:1; I Cor. 12:4, 11; 12:28-30; Mark 16:9-10; John 20:11-18; Matt. 9:9; I Tim. 1:15-16; II Cor. 12:11; Ps.113:5-8; Luke 1:52; I Pet.5:5.**

### **2. THERE IS ONLY ONE PUNISHMENT FOR FAILURES IN THE ARMY OF GOD: EXPULSION**

A promotion in the army of God is also at His supernatural discretion. However, He uses some guideline often. These include, (i) fruit-production, (ii) faithfulness in small things etc. There is only one punishment for those who fail God: expulsion. However, for those who succeed in His army, the reward is truly royal.

**Ps. 75:6-7; John 15:2; Matt. 25:20-23; Luke 16:10; John 15:6; II Kings 2:11; II Tim. 4:6-8; John 4:23**



## Introduction

**I**n the first part of this series, we learnt that God does not work with volunteers but that He chooses the members of His army by Himself. The same is also true of the selection of officers and promotions in His army. We also learnt that while expulsion is the only punishment for failures, there is royal treatment for those who succeed in His army. In this part, we wish to learn more about this unusual army. May God teach us deep things in Jesus Name. Amen.

### **1. THE ARMY OF THE LORD IS AN UNUSUAL ONE**

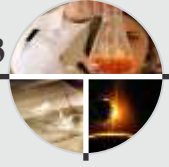
The army of the Lord is composed of unusual soldiers who are sheep and lambs. An army that does not use guns and bullets and yet are never afraid, even of death. An army of priests, who at the same time are kings, with an ability to hear God's voice. Their main opponent is the devil who they are prepared to fight non-stop, even though he is invisible.

**Jhn 10:27; Jhn 10:14; Luke 10. Ps. 23:1-4; II Cor. 10:4; Ex.19-5-6; Rev. 1 :4-6; James 4:7; Eph. 6: 13; I Tim. 6:12-14; I Pet. 5:8-9.**

### **2. THE SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS HAVE A THREE- FOLD ASSIGNMENT**

The three-fold assignment of the soldiers of the cross are (i) a ministry to God, through the sacrificing of praises to Him (ii) a ministry to one another, with the strong helping of the weak and (iii) a ministry to the world, bringing them into salvation, deliverance and health.

**Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18; Ex. 20:18-19; Matt. 8:11-12; I Sam. 15:22-28; I Pet. 2:9; Rom. 11:7, 11, Heh. 13:15; Ps. 9:11; Rom. 15:1-3; I Thes. 5:74; Jhn 15:9-13; Matt. 16:15-18, Acts. 1:8.**



## Introduction

**W**e have learnt that the army of the Lord is an unusual army. An Army of sheep that can overcome wolves, with the ability to hear the voice of God and desire to obey Him totally. Army of priest that is also kings with a three-fold duty of (i) ministry to God (ii) ministry to one another and (iii) ministry of the world. In part three we want to look closely at the ministry of the army of the Lord to the Lord Himself. May the Holy Spirit quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus, Name. Amen

### **1. WORSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GOD THAN WORK**

Every King has a throne: the throne of God is built by the praises of His people. That is why the Father's greatest desire is not for workers but worshippers, because those who will ever succeed as His workers must first succeed as His worshippers. That is why activity without worship always produces little harvest because God has decreed that there will be no rain if there is no worship.

**Ps. 22:3; John 4:23; James 4:8; Matt. 22:37-38; Luke 10:38-42; Acts 13:12; Zech. 14:17.**

### **2. TRUE WORSHIP INVOLVES COOPERATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**

Worship can be divided into two portions: (i) in spirit which is God's part and (ii) in truth, which is man's part i.e. there must be a participation by both God and man for worship to lie complete. For example, David was the sweet psalmist of Israel because the spirit of God spoke by Him and through Him. Our part in worship is not only to surrender our tongues to the Holy Spirit but also to make our hearts so pure that He can dwell there continually.

## THE ARMY OF THE LORD - Part 3

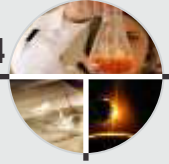


John 4:19-23; II Sam. 23:1-2; Is. 50:4; I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:18-19; Ps. 24:4-5; Ps. 66:18; Matt. 15:7-9; James 5:16.

### **3. YOU CANNOT OBEY GOD FULLY EXCEPT YOU WORSHIP HIM CONSTANTLY.**

There are some commandments of God that can only be obeyed fully during worship time. These include: clapping our hands, shouting victoriously, making a joyful noise unto the Lord, lifting our hands, waving our hands to Him in praise and dancing before Him.

**Ps. 47:1; Ps.100:1-4; Ps. 95:1-3; Ph. 4:4; Lam. 3:40-41; Ps. 63:3-4; Lev. 9:21; Ps.149:3; Ps.150:4; Ps. 30:11.**



## Introduction

**W**e have been discussing the ministry of the Army of the Lord to their Captain, the Lord of Hosts. In particular we have studied why we must worship in Spirit and in Truth. Now, we want to look into the details of how to correctly worship God. May the Lord accept our worship today and always for evermore in Jesus. Name. Amen.

### **1. OUR SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUST HAVE RELEVANCE**

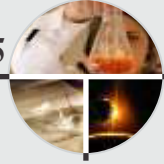
Those who worship God genuinely always worship Him relevantly. The song they sing when they consider the mercies of God will be different from those they sing when considering His holiness, sovereignty or power. We can even prophesy during our worship.

**Ex. 4:31; Is. 62:5; II Sam. 12:14-23; Jbs. 5:13-15; Is. 5:1-4; I Chr. 25:1-3; Jhn 4:24; Eph. 5:18-20.**

### **2. WORSHIPPING GOD IS IN COMPLETE UNLESS YOUR BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT ARE INVOLVED**

It is not only with our voices alone that we should worship God. We could lift up our hands or clap, we could dance, we could shout, etc. All these are relevant ways of worshipping God and each has its own significance if done with all our heart.

**Ps. 103:1; Rom. 12:1; Ps. 95:6; Matt. 2:11; Ps. 63:3-4; Ps. 141 :2; I Tim. 2:8; Ps. 47:1; I Cor. 3:9; Ps.150:4; Ps. 95:1; I Chr.17:16-18; Ps. 62:1, 5.**



## Introduction

**W**e have spent some time learning about the ministry of the soldiers of the cross to their Captain. This is principally worshipping Him in Spirit and in Truth. Now we want to consider the ministry of the soldiers one to another. A good passage that seems to say it all is Acts 2:41-47. May the Lord Himself teach us today in Jesus, Name.

### **1. THE RICHER MUST TAKE CARE OF THE POORER**

God demands from every soldier of the cross not only tithes but offerings also. This is so that the tithes might meet the needs of the ministers who direct His-worship while the offerings meet the needs of the needy in the fold. God knows that there will always be the poor in the land and He wants them cared for in an organized manner so that the devil might not exploit the situation. It is not the wealthy alone that He expects to support the poor. It is a case of the richer supporting the poorer.

**Mal. 2:8-12; Deut. 12:5-6; Num. 18:21; Lev. 27:30-33; Deut 15:11; Is. 58:6-7; Ex. 23:10-11; Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 25:19-21; Luke 11 :41; Pro. 25:21-22; Pro. 28:3.**

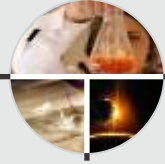
### **2. IF YOU HARDEN YOUR HEART AGAINST THE NEEDY, YOUR TURN WILL COME**

It is a dangerous thing to harden your heart against the poor because failure to help a wounded soldier implies your turn will soon come. Because God commands the strong to support the weak not only in the physical sense but also spiritually. If you do not know how to be merciful, learn it.

**Deut. 15:7, Pro. 21:13; Rom. 15:1-2; Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 13:3; James 1 :27; Col. 3:12-14; I Pet. 3:8; Rom. 12:15; Acts 20:35; Deut. 26:12-15.**



## THOU GOD SEEST ME



### Introduction

**T**here are two ways of looking at a thing, person or an object. A "Look" might be evil and the other favourable. In this study, we want to examine the two sides of a "Look" and choose between the "Looks" which one we want directed at us. May the Lord Almighty show His favourable countenance on us as we go through this topic in Jesus, name. Amen.

#### 1. OUR LOOKS AS HUMAN BEING

Human beings are like God. Gen. 1:26. We are capable of reacting to circumstances favourably or unfavourably, depending on situation at the particular time. Thus countenance reveals the expression of the mind.

**II Kings 5:20-27; I Sam. 15:24-28; Gen. 9:20-27; Ex. 32:21-22,26-28; Acts 8:20-21; 16:16-18.**

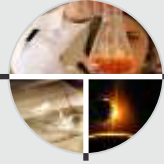
#### 2. GOD'S FAVOURABLE AND UNFAVOURABLE LOOKS

The many acts of God recorded throughout the scripture, truly prove that He is a real person whose acts are to be understood in the same sense as those performed by men. He also, therefore uses these media (Favourable and unfavourable looks) to approve or disapprove of our behaviours.

**HIS UNFAVOURABLE LOOKS: Gen. 4:3-5, 8-12, 16-19; Ex. 14:23-28; Gen. 18: 16-22; 24-25; Gen 6:12-18; (8-10); Jbs. 7:1-5; Hub. 1:13.**

**GOD FAVOURABLE LOOK: Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 16:10-13; Ex. 3:7-8; fs. 66:2,1 Sam.1 :6-7; Luke 1 :13; Luke 1 :26-30; Is. 5:2-7.**

## POWER OF AGREEMENT



### Introduction

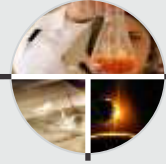
**P**rayer is a powerful force, far more powerful than all the bombs in the world. This is because prayer can change many things and can bring the impossible into the realm of the possible. However there are different kinds of prayers, Eph. 6:18, and some prayer are more powerful than others. In this study we want to discuss one of the most powerful forms of prayer. It is called the prayer of agreement, Matt. 18:19. May the Lord answer our united prayers tonight in Jesus, Name. Amen.

#### **1. WHEN PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER IN JESUS NAME, HE IS IN THEIR MIDST WITH ALL HIS POWER**

It is not the intention of the Lord that a Christian be a lone ranger, This is because He knows that there is great strength in unity. Now when two or more people gather together in His name, Jesus Himself will be in their midst with all His power and majesty. It becomes easier to praise and worship God. It becomes easier to talk to God and about God. Faith becomes united and strengthened, prayers are more quickly heard and answered because the One to whom we are praying is not only present but intimately involved in the praying.

**Heb. 10:25; Luke 10:1; Eccl. 4:9-12; Ex. 17:9-12; Deut. 32:30; Jb. 23:10; Matt. 18:20; Jhn 20:24-29; Rev. 7:9. 12; Acts. 2:46-47; Acts 16:25-26; Acts 12:5-12; Acts 2:1-4; Jhn 17:23; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 4:4.**

# THE SCAPE GOAT



## Introduction

**T**he Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English defines the word "SCAPE GOAT" as "PERSON BLAMED OR PUNISHED FOR THE MISTAKES OR WRONGDOING OF ANOTHER OR OTHERS."

However, in this study we want to examine what led to the issue of scapegoat, its spiritual implication and what should be our attitude towards it today. May the Lord Almighty give us a deep understanding of His word as we go on. Amen.

### 1. SIGNIFICANCE OF OFFERING IN ISRAEL

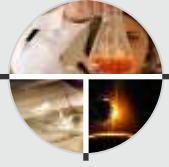
Making offering or sacrifice to God was a very ancient practice Gen. 4:3, 8:20; Ex. 10:25, and was known in Egypt and Babylonia long before the patriarchal times.

**Gen. 3:21; Gen. 4:3; Ex. 12:13; Lev. 1:7 Lev. 4:3-5,13-15, 22-23,27-29, Heb. 6:1-6.**

### 2. THE SCAPEGOAT TODAY

The High Priest has a responsibility of performing a solemn and general act of worship to all Israelites once a year i.e. 10th of the 7th month in order to 'reconcile the nation to Jehovah God. There he sacrificed a bullock for his own sin and two goats, on which lots will be cast. Kill one and let the other go alive into the wilderness. This was for the sin of the whole nation of Israel. This is known as the scapegoat or the escape goat.

**Lev. 16:1-10; Is. 53:4-6; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb. 10:8-10; Mal. 2:13; Gal. 4:9; I Pet. 3:1"8; II Cor. 5:77-20; I Pet. 2:24**



## Introduction

**I**n Ps. 25:9-14, we find out that God guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way. Infact, we discover that God confides in those who fear Him. This seems to make it clear that God will be willing to guide anyone who is humble and fears Him. But the question remains: how does God guide? In this series, we pray that the Almighty Himself will teach us on how to know His mind, in Jesus, name. Amen.

### **1. WILL THE ALMIGHTY REAVEAL HIS MIND TO MERE MORTALS?**

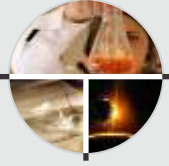
Will God let us know what He thinks about a particular situation? Will the Almighty reveal His mind to mere mortals? Yes, He will. If the Lord is your shepherd, He will guide you. He promised to teach you the right turns along life's road if only you are willing to follow. He is prepared to be your counsellor forever, if you so desire. You do not even need to be a prophet or an elder to be guided by God.

**Ps. 23:1-3; Ps. 32:8 Ps. 48:14; 15.42:16; Is. 48:17-19; John 10:4; 15.55:8-9; Luke 1 :79; Ps.18:30; Hab. 3:6; Ps. 73:24.**

### **2. GOD COMMUNICATES IN VARIOUS WAYS**

There are various ways through which God can make His mind known to His child. It could be either by the audible voice, dreams, symbolic acts, parables, proverbs or any other means of His Divine choice. Examples include the cases of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Joseph, Moses, Nathan, Solomon, Daniel, Zechariah, Mary, Peter, Paul and John; just to mention a few.

**15.6:1-9; Jer. 1:4-7; Amos. 3:8; Gen. 37:11; Exo. 3:1-6; II, Sum. 7:4-17; I Kings 3:5-15; Dan. 2:19-23; Luke 1:11-17, Luke 1:26-28; Acts 10:19-20; Ads. 10:9-10; Rev. 1:10-20.**



## Introduction

**I**n the first part of this series, we have found out that God, the Almighty is prepared to reveal His mind to human beings. He is willing to guide you even if you are not a prophet or an elder. We also discovered that God communicates in various ways, namely: the audible voice, vision, dreams, symbolic acts, parables, proverbs, etc. Now, we want to take a close look at dreams. May the Lord teach us to our benefits in Jesus Name. Amen.

### **1. THE SAME DREAM CAN HAVE DIFFERENT CONSEQUENCES FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE**

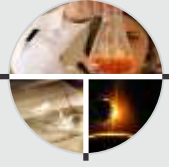
Dreams could have different sources. These sources could include the supernatural and the natural. Not all dreams are beneficial and not all could be relied upon. Dreams could bring comforting messages from God or they could bring warning of impending danger or Divine judgement. Supernatural transactions could also take place in a dream. The same dream could have diverse effects on different people.

**Num. 12:6-8; Jer. 23:28; Job 2:28; Eccl. 5:3,5:7; Gen.28:10-15; Gen.41:1-7; Dan. 4:4-8; Judg. 7:9-14.**

### **2. DREAMS COULD BE A POTENT WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF THE ALMIGHTY**

God could thwart the plans of the enemies through dreams. Similarly, God's purposes could be achieved through supernatural directions in dreams. In the hands of God, dreams could be turned to a weapon for shaping the history of individuals, nations and even the whole world.

**Matt. 1:19-20; Matt. 2:11-12, Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23; Gen. 15:13-16; 37:26-27; Matt. 1 :1-2; Gen. 40:1-22; 41 :38-44; Gen. 41 :55,41,26- 27; Matt.:1-2', Gen. 41: 1-7; 47:20-26; 47:11-12; Ex. 1 :8-11**



## Introduction

**I**n the second part of this series, we found out that dreams could come from different sources, both natural and supernatural. That the same dream could have different consequences for different people; and dream could be a potent weapon in the hands of the Almighty. Now, we want to look at visions in some details. May the Almighty teach us Himself in Jesus, name. Amen.

### 1. GOD ALLOWS VISIONS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

There are various reasons why God allow visions to happen. Some of these reasons are (a) some people are too busy to hear the small, still voice of God. (b) some need a concrete experience for future service, a sort of strong reference point (c) some need it to prepare them for an important ministry (d) some need it for guidance (e) visions could also be given to warn against the danger of self overestimation or (f) to announce God's judgement.

**Ex. 3:1-4; Acts 9:1-4; Jbs. 5:13; 6:5; Jude 6:11-21; Acts 9:10; Acts 16:22-24; Luke 1:26-38; Acts 10:9-20; Ex. 3:7-10; Acts 10:1-8; Acts 9:10-15; Is. 6:1-5; Dan. 5:1-5; Dan. 5:25-30.**

### 2. VISIONS ARE MORE FREQUENT IN TIMES OF CRISIS THAN IN THE TIME OF PEACE

In times of crisis or great danger, God uses visions as a means of assuring His own (i) that He is near, (ii) that all hopes are not lost (iii) that deliverance is on the way. But this is reserved for the pure in heart.

## GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY



### Introduction

**D**o all families receive the approval of God? Or His support? No. The book of Gen. 18; 19 tells us the mind of God regarding a true family accredited by God. It also reveals His concept concerning the standard of a true family. May the Lord open our mind of understanding as we learn from His word. Amen.

#### 1. GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY.

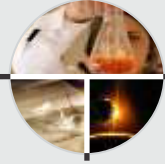
What is the conception of God about "FAMILY"? Has He any interest in the affairs of a family? Yes He has, if we conform With His own standard.

- a. Gen. 12:10,2:21-24; Jer. 31:1; Gen. 18:17-19; Gen. 12:10-20; Gen. 12:3; 28: 14; Gen. 20:2-6; 26:1-5; Ps. 113:9.
- b. **Husband's duty:** Pro. 5:18; Eccl. 9:9; 1 Tim. 5:8; I Chr. 29:19; Col. 3:18-23; Eph. 6:4.
- c. **Wife's Duty:** Eph. 5:21-25; Ex. 1 :20; I Tim. 3:11; Pro. 31 :26-28; 1 Pet. 3:1

#### 2. THE FAMILY NOT APPROVED OF GOD.

The family who violates that age long conception of God is not a family of God. It is one that has its root and foundation in chaos and confusion and consequently devoid of the blessing of God.

**Micah 7:6; Gen. 3:6; I Til11. 2:11-13; Gen. 25:27-28; Gen. 37:3; Col. 3:18-24; James 3:2; Jbb 2:9; I Kings 21:1-11.25; I Sam. 21 :33; Jdg. 13:19-23; II Sam. 6:20-23.**



## Introduction

Not all who begin a journey end it, not all who run in a race finish it. Some will always fall by the wayside. This is also true in the Christian race. But is it the will of God that some should fall by the wayside? Those who stand, are they responsible for their standing? These and many other questions will be answered in this series in Jesus Name. Amen.

### **1. NOT THE WILL OF GOD THAT ANY SHOULD FALL**

Not only is God able to save to the uttermost, He actually promises to protect His own forever. Though there may be obstacles on the narrow way. He provided light for those who are to use it. The word of God is full of examples of those who rose or fell accordingly as they obeyed or disobeyed God, so that we can learn from them and be able to stand. But some people will surely fall.

