



DIGGING DEEP

601-700

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**THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF GOD**

DIGGING DEEP

601-700

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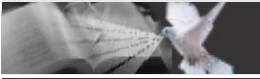
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STUDIES IN JONAH

Text: Jonah 1:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study in the Book of Jonah, we discovered God's desire for the nations of the world. God wants the nations saved and He would do anything to reach them. Today we will look at the process of taking a city and why we must act now. May the Lord teach us Himself in Jesus name.

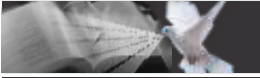
A. THE PROCESS OF TAKING A CITY

God gave us an insight into how we can take over a city for Him through the story of Noah and Nineveh. He told Jonah to arise and go and cry. The God of nations expects us to be on our feet, move into action, shake away every spirit of slumber; to encourage oneself and do the right thing. The injunction of the Master to the apostles is to go into all nations and preach the gospel.

Jos. 1:2, I Sam. 16:12, I Kings 21:18, Luke 15:18, Eph. 5:14, Mark 16:15, Mark 1:35, 38, Deut. 20:10, Luke 10:5, 10, 14.

B. WHY MUST WE CRY NOW?

God keeps record and He has a book of remembrance.
Mal. 3:16, Dan. 12:3.



KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Text: Jonah 1:3

INTRODUCTION:

Everyone in life wants to know if he or she is taking the right decision or moving in the right direction. God also desires that we should know His will for our lives in order to achieve His purpose and avoid crises.

May He teach us today in Jesus name, Amen.

B. HOW CAN I HEAR FROM GOD?

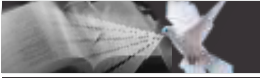
The Bible is full of examples of those who sought to know God's will and how they heard God.

Gen. 18:1, 28:1-17, Job 33:15-16, Exo. 4:27, Jos. 5:13-15, I Sam. 9:5-6, I Kings 19:4-7, 11-13, 22:19-25, II Tim. 3:16-17, Rom. 8:14, Job. 32:8.

C. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HEAR FROM GOD?

You need to pray and, when necessary, fast also.

Matt. 7:7-11, Dan. 10:1-5



KNOWING GOD'S WILL (2)

Text: Jonah 1:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we learnt about how to hear from God and what to do to elicit our hearing from Him.

Today, we will learn how to differentiate between God's voice and that of the adversary; and we will advance some reasons why people find it difficult to obey God's voice even when they are sure it was God's. May the Lord teach us today in Jesus name, Amen.

A. HOW DO I DIFFERENTIATE GOD'S VOICE FROM THAT OF THE DEVIL?

It is essential to know whether you are hearing God or a particular message is from the devil with the intention of misleading you or distracting your attention. Whenever God sends us a message or speaks to us, such a message will agree with the Holy Scripture and you will have peace within you. In addition, God could use other means of revelation to confirm or warn you.

Jonah 1:1, 3:1, Matt. 4:1-11, II Tim. 3:16-17, Ps. 119:11, I Cor. 10:11, Rom. 15:4, 8:14, I Jn. 5:3, Eze. 14:3-5.

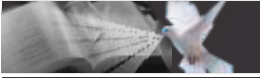
B. WHY DO WE DISOBEY THE VOICE OF GOD?

Even when people are really sure that God is the one speaking to them, they could still resist His will and refuse to carry out His injunctions. Sometimes it may be because of fear or non-agreement with their expectation.

Jonah 1:3, Num. 22:9-13, 15-20, 31-35, Acts 10:9-16, I Sam. 15:1-3, 9, 13-15, 22.

CONCLUSION:

To obey is better than sacrifice.



THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (1)

Text: Jonah 15:16

INTRODUCTION:



Every saved child of God has been chosen by God for a purpose. But unfortunately today, many are not fulfilling the purpose for which God saved them.

Today, as we study at His feet, may the Lord open our eyes to see the purpose for which He has chosen us in Jesus Name.

1. HE CHOSE BECAUSE HE LOVED

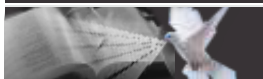
God loved us even before we knew Him. From the womb of our mother, He has chosen us and ordained us to be an instrument of honour to Him.

Matt. 22:14, Jn. 3:16, Jer. 1:5, Isa. 49:1-3, I Jn. 4:10, 19, Ex. 19:5, Deut. 14:2, I Pet. 2:9, Lk. 1:17, Acts 15:14, II Tim. 2:20-22, Rm. 9:11-16, 21

2. HE CHOSE THAT WE MIGHT BEAR FRUITS

One of the reasons why God chose us is to bear fruits. He expects us to bear the fruit of repentance, holiness, fruits of the Holy Spirit and win souls for Christ.

Matt. 3:8-9, Rom.7:4, 6:22, Heb. 12:11, Matt. 13:8, Phl. 4:17, Gal. 5:22-23, Eph. 5:9-10, Mk. 16:15-16.



THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (2)

Text: Jonah 15:16

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God chose us because He loved us and that we might bear fruits.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord teach and bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. WHY MUST WE BEAR FRUITS

As we were born, God expects that we also should give birth to others if we are not going to be barren. Aside from this, unfruitfulness is a sign of worldliness, misuse of talents, avenues for master's disappointment, divine judgement and final rejection.

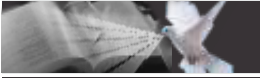
2 Pet. 1:8, I Jn. 2:15, Lk. 13:6-7, 19:20-26, Matt. 3:10, Heb. 6:8, John 15:6.

2. CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE FRUIT BEARING

In order to be able to effectively bear fruits for Christ, there are certain conditions we must satisfy:

- i. Perpetual contact with Jesus
- ii. Full understanding of the Master (Jesus)
- iii. Being dead to the old life
- iv. Constant spiritual polishing and
- v. Abiding permanently in Jesus Christ.

Ps. 1:1-3, Matt. 13:23, Jn. 1:1, 12:24, Gal. 2:20, Jn. 15:2, 5-7, Phil. 4:13



THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (3)

Text: Jonah 1: 5-16

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the reasons for bearing fruits and the conditions for effective fruit-bearing.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord teach us Himself and bless us through His word in Jesus Name.

1. POWER FOR FRUIT BEARING

The Lord who had chosen and mandated us to go forth and bear fruits has supplied us with the necessary strength, grace, wisdom and power to be successful soul-winners if we would only yield to him.

Mark 16:17-18, Acts 1:8, Lk. 24:47-49, Rom. 15:15-16, Matt. 28:18-20, I Cor. 9:16-18, Jer. 1:5-7

2. PASSING THE BATONS OF THE GOSPEL TO OUR CHILDREN

It is not enough to win others to Christ but we are also to make disciples of them so that they too can become soul-winners. We are to pass the batons of the gospel of peace to our children who will in turn pass them on to their children and so on till Jesus comes.

Gen. 18:18, II Tim. 2:2, I Cor. 3:6-15, Ps. 71:17-18, Ps. 78:4-6, Ps. 145:4, Acts 20:25-28, Jn. 20:21.



THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (4)

Text: Jonah 1: 5-16

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the power for fruit-bearing and the need to pass the baton of the gospel of peace to our children.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. FRUIT-BEARING ALSO INCLUDES SOME SPIRITUAL VIRTUES

Apart from the conversion of others to Christ, fruit-bearing also includes such virtues as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control etc. These are what the Bible referred to as the “Fruits of the Spirit”.

Gal. 5:22-23, Jn. 15:2, Eph. 5:9, 3:17, Heb. 12:14, Col. 3:12-16, Rom. 15:14, I Cor. 13:1-3, 4-8.

2. FRUIT-BEARING LEADS TO ANSWERED PRAYERS

One of the greatest secrets of answered prayers is constant and regular fruit-bearing.

Jn. 15:16b, 16:23-24, 14:12-14, 15:54, I Jn. 2:6, Matt. 6:33, Acts 3:6, Jam. 5:16-18, I Jn. 3:22, Jam. 4:3.



THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (5)

Text: Jonah 1: 5-16

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we looked into some spiritual virtues as “Fruits of the Spirit” and fruit-bearing, the secret of answered prayers.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Almighty God bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. THE CHOSEN AS CHANNELS OF PROMISE

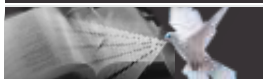
Believers in Christ (Israel) had been chosen by God as his channels to carry out the promises of redemption. God's grace, salvation, protection, goodness and blessings given to His faithful people in love are not just to one nation (Israel) but to the whole human race.

Isa. 41:8-11, Gen. 17:7-8, Ps. 135:4, Deut. 7:6-9, Acts 2:39, Joel 2:32, Gal. 3:14, Ep. 3:6, I Jn. 2:5, 2 Cor. 1:20.

2. THE CHOSEN AS VICTORS AND NOT THE VANQUISHED

God has chosen His People to be winners in the battles of life and not failures or the defeated. Because Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour won, we must also win.

I Cor. 15:57, I Jn. 5:4-5, Mt. 4:1-11, Col. 2:14-15, Lk. 10:19, Rev. 12:11, Rm. 8:37-39, Ph. 4:13, Rm. 8:31.



THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (6)

Text: Jonah 1: 5-16

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the chosen as channels of promise and as victors and not the vanquished.

Today, as we conclude this series, may the Lord Himself teach and bless us through His word in Jesus Name.

1. MANY ARE CALLED, FEW ARE CHOSEN

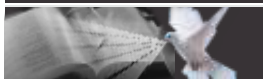
The call of God unto salvation is given to many but as far the kingdom of God is concerned, only the FEW who respond to the call and endure their salvation to the end are CHOSEN.