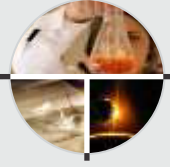
**Heb. 7:22-25; Ps. 125:2; Ps. 119:105; Pro 6:23; Ps. 119:130; I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4; Ps. 34:7; Matt. 19:30; Matt 25:1-12.**

### **2. SOME WILL SURELY STAND FOREVER**

The Bible also contains some examples of those who finished their races creditably well. Men like Enoch, Peter, and Paul convince us that it is possible to stand forever. But those who will stand must (i) take heed (ii) keep their bodies under control (iii) humble themselves (iv) press on relentlessly and (v) watch and pray.

**Gen. 5:24; II Kings 2:11; Pet. 1:12-15; Tim. 4:6-8; I Cor. 10:12; I Cor. 9:27; Phil. 2:5-8; Phil. 3:12-14; I Pet. 4:7.**





## Introduction

**T**here are 3 classes of Christians: those who fall, those who stand and those who are rising constantly. In the first part of this series, we discovered that it is not the will of God that any should fall but some people will surely fall. Similarly, some people will surely stand. Now, we want to take a look at the conditions for rising constantly. May the Lord Himself teach us in Jesus name Amen.

### **1. TO RISE, YOU MUST DISCARD THE THINGS THAT CAN WEIGH YOU DOWN**

You surely cannot even stand if you are still indulging in sin. Consequently, if you wish to keep rising, you must discard sinful habits, because it is only the righteous that shall flourish. Furthermore, all weight in the form of worldly allurements, worldly possessions and worldly securities must be discarded.

**Jbb. 11:14-17; Eph. 4:22; Heb.12:1; Col. 2:11; I Pet. 2:11; Ps. 92:12; Pro.4:18; Gen. 19:26; I Sam. 17:39.**

### **2. THOSE WHO AIM HIGH ALWAYS RISE HIGH IF THEY ARE WILLING TO PAY THE COST**

To rise high, you must be ambitious, so don't be satisfied with past achievements. Focus all your desire on Jesus Christ and be willing to pay the cost of becoming like Him. Seek Him early in the morning, seek Him late at night. Be temperate in all things study His word and resist sin even.

**Phil. 3:12-14; I Cor. 14:1; I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 14:12; Ps. 38:9; Ps. 63:1; Ps. 3:25; Ps. 119:20, 131; 15:26:9; Matt. 5:6; I Cor. 9:25; II Tim.2:15; Heb.12:4; 15.40:31**

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 1



### Introduction

**W**hat is an Armour? It is a defensive covering, usually metal, for the body, made in the form of a boiler's suit, normally worn in fighting during warfare; particularly in the olden days. It has several parts namely. Helmet, Visor, Scale Armour, breast plate, gauntlet, Greaves etc. (I Sam. 17:4-6) However, today we want to look at Christian Armour and its vital parts. May the Lord Himself teach us in Jesus, name. Amen.

#### 1. THE CHRISTIAN WALK IS A WARFARE

The walk of a Christian has been described as warfare, a deadly conflict in which he is engaged against the power of Satan and his hosts. Because this walk is warfare, a Christian must be prepared and equipped, in order to be victorious.

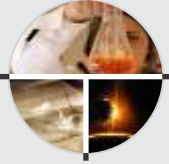
**Eph. 6:10-11; Gen. 3:1-4, 5-7; Gen. 13:10-11; Gen. 25:29-34; "Sam. 15:1, 2, 4," Chr. 26:16; 32:25; I Chr. 21:1.**

#### 2. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

While God has provided this armour, the individual Christian has the responsibility of putting it on by making conscious use of the power that the Lord Jesus Christ made available to him.

**Eph. 6:11-13; II Cor. 14:8; Ps. 33:20; II Sam. 22:31; Ps. 91:4; Pi: 2:7; Ps. 2:9; I Sam. 17:40; "Sum. 1:18; I Sam. 17:51; Eph. 6:17; Ps. 89:20.**

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 2



### Introduction

**T**he goal of every believer should be to make heaven. God has given salvation freely to all who accept Him but you are to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. This is because there is an adversary, the devil, who will do everything possible to ensure you do not make it. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

#### 1. THE NATURE OF THE ADVERSARY

Believers are confronted not with flesh and blood but with strong, powerful and organised forces of darkness under the leadership of satan.

**Eph. 6:12; Job 1:7; 1Pet 5:8; Jhn 8:44' Jhn 10:10; Isaiah 14:16-17; Ezekiel 28:13-15; Rev. 20:8; 10.**

#### 2. VICTORY IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH GOD

Since all power belongs to God, you can only overcome by plugging into Him and making Him your source always.

**Eph. 6:10; Ps.62:11; Dan.11:32; Ps.27:1-2, 1King 18:24; Heb. 12:29; Ps. 46:1-2; Ps 121:1-2; Ps. 23:1-2; Ps.91:1-3.**

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 3



### Introduction

**W**e must constantly be on our guard. As we continue in our studies, we pray that God will give us greater understanding in Jesus name.

#### 1. PUTTING ON THE COMPLETE ARMOUR

The armour is a protective covering usually metal for the body worn by a soldier when fighting. It is made of a helmet on the head, breastplate on the chest which sometime extends to the knee, shoes on the leg and a loincloth. In addition to these are a shield and a sword. The physical armour has its spiritual equivalent.

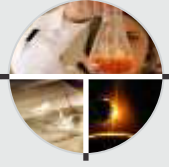
#### 2. WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO PUT ON THE COMPLETE ARMOUR AND AT ALL TIMES?

**Eph. 6:11; 14-17; 2Tim 2:4; Phil. 2:12; 2Tim. 4:7; 2Cor. 10:3; Eph 6:12; 1King 22:34; Matt. 24:13; Job 1:7; Luke 4:3; 1Pet. 5:8-9; Luke 12:35-36; Rev. 3:11**

#### CONCLUSION

The believer must constantly watch and pray.

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 4



### Introduction

**I**n this series, we have learnt that we have an enemy, the devil, who is crafty, wicked and resilient. He has a well-organised army of demons and his mission is to ensure that believers do not lead fruitful lives and ultimately prevent them from making heaven.

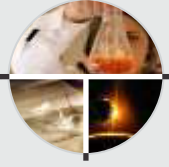
We also saw the need to put on the whole armour of God at all times to enable us triumph over the wiles of the devil. As we continue in our studies we pray that the Lord will give us understanding in Jesus name.

#### **THE SWORD OF SPIRIT**

As we begin to study the component parts of the armour of God, we shall today look at the Sword of the Spirit or the word of God. It is a weapon of offence against the devil and the word of God represents God Himself. It ensures victory for believers who diligently study the word, obey it and apply it to their lives.

**Jh. 1:1-2' Ps. 119:89; 1Pet. 2:24; /s8:10; Num. 23:19; Heb. 4:12; Matt. 4:4 & 7; Ps; 107:20; Matt. 4:6; Is. 5:13, /s.14:17; Hos. 4:6; Ps. 119:11; Ps. 109:105; Jbsh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1-3**

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 5



### Introduction

**I**n the series, we have seen that we should put on the whole armour of God at all times to enable us constantly triumph over the attacks of the devil. We have started with the study of the component parts of the armour and today we shall be looking at the shield of faith.

As we continue in our study, we pray that the Lord will give us greater understanding in Jesus name.

#### 1. THE NATURE OF FAITH.

Faith is the most important component of the Christian armour. Remove it from the armour, the believer becomes vulnerable to the relentless attacks of the enemy.

**Eph. 6:16; Heb. 11:1; Rom. 4:19-20; Matt. 6:30; 8:10; James 2:19; Matt. 13:21; Rom. 3:25; 2Tim. 1:12.**

#### 2. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

God places great emphasis on faith so much that anything that is done outside of faith is not acceptable to Him.

**Eph. 11:6; 1John 5:4; Gal. 5:6; In. 3:18; Luke 18:8; In. 9:35; Matt. 15:28; 1Pet. 1:7; Eph. 3:17; Rom. 14:23; Rom. 10:14**

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 6



### Introduction

**I**n this series, we have learnt that for a believer to succeed in his Christian race, he needs to put on the whole armour of God all the time. Today, we will be looking at why a Christian should tighten the belt of truth around his loins as part of this armour.

We pray that the Lord will teach us Himself in Jesus name.

### LIONSWITH TRUTH

The devil fights with lies and to some people his lies can sound like truth but only believers have God's truth, which can defeat satan's lies. Christians are to hold their ground against the onslaught of the enemy with the belt of truth tightly fastened around their loins.

**Eph. 6:14; Luke 12:35; 1Pet. 1:13; Deut. 33:11; In. 8:44; Gen. 3:1-3; Acts 17:11; Is. 5:13; Hos. 4:6, In. 14:6; 2Tim. 3:10-16; Rom. 16:18; Heb. 5:13-14; 2Pet. 2:14; 1Tim. 1:5, Eph. 4:11-14, Ps. 138:2; Job 13:15-16**

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 7



### Introduction

**I**n this series, we will continue to look at the component parts of armour and the need to put on the whole armour always to enable believers resist the devil victoriously. Today we shall be studying the helmet of salvation. What is the helmet of salvation? Why do we need to have it on at all times? We pray that the Lord will give us understanding in Jesus name.

#### 1. GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION

Salvation is the saving of a person's soul from sin and its consequences. It also means to be saved or delivered from danger and brought into a place of safety:

**Eph. 6:17; Col. 1:13; 1Pet. 2:9; Gen. 3:6; Rm. 3:23; 6:23; Heb. 9:22; In. 3:15; Col. 2:14-15, 2Cor. 5:17**

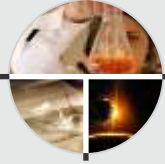
#### 2. WHY BELIEVERS MUST PUT ON THE HELMET

Just as the physical helmet protects the head from injury, the helmet of salvation protects the mind from the control of the devil:

**1Pet. 1:13; 2Tim. 1:7; 1Thes. 5:8; Heb. 9:28; 1Pet. 1:3; Ps. 62:1; Heb. 3:6; Rom. 12:102; James 4:7; Heb. 6:11-12; Phil. 2:12**



## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 8



### Introduction

In this series, we have been looking closely at the component parts of the armour of God and why it is essential for the Christian who desires constant victory not only to realise its utmost importance but also to put the whole armour on always. Today, we shall be studying the breastplate of righteousness. We pray that the Lord will teach us Himself in Jesus name.

#### 1. HUMAN RIGHTEOUSNESS CANNOT MEET GOD'S STANDARD

The word of God states that man's righteousness is worth nothing and in fact can only be compared with a filthy rag.

**Eph. 6:14; Is. 64:6; Hab. 1:13; Rom. 3:21-22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:17; Rom. 10:5; Gal. 5:22; Rom. 8:9; Amos 3:3; Heb. 12:14; 1Pet.1:15-16**

#### 2. WHY EVERY BELIEVER MUST PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE

Righteousness apart from ensuring peace for the Christian also empowers him to confront and overcome the enemy.

**Prov. 28:1; Ps. 53:4-5; In. 14:30 Jbb 1:8-10; Is. 48:22; Matt. 5:16; Ps. 34:17, 19; Ps. 66:18; Ps119:11; Ps.16:11; Gal. 5:16-18**

#### 3. THE POWERS OF A CHILD OF GOD - Mark 16: 15-18

The Lord Jesus saved his disciple on the cross, died, resurrected and then ascended into Heaven leaving them behind. They were to remain and do some job dear to his heart. In order to do this job they will need Security as I well as Skill and Ability. All these were encapsulated in 5 powers stated in this Scripture.

## PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 8



A. Five signs are evidence of the operation of Five Powers working in the Holy Ghost.

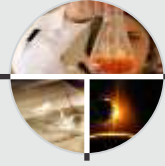
**Mk. 16:-15-18; 1Jh. 2:14; 1Jh. 14:2- 4; Mk 11:22-23; 1Jh 14:13-14;  
Rom. 12:14; Psalm 34: 1; 30:11; Luke 10: 19; Mal 4:3; Ps. 91:12;  
Heb. 9:13-14; 22; Jh.15:5**

**B. SOME OF THE REASONS WHY THESE POWERS WILL NOT WORK ARE EASILY AVOIDABLE.**

**Hosea 4:6; Prov. 29:18; Matt. 5:3-5; In.15:6; Jude 1:20-21; Psalm 103:8**

We have to be careful therefore not to play away our opportunities like Esau did because, invariably when we dispense facilities like these five powers, we end up crying tears of regret. The Lord will not give us tears of regrets in Jesus Name.

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



### Introduction

**T**he world is not a bed of roses. There are hills as well as valleys, bright days and dark night. And we all live in this same world, whether as sinners or saints. But there are certain differences between sinners and saints, particularly as to how each one passes through his/her storm. Ps. 112: 4 tells us so. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study this verse today in Jesus, name. Amen

#### 1. THE SAINTS WILL RECEIVE LIGHT IN HIS MOMENT OF DARKNESS, SINNERS MAY NOT

To everyone there are days of darkness, saints and sinners alike. The word of God establishes that fact. However for the saints, there is an assurance that even in the dark hour they will receive light. That light comes from God Himself who had promised that; He will not allow any darkness to swallow us up. But for sinners, it is a different story altogether.

**II Tim. 3:12; John 16:33; 15:43:2; Mic. 7:8; Ps. 84:11; Pro. 4:18-19; Ps. 27:1; Ps. 23:4; I Cor. 10:13; John 8:12; Mal. 4:2; Pro. 3:32; Pro 2:8.**

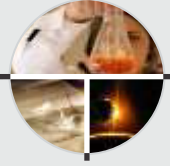
#### 2. YOU CAN BRING LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS AND YOU MUST

Saints not only receive light from above but they themselves are the lights of the world. Therefore, they can bring light to those in darkness. Infact, they must or else their own light might be taken away from them.

**Isa. 9:2; Mat. 5:14-41; 15:60:3; Acts. 13:47; 15:60:1; Rom. 10:11-14; John 15:1-2; Rev. 2:5.**

# LITTLE SINS

## Introduction



**A**ll Christians know about the big sins: murder, adultery, fornication, lying, anger, covetousness, stealing, etc. Ex. 20:3; 12-17. They therefore avoid them like plague. But little sins they do not worry much about, Heb. 12:1. Yet it is these little sins that will send many people to hell. May the Lord Himself teach us today in Jesus, name. Amen.

### 1. LITTLE FOXES SPOIL THE VINE

Just like a drop of poison can render a bucket of water undrinkable, or dead flies make a precious ointment stink, so does little sins destroy mighty men and women of God. A little leaven is all that is needed to leaven a whole lump and little sin is all that is required to ruin a beautiful testimony.

**Eccl. 10:1; Song of Solomon 2:15; I Cor. 5:6; Matt. 16:6; Gal. 5:7-9; Pro. 6:9-11; 24:30-34.**

### 2. ANYTHING NOT TOO BAD IS ALREADY BAD

Some of the little foxes are (i) Sleeping of extra minutes (ii) talking a little extra, (iii) minor disobediences, (iv) joking about your sources of power (v) little indulgences (vi) lateness (vii) short prayers (viii) carelessness, etc.

**II Sam. 11:1-7; I Kings 13:7-24; James 3:3-5; Gen. 12:1-4. 10: Gen. 16:14-15; Jhn 16:6-20; II Kings 13:14-19; Is. 39:1-2.**

## DEALING WITH SIN

### Introduction



**M**any Christians have big problems with their bodies; what they do not want to do is what they keep doing and what they would have loved to do, they just fail to do them. This is not a new problem Rom 7; 19, How can this problem be solved? How do we deal with the flesh? May the Lord grant us victory as we study today in Jesus, name Amen.

#### 1. COOPERATING WITH THE FLESH WILL SPELL DISASTER

There is no good thing in the flesh, all it wants to do is sin. Yet the wages of sin is death and anyone who cooperates with the flesh will reap the fruits of corruption i.e. curses, sorrows, and problems. That is why he who converts a sinner saves a soul from death and serious troubles.

**Rom 7:18, 25, Rom 8:8,13, Rom. 6; 23, Rom 8:6, Gal. 6:8, Jam. 1:15,5:20, Rom. 13:4.**

#### 2. DON'T TAKE IT EASY WITH THE FLESH: IT IS YOUR ENEMY

There are several advices the Bible gives us on how to deal with the flesh. These include (i) saying "no" to the demands of the flesh (ii) mortifying it (iii) keeping it under (iv) abstaining from its lusts, (v) making no provision to satisfy its lusts (vi) flee from dangerous zones and (vii) amputating offending members of the body.

**Gal. 5:16; Col. 3:5; I Cor. 9:27; I Pet. 2:11; Rom. 13:14; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 5:24; " Tim. 2:22; I Thess. 4:3-5; Matt. 5:28; 18:8-9; Jhn 15:5.**



## Introduction

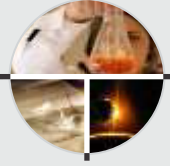
**T**here are gifts and talents that our heavenly Father has given to us. Many are wasting them as things of little value to the Kingdom of God. We pray that as we study the story of the Prodigal son, may the Holy Spirit help us in Jesus name.

### 1. WHO IS A PRODIGAL SON ?

We are living in a time when so much is been given to us by our heavenly Father. How are we using these gifts and talents? If we don't use them wisely now, we will have ourselves to blame. This is because there is always a time of famine or scarcity following a period of wasteful spending.

**Lk. 15:12; Titus 1:7; 2Pet.2:10; Pro. 11:26; Gen. 4:9; 1Sam. 25:11; 2Cor.6:14-18; 2Chro.15:3 Amos. 8:11; 1Cor.3:15; James 3:15; Pro. 12:15 Pro.30:12; Lk.15:16; Lk.16:21; Ps.107:17**

## JOHN 11: 35



### Introduction

**J**ohn 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible and yet it is extremely profound. Jesus wept. The King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the word from the beginning, the very God of the very God, wept. Can God weep? Was it genuine tears? Why should the Almighty weep and openly at that? These and several other questions assail one's mind when you read. "Jesus wept". May the Lord open our understanding as we study in His word in Jesus Name. Amen.

#### 1. JESUS CHRIST HAS MANY REASONS FOR WEeping

Apart from the fact that the Bible calls our Lord Jesus Christ a "Man of sorrow", it is also a commandment of God that we should weep with those who weep. In addition, He is an understanding High Priest who appreciates what His followers were going through, because He is not only God but Man as well. Particularly as He knows that many do not even know when their salvation is near to them.

**Isa. 53:3; Rom. 13:15, Heb. 4:14-16; Ps.103:13; Ps. 78:39; 1 Tim. 2:5; Jhn 1:1, 14; Luke 19:41-41.**

#### 2. HE WEPT BECAUSE HE LOVED

Jesus wept because He loved. He shed genuine tears because He loved genuinely. He share the agony and problems of those He loved and when He loves someone, that love is forever

**Jhn 11:5, 35.--36; Jhn 11:33; Jhn 13:1; Heb.13:5; Ps.142:4; Jhn 5:5-9; Mic. 7:5; 15.63:9; Acts 9:3-5; Matt. 25:40; I Cor. 12:12; Eph.5:30.**



## Introduction

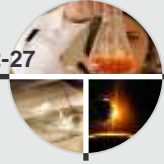
**B**efore any victory there must be a battle, before any testimony, there must be a problem. The Lord has made us to sing a song of victory always. But we must follow His principles. Be ready to pay the price. There must be sacrifice before the fire can fall. May He bless us as we study today.

### **1. WE NEED FAITH TO GET US VICTORY**

Without faith we cannot please Him; so also without faith it is not easy to get victory. Therefore faith is an essential weapon of our victory.

**I King 18:21-24; II Chron. 16:9; Zech. 2:5-8; II Thes. 1:6-8; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-2; Jud. 231 Cor. 9:19-20**





## Introduction

**T**he journey of the Children of Israel to the Promised Land took them to so many places and these brought different experiences to them. One of such is the Marah experience. In our study in the next few weeks, we want to consider what their experiences were in Marah and how it relates to our journey in life. I encourage you, ensure you don't miss any of the studies as the Holy Spirit will minister to you.

### 1. AFTER A VICTORY, GET READY FOR ANOTHER BATTLE

The Children of Israel had just celebrated their victory of freedom from the land of bondage, they gave praises to the Almighty God for destroying their enemies in the Red Sea and shortly after this they got to Marah.

Life is a battle and even after each time you record a victory, you must be battle ready. You have an enemy who is never tired and one of the times he wants to attack is immediately after victory.

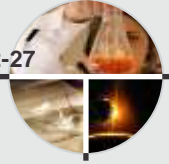
**Ex. 15:22-27, Ex. 15:1-20, Job 3:26, Job 5:7, Job 14:1, I Kings 18:37-40, I Kings 19:1-2, Judges 14:5-7, Acts 4:2-3, 1 Pet. 5:8, 1 Sam. 18:6-9, Jbs. 7**

### 2. WHERE IS YOUR MOSES?

God instructed Moses to lead His Children out of Egypt. A Sheep without a Shepherd will go astray. You need Moses to guide and guard you.

We have a Moses that will not die, You can be sure He is always there. He will teach, empower you for service, cause you to work in His statutes and teach you to pray.

**Num. 27:17, Zech. 10:2, Ex. 13:21, Ps. 32:8, 48:14, Lk. 12:12, Neh. 9:20, Acts 1:8, Ezk. 36:27, Rom. 8:26**



## Introduction

**I**n the first part of this series, we considered that one of the times the devil will want to strike is after a victory and we therefore reminded ourselves of the need not to be too carried away even while celebrating. As we continue in the study today, ensure you pay close attention as the Holy Spirit will give you an understanding in Jesus name. Amen.

### 1. PLENTY OF WATER BUT NOT SAFE TO DRINK:

They became thirsty and they got to where there was plenty of water that was not safe to drink. This could mean prosperity, open doors and what may look like things that could satisfy your thirst and desire but may not be safe for you.

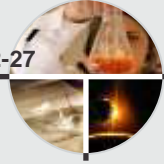
**Mt. 6:31-34, Phil. Dan. 5: 18, 27, Pro 16:2, 2 Kings 5:20-27, GEN. 3:6**

### 2. COMPLAIN: IT COULD BE DANGEROUS

God told them that He was going to take them to their promised land. They fixed their mind on it, forgetting that God has His ways of doing it. Because things could not work as they thought it; the flesh reacted by making them complain.

A man that will complain is casting a vote of no confidence in his captain. It will lead him to find faults, bring discouragement and regrets. Murmuring angers the Lord and it shows why it is condemned.

**Exodus 14:11-12, Jude 16, Psalm 77:3, Ex. 17:3, pr. 19:3, 1 Cor. 10:10, Phil. 2:14, Num. 11:1, 14:27-29**



## Introduction

**I**n our last study on this series, we considered two outlines: Plenty of Water but not safe to drink and the danger of complaint. As we continue in the study today; God will certainly make your bitter experience to be made sweet and take you to your Elim. Please pay close attention, may the Holy Spirit of God give you an understanding in Jesus name. Amen

### 1. WHY NOT SEEK GOD:

"Who you seek determines what you get. If you seek God, you will find joy. If you seek men or things, you will find happiness. Whom seek ye?"

The people sought for a way out from Moses, they asked him "What shall we drink? but Moses knew how to seek God because he was in bearing with the One that called him.

Don't ever lose your bearing with Him, He desires you seek Him. Ensure you overcome those hindrances that will make you not to seek Him but do that in humility, sincerely, passionately and make it more personal

**Ex. 15:24-25, Deut. 4:29, PS. 105:4, Lk. 11:9, 1 Thes. 5:5-8, 2 Chr. 7:14, Ezz7:10, PS.146:3, Jer.17:5, Hab. 2:1, PS.132:3.**

### 2. SURROUNDED BY OPPORTUNITIES WITH BLINDED EYE:

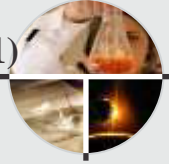
In the midst of bitter water, the tree to make it sweet was close by but Moses' eyes were blinded to it. Many at times what you need to succeed is next to you but the veil will need to be removed.

As soon as the veil is removed, you will see the glory of God, seeing His glory will make you to see yourself better; keep you humble in Him. He can therefore dismantle repair and then take you to the next level.

**2 Kings5:2-3, Is6:1-3, 2 Kings4:1-7, Jbb: 42:5-6, IS. 6:5, LK. 5: 1-8**

## THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (1)

### Introduction



**T**he story of Naboth as recorded in 1 Kings 2:1-13 is the story of a young Jezreelite who lived during the reign of King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel. It is not a super story but a biblical insight and truth, which every believer has one or two things to learn from. I encourage you to pay close attention to the study as the Holy Spirit of God will give you an understanding in Jesus name.

#### 1. A REACTION TO EVERY ACTION :

In the first verse of our text, it is written that "It came to pass after these things". Certain things preceded Ahab's action. It was Ahab's first action that led to his desire for Naboth's vineyard; you must always have in mind that whatever you have done or you are doing; has a future effect

**1 Kings 20:32-34, 42-43., 2 Kings 4:9-10, 16a, 1 Samuel 2:17 3:13-14, Pro 22:6, Mal. 3:10-12.**

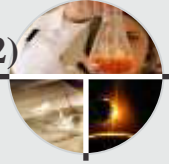
#### 2. WHERE ARE YOU FROM ?

Naboth was said to be from Jezreel, he had a source like Jesus who was said to be from Nazareth. It is important you know the land of your nativity. Ensure you know your spiritual origin where you could be attached with. Be constantly connected to heaven- your spiritual birth place, you are only located on earth for a divine assignment and so you are an alien to it.

**2 Samuel 11:3, 1 Kings 17:1, Acts 9:11; 1 John 4:4-6, Jn. 8:23 24, John 15:19, John 17:14(a), Mt. 5:14, Mt. 16:15, Psalms 119:19, 1 Peter 2:11, Hebrews 3:1**

## THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (2)

### Introduction



In our last study, we started a series on King Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard. We will continue in the study today. May the Spirit of the Almighty God teach you in Jesus name.

#### 1. IN THE PALACE YET DISCONTENTED:

King Ahab was in the palace. He had all the delights of the land at his command; the wealth of a kingdom, the pleasures of a court, and the honours and power of a throne; yet all avails him nothing without Naboth's vineyard. Discontent does not arise from condition but from the mind and most of the time it goes with deceit, lie, violence and murder.

**Exodus 20:17, Ezekiel 33:31, Luke 12:15, Micah 2:2, Phil. 4:11, 2 Kings 5:21-27, Joshua 7:1, 21, Pro 15:16, 1 Tim. 6:6, 8, Heb. 13:5,**

#### 2. WATCH THE STRANGE VOICE:

Ahab finally spoke out his thought concerning the vineyard of Naboth. Naboth heard a strange voice coming to him like a strange voice from the prince of the world today. The prince of the world is roaming about seeking for whom to devour. He is covetously requesting for what did not belong to him. Beware of his whisperings, beware of his sayings concerning your God's given inheritance.

**Acts 12:22, Rev. 12:10, Rev. 1:10, Gen 3:1, Mt. 4:31, Gen. 4:8, 1 Peter 5:8,**

## THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (3)



### Introduction

In the second part of our study last week, we considered the danger of covetousness and a need to be careful not to yield to evil voice. As we continue in this study today; it is my prayer that every power desiring to make your vineyard a place of herbs shall fail in Jesus name. Amen

#### 1. REGARDLESS OF YOUR LOCATION; BE DISTINCT:

Naboth's vineyard was located at the back of Ahab's palace. You are in the world but not of the world. We are the called out ones. Naboth's vineyard distinguished him; just as the church and her worshippers that are truly living unto God is completely different.

**Rev. 2:13, John 17:14-16, Hebrews 11:24-25, Eph 5:11, 2Thes. 3:6, Daniel 1:8, 1 Samuel 2: 11-12.**

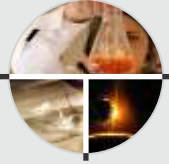
#### 2. QUALITY AND THEN QUANTITY:

A careful look at Ahab's request shows that what he needed was the "yard" of brother Naboth, the land on which the vine is planted. Certainly, the vine will be uprooted; there will be no vineyard again. The yard will now become a garden of many herbs. King Ahab's emphasis were now on quantity, ephemeral and immediate satisfaction.

**Judges 16:6, 2 Samuel 11: 2-5, Judges 16:20, 25, 1 Samuel 28:7, Mt. 26: 15, Mt. 3:3, 8-9, 1 Kings 19:18, John 10: 10**

## CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP

### Introduction



**C**hristians are people that must show love to others and forgive those that offend them.

#### 1. CASES OF COMPLETE FORGIVENESS AND LOVE TOWARDS THE OFFENDER.

- (a) JOSEPH forgave his brethren - Gen. 45:1-15; SO:19-21
- (b) MOSES forgave the Israelites - Ex. 32:4-14, 31-34
- (c) DAVID forgave Saul - 1 Sam. 24:1-22; 2 Sam. 9:1-13
- (d) SOLOMON forgave Adonijah. - 1 Kings 1:41-53
- (e) The PROPHET forgave Jeroboam. - 1 Kings 13:1-6
- (f) STEPHEN forgave his persecutors - Acts 7:54-60.
- (g) JESUS forgave his enemies - Luke 23:34

#### 2. EVIDENCE OF ABSOLUTE FORGIVENESS.

There should be clear evidence of absolute forgiveness and love towards the offender as demonstrated by the following:

- (1) Records of wrong doing should not be kept Jer. 31:34
- (2) Intercede for the offender to prevent God's judgement.
- (3) Restore withdrawn privileges and relationship Prov. 24:17, 29.
- (4) Not rendering evil for evil

## THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 1



### Introduction

**T**he Bible is not silent about the end time; it is the last days, which is the present dispensation that we are witnessing. In our study this month, we will be considering the Glory Cloud; which refers to the tangible presence of God, His unsearchable knowledge revealed through Christ and the end time. May you not miss out in the last day.

#### 1. CERTAINTY OF END TIME:

Believers should keep in mind that they are strangers and pilgrims here on earth **1Chr. 29:15, 1Pet. 2:11**. The end of this age preceding the Millennium is what the Bible refers to the last days **Dan. 8:19, 2Tim. 3:1, Jam. 5:3**. It is called by different names- Last day **Micah 4:1, Acts 2:17**, latter day **Dan. 2:28**, Time of the end **Dan. 12:9**; an end will certainly come **Mt. 24:14, Mt 13:39-40**.

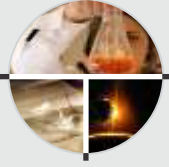
#### 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE END TIMES (PRESENT DAY):

The end time is no other time than the time we are in and it is similar to the pre-flood days **Mt. 24:37**.

It's an age of godlessness and perilous times (**Gen. 4:16, 2Tim. 3:1-7**), Age of city- building and prosperity (**Gen.4:17**), breakdown in the home and family life (**Gen.4:19**), Agricultural development and commerce (**Gen. 4:20**), music making (**Gen.4:21**), technological advancement (**Gen4:22**), violence and corruption (**Gen. 4:23, 6-11**)



## THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 2



### Introduction

In our last study, we established the fact that the present dispensation is the end time; We also looked at other Biblical names of the end time. We rounded up the study-considering the characteristics of the end time. May you experience the glory cloud of God in this end time in Jesus name.

#### 1. HIS DESIRE TO MANIFEST HIS GLORY:

The glory of God is the manifested presence of the Lord. The Almighty God desires to manifest His glory for man. In the Old Testament days; it is visible as a cloud **II Chro. 5:13-14, Exo. 40:34, 1 Kings 8:11.**

He manifested His glory upon Jesus during His birth, baptism, and transfiguration **Luke 2:9, Matt. 3:16-17, 17:1-5.** The glory cloud received Him back to Heaven **Acts 1:9.**

However, after His ascension, His glory is made manifest by the Holy Spirit, this was made possible when the veil of the temple was split in two when He died Matt. 27:51; thereby bringing to fulfillment His promise **John 15:16-17, Acts 10:19, Acts 5:3.**

#### 2. WHY THE GLORY CLOUD IS NEEDED IN THIS END TIME:

We are in the perilous time (**2 Tim. 3: 1**). His glory cloud is needed to:

- (1) Convict sinners of their sin **Isa 6:5, Acts 2:37**
- (2) Bring judgement, especially when un-repent sin is brought into the presence of God's glory **Acts 5: 1-10, Acts 13: 8-11.**
- (3) Bring victory **1 Sam. 4:3, Acts 13: 6-11.**
- (4) Commissioning into God's ministry **Exodus 3: 2-10, Acts 9:3-6**

## THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 3



### Introduction

In our last study, we saw the desire of God to manifest His glory in man and the reasons why the glory cloud is needed at this end time. This third part is important to every believer. Please pay close attention and I pray you will never lose His presence in your life. Amen.

#### 1. THE DOUBLE EFFECT OF HIS GLORY:

As much as it is His desire to manifest His glory in man, we need to understand that the Glory of God which represents His presence has a double effect - "Peace and War". It is therefore an error to believe the manifestation of His glory can only bring peace.

##### Consider the following:

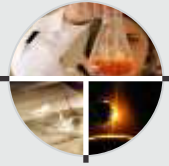
- (1) Exodus 14:21-31. The cloud of glory that provided safety for the children of Israel in the Red Sea was the same that drowned their enemies.
- (2) Daniel 6:22-24. The Lions that provided a resting pillow for night sleep for Daniel were the same that killed his enemies.
- (3) Acts 9: 39-41, Acts 5: 9-10. The glory cloud in Peter that brought life to a woman is the same that brought death to another.
- (4) Dan 3:22-25. The burning fire that provided cooling comfort for the 3 Hebrew men was the same fire that slew their enemies that threw them into it.

To experience peace, you must be righteous. It is however war: for the wicked Psalm 32:10, Prov. 13:21.

#### 2. IT IS DANGEROUS TO ALLOW THE GLORY CLOUD TO DEPART.

When man sinned in the garden of Eden, one of the main consequences is that the glory of God in them departed Gen. 3: 7-8. They began to fear, they became naked i.e. Shame came to manifestation. They became alienated from God's knowledge. Anytime a believer sins the same thing that happened to Adam happens Judges 16:20, 1 Sam. 4:21-22.

## THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 3



### **3. With the departure of the glory of God in man, some or all of these manifests:**

- (a) Shame John 2:1-11
- (b) Reproach or The "But" of life 2 Kings 5:1
- (c) Failure Luke 5:1-11
- (d) Barrenness 2 Kings 4:8-17
- (e) Loneliness Mark 5:25-34
- (f) Demonic oppression Mark 5: 1-20
- (g) Glaring retardation Acts 3:1-8.

Others will include conflict within; self seeking gratification, being dominated by things you normally dominate, doors of life now open to affliction, and defence against sin is removed.

## THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 4



### Introduction

In our past studies, we have seen that the Glory Cloud of God is the Holy Spirit in a believer, we need Him to prevail in the challenges of this end time. As we round up the study today, may this teaching not stand against us on the day of judgement.

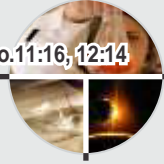
#### 1. SUSTAINING THE GLORY CLOUD:

The Word of God cannot fail; He has promised us through His Son of His continuous presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17. What must we therefore do to sustain His Glory? There is a need for us to do everything possible not to grieve Him, since He is all we need at this end time (Eph. 4:30). Let's therefore consider few things that we could do to remove the Glory cloud of God since this will serve as a guide to our sustaining His Glory.

Willful sin.

#### Samson as a case study

- \* Disobedience to the Voice of the Holy Spirit. **Gen. 3:6-7, 1 Samuel 15: 3-4, 8, 10.**
- \* Living in fear. **1 Sam. 15:24, Num. 14:2-3, 10-12, 28-29.**
- \* Not meditating on the Word of God, **Jos. 1:8, 2Tim. 2:15**



## Introduction

**T**he heart must be guarded jealously for issues of life flows out of it. For the heart to be a place for godly relationship, it must be carefully prepared for it. (I Chr. 11:16, II Chr. 12:11). How then do we prepare our heart for godliness? We shall study some of the ways tonight.

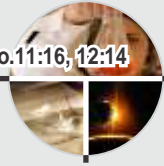
### PREPARING YOUR HEART FOR GODLINESS

If the heart is desperately wicked as the Bible put it, yet it is needed to relate with God, there is therefore the need to prepare it for godly acts. The following ways could be employed in order to have our heart prepared, and wholly dedicated to God. Ps. 119:10.

- 1. Through True and genuine repentance.** Joel 2:12-13, Acts 8:37. Genuine repentance brings brokenness of the hearts and produces genuine love for the living God. Matt. 22:37.
- 2. Through undivided love for God** Deut 6:5. Love of God in our heart produces a soul tied to God. Rom 5:5, Rom 8:35, it constrains 2 Cor. 5:14, it is divided in keeping his word .Jn. 14:15 and loved divine presence Jn. 14:23. The Holy Spirit can only reside with any one that loves Jesus Jn 11: 16 Demonstration of love is by giving. In. 3:16, 1 Jn. 3:18
- 3. Through constant and consistent prayer life** Mk 11:24. Aside from asking in prayers. We are to seek God Matt. 7:7, Jer. 29: 13, in prayer. There is divine contact and divine intimacy Jer. 29: 13. Daniel has divine consciousness 1Jn .3:22, 5:14. Prayer enhances inner righteousness. In. 9:31, Mk 11:25-26, James Produces faith Mk 11:24, and his obedience is enhanced 1 In. 3:22, 5: 14.

## THE PURSUIT OF GODLINESS

TEXT: 2 Chro.11:16, 12:14



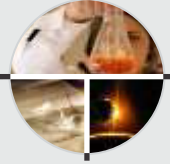
**4. Through absolute and undoubted trust in God** Pro. 3:5. it is a way of exercising your faith to eradicate doubt and unbelief and result into great success 2 Chi. 20:20. Strength is derived by trusting God Isa. 26:4 and divine guidance's Ps. 37:5. Isa. 50: 10.

**5. Through total and uncompromising Obedience to God** Ps. 119:2, 119:34. God will not relate with a disobedient person, God hate it. I Sam 15:22. Deut 26: 15. Obedience is a part way which result into divine fellowship In. 14:23, ensures membership in God's family. Matt 12:50. It is a Spiritual knowledge Jn. 7:17 and it is a base root of character Matt 7:24.

**6. Through dedicated study and meditation in His Words:** I Tim. 2:15. Ps. 119:9, 11, PS. 119:15-16, Ps 119:97. The word of Christ must dwell in you richly Col. 3: 16. Deut 6:6. it sanctify Eph. 5:26, I Pet 1 :22, rejoicing in the heart and enlightening the eyes. Ps. 19:8, it must be love which is pure. P. 119:140, it produces fear of God Dent. 17: 19, forsaken lead to destruction. 2 Chr 12: 1-5.