Matt. 22:14, Matt. 11:28, Jn. 3:16, Rev. 3:20, 22:17, Ep. 1:4-5, II Thess. 2:13-14, Jn. 1:11-12, 3:3-7.

2. THE FIRST SHALL BE THE LAST

In heaven, there will be a lot of surprises as many who were thought to be great in the church will be ranked behind others and many who were unknown will be exalted to glorious positions because God does not judge or value people by outward appearance but by the sincerity and purity of their hearts.

Matt. 20:16, Matt. 19:27-30, I Cor. 15:45-50, Mk. 12:42-44, Matt. 26:7-13, I Sam. 16:7, Isa. 65:1-2, Matt. 23:37, Rom. 8:29-30, Lk. 13:25-30.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS

TOPIC: ISRAEL IN EGYPT

Text: Exodus 1:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

Our God is a God of plan and design. He knows the end from the beginning. Whatsoever He does is for our good and the furtherance of His purpose for our lives. As we will be learning from the Israelites today may our lives also become a source of good lessons for the world, Amen.

- A.** Why should Israel be in Egypt? God spoke to Abram on the day He entered into covenant with him that his seeds will be in Egypt for a specific period of time. To Israel, Egypt was a school, the cauldron to bring the best out of God's children.

Gen. 15:13-21, 12:10, 37:28, Exo. 2:5-10, Gal. 3:22-29, Exo. 1:11-14, Heb. 5:8, 12:5-13.

- B.** A family can enter into bondage through the activity of one person. Circumstances pushed Jacob to move into Egypt, and all his children moved with him. Some families are in bondage today because of the activities of one person.

Jos. 7:1-5, I Sam. 2:27-33, 17:8-11, 28:16-19, II Sam. 12:9, 10, II Kings 20:12-18.

C. Conclusion:

It was God's mercies that brought out Israel from Egypt. We all need His mercies everyday.



STEPS TO GREATNESS (1)

Text: Genesis 12:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

In the recent time, the Almighty told us that the Beginning of greatness has come to His children in the Redeemed Christian Church of GOD. We have realized that this will not just happen unless we prepare for it. This is why we will be looking at ABRAHAM as our case study for greatness. We pray that the Almighty will teach us in Jesus Name.

1. GOD'S DESIRE FOR YOUR LIFE

The Almighty, the maker of Heaven and Earth, the infallible one desire that you be great, be above only, prosper, be set on high, ride on high, ride on high Hills and Shine in life.

Gen. 12:2, Deut. 28:13, Jer. 29:11, Ill Jn. 2, Ps. 91:14, Isa. 58:14, Dan. 12:3, Hab. 3:19.

2. HE CALLS YOU TO A LIFE OF SEPARATION

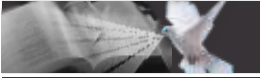
The first step to greatness as seen in the case of Abraham is SEPARATION. It is a prerequisite to his choice and calling to greatness. He demands this for identification, to prevent contamination so that he might be able to accomplish His purpose.

He request that we be separate from the Heathens, Evil Doers, and Associations.

Exo. 33:16, Jos. 23:7, Neh. 10:30, Il Cor. 6:12-18, Neh. 13:3, Ps. 119:115, Isa. 52:11, Eph. 5:11, Il Thess. 3:6, I Tim. 6:5.

Examples of those who complied and the results.

Dan. 1:8, 3:15-16, 3:30, Dan. 6:10, 22, 28, Gen. 13:1, 24:35.



STEPS TO GREATNESS (2)

Text: Exodus 1:7

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we examined the first step on the ladder to greatness and deliberated on fruitfulness. The study took us through the laws of fruitfulness and what to do to remain abidingly fruitful.

Today, we will be examining eight laws which govern increase, which is the next step to greatness.

May the Lord of increase, increase us Himself. Amen.

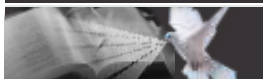
A. THE LAWS OF INCREASE

The children of Israel were fruitful and they increased, The following principles will also help us to be fruitful and increase.

1. Improve yourself daily - Phil. 3:13, 14.
2. Never neglect an opportunity - Jos 2:1-14, 21 Gal. 6:9
3. Commit yourself to a worthy goal - Phil 1:20; Jos.14:9-13
4. Run with your vision - Pro. 29:18; Heb. 2:2-3
5. Encourage and employ others to buy into your vision - Mk. 3:13,14
6. Accept responsibility for your life - Gen.3:11,12.
7. Select your friends - Jam 4:4
8. Envelop yourself in the atmosphere of the Holy Spirit - Gal. 5:25; Jam, 4:8, Isa. 41:14; Jude 1:20

B. CONCLUSION

With these principles, not only will you increase, but your increase will lead to multiplication.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Text: Exodus 17

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we examined the place of records in the word of God. We learnt that God would never gloss over details and that the records help us to see the impact of blessings and curses. Today, we will begin to climb the steps to greatness as we focus on the principles of fruitfulness. May the Lord Himself teach us in Jesus name. Amen.