**In conclusion,** to pursuit godliness, it is very important for us to prepare our heart. 2 Chr. 12: 14.

## PSALM 117



### Introduction

**P**salm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible and yet it contains all the truths that a Christian should know. It enjoins you to praise God because God is merciful, kind, gracious and true. We shall look into this beautiful psalm tonight and we believe that God will bless us richly as we do so in Jesus name Amen.

#### 1. OUR GOD IS UNIVERSALLY GOOD

The goodness of our God is for all the earth. Those who have tasted Him have found Him to be very good. He is not only good when all is well, but He is good also in the time of trouble. He is a good Friend in the time of need. Our success in life depends on His goodness and mercy.

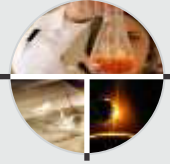
**Ps. 33:5; Ps. 34:8; Nah. 1-17; I Tim. 1 :12; II Cor. 12:9; II Tim. 2:1; Rom. 9:16; Tit. 3:5.**

#### 2. PRAISE THE LORD: HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED.

We have a lot to thank God' for. For our salvation, for the forgiveness of our sins, that we are still alive today, that He is a dependable Rock, perfect and true, and that His mercy endureth forever are just a few of the reasons why we should constantly praise Him.

**Col. 1:12; Mic. 7:18; Lam. 3:22-23; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 108:4; Rev. 11:17; I Thes. 5:18; Ps. 22:23; Rev. 19:5; Ps.103:17.**

## SIMEON & ANNA



### Introduction

**A**part from the shepherds watching their flocks by night, two people who saw the Messiah in the first few days of His life were Simeon and Anna. Who are these two? What is so special about them? Have we any lessons to learn from their lives? May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus, name. Amen.

#### 1. DIVINE REVELATIONS ARE NOT OBTAINED BY HUMAN WISDOM

Simeon and Anna had a lot of things in common. They knew how to wait patiently for the Lord and are unmoved by what others may be pursuing. They were under the control of the Holy Spirit by whom deep mysteries were revealed to them. Things that human wisdom cannot search out were made available to them by the Holy Spirit. They were not afraid of death because they were living a life of piety and dedication to God.

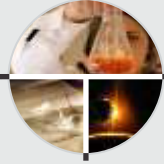
**Ps. 37:7; John 16:14; Dan. 2:22; Amos. 3:7; I Cor. 2:9-10; Deut. 12:5, 4:4; Luke 4:16; Num. 23:10; Gen. 49:33; Pro. 14:32; Ps. 23:4.**

#### 2. THE PURE IN HEART SHALL SURELY SEE GOD.

To see God, the basic prerequisite is purity of heart. One day we too shall see God if only we can keep ourselves pure. Simeon and Anna persevered till the end, we also must persevere.

**Matt. 5:8; I John 3:2-3; Isa. 9:2; Eph. 3:3-6; Hos. 2:23; Job 17:9; Gal. 6:9.**





## Introduction

**T**he promised land is a place of rest. It is a land flowing with milk and honey. Our promised land is the fulfillment of the purpose of God in our lives. The promised land could also be likened to a green pasture. The promise land is the final destination of everyman. But not everybody gets to the promise land, (The place God desires that you should be). May the Holy Spirit teach us as we study at the feet of the LORD. Amen.

### 1. THOSE THAT GOT TO THE PROMISED LAND

- A. Joseph :- Gen. 37:5-9, 41 :39-44, 42:6-9
- B. David
- C. Jacob:-Gen.28:12-15
- D. Paul:-Acts 9:15, 17:17-18,24:24-25
- E. Enoch:-Gen.5:21-24

### 2. HOW TO GET THERE?

- A. Patience:-IIKgs 2:1-15
- B. Abstain from sin and lust - Gen.39:7 -10
- C. Determination
- D. Obedience
- E. By Overcoming desire and Spirit: Provo 24: 1 0

### 3. THOSE THAT DID NOT GET THERE

- A. Gehazi: IIKgs 5:20-27
- B. Moses:- Deut 4:21-22
- C. Samson:-Judges 16:30-31
- D. Anannias and Sapphira:- Acts 5:1-10

# THE PROMISED LAND Exodus 15:22-27

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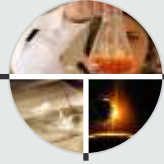


## 4. OBSTACLES ON THE WAY

- A. Hatred:- Gen.37: 1-20
- B. Discouragement and giants:- Num 13:25-32
- C. Persecution
- D. Worldly desire and lust:- II Sam. 11: 11-27, II Kgs. 5:20-27
- E. Losing focus:- Num. 14:35-38

## CONCLUSION:

Every human being has a promise land that God had destined for him. It is now left for an individual to discover his promise land. Also: to overcome all obstacles on his way to the promise land. Have you discover your promise land? Are you ready to get there?



## Introduction

**T**onight, we want to possess the tongues of fire through Revival from Heaven. We shall study the meaning of revival, examples of past revivals, reason for it and steps to take in getting revived. Lord, it is our prayer that you will revive us mightily today in Jesus Name Amen.

### 1. WHAT IS REVIVAL?

Revival is a re-awakening of religious favour. It is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God. The first step in the case of a converted sinner, is a deep repentance, a breaking down of heart with deep humility (heart contribution) for sins hitherto committed and a forsaking of the same Prov. 28: 13. It is also rising to rebuke, improve and instruct in righteousness 2 Tim. 3: 16.

### 2. EXAMPLES OF PAST REVIVALS

The Lord has always had his special messengers sent out when there was moral lawlessness, decline in spiritual health, political helplessness, societal decadence and economic bankruptcy either of a nation or church. In the Bible days, men like Elijah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel and others were used by God to cause revival

- (a) Elijah - 1 King 18:45
- (b) Jeremiah - Jere. 1 :10,31 :1'
- (c) Ezekiel - Ezek. 37:10

### 3. REASONS FOR REVIVAL

Reasons for revival can be endless. A revival is needed when:

- A. There is lack of brotherly love and Christian confidence among brethren.
- B. There are wordliness in the church, evil speakings and heartless of heart.
- C. There are church members falling into scandalous sins, gross indifference to the cry of the lost.

## CRY FOR REVIVAL Psalm 85:1-6



- D. The spiritual giants are fast becoming giant sleepers.
- E. A Church lifter has lost the confidence of his people.
- F. Sinners are rejoicing in their unrighteousness and no believer seems to be bothered.
- G. Homes are disintegrating, marriages are daily hitting the rocks and holy vows broken, unfulfilled and rottenness pervades the whole society.
- H. A nation is what it is today - Isaiah 1:5-6

#### 4. STEPS TO REVIVAL:

For revival to be effective, definite plan must be followed:

- (A) There 'must be a desire for revival - this leads to genuine repentance and deep contribution in the heart Isa. 57:15
- (B) There must be humility - Break up the fallow of your heart Hosea 10:12 brokenness in the spirit is essential.
- (C) No revival without the fire of Prayer - your prayer life must be at its peak.

#### CONCLUSION

Brethren, our God is the God of Revival, He can revive you and also use you to revive your family, home, church and the entire nation. Ps. 43:8b says blessed is the man that trusted Him. Trust Him today for your revival and it shall come to pass in Jesus Name (Amen)



## Introduction

**A** Popular adage says a single tree does not make a forest; the same way a Christian cannot be a success without the help of God i.e by being rooted in God.

There is need for us to continuously abide with in our Source for strength in this Christian race. May the Holy Spirit teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

### **1. WHO IS THE VINE? John 15: 1**

- i. The Vine is Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High God
- ii. The Saviour / Deliverer - Matt. 1:21; 1 John 4: 14
- iii The Mediator- Heb. 4:14-16, 9:15
- iv. The Counsellor / Prince of Peace -Isa. 9:6-7
- v. The Comforter-Isa. 51:1-3
- vi. The Healer -1Peter 2:24-25; Isa. 53:5-6
- vii. TheAvenger-Heb.10:30-31

### **2. HOW TO ABIDE IN THE VINE:**

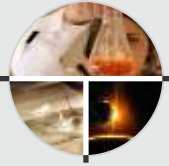
- i Having His Life Jh. 3:3-6; 1:12; 6:37, 1stCorin. 3:16, Gal. 5:16-25
- ii Having fellowship with Him - In. 6:63; Heb. 4:12 James 4:8a, Heb. 11:6
- iii Living in Holiness-1Jh. 1:5-7, 1st Peter 1:14-16
- iv Living in love. Gal. 6:9-10, 1stJn.4:7-8, 16-21, 3:16-18
- v Living in the Covenant Relationship and breaking of bread. Heb. 8:10-13; In. 6:53-56

### **3. BENEFITS ATTACHED TO ABIDING IN THE VINE:**

- i. Cleansing - In. 15:2
- ii Fruitfulness - In. 15:4
- iii Ability to do things. - In 15:5; Phi 4: 13

## ABIDING IN THE VINE John 15:1-8

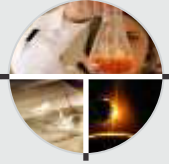
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- iv. Overcoming destruction - In. 15:6
- v Receiving answers - In. 15:7; Matt. 7:7-11
- vi Ability to be like Him - In. 15:8; Phil 2:5-11

### **CONCLUSION.**

Without Him we can do nothing, know nothing and receive nothing. We are definitely useless and purposeless without Him. We need to always abide in Him in order to be who He wants us to be and also to reach our goal.



## Introduction

**E**very human being needs and desires to be happy. Material possession alone cannot bring happiness; there were rich and wealthy people who died as lonely men or women. Happiness is achieved when there are purpose, peace, love and compassion.

### 1. **PURPOSE**

- A. What is the purpose of man? John 8:14; John 14:6
- B. You need somebody to have everlasting happiness; who is that person?
- C. Why? Rom. 8:16

God made us for Himself. Our hearts are restless without the maker, God. We are God's children and heirs. The wrong type of purpose is that which is only tied to life achievement on earth. For whatever it is worth, it leads to death. The right purpose is to be identified with Christ, be on the side of God and allow Him to Guide you.

- ii. **PEACE:** We need peace because the world offers fear, guilt, confusion, loneliness, need and tension:

### **IN CHRIST, we have:**

- I. Matt. 28:20 (ii) Rom. 8:37-39 (iii) Mk. 9:23 (iv) Rom. 8:33

- iii **LOVE AND COMPASSION:** True happiness is provided by love and compassion of Jesus Christ. To have love and compassion for others is true happiness.

### **CONCLUSION**

You can only have true happiness when you have Jesus and you entrust your whole being into His hand. And you also show love to others.

# LOVE IS THE GREATEST | Cor. 13:1-13



## Introduction

Love is the attribute of God, and this was revealed to the beloved John in 1 Jn. 4:8. This attribute should be found in all born again Christians who should have the seed of God dwelling in them 1 In. 3:8. May the Lord enrich us with His nature as we study in Jesus name Amen.

### 1. LOVE MUST ACCOMPANY EVERY GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

Love must accompany every gift of the Holy Spirit for the recipients to be effective and acceptable in the sight of God. 1 Cor. 13:1-3. It is also a clear proof of a new life in Christ 1 Jn. 3:14, true genuine service unto God and man In. 21:16, 1 In. 4:20

### 2. THE ONLY BOND OF PERFECTION

Love is the only divine perfect cord that binds the Christians together despite different Spiritual-age grouping Col. 3:14, 1 Pet. 5:1-5, sect or tribe Gal. 5:6 in the Church. The Lord who commanded perfection Matt. 5:48, is not coming for anything less than a perfectly righteous individual body. Eph. 4:16, Rev. 19:7, that which has enable herself ready.

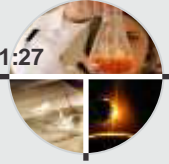
### 3. ETERNALLY VALUABLE

The gift of the Holy Spirit will cease one day but love abides forever. 1 Cor. 13:8. The love constrains us to appreciate the work of our redemption. 2 Cor. 5:14, we who were once alienated to Christ. Col. 1:21-22, but has been translated into the kingdom of his dear son, Jesus Christ. Col. 1:13-15 to reign with Him eternally.

### CONCLUSION

It is clear from our study that the greatest gift any true Christian must possess is love for God and the brethren. The enabling grace comes from God, who Himself is life. Ask for the grace today in Jesus name.





## Introduction

It is as common as the sand of sea these days to hear people say that they are born again, when in actual fact fornication, immorality, filthy communication, stealing and other forms of sinful habits have not left their lives. Unfortunately, it is found in many so-called Christian circles. Titus 1: 16.

Therefore, it will be nothing but the height of self-deception, false security, false claim of being citizen of the kingdom of heaven. We should remember ourselves that the old religion is a pure one.

### 1. WHAT ARE NOT THE OLD RELIGION?

This question shows that there are some religion that is impure, defiled and unacceptable before God. Even though their practice might be morally accepted but they are not divinely accepted.

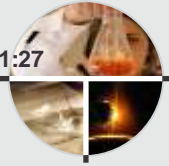
Any attempt at worshipping God which is not based on the finished work of Christ at Calvary is not pure and is not part of the old religion which the pioneers of Christianity practiced.

- despite the blessing of God on those who practise Alms giving, payments of tithes, offering and donation without the seal of the old religion in the givers life. Mal. 3:10-12.
- self-righteousness, doing good to people
- denominational affiliation and participation in God's service.

### 2. WHAT ARE OLD RELIGION?

- It begins with experience of sound conversion through acknowledgement of one's sinfulness, confession of sin, repentance and renunciation of all known sins. In. 1:12; II Corin. 5:17, Acts 2:44-47.

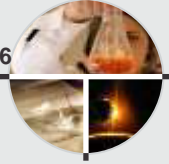
## THE RELIGION OF OLD | Jhn 2:3-11, James 1:27



- Total separation from the world and its corrupting influence. II Cor. 6:14-18, I Jhn 2:15-17
- Inward and outward holiness, crucifixion of the fleshly lusts, transparent holy living should daily characterize our Christian living. I Pt. 1:15-16
- practical Christian duties. Acts 2:41 - 47

### 3. THINGS THAT CAN HELP US TO BE ABLE TO PRACTICE OLD RELIGION

- A deep and enriched daily devotion- Regular fellowship attendance - Acts 2:46-47
- Consistent study, meditation and obedience to the word of God. - II Tim. 2:15, In. 1:8
- Maintenance of a regular prayer life and watchfulness. Acts 6:4
- practically showering of love of God on the needy. Acts 2:45-46.



## Introduction

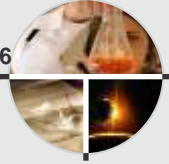
**A**dvanice Learners Dictionary (Oxford) describes "lukewarm" as slightly warm, tepid or not eager or enthusiastic.

Lukewarmness is a sin. It is a sin of omission or the sin of indifference. It is different from the sin of commission such as stealing, backsliding or adultery. The sin of omission is when you know good and you do not do it. James 4: 17. God does not tolerate lukewarmness. When you are neither hot nor cold, you are neither friend nor enemy. Satan is the architect of Lukewarmness. 1 Pet. 5: 18

### HOW DO WE BECOME LUKEWARM ?

1. Lukewarmness in the way we work for God says it is better not to work for Him at all than to work half- heartedly. Jer. 48: 10. If you work for God half-heartedly, you will receive a curse. If you want to work for God, then go all out for Him.
2. Lukewarmness in the way we praise and acknowledge God. Some of us feel too big to dance for God. Michal was the only woman recorded in the Bible who died barren because she insulted David for dancing unto the God of Host. II Sam. 6:20-23.
3. Lukewarmness in the way you react to the poor. There is trouble for those who ignore the cries of the poor. Pro: 21:13. You are not to act indifferent to the cry of the poor, especially if you are in a position to help. Poverty not only materially but spiritually e.g those who have no Christ are poor. Backsliders also are in need of spiritual meat. Mt. 28: 18-20. When last did you talk about the commission given unto you?

# LUKEWARMNESS Revelation 3:15-16



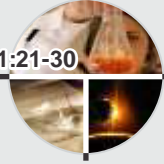
4. Lukewarmness in delaying or receiving salvation. This is very common among the youths. Paul and Felix's experience. Acts 24:24-25.

Salvation delayed! He Wanted to wait for another day / opportunity which never materialised. Felix is the only man adjudged perished.

5. Lukewarmness in total separation from the world. You cannot become a true Christian without losing your unrepentant old friends. Isa. 42:. You are the glory of God. And God will not share you with anybody or other god. The children of Israel were told to take every piece of land in Cannan and drive out the inhabitants. They moved in and began to do as instructed by God but lukewarmness sets in, they left many enemies untouched. Out of the left overs came Goliath with the terror he brought with him; Judges 2:1-4.

## **CONCLUSION**

To get to Heaven, you have to know whom you believe. Put on the whole armour of God. Make up your mind and rededicate yourself to God.



## Introduction

**A**postle Paul was one of the prominent men who lived in the Bible days. There are numerous virtues in the life of this man that we can emulate. He was formerly called Saul but met Jesus on the road to Damascus and God turned one of the most dreaded persecutors of the church into one of his mightiest servants. (Acts 9:4-9). The Lord will teach us today as we learn about Apostle Paul in Jesus name. (Amen)

### 1. **ENDURANCE:**

Paul was a suffering servant. It is doubtful that any other human being ever suffered as much for Christ as Paul did. II Corin. 11:24-33; 4:8-10 Rom. 8:18. Paul became a renowned Apostle of Christ because he endured sufferings.

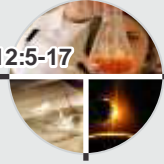
2. **ZEAL:**
- a. Readiness to spend all for Christ's sake II Corin. 12:15
  - b. Readiness to preach the gospel. - I Corin. 16:18
  - c. Travail over spiritual children. - Ga 14:18-20
  - d. Desire to know God more. - Phil. 3:10-14
  - e. Readiness to die for Christ's sake. - Acts 20:22-25; 21:10-13.

3. **HOLINESS:**
- a. Guiding principle to life. - Heb. 12:13-15
  - b. Lawful things. - I Corin. 10:20-23
  - c. To avoid being a cast away. - I Corin. 9:27, 11:27-29
  - B. Admonition. II Corin 6:14-18.

4. **HUMILITY:**
- a. Counted all achievements as dung. - Phil. 3:8, 2:3-4
  - b. Crucified with Christ. - Gal: 2:20; Phil. 2:5-8
  - c. Displayed humility. - Phil. 3:12-14

### Conclusion

Paul was a man like you, and God used him mightily because he surrendered all to Him. For anyone to be effectively used of God, he must first surrender all he has and be ready to pay the price. Luke 9:23-24.



## Introduction

**T**rials are never a sweet experience. Nobody ever prays for them because they are times of crushing, battering, and squeezing. They bring pain, strain and stress. However, we have seen that their underlying cause is the Heavenly Father himself. The question then is, why should a loving Father cause His children pain?

### 1. FOR UPLIFTMENT

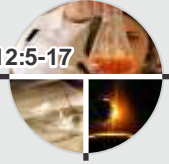
In every life's endeavour, there is the need for constant upward movement. The higher the position, the greater the honour, the benefits, the authority, and the accomplishments. But the reality is that upward movement is never easy. It is full of tests, examinations, sweats, stress sacrifices, discomfort, .etc. Nobody gets to the top without these experiences.