B. THE PRINCIPLES OF FRUITFULNESS

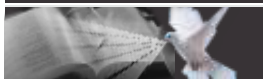
The first step to greatness, according to the passage before us today, is fruitfulness. To be fruitful is to reproduce, to produce offspring. According to the Hebrew origin the word parah means to bring forth, to cause to be, to grow, to increase.

Everything that lives carries within it the ability to reproduce, hence God commands fruitfulness. Fruitfulness is a product of the covenant between God and man. Hence, it is a covenant of blessing. Fruitfulness requires nourishment. Since a seed only produces after its kind, to obtain a good fruit, you must sow a good seed. Also, since fruitfulness comes as a result of God's blessing, one must not do anything that would attract curses.

Lastly, abiding fruitfulness is a result of absolute obedience to the Lord. V.7, Gen. 1:11-12, 29, 28, 9:1, 7, 15:2-6, 13:2, Ps. 1:1-3, Jer. 17:8, Jos. 1:8, Rom. 10:17, Matt. 7:16-20, Isa. 5:1-4, Mal. 1:8-10, Matt. 21:18-20, Deut. 28:13.

CONCLUSION

Every sower looks forth to a time of fruitfulness.



TURNING ON THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING 1

Text: Deut. 28:1-14

INTRODUCTION:



hower means a fall of rain, snow or water etc. showers of blessing is the release of God's blessings upon the life of man. It is the abundance of prosperity, miracles and wonders which the Almighty God pour upon His people.

But there are always some keys to turn on the showers of blessing before they begin to fall. These keys and how to use them are what we shall be examining in this series.

May the Lord Himself teach us and release His showers of blessing upon us in this glorious year of showers of blessings in Jesus Name.

1. WHO GIVES THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING

True and enduring prosperity (blessings) comes from God Almighty, as it is Him that giveth power to make wealth.

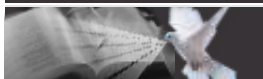
However, some people seek their prosperity from other sources which does not last and is full of sorrow.

Deut. 28:1-4, 8:18, Prov. 8:18, Isa. 8:18, Hag. 2:8, Ps. 24:1, Ph. 4:19, III Jn. 2, Prov. 10:22, Ps. 73:3, Ps. 37:1-2, 7, Jer. 12:1-3.

2. WHO RECEIVES THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING

Our God is generous with His blessings. But not all those who desire to be blessed do receive showers of blessings. There are certain qualifications for those who must really be blessed.

Deut. 28:1, Isa. 55:2, I Pet. 2:9, Deut. 26:19, Ps. 1:1-4, Mk. 7:27-28, Matt. 7:6-7, Jn. 1:12, Isa. 3:10, II Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13-14, Job 36:11, Ps. 35:27.



TURNING ON THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING (2)

Text: III John 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that true and enduring prosperity is from the Almighty God and that only the true children of God are entitled to God's blessing, as the wicked also do prosper in their own ways.

Today, as we continue in our series, may the Lord teach us Himself and shower His blessings upon us in Jesus name.

1. SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS IS ALL ROUND PROSPERITY

Man is made up of three components namely the body, souls and spirit. Showers of blessing must therefore include physical, soulsh and spiritual blessing i.e. all round prosperity.

3 Jn. 2, I Thess. 5:23, Jer. 29:11, I Cor. 12:26, 2 Kgs. 5:1, I Chro. 4:9, Mk. 5:28, 34, Gen. 29:31, 30:1, Ph. 4:18-19.

2. ALL ROUND PROSPERITY BEGINS FROM THE SOUL

The prosperity of the soul is the foundation of all other forms of prosperity i.e. bodily, material and spiritual.

The soul is the non-material part of a human body believed to exist for ever and it is the life principle of man.

Gen. 2:8-9, Ez. 18:4, Gen. 11:6, Hos. 4:6, Lk. 15:11-12, Prov. 29:189, Jn. 10:10, Job 1:8, Ph. 4:13, Matt. 16:26, Jn. 3:3, II Cor. 5:17, Rom. 6:23, Mark 8:36.



TURNING ON THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING (2b)

Text: III John 2

INTRODUCTION:

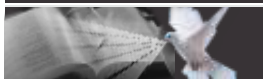
In the last part of this series, we learnt that showers of blessings, is all round prosperity and that all round prosperity begins from the soul.

Today, as we continue in our series, may the Lord teach and bless us richly in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. SOULISH PROSPERITY, FOUNDATION FOR MATERIAL AND BODILY PROSPERITY

The soul is the centre of life and activities. The regeneration of the soul of man goes a long way to affect his attitude and consequently his circumstances and situations.