Similarly, it is God's will that His children should continually increase in spiritual stature and position. He desires to keep promoting them. But this cannot be without tests (trials). Trials give reason for the promotion of a child of God because they provide him opportunities to prove himself for greater responsibilities. They prepared him for greater tasks ahead. Psalm 66: 10-12; Heb. 11:17 -19 & 27; Jas. 2:2-4

### 2. FOR REFINEMENT

Our various manufacturing factories are wonderful illustrations of how ugly crude/raw materials can become sparkling, beautiful and very valuable wares. The beautiful dresses and jewels we put on, the dazzling motor cars on the street, and the china wares in our kitchens are all made from things that were very unattractive and worth little. These raw materials were then put through the refining process which may include hammering, heating, grinding, melting, trimming, cutting,

## WHY CHRISTIANS FACE TRIALS? Hebrew 12:5-17

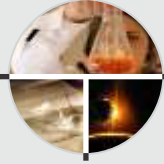


and all sorts of process that initially look like "destruction", and then the final product is a wonder!

Likewise, the child of God is indeed "raw" at the time of second birth. He often still retains some elements of pride, anger, bitterness, lust, impatience, hatred, apathy, self-will, etc. To become what God wants Him to be, and to be transformed into the image of Christ, the Bible teaches that He is chastened by the father; and chastisement is never pleasant. Heb. 12:7-11. Trials refines a child of God just as fire refines gold, producing in Him Christ-like qualities such as endurance, gentleness, wisdom, humility, submission, trust, love, etc. Job 23:10; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:7; Job 23:10-12, Job 13:5

### **Conclusion**

The Almighty father always has a good purpose for everything He allows in the way of His children, Rom. 8:28, He brings trials on our way for our good. Let us therefore yield and trust Him at such times so that we can come out best.



## Introduction

**E**veryday are confronted with choices to make the choice between good and evil; between light and darkness, between doing according to the will of God or the dictates of your flesh, between God and Satan. Man has the free will to choose, but he will be fully accountable for his choice for eternity.

Your choice to become a child of God through Christ places you on the resurrection ground - the victory side of the cross. But the battle for your soul is far from being over as long as relentless foe who will try to lure you away from the saviour of your soul and make you to live a defeated Christian life. The choice is yours to hold on to Christ and live right or to yield yourself a servant unto unrighteousness and sin.

### 1. REASONS FOR LIVING RIGHT

- i. God demands it as a base for his relationship with you. Heb. 12:14
- ii. Christ has made provision for it. Rom. 6:5, 6
- iii. It is a sure testimony of your regenerated life. 2Tim. 2:19
- iv. It promotes Christian virtues in this evil world and through right living. You preach Christ to others. Matt. 5: 16 Your life can challenge other believers not to settle for a lower standard of Christian living. 1 Cor. 11:1.
- vi. You frustrate the devil who does not mind a religious person or a powerless Christian but who surely fears the power of a triumphant life.

### 2. SECRETS OF LIVING RIGHT

1. Be sure of your salvation. This does not depend on your feelings which are ever changing, but on the word of God which is never changing.
2. Take a public stand for Christ. It is dangerous for your spiritual life to be a secret believer.
3. Your ultimate desire as a believer should be to please God and do what





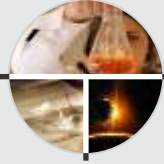
## Introduction

brings delight to Him. pursue this daily. John 8:29.

4. Turn away from every known ill and evils. 2 Cor. 6: 14
5. Meet with God daily in prayer and in the study of His word. Psalm 119:9
6. Regulate your life with the word of God. It should be your ONLY guide in all that you do or say. II Tim. 3: 16.
7. Let the Holy Spirit be real to you. Be sensitive to the spirit at all times.
8. Let there be constant submission and prompt obedience to the will of God.
9. Keep busy in your service for the Lord.
10. Above all, your life must be such that is characterised by self denials. 1 Cor. 10:23.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Bible declares "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new (2Cor. 5: 17) Christ has given us a new nature which loves righteousness and hates iniquity. We must therefore choose righteousness and forsake sin.



## Introduction

**L**et me tell you a story about a man called Daniel in the Bible. A man like you who knew when to pray and when to sleep. He knew when to work and when to rest. He knew when to feast or when to fight. A man whom God favoured with knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom and understanding in all vision and dreams. *Dan. 1 :17*. He is a man to emulate. I pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us Himself in Jesus Name. Amen!

### 1. THE CAPTIVITY OF DANIEL

The captivity of the Israelites which included Daniel was a result of sin and disobedience *Dan. 1 : 1-3, 2 Kings 24: 1-4, 2 Chron. 36:5-7*

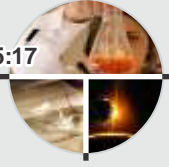
### 2. THE QUALITIES/ATTRIBUTES OF DANIEL

Daniel had some characteristics and qualities that are worthy of emulation, as listed below:

- (a) His steadfastness to his belief while in foreign land. *Dan. 1:8-13, 6:10; Gen. 39:7-12.*
- (b) His prayer life *Dan. 6:10, 9:3-4, 10:2-3; Acts 3:1*
- (c) His life as a public servant (He was faultless and holy) *Dan. 6:4*
- (d) His reward and promotion *Dan. 1 :17-20, 2:46-49, 6:1-3, 28; Gen. 41:37-40*
- (e) The plot against him and his deliverance *Dan. 6:4-13, .20-28, Gen. 39:14-23*
- (f) His wisdom, boldness, faith and humility *Dan. 1:20, 6:10, 1:12- 13; 2:30*
- (g) His testimonies to the living God. *Dan. 6:25-27, 2:28; 2:46-47*

### CONCLUSION

The challenges of Daniel's life and the honour to the living God is worthy of emulation. He did not let God down and God also played His part in his life. I pray you will not disappoint God in Jesus Name. Amen!



## Introduction

**T**he believer is a product (handiwork) of God with the seed of God planted in him (I John 3:9) and given the nature of God. He is the righteousness of God and son of God, hence heir of God. In this study, we shall examine further the revelation of how God sees us.

### 1. Saints are already blessed. Eph. 1:3

- (a) Highlights on what these blessings are: Col. 1:15-17, Rom 8:17, IPet. 4:1, Gal. 3:29, Is. 53:4-5, IPet. 2:24, Provo 2:7, Ps. 32:5, Phil. 4:19, Rom 5:5.
- (b) In the light of Eph. 1:3 is it necessary to ask God to bless us again? What should be our attitude? John 14:14

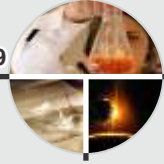
### 2. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance. Eph. 1:11

- (a) What is an inheritance?
  - (b) What are our inheritance in Christ?  
Eph. 3:12, Heb.4:16, Rom 8:1, IPeter 1:1-4, IJohn 4:17
3. Already delivered in Christ - Col.1:13, Matt. 6:9-13
  4. Made to be seated in heavenly realms- Eph. 1:18-21, Eph. 2:4-6
  5. Dwelling place of God (Holy of holies)- Eph. 2:22.'Cor. 3:16
  6. As powerful person - Eph. 3:20, Eph. 2:10, Acts 1:8
  7. As light, salt and the branch - John 15:1-5, Matt. 5:13-14
  8. Created in holiness - Eph.4:24, IThess.4:7, IPet. 1:16

## CONCLUSION

God has deposited in Christ for us wonderful blessings beyond our imaginations. Even IPet. 1:12b says angels long to look into these things. No wonder the psalmist exclaimed in Ps 8:4 that what is man that you are mindful of him.

We must realise that we are blessed in Christ but these blessings may elude us if we don't know them or we know but don't act on our knowledge.



## Introduction

**T**here is a common idea which is unbiblical. That is there is a distinction between the clergy and the laity. In 1 Pet. 2:9, the apostles says that all Christians are “..... Aroyal priesthood of God.”

1. This should not surprise us because several passages in the Bible said that God's people are to be named the priests of the Lord and Ministers of our God. Some of such passages are Ex. 19:5-6, Isa.61 :6, Rev. 1 :6, Rev. 5: 10, Rev. 20:6.
2. As Priest of God, we are to offer sacrifices unto God, not of rams and goats as the Old Testament priests, but spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. What are these spiritual sacrifices? They include, among other things.
  - a. Praises, - Ps. 9:11, Ps. 67:3, Heb. 13:15, Rev. 19:5.
  - b. Singing, - Ps. 81:1, Eph. 5:19, Rev. 5:9,13, Rev. 5:19
  - c. Rejoicing, - Ps. 107:22, Phil. 4:4, Isa. 12:6.
  - d. Glorifying, - Rev. 5: 12, Rev. 7: 12, Lk. 2:20
  - e. Thanksgiving, - Ps. 100,4, Col. 3:15, IThess. 5:18.
  - f. Listening, - Ecc. 5: 1, Isa. 55:3, John 5:25"
  - g. Doing, - Matt. 5:16,1Cor 10:31. Heb. 13:16.

### CONCLUSION

Thus we see that praises and thanksgiving are offering but we must remember as worthy priest of God that there is a great temptation just to praise God in song without offering one's self, money and one's time. Remember Rom. 12:1.

## BODILY HEALING FROM GOD

Ex. 15:26; Ps. 103:3; Pro. 4:20-22; Is. 53:4-5; Mt. 8:16,17; I Pet. 2:24



### Introduction

#### THE HEALING COVENANT

1. God's covenant of healing with His people.  
Ex. 15:26; Ex. 23:25-31; Dt. 7:12-15

Israel became God's Covenant people "A kingdom of priest and a holy nation" - when He bought and brought them unto Himself. (Ex. 19:3-8; 24:6-8). From that time they started enjoying the benefits and blessings of the Covenant.

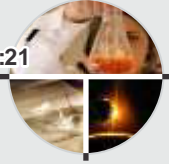
2. **God's faithfulness in healing all under the Healing Covenant.**  
Ps. 105:37; 2 Chro. 30:18-20; Ps 103:1-5; 107:17-20

Sickness - Pestilence, fever, inflammation, cancer, ulcer, madness, blindness, heart-failure, plagues, diseases and sore sickness and nameless sickness - came on the Israelites (God's Covenant people). When they disobeyed the Lord and broke His Covenant. (Dt. 28: 15-29, 58-61). But when they repented and prayed, fulfilling the Covenant conditions, they were healed. (Nu. 21 :4-9, 2 Chro. 7:14; Ps. 107:17 -20).

3. **God's Medicine for your healing.** - Ps. 107:20; In. 6:63; Pr. 4:20-22.

#### CONCLUSION

God's Word generates faith in the heart (Rom. 10:17). Men's words breed fear, doubt and distrust. Attend to God's words, and keep them in the midst of your heart and healing is certain.



## Introduction

**G**od has shown his love towards man right from the beginning, and He is still showing it till today. When the first man and woman sinned, God did not drive them from the garden robbed in their man-made, bloodless religion. God judged the man and the woman. And before He drove them from the garden He sacrificed animals; the blood of the innocent was shed for the guilty. This is an excellent type, or illustration, of the Lord Jesus "who Himself bore our sin in His own body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24). May the Holy Spirit teach us as we study in Jesus Name?(Amen).

### 1. THE LOVE OF GOD TOWARD MAN

The love of God toward man has no limit. It covers all areas of a man's life. God's love for man is eternal. It is a love that cannot be fathomed. It is so boundless that it can only be known by faith. That love which made God to forsake His only begotten son for the whole world. There is no great evidence of love. Calvary is a proof that God loves, and longs to save you. Zech. 3:4; Rev.19:7, 8; 2 Cor.11 :2; Eph.5:26; In. 3:16, 2Cor. 5:21.

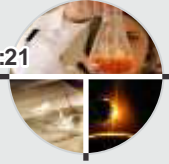
### 2. MAN NEEDS TO RECIPROCATE GOD'S LOVE

The question we needs be ask from ourselves is whether we have reciprocated God's love. God's love needs be returned. It takes God's grace for His love to be reciprocated and the grace He has provided in the sacrifice made by His only begotten son- Jesus Christ. All we need do is to avail ourselves of this wonderful privilege. We should realise that it is possible for God to withdraw this privilege from you if He know that you are not going to do anything with it. Remember the case of Jacob and Esau.

In. 5:42; 2 Cor. 13:14; In. 2:5; 5:3; 1 King 10:9; In. 13:1,23; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 9:13; Mal. 1 :2,3; Gen. 25:21-26; Hos. 12:3

## THE LOVE OF GOD Gen. 3:21

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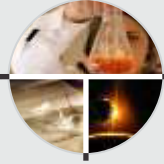
### CONCLUSION

The text that we used for this study gives a perfect picture of salvation by the grace of God apart from works (Eph. 2:8, 9.) Just as the animals blood was shed in Eden, to provide a covering for the nakedness of Adam and Eve, so the blood of Jesus Christ covers the sins of the believer and robes him in the righteousness of Christ (Rom. 10: 1-4). God is calling on you once more. Refuse to miss this wonderful opportunity.

## TRUST IN GOD

Psalm 25:2. 2 Kg.18:1,5,17-23, 19:35-37.

### Introduction



**T**o put trust in God is to rely on Him absolutely for help at all times. It is totally depending of God at all time and situation. To us, He may 'tarry' in bringing His help, but he is always on time. As we go through this study, may you realise that He is able to give you your good expectations. Provo 23:18.

#### **1. WHY TRUST IN GOD?**

- i. It guarantees peace. -Is. 26:3, Na. 1:7
- ii. Continual enjoyment of His goodness and provision - PS. 31:19.
- iii. Only God can provide safety, Ps. 125:1, Pro.29:25.
- iv. The arm of flesh shall fail- Ps. 39:5, Jer. 17:5.
- v. God can do all things - Jer. 32:17, 27.
- vi. He is a source of everlasting strength

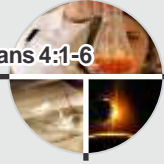
#### **2. EXERCISE OUR FAITH**

- i. Resist the devil and evil counsels. PS. 1:1-2, Jas. 4:7
- ii. Humble yourself Jas. 4: 10, Peter 5:6
- iii. Accept and cling unto God promises, you must know the promise, Meditate on them and confess them. 2 Pet. 1:3-4, 2 Cor. 1:20, 2 Pt. 1:19.
- iv. Take time to pray Is. 65:24, Matt. 6:6, 2 King 18:35-37.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Brethren, any trust in any man is a trust in vanity PS. 30:5. If we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts. Ps. 37:4.





## Introduction

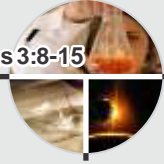
**W**hen somebody become a Christian by repenting from his sins, and accepting Jesus Christ as the Lord and Saviour, he begins a new a life. This new life is a “CALL” and it is the beginning of the journey to **HEAVEN**. It is only those who have pleased God, who walked worthy of their calling as Christians that will reign with God in Heaven.

1. What is the call? *Mk. 1:15, Acts 3:19, Mt. 3:1-2, 1 Thess. 4:7*
2. List six things that happen to the person who receives Jesus Christ (*Thereby obeying the call*)  
(i) *Jhn 1:12* (ii) *2Cor. 5:17* (iii) *Rom. 6:22*  
(iv) *Jhn 10:28* (v) *1Cor. 6:19* (vi) *1Jhn 5:4*
3. Why it is important to walk worthy of the calling? *Gal. 6:7-8, 2Pet. 1:10, Eph. 1:3-4, Ps. 26:61, Jhn 1:7, Rev. 20:12 & 15*
4. How can you walk worthy of the calling? *2Cor. 6:14-17, Eph. 4:1-3, 1Cor. 15:58, Mt. 28:19-20*
5. What is the result of walking worthy of the calling? *Mt. 25:21, Heb. 11:8-10.*

## CONCLUSION

As Christian, we are called to walk worthy of our calling. Let us remember that we need to be faithful unto death, if we are to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2: 10). We should all keep looking unto Jesus so that we can make Heaven.





## Introduction

**C**an a man walk with another man successfully without knowing him? The answer is no. In any relationship the need to know one another cannot be over emphasised. As a servant serves his master, a subject, his leader, a child his father, and a friend relates with his friends, the relationship is improved and nourished by a deeper knowledge of one another.

God knows man fully, but man does not know HIM as he ought to. If we must walk with God meaningfully, we seek to know HIM with all yearnings and eagerness.

### 1. **GOD IS KNOWABLE AND DESIRES TO BE KNOWN**

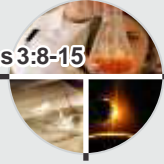
God is a person and has divine personality. He speaks and can relate with other persons. He has definite character by which we can know HIM. He is kind, loving, merciful and gracious. He also has a name by which we can know him (JEHOVAH). Read Ex. 3: 13-15, Ps. 83: 18, Exo. 6: 13, Ps. 25:4-10.

This God is knowable. All through the ages, God has desire to be known by His creatures. After He created Adam and Eve; He visited them and fellowshiped with them in the garden. Gen.2:15-17, Gen. 3:8. When man broke the fellowship. He desire that the man should know HIM and so in Christ Jesus, God restored the fellowship 2Cor. 5:18-19. All that can be known of God is revealed in Jesus Christ. In. 14:9:10, Col. 1:15, 2:9, Heb. 1:3. The call today therefore is for all men to realize that God is knowable and desires to be known with much yearning and eagerness like David and Paul did. Phil3:10-11, Ps. 42:1.

### 2. **THE LEVEL OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

No man can serve God more than He knows him. The level of knowledge we have of God determines our level of trust and intimacy we have with HIM. It is Paul's desire to have a closer walk with God. He

## KNOWING GOD Philippians 3:8-15



sought to know God in the following ways

- i. The power of his resurrection, i.e. God almightiness, God ability to do all things
- ii. The fellowship of Christ's suffering, i.e. identifying with the cross of Christ and
- iii. Conformity with Christ death, i.e. Paul's today yielded to Christ's services even unto death. Phil.1:21, Gal. 2:20  
His experiences and knowledge enabled him to have a closer walk with God satisfactorily. Likewise David, a man after God's heart knows God in depth and how to respond to him. 2 Sam. 24:11-14, 1Sam.17:47.

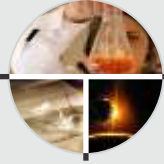
### **CONCLUSION**

**JEHOVAH GOD** is knowable and desires to be known (In. 4:24). And if we must talk with Him successfully, we must be filled with the knowledge of him and his will.

# DEDICATION

Jn. 8:31, I Cor. 15:58, 2Tim 3:14

## Introduction



**Y**oung dogs learn how to bark from their parents. Once learned, they always bark at the sight of enemies and "foreign" personalities. This they do till death, and they are rewarded for it. This is what dedication is all about. May God bless you in Jesus name. (Amen)

### **1. WHAT IS DEDICATION?**

It is to continue without losing hope. Act 2:42 it is full of commitment to a course no matter what happens. 1 Cor. 15:58, Act 4:19-20 .

### **2. AID TO DEDICATION**

- a. Fix your eyes on your goal - Phi. 3:13-14, Heb. 12:2, endure the cross i.e. the treating
- b. Courage - Deut. 31:6, Jos. 1:7, Phil. 1:28
- c. Readiness for Sacrifices - Neh. 5:14-18
- d. Perseverance - Job 11:14-15, 17:9
- e. Willingness 2 Ch. 29:31
- f. Having the right motive

### **3. OBSTACLE TO LIFE OF EDUCATION**

- a. Sin and Weight - 2 Cor. 7:1, Heb. 12:1
- b. Anxiety
- c. Type of friend 1 Kg. 12:7-11, 16
- d. The love of the world - 1 Jn. 2:15-17
- e. Weariness and faintness - Gal. 6:9, Heb. 12:5, Acts 10:1-4
- f. Ignorance: Not aware of things to do
- g. Lack of Vision - Pro. 29:18, Eccl 10:10

### **CONCLUSION:**

The dedications of dogs make them indispensable companions and security agents. Dedicated soldiers get promoted, honoured and reign with the Lord. Do you want God to honour you even after death, then be dedicated. 2 Sam 7:9, 2 Kg 20:8-11

# THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part I)

Matt. 28:18-19: Mk.16:15 & Isa. 61:2-3.



## Introduction

**T**he Great Commission is a must undertaken by all believers. Today we shall look at Types, Practise and approaches to evangelism and rewards.

Types of Evangelism. (a) Personal Evangelism. Acts 8:26-39; John. 4:5-29.  
(b) Mass Evangelism. Acts 2:4-47

### 1. **Personal Evangelism**

#### **Misconceptions:**

- \* It is not giving away tracts or booklets or religious cassettes to friends or neighbours.
- \* It is not calling from house to house with religious literature.
- \* It is not inviting an individual to church.
- \* It is not speaking to someone about your church or religion. It is not about denomination and creed of the church

### 2. **What then is Personal Evangelism?**

- \* It takes two to evangelize. It is one on one dialogue. It is a face to face approach.
- \* It requires definite action. It requires personal involvement. The power needed is the Holy Spirit.
- \* The instrument required is the Bible (The word of God) & personal experience.

### 3. **Personal Evangelism is likened to three things:**

(1) Catching a fish (2) Winning a bride --- (3) Catching a city

### 4. **QUALITIES A PERSONAL EVANGELIST.**

Using a trend you need (1) Patience (2) Instrument (3) Prayer (4) Maturity (5) Planning logistic (Strategies)

Having personal experience of salvation. A sound working knowledge of the Holy Bible. Be a regular and consistent prayer warrior. Having a separated life and Christ likeness every day. Have a Christ like

## THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part 2)

Matt. 28:18-19; Mk.16:15 & Isa. 61:2-3.



### Introduction

Last week, we talk about personal evangelism and qualities of Personal Evangelist. Today, as we continue in the study of the great commission, may the Lord bless us exceedingly.

#### **Practical Approaches**

1. Direct Approach or Shock Tactics: Sudden introduction of Jesus to a sinner to make him wanting to discuss more e.g. I have found Him. Do you know He died for us? *In. 1:35-42*
2. Indirect Approach or Diversionary method: You start a different topic but all of a sudden you change to proclamation of the Word. *Jn.9:1-7; Acts. 8:26-40; Mk. 10:16-21.*
3. Interrogative Approach: You read a portion of the Bible and query yourself to invite or open discuss with a sinner. Thereafter you go into the ways to accept Christ and why etc. *Eph. 2:8-9*
4. Doing a favour with motive of introducing Jesus to him/her. This Provides opportunity for Spiritual contact. *In. 9: 17; 34-38*
5. Asking for a favour approach: This put you under obligation to the person. Most people like being asked to do a little favour; thus bringing you close enough to proclaim Christ. *Jn. 4:1-27; 41-42.*
6. After church meeting approach: After service show affection to new converts, Unregenerate souls and let them know that you care for them. This gives ample chances to introduce Christ. *Acts. 5:42*
7. Handling a tract approach: Giving out a tract or scripture books of establish contact for discussion or introducing Christ to such a person. *Mk. 10:16; Tim. 2:15*

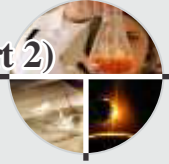
**Mass Evangelism. Acts. 19: 10** Using the net to catch fishes.

It is proclaiming the word to the multitudes. It could be likened to using a NET to catch multitudes fishes.

1. Electronics Media - TV, Radio, Satellite cable network, Internet, etc.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part 2)

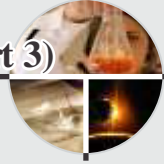
Matt. 28:18-19: Mk.16:15 & Isa. 61:2-3.



2. Literature crusade: means of printed pages and written word which is Spirit. It is quick, powerful and sharper than two- edged sword. e.g. Tracts. Magazines, newsletter, greeting cards, posters, books *etc.* *Jh.* 6:36; *Heb4:12.*
3. Evangelistic crusades: These are outreach, e.g open air, indoor, market, breakfast/lunch/dinner, ferry crusades.
4. Vacation School Evangelism: summer vacation for youths, camping, adult education on evangelism etc.
5. Seminars: Evangelism seminars where suitable topics are discussed with aim of bringing sinners to Jesus.
6. Evangelistic retreats: prayer retreats, family retreat or revival meetings.
7. Sunday School: discussion of selected topics to proclaim Christ with salvation as end result.
8. Welfare ministration: This is a tool of gathering sinners together for the purpose of preaching Christ to them.
9. Church planting: This is the most effective method of mass Evangelism. Transforming of new converts to a local Church

## THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part 3)

Matt. 28:18-19: Mk.16:15 & Isa. 61:2-3.



### Introduction

Last week, we talk about practical approaches to evangelism and mass Evangelism. Today, as we continue in the study of the great commission, may the Lord bless us mightily.

#### **REWARDS. 1 Cor. 9:17-19; 23-27.**

- (1) Rewards of obedience to the command of God.  
Isa. 1:19; Deut. 28:1-14
- (2) You shall shine forever like the brightness of firmament. Dan. 12:3.
- (3) You will be endowed with Divine wisdom. Pro. 11:30
- (4) You will have abundant joy. Rms. 10:15.
- (5) God will show you mercy because you show mercy to the sinners.  
Matt. 5:7
- (6) You will go to Heaven. Rev22:12-14; Rev. 2:7
- (7) God will prune the soul winner and he/she shall become fruitful.  
John 15:2
- (8) The blood of the sinner will not be required from you. Ezek.33:1-6.
- (9) You shall not loose your rewards or blessings. Mk. 9:41

#### **CONCLUSION**

Every disciple of Christ has been commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ and the commission is simple: Go into the world and preach the good news to every creature without fear. Henceforth you shall catch men. Lk. 5:10. SO SHALL IT BE IN JESUS NAME. (Amen).





## CHRISTIAN SERVICE (Part 1)

II Corinthians 4:1.10

### Introduction



**N**o doubt the epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus contain unquantifiable treasure of what a Christian service is. These are countless saying too in the gospels on what our Lord Jesus Christ emphasis to be the supreme tests of our Christian service being the service conductor/leader or being actively involved in organising service. While all these may have a resemblance of real Christian service, we need to get to the basic in other to have a full grasp of what real Christian service entails.

#### 1. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

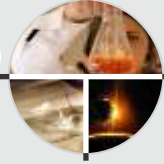
1. The totality of a Christian obedience to God i.e faithfully to his visions, Goals and ideas as enunciated in the scripture 1 Tim. 4:15-6; 1 Tim. 2:5
2. Minister of reconciliation as a Christian service is basically the reconciliation of this sinful world to the son of God 2Cor. 5: 18, Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19.
3. Warfare, we are in two fold Christian battle satanic (evil) force and the flesh. 2Tim. 2:3, 1 Pet. 2:11
4. A teacher and doer of the word Matt. 24:45-51, Matt.24:27, 2Tim. :15, CoI. 3:16
5. An affliction bearer - 2Cor. 4: 1 0; 1 Thess. 1:6
6. A burden bearer -1 Tim. 2:1-3; Ezek. 22:30; 2 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1; specifically, fruitful Christian services lives a Holy life here on earth and Have fruits to present to God inheriting eternal life.

#### 2. HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ONE'S CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1. Must have commitment, self-dedication Eccl. 9: 1 0; Matt. 10:32-39; Luke 14:33. Remember Paul compare this race to that of three professions where strict commitment, self-dedication and discipline are Required: A Soldier; An Athletes; A Farmer. 11 Tim 2:3-6

# CHRISTIAN SERVICE (Part 1)

II Corinthians 4:1-10



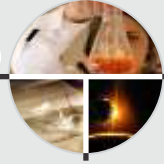
## 2. ABUNDANT KNOWLEDGE AND USE

- (A) The word of God Col 3:16; Rev. 12:11;
  - (b) The name of Jesus Phil. 2:9; Acts 4: 12
  - (c) The blood of Jesus Rev. 12: 11
  - (d) The Holy Spirit
3. Must have determination. Refuse to be discouraged in your service to God.
  4. Walk in the Spirit for purpose of briefness. We say that this summarises abundant knowledge and application of the Scripture to our daily living, a sacrifice and holy walk with God Heb. 12:14; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:1-5; Col. 3:16.
  5. Command followership be a source of inspiration, an example for others to emulate. 1 Cor. 11:1; Tim. 5:12,16; 1 Tim. 5:12,16; 2Cor. 4:2 (the best way to do this is to make sure you make disciples.
  6. Possession of integrity 2Cor. 4:2 Titus 2:7-8
  7. Must have a bridled tongue, Isa. 50:4; Provo 15:23.
  8. Must be wise Matt. Eccl. 9: 16, 18
  9. Set your priority right EccI.2:10, 11,5:7

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE (Part 2)

II Corinthians 4:1-10

### Introduction



Last week, we look at the meaning of Christian Service and how to be successful in Christian service. Today, as we continue in the study of Christian service may the Lord bless us.

### HINDRANCES

1. Sin- Rom. 6: 1, 11-13, 2Thess. 5:22, Gen. 3:6-10
2. Laziness - Procrastination Pro. 10: 13, Eccl. 11 :4-6
3. Lack of knowledge - Hosea 4:6
4. Bias i.e preconceived ideas about certain people, stock, professione.t.c

Tribalism (i)

The early apostles Acts. 6: 1-2

### REWARDS

There are rewards in Heaven for faithful worker here on earth.

1. Eternal life and reigning with the King of glory. John 14: 1-3; 11 Tim 4:7 8 and any of this could be yours.
2. Crown of life for overcomers James 1 :12; Rev. 2:10
3. Crown of glory tendering Christ flock 1 Peter 5:4
4. The incorruptible crown ICor. 9:25 -27
5. The crown of rejoicing 1 Thess. 2: 19
6. The crown of righteousness 11 Tim. 4:6-8

### CONCLUSION

The Christian race is not a bread and butter affair; it takes determination and discipline to succeed. If we are to have a fruitful and effective service to God, we must make up our mind to serve Him diligently not counting the cost.

# CHRISTIAN WARFARE WEAPONS

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

## Introduction



**T**he Bible tells us in (Eph. 6: 12) that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against power, against the ruler of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in the high places. Every born again child must engage, in Spiritual warfare daily. The Bible says in (Rom. 7:23) description in as an inward battle.

### **WHY MUST CHRISTIANS ENGAGE IN WARFARE (2 COR. 10:4)**

Our enemies are invisible (Eph. 6: 12) and therefore we should be ready for battle anytime. The good news is that the God of the battle will fight for us and give us total victory in Jesus name. (Eph 2:6).

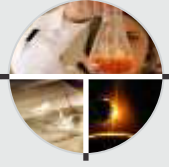
As Christians, we have weapons that are available for use in warfare; though they are in invisible but powerful and mighty. And those weapons are:

- (a) The name of Jesus (Phil. 2:10, Mk. 16:17, 1 Sam. 17:45). The name of Jesus is above all names and it carries the highest authority on earth and in heaven. All the power of God had been put inside the name. The name is mighty when used in prayer and service. Infirmities and demons disappear at the name of Jesus.
- (b) The word of God (Joshua 1 :8, Eph. 6:17, Matt. 4:4)
- (c) Prayer and Fasting (1 Thess. 5:17, Isa. 58:6, Matt. 17:21)
- (d) The blood of the lamb (The blood of Jesus Rev. 12: 11 )
- (e) Faith: Put away fear and cloth yourself with boldness (Heb. 11:6, 2 Timothy 1 :7)
- (f) The anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 Sam. 10:6, Zech. 4:6)
- (G) Praise (Heb. 13:15, Acts 16:25-26)

### **CONCLUSION**

2 Chronicles 32:7-8 tells us that with them are the arms of the flesh but with us is the Lord our God to help us to fight our battles.

# ETERNAL PLEASURE



## Introduction

**P**leasure of sin is temporary. It if for sometime. But only God offers permanent joy and pleasure. To know Jesus is to have eternal pleasure. It is unfortunate that many still seeks after temporary and empty offer of pleasure from Satan. Sin is success in nothing; it brings death, poverty, failure, doom and eternal damnation. May we receive the eternal pleasure promised us by God today at His feet as we study. (Amen)

### 1. HOW CAN WE GET ETERNAL PLEASURE

Reject what the world is offerif9. Choose to fellowship with the people of God Rom. 12:2

It is expedient for you to know that the ways of Christ is higher than the present pleasure of this *world*.

The judgement of the Lord is certain on sin and sin breeds sorrow and doom. Heb. 11:24-26, I Tim. 5:6, I In. 2:15-17, Matt. 6:24, Dan. 1:8-15, Gen. 39:7-9, Heb.13:12-12, Gen. 19:17, Micah 2:10, 2 Pet. 3:10-12, Ps. 16:11.

#### Conclusion:

There is a joy waiting for us. There is pleasure only God can give that is different from what the world offers, Accept God's offer of eternal pleasure now.

# MOUNTING UP WITH WINGS

Is.40:25-31

## Introduction



**T**he concept of mounting up with wings is a concept of growth, elevation unto higher level. It is a concept of lifting up and therefore a concept of breakthrough. Beyond these, it is a concept of sustaining your elevation, lifting, and breakthrough.

As we begin this study, may the Almighty God take us unto multiple of higher ground, ultimate breakthroughs of divers' experiences and sustain us on these levels in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

### **1. IT IS POSSIBLE TO GO HIGHER**

No matter your existing level, it is possible to go unto a higher level. Poverty to prosperity, sickness to divine health, begging to giving, blessed to being a blessing, barrenness to fruitfulness, shame to glory etc.

***1Sam. 2:8, Prov.8:18, Deut.7:15, Ex. 15:26, 1 Sam ..16:11, Esther 6, Gen. 39, Zephaniah 3:16-19, 1 Sam.2:7, Ps.75:7, Rev.3:7, Jbb 22:29, Ps.91:14, Is.58:14, Heb.3:19, Is 1:19.***

### **2. WALKING FOR HIGHER GROUND**

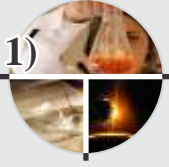
You cannot work for higher ground, breakthrough. You can walk to it. Labour cannot take you to higher ground but only a sound relationship with the enabler.

***Gen. 17:1, Ps.26:11, Gen. 5:22, Gen. 6:9, Rev. 3:4, Ps.127:2, Pr.14:23, Eccl. 4:8, Is 58:13-14, Ps.19:14, Jbb. 22:21-23.***

# LIVING BY THE WORD (Part 1)

Matthew 4:1-4

## Introduction



**L**ife is lived by different people at different levels and on different things. Some live on drugs, some on emotion and impulse but the best way to live is to live by the word of God.

### 1. WORD OF GOD AS FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Just as physical food nourishes the body, the word of God nourishes the soul! If the human body lacks food or nourishment, it leads to a disease called Kwashiorkor or malnutrition. When a soul lacks spiritual food as well, it leads to spiritual kwashiorkor.

*Deut.8:3, Jbb23:12, Ps 119:103, Jer.15:16, 1 Pet.2:2*

### 2. DIVINE INSPIRATION

One of the reason why the word of God is different from all other words and books is the inspiration of God behind it. The word of God is God Himself therefore it carries His divine power.

*Jer.36:2, Eze. 1:3, Acts1:16, 2 Tim.3:16, 2 Pet. 1:21, Rev 14:13*

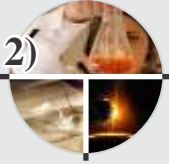
### CONCLUSION

Since the word of God has these characteristics, it becomes inevitable and expedient to give attention to it in order to be spiritually nourished.

## LIVING BY THE WORD (Part 2)

Matthew 4:4. Deut. 8:3

### Introduction



**I**t is important to live by the word of God. So many Philosophers have written theories and propounded some laws that are not effective after a long time but we thank God that the word of God cannot change **Ps 119:89**. There is a need to know some purposes behind the mind of God concerning the writing of the Bible

(1) **TO AUTHENTICATE THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST.**

The word of God was written to prove the divine nature of Christ since so many false Christ's and Messiahs have come and will still come. **Jhn 20:30-31, 19:35, 13:19, 14:29**

(2) **TO GIVE HOPE TO MANKIND**

When you are passing through a particular situation in life and you read the Bible to discover that similar thing had happened to someone, your hope is renewed. **Rom. 15:4, Col. 1:27, Jhn 14:1, In. 16:33**

(3) **TO RELATE HUMAN EXPERIENCE AS A WARNING**

Every experience in the Bible is to serve as a warning to us. God knows the importance of documentation. **1 Cor. 10:11, Num. 25:1, 6, Num 21:6, Num. 16:30**

(4) **TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

All that is needed to be known about eternal life are contained in the word of God. As we give attention to the word of God, our understanding of eternal life gets broadens. **1 Jhn 5:13, Jhn 7:16-17, Jhn 8:31-32, Jhn 17:3, Col. 1:10**

### **CONCLUSION**

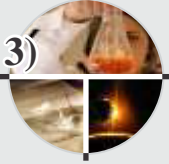
The word of God is very important in the growth of any believer. It is by constantly feeding on it that our lives can be transformed. The law of success according to God is determined by the observance of the things written in His word. Give attention to the word of God. **Jshua 1:8**



## LIVING BY THE WORD (Part 3)

Matthew 4:1-4. Deut.8:3

### Introduction



**W**e give God praise for all we have learnt in this topic. We hope God has really blessed you. By God's grace, we want to look at the end- result of not living by the word of God. We want to look at some things that will happen when a man does not conform to this word.

#### 1. REJECTION

Anyone who refuses to live by the word faces the danger of being rejected by God now and hereafter. Just as we see some earthly fathers rejecting and disowning their children, the word of God also says God will reject all those who will not live by His word. **Hos.4:6, 1 Sam.3:30-33, 1 Sam. 15:22-23, 1 Sam. 16:1, 2 Kings17:19-21**

#### 2. DIVINE PUNISHMENT

Whenever a child of God disobeys the word of God, God punishes such a person. This can come by way of delivering the victim to Satan or his enemies. **Amos 2:4, Prov.23:33, Zec. 7:12, 2cro. 36:16, 1 Kings 13:17-26**

#### 3. FAILURE

Any student that is aiming for success in life must obey the instructions of the teacher or else failure will be the result at the end of the day. When you are not living by the word of God, success is not feasible. **Jsh. 1:8, PS 1:2-, Luke 5:5-6**

#### CONCLUSION

It is our prayers that as we determine to live by the word of God daily, our lives shall be conformed unto His own image in Jesus name.



# DAVID: STUDY IN HIGHER GROUND



## Introduction

**H**igher Ground is the desire of God for His Children. Everybody is looking for a way to move to Higher Grounds.

This cannot just come until some criteria are met.

David a Shepherd boy, the youngest of the family, the least recognized witnessed this experience, hence the need to study his life and learn from him.