III Jn. 2, Matt. 16:26, Ps. 42:5, I Sam. 16:23, Ps. 49:8, I Pet. 1:9, Jn. 3:3, II Cor. 5:17, Jos. 1:8, Mk. 11:22-24, Phl. 4:13, Ez. 18:4, Rom. 6:23, I Jn. 1:9, Ph. 2:12.



Letter to the Church 1
A CALL TO RESTORATION

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

There is something about letters they always attract attention. In this instant case, it is the Lord Jesus Christ who has decided to write letters to His church through all ages till He comes back Revelation 1:11

THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE FIRST LETTER

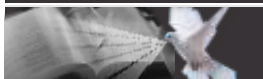
- i. Our God is a rewarder and He takes account of all our deeds **Rev. 2:2-3, 6, Heb. 11:6.**
- ii. God expects total dedication from us. **Revelation 2:4**
- iii. God has always given men another chance to make amends and come back to Him. **Revelation 2:5.**

HOW DO I KNOW I NEED RESTORATION

- i. When you don't spend time with the word of God again. **Joshua 1:8, Jer. 15:16.**
- ii. When you become prayerless. **I Thess. 5:17, Luke 18:1.**
- iii. When you stop abstaining from every appearance of evil. **I Thess. 5:22, Gala. 5:19-21, Gal. 5:15-16.**
- iv. When making heaven at all cost is no longer an issue to you **Heb. 12:14.**

CONCLUSION

Revelation 2:5 says "Remember therefore where thou art fallen". If you have backslided today you have another chance. He is ready and He is willing to accept you back. Will you be restored today?



IT IS TIME TO SHINE (Part 1)

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

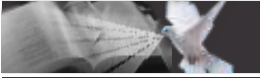
INTRODUCTION:

It is a common characteristic for light to shine in the dark. It is not by mistake for Jesus to typify the believers as light because He is light Himself and we need to resemble him in all sense of it. In John 8:12, He openly declared to the whole world that 'I am the light of the world'. It now depends on anyone who cares to follow the light. He so much trouble the kingdom of darkness to the extent that the devil did not understand him at all. **John 1:5.**

WHY IS IT TIME TO SHINE?

1. Light shines more in the midst of darkness. Of what use is light if it cannot shine. It ought to shine more in the dark.
2. The presence of light brings joy to the environment. The early disciples took the gospel (Christ) to nations around them.
3. The glory of God had risen upon you. The story of Peter is enough to tell us what happens when the glory of God comes upon a man.
4. Light keeps darkness far away. Different kind of reptiles and insects thrive in the dark. e.g. Cockroaches and rats, but as soon as light is switched on, you see them scurry about for hiding. The more you shine the better for you and your environment.

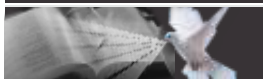
Matt. 4:16, Lk. 7:11-16, Isa. 9:2-3, Acts 8:5-8, Isa. 60:1-2, Matt. 26:69-71, Acts 3:13-26, I Pet. 5:8-9, James 4:7, Lk. 8:16-17, 11:33-36, Phil. 2:15.



HOW DO YOU SHINE?

1. Keep connected to your source of supply. Every light that shines has a source. If light is cut off from the source, no matter the voltage it carries, it cannot shine.
2. Constantly doing good works. Dorcas is a good example of someone full of good works. Though, she died, her works spoke on her behalf and she was raised back to life. Paul kept on emphasizing on good works.
3. Keep renewing your lamp. Daily looking at yourself in the mirror of the word of God helps you to wake up.
4. Keep preaching the gospel. As you engage in evangelism continuously, sin will be far from you. You will definitely want to live an exemplary life for your converts as Paul said in **2 Cor. 4:6, I Cor. 11:1**.
5. Avoid fellowship with darkness. Remember the story of Ahab who married a daughter of a Baal worshiper. **I Kings 16:31-34**. Keep away from unclean things at all times.

Jn. 15:4-5, I Sam. 16:14, 17:11, Matt. 5:16, Acts 9:36-40. Eph. 2:10, Col. 1:10, I Thess. 4:10, I Tim. 5:10, Matt. 25:1-11, Rom. 12:1-2, Ps. 51:11, Eze. 18:31, Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:10, Titus 3:5, Matt. 24:14, II Cor. 6:14-18, I Cor. 15:33, Isa. 52:11.



IT IS TIME TO SHINE (part 2)

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION:

If light refuses to shine, it ceases to carry out the original purpose for which it is meant. No wonder Jesus Christ said “if salt loses its saltiness or savour, it is good for nothing but to be trampled under the foot of men. As well if light cannot shine again, it becomes irrelevant. May your light not become irrelevant and useless in Jesus name. **Matt. 6:23.**

A. BENEFITS OF SHINING

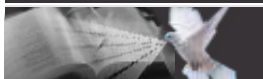
- i. Your life affects others regularly as you keep shining. Salt affects anything it comes in contact with, so also the life of every child of God ought to affect the people around him or her.
- ii. You become a terror to the kingdom of darkness. Darkness is always threatened in the presence of light. David, Daniel and Paul are examples of people that troubled hell.
- iii. Boldness becomes a lifestyle. Light is not afraid of darkness. Fear is associated with darkness.