There are five important qualities paramount in his life; **GRACE, POWER, FAITH, MERCY and JESUS LINK.**

1. **GRACE:** The Eighth son of his father. The figure eight stands for a New beginning. The Grace of GOD on him brought him Favour before the King of .kings, so also was Noah and Joseph. Eccl911, I Sam 1612, Gen 68, Gen 394.
2. **POWER:** Spiritual and Physical power are both needed for progress in life. It is not ordinary to fight Lions and Bears and surely there are Lions in the world to fight before you can get to Higher ground. I Sam 1734-35, Jud 146, Ps1574, Lk 1019, Act8:9-10, 18 -19.
3. **FAITH:** You need faith to remove every obstacle on your way to Higher grounds, David's faith in the Lord was rugged. I Sam 1737,39,45 46, Mt 1720, Heb 116,Rom 51.
4. **MERCY:** You need more of the mercy of GOD to fulfill Destiny. The Mercy of GOD was more on David than Saul. I Sam 1513, 24- 26, II Sam 714- 15, IISam 1213-14, Rom 915.
5. **JESUS LINK:** You must be linked up with Jesus. The meaning of David is BELOVED and GOD referred to JESUS as BELOVED. Mk 111, Mt 175, Mk 1047.

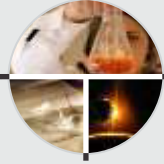
### CONCLUSION

He was a deliverer and King as our Master Jesus.

It is my prayer that those qualities be found in us as we aspire for Higher Grounds.

# DAVID: THE WARRIOR

1 Samuel 17-26



## Introduction

**T**he sudden move of the Shepherd boy to being a WARRIOR was out of his love for the Lord; not wanting the Lord's Name defied.

A Shepherd and a WARRIOR is an unusual combination so also is our Lord who is a Lamb and a LION. So anyone for Higher Heights should be of an unusual nature.

***“You are called to be a Soldier and not a Civilian hence we have battles to fight.”***

*There are Battles to Fight: Our GOD is a man of war. David was one and a'lyone that will emerge a winner in life must be ready for warfare.*

The reign of David saw the end of the giants in the land and there was peace when his son came to the throne. Ex 153, I Tim 118, I Kgs. 53-4. , I Tim. 118, I Kgs. 53-4.

### **1. SEVEN STEPS TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY**

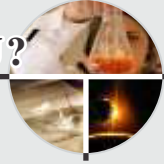
- a. ***Be Jealous for GOD:*** ISam 1726, Dan 68-11, 31-6, 16-17.
- b. ***Be Bold and Courageous:*** ISam 1732, Dt 201-4, Jos 15-6,
- c. ***Absolute Reliance on GOD:*** ISam 1734-37, Psi 207, Pro 2131, Heb 138 *Our God is Consistent.-*
- d. ***Trust NOT IN ARM OUR OF THE FLESH:*** I Sam 1739, Psi 446, Hos 17, II Cor 103-4.
- e. ***Be not INTIMIDATED by what you see:*** I Sam 1743-45, Exo. 1411-16, Heb 122.
- f. *Be on the Attack:* Attack is the best way of defense. Jam 47, Eph 427.
- g. *Weak things can accomplish great things:* I Sam 1740, Exo. 42, Jud. 1515. God Handed over the giant into his hands and the remaining four. I Sam 17-51, II Sam 2115 22.

### **CONCLUSION**

*It is my prayer that you will overcome the Battle of Life in Jesus Name and the Testimony of David will be yours. II Sam 2233-35.*

# WHOSE SERVANT ARE YOU?

Rom. 6:16-23



## Introduction

**T**he word 'servant' refers to a BOND MAN or slave. At one time or the other, consciously or unconsciously, one is a slave to one thing or the other. What you allow to have dominion over you is your master and you are the servant. The question is whose servant are you?

### 1. SERVANT OF SIN.

Every unbeliever is a servant to sin. Satan rules the life of all unbelievers through the power of sin.

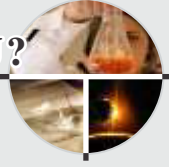
- i. **Sin is a slave master.** The life of the Israelites in Egypt is atypical example of a slave master and servant hood. When a man is bound by the power of sins, he does whatever the slave master commands. Ex. 1: 11-14, Rom. 6:12.
- ii. **Sin Stings.** When scorpion stings a man, the pain is better imagined than experienced. Like man, when a man allows sin to sting him, the pain last for years. 2 Sam. 11:1-4; 2 Sam 12:11.
- iii. **Sin kills.** There are several people that surrendered to sin and have died as a result. Consider the story of the son of David, Amnon who raped his half sister. 2Sam. 13. Judges 16:15-21.
- iv. **Sin demotes.** Sin has power to relegate its victims to the ground. Nebuchadnezzar is a typical example of a man relegated by the sin of pride in Danie14:27 -33, Acts 12:20 .

### 2. SERVANT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Believers ought to be servants of every thing that is right because the kingdom we belong is governed by it. Rom 14: 17.

# WHOSE SERVANT ARE YOU?

Rom. 6:16-23

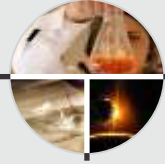


- i. **Righteousness promotes.** There is a price tag attached to anything good. If you want promotion, make up your mind to live right. Gen. 39:9-11, Pro. 28: 13, Dan. 6:22-28. Psalms 45:7
- ii. **Righteousness lengthens life.** Many people pray for long life daily But the secret is in living right with God. If you want to live long, righteousness is the answer. Pro.11 :5,19,12:28,13:6.

## CONCLUSION

You have a choice of who you will serve. God gave us two options in Deut. 30:19-20. Choose righteousness.

## Introduction



**F**aith is the very foundation of the Christian creed and conduct after salvation. -*Eph.2:8*. Faith is the confidence in God that leads us to believe his word. It is by faith that we receive the lord Jesus as our Saviour and confers him as lord.

The Syrophenician woman demonstrated a persevering faith and got what she wanted -*Mark 7:26*; likewise, the Centurion General manifested a humble faith and was rewarded for it - *Matthew 8:810*.

In Mark 10:51, the blind man showed an earnest faith and received his sight. Jesus Christ in his dealings with this people looked out for their faith.

### 1. WHAT IS FAITH?

In *Heb.11:1*, the Bible defined faith as:

- a. The substance of things hoped for.
- b. The evidence of things not seen.

There are two essential ingredients of faith i.e.

- i) Substance.
- ii.) Evidence.

Evidence is defined as:- facts or signs that prove the confidence or truth of something.

Faith is trust in God and Jesus Christ whom he sent - *Jhn 12:13*.

The faith that saves is a personal trust in the lord Jesus Christ. You sit on a new chair because faith says you will not fall down. Also, faith says, Jesus is the Saviour and if you surrender your life to Him, He will save your soul unfaithfully.

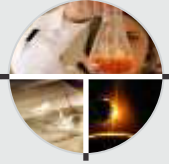
### 2. WHY IS FAITH NECESSARY?

- a. Without faith you can not please God - *Heb11:6*
- b. If without faith you can not please God, then you are a displeasure to God. -*Ps 2:5*.



# LIVING FAITH

Hebrew 4:1-11



- c) Faith is crucial for salvation. - *Acts 16:35*.
- d) Faith is crucial for healing, sanctification and the baptism. ***Lk. 8:22-25, Lk. 8:45-48, Lk. 9:37-41, Acts 13:47-48.***

### 3. THE SOURCES OF FAITH

These are (i.) Divine (ii.) Human

- i.) **Divine Faith:** a.) God the *father-Rom 12:3*, b.) God the son- *Heb. 12:2*. c.) God the Holy Spirit *Gal.5:22*.
- ii) **Human Faith:** By hearing - *Rom 10:17*; i.e. listening to sermon, studying the scriptures, listening to testimonies of others, listening to good tapes and audio C. D of anointed speakers, attending Digging Deep, Faith Clinic, Holy Ghost Services, Mount Zion Hour, etc.

### CONCLUSION

May the Lord release and nurture the grace to possess the true and living faith to us all in Jesus Name.



# PARENTAL DUTIES

Deut.6:7-20.



## Introduction

**I**t is the joy of every couple to also be addressed as parents shortly after marriage in the African setting. However, not all parents are responsible to their children. It must be noted that we as parents are common caretakers who will render account to God on how we have taken care of His gifts (children). We shall quickly look at some responsibilities placed on us by God as parents.

1. **TEACHING.** The first responsibility vested on us by God is to teach our children. Teaching begins from the womb till adulthood. God commanded the Israelites to teach their children the ways of God. Deut. 6:20; 21 :19; 1 Tim.1 :5. God was not happy with Eli because he didn't teach his children the ways of God and this led to severe judgement from God 1 Samuel 2: 13.
2. **TRAINING.** The second duty of every parent is to train his/her children in the way they should. Remember that the first school for every child is the home. A child that is not properly trained from home is said to lack home training. Proverbs 22:6; Isaiah 38:19. Whatever training you fail to give your child will affect you either now or in future Pro.19:18, Esther 2:15,20
3. **PROVISION.** God expects a responsible parent to make provision for his household. It is the duty of the parents to ensure their children are properly taken care of. 2 Cor.12:14, 1 Tim. 5:8, Gen. 30:30. Even though at old age the children are in return expected to take care of their parents.
4. **LOVE.** A Parent ought to love his/her children at all times. God demonstrated this to us by going extra miles to show how much He cares through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for a sinful world. Tit. 2:4. To love our children, we must do it in line with the word of God. Heb.12:5-8.



# PARENTAL DUTIES

Deut.6:7-20.



5. **NURTURE.** God expects us as parents to nurture our children unto maturity. It is a shame that some parents abandon their children early in life to the hands of housemaids and ignorantly the lives of these young ones are at the mercy of these maids. This is contrary to God's will. Col. 3:21, Eph. 6:4.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Having known that you are not just a baby factory, it behoves you to carry out your duties upon your children if you want to be happy over them at your old age. May God Almighty help us *Jin* discharging our responsibilities faithfully to our children in Jesus name.

# REMOVE NOT THE LANDMARK

Deuteronomy 19: 14, Proverb 22: 28.

## Introduction



**L**andmarks are beacons. Beacons are used by the land surveyors to mark the extent of a particular portion/ parcel of land. In law, it is a criminal offence to remove landmarks. Likewise for us Christians there are landmarks that those who have gone before us in faith have set. They expected us not to remove them but rather improve on them. Today, however, these landmarks we need to preserve?

**1. The landmark of the fear of God -**

Provo 1: 7, Provo 8: 13, Acts 5: 1- 5.

**2. The landmark of love -**

John 3: 16, John 15: 13; Acts 2: 1,4: 32; 1 Corinthians 13: 4- 7.

**3. The landmark of prayer -** Luke 18: 1, Matt. 26: 39- 44; Mark 14: 35-

39; Luke 5: 16; Acts 2: 42; James 5: 17 18; 1 Thess. 5: 17.

**4. The landmark of studying the word of God -**

Luke 2: 40- 49; Acts 2: 42, 46; 2 Timothy 2: 15-16 & Joshua 1: 8.

**5. The landmark of selfless and sacrificial giving -** John 3: 16; Acts 4:

33- 37; Luke 6: 38; Galatians 6: 7.

**6. The landmark of praise & worship -** John 11: 41; Psalms 119: 164;

Psalms 115: 17; Isaiah 61: 3; Psalms 50: 23; Acts 16: 24-26; 1 Thess. 5: 18.

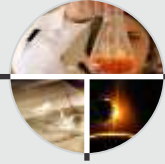
### CONCLUSION:

The Lord Jesus Christ, the apostles and prophets of old have laid for us major landmarks that can make us to be in God's presence in order to enjoy heaven on earth if we will refuse to shift those marks throughout the year.

# TEMPTATION

1 Cor. 10:13. James 1:12-13

## Introduction



**T**emptation can be described as a strong desire to have or do something even though you know you should not.

For every child of God; temptation is a familiar experience. No one can escape it. Adam was tempted, our Lord Jesus Christ was also tempted. To be tempted is not a sin, but yielding to temptation is what is sinful.

### **1) SOURCES OF TEMPTATION**

1. **Satan:-** Mat 4: 1, Jb. 1: 12, Jb 2: 6
2. **The Flesh:-** James 1: 14 The temptation of the flesh is manifested in three ways.
  - a. The lust of the flesh: - 1 Jn. 2: 16, 2 Sam 13: 1-6, 11.
  - b. The lust of the eyes: - 1 Jn. 2: 16, 2 Sam 11 :2-4, Judges 14: 1.
  - c. The pride of life: - 1 Jn. 2: 16, Dan 4: 28- 30.
3. **Evil Associates:-** Prov. 1: 10, 1 Kgs. 12: 8- 11.
4. **Christian Friends:-** Mt 16: 22- 23

### **2) REASONS FOR TEMPTATION**

1. As a test of our faith. - James 1: 2-3.
2. As a test of our obedience. - Gen 22: 1.

### **3.) METHOD OF TEMPTATIONS**

1. Through poverty - Prov. 30: 9, Prov. 22: 7.
2. Through prosperity - Prov. 30: 9, Mt 19: 16- 24.
3. Through worldly glory - Num. 22: 17.
4. Through discouragement - 1 Kgs. 19: 4, Psi 42: 11, Num. 11: 10-15.
5. Through the smooth words of an adulterer/adulteress: - Prov. 6: 23 29, Prov 7: 6- 27, Prov. 5: 1-11.

### **4) TYPES OF TEMPTATION**

- a. Unbelief - Job 2: 9
- b. Pride - Dan 4: 30
- c. Pleasure - 2 Tim 4: 10
- d. Power - Acts 8: 19

# TEMPTATION

1 Cor. 10:13. James 1:12-13



- e. Possessions - Jos7: 1-24
- f. Sex - Neh. 13:26, 2 Sam 11:2-4
- g. Money - Jn. 13:21 - 30
- h. Taking God for granted - Mt 4:6

## **5) RESULTS OF TEMPTATION**

1. If yielded to, it becomes sin. 1 Tim 6:9 and our testimony is weakened.
2. If resisted, the Lord is glorified and we become stronger.

## **6) HOW TO GET VICTORY OVER TEMPTATIONS**

- a. By the faithfulness of God - 1 Cor. 10:13, Rev 3:10.
- b. By using the word of God - Mt 4.
- c. By the intercession of Christ - Lk. 22:31-32.
- d. By personal prayer - Mt 26:41.
- e. By feeling - 2 Tim 2:22, Gen 39:11-12.
- f. By resisting - James 4:7.
- g. By accepting the way of escape - 1 Cor 10:13.

## **CONCLUSION**

*Temptation is common to all men; every Christian must expect to be tempted. We can however be victorious by not yielding to it and by so doing, bring glory to God.*

*We must not fail to remember that yielding to temptation is easy but the scars will remain, restoration is possible through confession, repentance and the Blood of Jesus. 1 Jh. 1:9.*

# FISHING FOR MEN'S SOULS



## Introduction

**F**ew are called to be full-blown preachers or evangelist, but every genuine child of God, born again, Sanctified and full of the Holy Ghost is called to be a fisher of men. Matthew 4: 19. As long as you have opportunity to deal with people individually or collectively, and you are saved, necessity is laid upon you to lead a definite people to Christ as saviour and Lord. Andrew brought Peter to Christ (In 1: 41-42) who have you brought? When are you starting? Why not start now.

### 1. WHY MUST I FISH FOR SOULS?

There are several reasons you must be a fisher of men's souls.

- i. The value of a soul is worth more than the whole treasure in this World. - Mk. 8: 35-38; Mt. 19: 21.
- ii. The fact of hell: Every unsaved soul would perish forever in hell fire. - Rev. 20: 13-15
- iii. The suffering of Christ on the cross for each sinner must not become wasted. Christ must not die in vain - John 21: 15-17.
- iv. Because the world will pass away and all its pleasure but only those in Jesus Christ will abide forever and will inherit all things \_ Mt 25: 32-34.
- v. Because there is a great reward for a soul winner. - Dan. 12: 3, Mt. 13: 43.
- vi. Winning souls is an evidence and proof that you are wise. Prov. 11: 30.
- vii. The blood of the unsaved will be required from the hands of the saved. - Ezekiel 13: 18.
- viii. Refusal to win souls is a disservice to the kingdom of God. \_ Job 22: 2-3
- ix. Soul winning brings pleasure to God. - Rev 4: 1.

### CONCLUSION

Win a soul today before you sleep. Catch a reward before dawn.

## Introduction



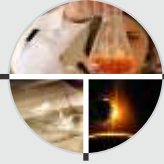
**T**here is reward for everything under heaven. Today we want to know what we will be rewarded for, the rewards and the qualification for the rewards. May the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. What are the things the Lord will reward us for:
  - a. Labour of love (Diligence) - 1 Cor. 15:58, 1 Tim. 5: 18
  - b. Patience or Endurance - LK. 6: 22- 23, Heb 10: 36, John 1:3
  - c. Your faith in God - Heb. 11:6
  
2. The rewards are many
  - a) A mansion in heaven - John 14:2-3
  - b) Crown of life (Glory and Righteousness) Rev. 2:10, 2 Tim. 4: 8, Jam. 1: 12, 1 Peter. 5:4
  - c) You will eat from the tree of life - Rev. 2:7
  - d) You will not be hurt by the second death -Rev. 2: 11
  - e)
    - i. You will eat some of the hidden manna
    - ii. God will give you a white' stone and your new name which you alone will know will be on it Rev.2: 17
  - f) You will rule over nations &He will give you the morning star. Rev 2:26-28
  - g)
    - i. You will be clothed with white garment &your name will not be blot Out of the book of life.
    - ii. Jesus will confess you before God and His Angels - Rev. 3:5
  - h) He will make us a pillar in the temple of God - Rev. 3: 12
  - i) We will sit together with Jesus on His Throne - Rev.3:21
  - J) We will become His Wife -Rev. 19:7-8.

# WALKING WITH GOD

Genesis 5:21-24, Hebrews 11:5

## Introduction



**T**his time, His promise for you is to flourish but you need to understand the condition attached to being flourishing which is righteousness.

We will therefore begin a study on walking with God, using Enoch as a case study today. It is good for you to pray but prayer cannot change the mind of God, it is only when you live a life of righteousness that you can flourish. May His Spirit give you an understanding in Jesus' Mighty name. Amen

### 1. LIVE A MEANINGFUL LIFE:

Enoch stood out as one of the few men in the Scriptures who walked consistently with God. His life on earth was brief compared with other men of his generation but he it was the most remarkable and meaningful. Live a life that will touch lives of people around. Daily touch at least a life. Gen. 5:5, 8,11,14,17,20,23,27, and 31, Matt. 5: 14-16, Acts 9:36, 39b.

### 2. ENOCH'S WALK WITH GOD:

The distinguishing characteristics of Enoch's life were two fold - he walked with God and pleased God.

It is purity of life that qualifies a man to be engaged in the service of the Lord. Our gifts, position, power, privileges are not what God requires to qualify us for heaven, but it is a perfect walk with God. Gen. 6:9, 1 Kings 20:3-7, 1 Thes. 2:10, John 17:16, 1 Cor. 7:29-31, Psalms 24:3-4.

## CONDITION FOR WALKING WITH GOD



### Introduction

**T**o walk with an individual denotes some degree of friendship. There must be some common points of interest, a similarity of disposition, nature, Views, goals, feelings and tastes. Two cannot walk together except they agree.

Sin is a barrier in establishing with the infinite God put a genuine repentance from every sin and faith in the Lord Jesus are the basic steps required before we can start a walk with God and it demands complete obedience and total devotion.

Amos 3:3, Gen. 12:3, Eph. 4:22-24, Romans 8:6-8, 2Cor. 5:15,17,19; John 14:23; Gen. 17:1; Isaiah 59:2.

### **MAINTAINING OUR WALK WITH GOD:**

God is able to keep us till the coming of the Lord subject to the following conditions:

1. Renew your consecration daily.
2. Meditate on the word of God daily and obey the revealed truth
3. Never neglect fellowship of people of like precious faith.
4. Never compromise your faith rather keep off from every false doctrine
5. Daily examine yourself not by man's standard but by the mirror of the word of God.
6. Pray and pray until you have all the grace of God and made conformable to the image of Christ.
7. Never let a day pass without sharing your faith with some body.

Heb. 10:22-23. Col. 1 :21-23,28; Gal. 2:20, Phil. 3:13-15; psalms 1: 1-2, 119:60; Hebrews 10:25, Col. 2: 18-23, Jude 3, 2John 10, 11, 2<sup>Cor</sup>. 1~ :5, Job 31: 1, Phil. 4:8, 1 Pet. 5:8-10, 1Thes. 5:17, 2Cor. 5:11.

### **CONCLUSION:**

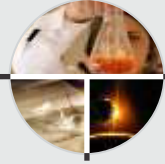
To walk with God is to focus our attention on God. Making Him the centre of our lives, God owns us for He created us for His glory, we therefore need to daily glorify Him, obey Him and do His perfect will.



# WISDOM (Part 1)

Matthew 25: 1-9

## Introduction



**T**he condition to be joyful of is wisdom; this has therefore necessitated a study on wisdom. Wisdom is the principal thing affirms the word of God; I therefore encourage you not to miss this study but remember it is wisdom to invite somebody in subsequent studies. May you have an understanding in Jesus name.

### 1. WHAT IS WISDOM?

Wisdom is the correct application of knowledge, Jesus gave the parable of two builders who obtained same knowledge but could not apply it same way. The source of true knowledge is God and so wisdom can only be found with Him.

Wisdom is holiness and the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God; if you fear Him you will obey Him Mt 7:24,26, Proverbs 2:6, Exodus 28:3, Daniel 1:17, Psalm 119:11,57, Jer. 15: 16,20:9, Job 28: 12, Job 28:28, Psalm 111: 10.

### 2. THE NEED FOR WISDOM:

The first thing every man should desire is wisdom; with wisdom you will be able to reach your goal, your success is equally guaranteed, it places you above your pairs. You need to fall in love with wisdom, prefer it above rubies and gold. Wisdom is better than strength, it serves as a defence, it is better than weapons of war.

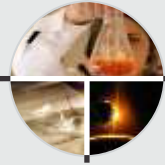
### 3. WHY NOT ASK FOR IT TODAY?

Pro 4:7, Deut. 34:9, 2Chr 1:10, Pro 7:4, Pro 16:16, Eccl. 9:16, 18,7:12, James 1:5.

## WISDOM (Part 2)

Deut. 6:6-9. Deut. 11:18-20

### Introduction



I welcome you to the second part of our study on wisdom. In the first part, we define wisdom as correct application of knowledge and we did say the true source of knowledge is God; you must therefore make His word your companion. We want to go a bit further today by considering how we can tap wisdom from His word. No matter how tough the year could be, it is certain that the wise will excel, you must therefore avoid everything that will make you a fool this year. I pray the Spirit of God will quicken your understanding.

#### **1. OBTAINING WISDOM FROM HIS WORD:**

1. Receive the Word Proverbs 2: 1-4
2. Search for it, Seek it (desire, thirst and hunger for it) Proverbs 2:3-4
3. Listen to it Pro 2:2; Pr22:17, Isa. 55:3
4. Read it, study it 2Tim. 2:15, In. 5:39
5. Let it not depart from your eyes Provo 4:2, Deut. 6:9
6. Hide it in your heart Deut6:6, Ps. 37:31, Ps. 40:8, Ps.119:11
7. Meditate on it Josh.1 :8, Jer.15:16
8. Wear it Deut6:8, Exodus 1:16
9. Talk about it, teach it Deut6:7, Deut.11:19

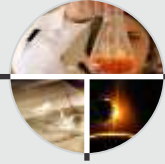
#### **CONCLUSION:**

You acquire Divine knowledge when you do all that is listed above. However, you can only enter into wisdom when you apply the knowledge you have acquired by doing it. Matt 7:24, Rom. 2:13, Jam 1:22. I encourage you to bring somebody next week as we intend to look at worldly wisdom. God bless.

## WISDOM (Part 3)

1 Corinthians 3: 19.

### Introduction



**W**e have been looking at wisdom for some weeks now and several lessons have been learnt. It is better to know why we should not seek worldly wisdom. Godly wisdom profits more than worldly wisdom hence we need not seek after it. We shall look at some implications of possessing worldly wisdom. May God open our eyes of understanding in Jesus name.

#### 1. **Worldly wisdom perishes-**

Any man who boasts about worldly wisdom has the tendency to perish with it. There are so many people who in the eyes of the world were wise and the wisdom led to their destruction. **Isaiah 29:14; Jer. 49:7; Obadiah 1:8**

#### 2. **Worldly wisdom does evil-**

People of the world sees evil acts as a display of wisdom which make them to do evil. To do evil is nothing to a worldly man. **Jer. 4:22; 2 Sam.13:1-6**

#### 3. **Worldly wisdom is vain and empty.**

It lacks real substance. “When you weigh worldly wisdom properly, it is full of nothing and cannot stand the test of God. **1 Cor.3:20; Psalm 94:11**

#### 4. **Worldly wisdom is devilish.**

The Bible calls Satan the god of this world hence he also can give wisdom to those who serve him. The devil succeeded in deceiving the first Adam but he failed when he attempted to deceive the second Adam. **James 3:13-16; 1 Corinthians 15:46-48.** The second Adam grew in wisdom and he also is the wisdom of God. **Luke 2:52; 1 Corinthians 1:24.**

#### 5. **Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God.**

Many times man tries to prove to God that he is wise but at the end it results into foolishness with God. God is the giver of wisdom and if any man wants to prove that he is wise, God can turn such wisdom into foolishness.

**1 Cor.3:19; 1 Cor. 1:20; 2:6; Job 5:3.**

## AN EVERLASTING LOVE



### Introduction

**G**od's love to mankind cannot be overemphasized; His love is an everlasting one and this has made Him to constantly keep His word, sent His Son to this world, made us to be called sons of God. We are to be partakers of this nature, we are to love Him and our love to others is to be impartial, unselfish and sincere. God condemns hatred.

**Jer. 31:3, Deut. 7:8, John 3:16, Rom 5:8, Eph. 2:4-5, 1Jn 3:1, Dt. 6:5, Jude 21, In. 13:35, Deut. 10:19, Mt. 22:39, Rm. 12:9, 1Cor. 13:1, 1Thes. 4:9, 1Pet. 4:8, 1John 2:10, 4:21, Lev. 19:17, 1John 2:9, 3:15.**

#### **CLASS DISCUSSION:**

This session will discuss practical ways we can demonstrate love to God and fellow men.

# PARTAKERS OF DIVINE NATURE

Luke 15:12-16

## Introduction



**T**his is a study that is inexhaustible but we have been able to consider few natures of God since we have commenced the study-He is the Light, Truth, Love. Now, let's look at Him as the Creator and Life. I encourage you to ensure this study brings a meaning to your life, may you be blessed as we study in Jesus's name.

### 1. THE POWER TO CREATE IS IN YOU:

To create is to cause something to exist or make something original or new. He created the heaven and the earth, He made man and only Him can create a clean heart in him. He creates by His word and He has empowered us to create and to make new by His Spirit.

***Gen. 1:1, Neh. 9:6, Gen. 1:26,5:1,2:7, Jer. 31:22, Psalm 51:10, Heb. 11:3, Psalms 148:5, Luke 4:32, In. 6:63, Psalm 104:30, Ezk 37:14, 2Kings2:9. In. 14:12***

### 2. WHEN THERE IS LIFE:

The study will not be complete if we don't consider the nature of life of God. Both the physical and spiritual life is given by God, when you win a soul, you do not only give him eternal life but you also save him from untimely death because you make him live righteously.

***Gen. 2:7, Acts 17:25, Ezk. 37:9, Jhn 1:4, 10:10, Rm. 5:21, Luke 18:28-30, Jhn 3:14, 15,36, Pr. 11:19, Ezk. 20:11.***

# PRESS TOWARDS THE MARK

Phil 3:8-14.

## Introduction



**W**e bless God for the beginning of a new day. We however want to encourage ourselves that we have not reach our goals yet and we cannot afford to stop along the way. Forge ahead until you receive the crown of winners. We want to look at few things that can help us to press towards the mark.

1. **Define your goals.** Before you reach any goal or mark, you must have a focus of what you want to achieve. You may need to ask yourself if the goal set is worth its salt. Heaven and hell are goals. Hebrews 12: 1-2; 2, Tim.4:8; Luke 9:62.
2. **Discover what will help you to reach the mark.** Information that is not processed cannot give the desired results. Study maps, books and even listen to tapes that can give you information about where you are going. 2 Peter 1:4-11; Eph.4:24-30; Heb.12:14
3. **Avoid hindrance on your way to reaching your goal.** One thing you must understand is that once you set a goal the devil is also ready to hinder you from reaching that goal. He uses different means to hinder you but you also must be wise as a serpent. Matthew 4:1-6; 2 Cor.6:14-18; Gal. 5:19-21; Hebrews 12:1
4. **Endure all that happens along the way to reaching your goal.** The Christian journey is a hard road but yielding positive results at the end. We need endurance to reach our goals. 2 Kings 2:1-11; 2 Tim.2:3; Acts 5:41; Romans 8:17; James 1 :12; 1 Peter 2:19
5. **Do not look back.** Once you set a goal, forge ahead without looking back. So many people have gone back from pursuing their goals. Remember winners don't quit and quitters don't win. 1 Peter 1 :13; Luke 9:51; 2, Tim.4:10; Hebrews 10:37-38.

**CONCLUSION-** Anything you desire to achieve in life cannot come on a platter of gold. You have to fight on till you achieve your goals. Before the end of this year, your visions shall be realised in Jesus name.

# HOW TO RETAIN YOUR PEACE

Mk 4:39-41.

## Introduction



**W**hile we keep seeking God face and intervention in every aspect of our lives, we need to know the things that are crucial to our enjoying the peace we have received. We pray that God will give us understanding in Jesus name.

1. **Stand in faith.** We need to know that the devil is not happy when we have peace and joy but one thing is sure, what God has done shall be permanent. We need the force of faith to enjoy the blessing of God. 1John 5:4; Exodus 14:14. Isaiah 36:3
2. **Change your confession.** Your confession determines your possession no doubt. Having been assured of peace by God you need to constantly confess your peace in God no matter the situation. Romans 5:1-2; Mark 11:23-24; 2 Kings4:18-36
3. **Avoid the previous pitfalls.** So many people do not look back to the cause of their problems. Therefore, many prayers do not receive answers from God. They cry foul to heaven without results. John 8:1-11; John 5:1-14; Judges 6:1-10.
4. **Live in constant thanksgiving.** When God blesses you, the guarantee of retaining that miracle can only be got when you appreciate Him regularly. The thief is around the corner that is always ready to take away. Luke 17:11-18; 1 Thess.5:18; Phil.4:6-7.
5. **Engage in spiritual warfare.** We are in constant battle daily with the hosts of hell. We have several spiritual weapons to fight with that is why we must not give up. 2 Samuel15:17-23; Ephesians 6:10- 19; Luke4:13

**CONCLUSION** - Do not assume that the devil that caused the storms you faced previously has gone to bed and relax. You must be on guard at all times to maintain your victory. May the peace of God remain with you.

# LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU.

Eph.5:1-7.

## Introduction



**T**hank God for yet another opportunity to learn at His feet. So many people are living in deceit within the church setting in this age of information technology, but the encouragement to you and I is that we should not be deceived. May God Almighty help you to come out of deceit in Jesus name. Let us look at some areas that we can be deceived to do or believe the wrong thing.

1. **MARRIAGE.** So many people have entered into wrong relationship because they have been deceived. Many are also regretting ever marrying their partners because of deception. Some have divorced or separated when they realised the deception. Genesis 29:20-27; Eph.5:3.
2. **TRADITIONAL PRACTICES-** Though some claim to be born again, they still hold unto traditions and beliefs of men out of Ignorance. Most traditions are rooted in deceptions cooked up by men and cannot be substantiated from the Holy Scriptures. CoI. 2:8; 2 Peter 3:17.
3. **CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES-** There are lots of heresies and false doctrines in the body of Christ. So many people have been led into error by false teachers. Eph.4.14; 2 Tim. 3:17-18

### HOW TO AVOID DECEIT.

1. Know what the Word of God says over any matter. Keep yourself glued to the word of God daily. Psalm 1:1-2 Joshua 1:8; Matthew 4:6
2. Pray always. Do not decide until you have prayed over it. Acts 6:4, Luke 18: 1-8; 1 Thess.5: 17.
3. Study more. 2Tim.3:16-17; 2Tim2:15.

### CONCLUSION

For you not to be deceived you need to watch the company you keep also. Get close to God via His word and fellowship with the Holy Spirit more



## THE SPOTLESS LIFE.

Eph. 5:27, Matt. 5:49



### Introduction

**C**olour white is unique among several colours. It signifies so many things in the eyes of God. It is the desire of God that all His children should be spotless in this wicked and crooked generation. May God give us grace to be spotless in Jesus name. How can we live a spotless life?

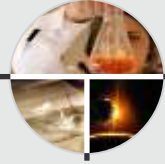
- 1. Do not be conformed to this world.** The world is polluted and spotted as well; hence, you must not be a friend of the world. The prince of this world is Satan, He seeks worshippers daily and a little friendship with the world gets you hooked to him. **Rom. 12: 1- 2; James4:4; 1 John 2:15-17**
- 2. Follow Jesus' example.** Jesus never allowed Himself to be spotted by the world and He must be your perfect example. **1 Peter2:21-22; Hebrews12:1-2.**
- 3. Have hope of His coming.** Do not lose hope of Jesus' second coming if you must live a spotless life. Several negative things may be happening around you but be assured that Jesus is coming back again. **1 John3:1-3; 2 Peter3:12-14.**
- 4. Watch and pray.** Jesus Christ gave us a charge to watch and pray to avoid falling into temptations that can make us to become spotted. Temptations come on a daily basis purposely to defile us. **Matthew 26:41; John 14:30.**

### Conclusion

It is easy for a white garment to be soiled by a little spot. Therefore, we need to examine our lives daily and keep ourselves pure for God hates any garment that is soiled **Jude 2-3.**

# BE NOT A FOOL

Proverbs 14:8



## Introduction

**F**oolishness is the exact opposite of wisdom. It is deadly and destructive to be known to be a fool. Foolishness is a killer and a destroyer. As children of the Most High God, we must not be classified as fools for whatever reason. In this teaching today, we shall look at the characteristics of fools.

1. **Fools deny the existence of God.** Whenever you see a man who denies the existence of God in word or action he is no other person but a fool. It is only a fool that will claim to be independent of God. **Psalm 14:1; 53:1, Luke 12:16-21.**
2. **Fools mock at sins.** Fools do not mind the consequences of sins hence, they commit sin at random. Fools lack the fear of God too. **Pro.14:9; 10:23; 15:21.9.**
3. **Fools despise instruction.** A fool will not take as important any instruction given to him. He does not regard instruction for any reason. Give a fool a manual to read he would despise the instructions therein. **Pro.15:5, 31-32; 13:18.**
4. **Fools are contentious.** When you see a fool fighting or contentious, it is normal. Fools can fight anytime and anywhere on trivial matters. **Pro.18:6-7; 12:13; Eccl. 12:13.**
5. **Fools have self confidence.** A fool assumes he knows it all and is better than any other person. A fool thinks others are inferior to him. **Pro.28:26; Eccl. 7:9; Pro.3:5; Jer.9:23.**
6. **Fools are dishonest.** It is not a virtue for fools to be honest. When you see a dishonest man at any level of life, then you have seen a fool. **Jer.17:11; Psa. 55:23**
7. **Fools are hypocritical in nature.** A fool is saying one thing and doing another thing. A fool lives a dual life. A fool pretends to be what he is not. **Luke 11:39-40, Rom.1 :22; Eph. 5:15.**
8. **Fools reveal their folly.** When fools speak, it is easy to know them. Fools do not keep secret. They expose their plans before they begin anything. Fools talk more than act. **Pro. 12:23; 15:2; 18:2; Eccl. 5:3; Eccl. 10:3**

# SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

Luke 15:12-16

## Introduction



**U**nderstanding is defined as the ability to grasp meaning i.e. the ability to perceive and explain the meaning or the nature of somebody or something. It is not all children of God that have spiritual understanding as a result of which many have not been able to enjoy the blessings of God. It is our prayer that from now henceforth you shall no longer be destitute of spiritual understanding in Jesus name. How to have spiritual understanding will be our focus today by the grace of God.

### 1. Keeping the laws of God-

It takes a man who keeps the word of God to have understanding of the word of God. It is not enough to read the Bible daily without committing same to heart. If spiritual understanding is obtained blessings follow. **Jos. 1:8; Deut. 4:6; Ps. 19:7; Ps. 111:10.**

### 2. God's presence gives it-

The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible and we need Him to give us understanding about the word of God. If the Holy Spirit dwells with you at study time then you are sure of His helping hand. **John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13.**

### 3. Living by the Word of God.

When you make up your mind to live by the Word of God you can gain understanding. For you to win your spiritual battles and live above sins then live by the Word of God. **Matt. 4:4; Ps. 119:104; Pro. 2:6.**

### 4. Total obedience-

Obedience to God and man is a foundation to having understanding. If you make up your mind to obey God you will have understanding of spiritual matters, **1 Chronicles 12:32; 1 Sam. 15:13-22.**

### 5. Be slow to speak.

Do not be hasty in your words if you need spiritual understanding. Many people have lost out in life because of the words of their mouths. Do not be rash. **Pro. 14:29; 17:27**

# DANGERS OF LACK OF SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

Luke 15:12-16

## Introduction



**U**nderstanding is so important in life that a lack of it makes a man to be compared with a beast. A beast behaves anyhow and can do anything anywhere and anytime. When you consider the dangers associated with lack of understanding, there is no way one can live a fulfilled life. Be not without understanding. Pro.4:5- 7. Let us look at the dangers of not having spiritual understanding.

- 1. You are equated with the beasts.** A beast is a large four-footed animal used for carrying burdens. In either words a man void of understanding is not better than animal. If you despise any opportunity to have understanding you become a prey and bearer of burdens. **Psalm 32:9; 49:20; Pro.26:3.**
- 2. You become a companion of fools.** Fools are those who lack insight into a matter. The understanding of fools is darkened and they behave anyhow. Fools deny the existence of God in their hearts. **Pro.12:1; 18:2; 6:32-33; Pro.12:19**
- 3. You become lazy and slothful.** A man void of understanding may know what to do but will not do it. Lack of understanding can make a man see death coming and will not do anything to prevent it. **1 chro. 12:32; Pro.24:30-31**
- 4. Your days become shortened.** It is not the will of God for man to die prematurely but lack of understanding can terminate life abruptly. A man that is void of understanding can live carelessly and may not control his diet until death comes knocking. Pro. 28:16; Exo. 20:12

## CONCLUSION

Whatever price you have to pay for understanding is not too much for in the days of trouble discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you **Pro.2:11**