Col. 4:5-6, Isa. 60:3, Phil. 2:15, Eph. 5:8-14, Prov. 28:1, Acts 4:13, Acts 19:8, II Tim. 1:7.

B. DANGERS OF NOT SHINING

- I. **BACKSLIDING** Peter could not openly profess Jesus as His Lord because he was afar. Demas forsook the Lord because of the things of the world.
- II. **SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL DEATH-** Saul was an anointed king, but because of disobedience to God, his light became darkness. He became a man who consulted witches coven that he condemned at the beginning of his reign. Samson is also another example. He died spiritually when God left him before his physical death.

Matt. 26:58, 69-74, 2 Tim. 4:10, I Sam. 28:3, 6-7, Judges 16:20-30.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 1)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:



vessel is a below receptacle especially for liquid. It is a household ware or equipment designed for essentially household uses. There are various kinds of vessels in the house e.g. vessel of gold, silver, wood, earth; vessel unto honour or dishonor. **II Tim. 2:20**

However, a vessel may be good, useful and yet be rejected by the master of the house. May the good Lord never reject us in Jesus Name.

1. THE MASTER NEVER MAKES MISTAKE IN CHOOSING A VESSEL

Since the master of the house is the owner of the vessel, and since he knows the strength and usefulness of every vessel, he cannot make mistake in the choice of the one to use. The choice of God for us is not mistake, as He never makes mistake.

I Sam. 15:1-2, 9:15-17, Num. 23:19, Rom. 3:4, Jam. 1:17-18, Jn. 1:12-13, Ps. 103: 14, Matt. 25:15, Act 9:11-15.

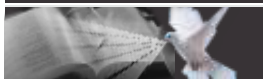
2. THE MASTER DECIDES THE SPECIFIC USE OF THE VESSEL

Both the choice and use of the vessel are the prerogative of the master and not of the vessel itself. After God has chosen us, He gave us specific assignments.

I Sam. 15:3, Jn. 15:16, Matt. 28:19-20, Isa. 64:8, Rom. 9:20-21, 8:28-30, II Tim. 1:9, I Thess. 2:12, Heb. 11:8, Jn. 6:67-70

CONCLUSION

As a chosen vessel, are you doing the will of the master who has chosen you. The continuity of the master's use of your vessel depends on you.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 2)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discovered that the Master (our Lord Jesus Christ) never makes mistakes in the choice of His chosen vessel and that He is the one who decides the specific use of the vessel.

Today, as we continue in our studies, may the Lord bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. NO ONE CAN BE WISER THAN GOD

Our God is the All-knowing, All powerful and the All-wise. His ways are perfect.

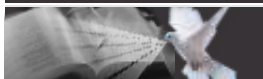
However, His ways often appear foolish in the sight of man. Nevertheless, no one can be wiser than his maker.

I Sam. 15:3, Exo. 17:8-13, I Sam. 15:18-23, I Tim. 1:17, Ps. 147:5, Rom. 1:21-22, I Cor. 1:25, Isa. 5:21, Prov. 3:5, Prov. 3:7

2. PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS DANGEROUS

Partial or incomplete obedience is a snare of the devil unto destruction. It could even be more dangerous than total disobedience.

I Sam. 15:4-9, Prov. 22:5, Jn. 1:2-3, 15:17, Acts 5:1-5, Matt. 21:28-31.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 3)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that no one could be wiser than God and that partial obedience is dangerous.

Today, as we continue in our studies, may the Lord Himself speak to us and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. THE VAIN SACRIFICE

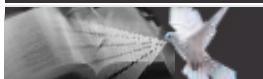
The sacrifice truly offered unto God is a blessing but when offered in disobedience and unrighteousness, it becomes vain and unacceptable before God.

I Sam. 15:18-22, Isa. 1:11-13, Jer. 7:22-23, Hos. 6:6, Mic. 6:7-8, Eccl. 5:1, Mk. 12:33, Heb. 10:6-9, Ps. 51:16-17.

2. REBELLION IS A TERRIBLE SIN

To rebel simply means to refuse to obey or resist authority or control. The sin of rebellion is so terrible that it was likened to witchcraft in the Bible. God hates a rebel.

I Sam. 15:23, Jn. 6:38, 8:47, I Sam. 12:14-15, Ps. 5:10-11, Prov. 17:11, Isa. 30:1, Ez. 20:38, Mic. 5:12, Ps. 78:8-11, Dan. 9:5-6, I Sam. 13:14, Ex. 22:18, Isa. 1:19-20.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 4)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discovered that the sacrifice offered in disobedience and unrighteousness is vain and that rebellion is a terrible sin against God.

Today, as we continue in our studies, may the Lord teach us and shower His blessings upon us in Jesus Name.

1. WHAT MEN SAY OR WHAT GOD SAYS

Men of the world around you i.e. from your family, office, neighbourhood, church e.t.c have a lot to say about you and the law of your God. It is better to hearken to the voice of God rather than those of men, as men's voice could be misleading and confusing.

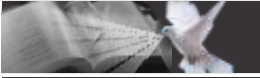
I Sam. 15:24, I Cor. 14:10, I Pet. 1:24-25, Ps. 27:1, Ps. 118:6, Isa. 51:12-13, Prov. 29:25, Jn. 17:14-17, I Jn. 2:15-17, Exo. 23:2, Acts 4:18-19, Jer. 26:13.

2. WHEN GOD SAYS NO, WHO CAN SAY YES

Our God has the final say. Whenever He says no, no one can say yes and when He says yes, no one can say no.

However, before God's final "no", He gives men enough opportunity for repentance and reconciliation because He is plenteous in mercy.

I Sam. 15:23, Isa. 46:9-11, Ps. 62:11, Isa. 40:27-29, 14:27, Ps. 103:8, 2 Cor. 1:3-4, 2 Pet. 3:9, I Sam. 15:25, Matt. 27:3, Heb. 3:7-8, Isa. 1:18.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 5)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that it is better to hearken to the voice of God rather than the voice of men and that when God says no, nobody can say yes because He has the final say.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Holy Spirit teach us and give us the heart of understanding in Jesus Name.

1. IT IS BETTER NOT TO FALL THAN TO RISE

It is a good thing to rise when you fall, but it is even better not to fall at all than to make an attempt to rise.

I Sam.15:25-27, Ps.37:24, 145:14, Mic.7:8, Eccl.4:10, Heb.10:31, 6:6, Lk.10:18, Isa.14:12, Acts 1:18-20, I Cor. 10:12, 2Pet.1:10

2. NO ONE IS INDISPENSABLE

Every man has his own unique nature and responsibility to God. However, God can still do without a person if He wishes, as no one is indispensable to God.

I Sam. 15:28, Gen. 1:31, Ps. 139:14, I Pet. 2:9, Rom. 8:28, Jn. 15:16, Acts 26:16-18, I Thes. 2:11-12, Jn.15:1-2, Mt. 3:8-10, Rev. 3:15-16.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 6)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that it is better not to fall than to rise and that on one is indispensable.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord Himself teach us we must change our attitude towards God and towards sin.

However, when repentance is used of God, it may mean regret or change of mind.

I Sam. 15:29, Num. 23:19, Zech. 8:14, Matt. 3:2, Acts 26:20, Ez. 18:30, Acts 3:19, I Sam. 15:11,35, Gen. 6:6, Jer. 26:31, Ex. 32:14, Lk. 13:3.

1. **WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, HE SHALL REAP**

Every man reaps according to what he sows. You cannot sow corn and expects to reap beans, if you sow the seed of wickedness or goodness, you shall reap accordingly. More often than not, the measure of reaping is usually greater than sowing.

I Sam. 15:31, Gal. 6:7, Job 4:8, Prov. 22:8, Hos. 10:12, I Cor. 9:6, Ps. 126:5, Hos. 8:7, Rev. 14:15, I Cor. 3:13.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 7)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God is not a man that He should repent and that whatsoever a man soeth the same shall he reap.

Today, as we continue in our studies, may the Lord Himself teach and bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. DEPARTURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OPENS DOOR FOR EVIL SPIRIT

Believers are the temple of God where the Holy Spirit dwells. The moment we defile the temple or refuse to do the will of God, the Holy Spirit departs. And since the temple is vacant, an evil spirit may find its way there by God's permission.

I Sam. 16:14, I Cor. 3:16-17, Jud. 9:23, Lk. 22:3, I Kgs. 22:19-23, Num. 14:42-43, Jos. 7:12, Jud. 16:20, Rom. 1:21-32, Lk. 11:26.

2. PRAISE IS A WEAPON OF DELIVERANCE

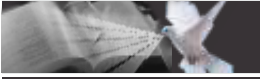
The high praise of God is a believer's weapon for worship and spiritual warfare.

Intensive praise, worship and adoration has a powerful effect in the spiritual realm to pull down demonic strongholds.

I Sam. 16:16, 23, 2 Kg. 3:15, Ps. 149:5-9, 2 Cor. 10:4-6, 2 Chr. 20:20-25, Ps. 22:3, Heb. 1:14, Acts 16:25-30, Ps. 50:23, Acts 2:47.

CONCLUSION

Has the Holy Spirit departed from you or you have not even received Him into your life, repent from your sins and ask God for the restoration of His Spirit in your life.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 8)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the departure of the Holy Spirit in the life of a person opens door for the evil spirit and that praises could be a powerful weapon of warfare in the hand of the believers.

Today, as we continue in our studies, may the Lord teach and shower His blessings upon us through His word in Jesus Name.

1. IF GOD BE FOR US

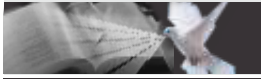
The Almighty God is the power behind every victory and success we have in life as there is virtually nothing we can do of our own without God. If God be for us, who can be against us, but if God be against us, who then can fight for us.

I Sam. 17:1-9, 10-11, Rom. 8:31, 11:6, 11, 13:4-5, 14:18, 22-23, I Sam. 14:31, 47-48, 15:1-9, 16:14, Jud. 16:20, Jn. 15:5, Rom. 6:1-2.

2. THE DOWNFALL OF A LEADER ENSLAVES THE FOLLOWERS

The role of a leader in the lives of the followers is so significant that when a leader wins, his followers also win. In the same manner, when a leader fails, his followers become enslaved.

I Sam. 17:8-11, Zech. 13:7, Mk. 14:27, Ezek. 34:5, Ex. 14:23-28, Isa. 56:10, Matt. 15:14, Lk. 6:39-40, Jn. 10:14-15, Heb. 12:2.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 9)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the fall of a leader enslaves his followers and that if God be for us who can be against us. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit teach and revive us through His word in Jesus Name.

1. SIN BEGETS SINS

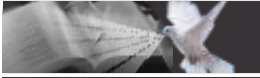
There is a great danger in finding excuse for and to cover up sins as every attempt to cover up sins always lead to further sins.

I Sam. 18:8-9, 29, Ps. 66:18, I Sam. 15:20, Prov. 28:133, Eccl. 4:4, Rom. 1:28-29, I Jn. 3:15, Rev. 21:8.

2. NOT BY POWER NOR BY MIGHT

God's work cannot be done in the flesh or by self effort without the Spirit of God and whatsoever anyone becomes in life is "not by his own power but by my Spirit saith the Lord".

I Sam. 18:8-12, 19:24, Zech. 4:6, Matt. 16:17, 2 Tim. 1:9, Jn. 15:5, Rom. 13:14, Jn. 6:63, 2 Cor. 10:17, I Cor. 10:31.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 10)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we examined the dangers of covering up sins, as every attempt to cover up sins not only lead to further sins but also to destruction.

May the Lord Himself teach and bless us through His word in Jesus Name.

NOT BY POWER NOR BY MIGHT

God's work cannot be done in the flesh or by self effort without the Spirit of God and whatsoever anyone becomes in life is not by his own power but by the power of God; for it is written, ***“Not by might nor by power but my Spirit saith the Lord.”***

I Sam. 18:8-12, 19:24, Zech. 4:6, Matt. 16:17, 2 Tim. 1:9, Jn. 15:5, Rom. 13:14, Jn. 6:63, 2 Cor. 10:17, 1 Cor. 10:31.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 11)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we learnt that God's work cannot be done in the flesh and that whatsoever we become in life is by the power of God as it is written “**not by might nor by power but the Spirit of God**”.

Today, as we continue in our studies, may the Lord Himself teach us His word and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. THE LORD ANSWERS NOT THE SINNERS

Living our lives in ungodly ways (in sins) instead of submitting to the will of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit will cut us off from God's help.

Calling upon Him therefore will be useless, unless we turn away from our sins and unrighteousness.

I Sam. 28:6, Isa. 59:1-2, Prov. 1:28-29, Jer. 14:10-12, Ezek. 8:17-18, Isa. 1:15, Ps. 66:18, Job 27:8-9, Ps. 18:41, Jam. 4:3, 2 Chro. 7:14-15.

2. SEEKING ANSWERS FROM THE DEVIL (EVIL SPIRITS)

Turning to divination or a medium to seek for solution is not only the deception of the devil but also a terrible sin against the living God.

I Sam. 28:7-11, Deut.18:9-12, Lev. 19:26-31, Ps. 106:28-29, I Sam. 28:12, Heb. 9:27, I Sam. 28:15-19, Jer. 17:9, Col. 2:8, Isa. 8:19-20, Exo. 22:18, Act 16:16-18.



THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 12)

Text: 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the Lord answers not the prayer of the sinners and that seeking answers from the evil spirits is a terrible sin against God.

Today, as we conclude this study of the life of King Saul, may the Lord Himself teach and bless us mightily through His word in Jesus name.

1. THE END OF THE UNJUST

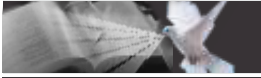
Starting a race well is not the most significant aspect of the race but rather ending it well. The Bible says **the end of the just is blessed but that of the wicked shall rot.**

I Sam. 31:1-6, Prov. 10:7, I Sam. 31:9-10, Eccl. 8:10-11, Ps. 112:6, Num. 23:10, Ps. 116:15, Eccl. 7:8, 2 Pet. 2:20-21, I Pet. 4:17-18.

2. GAINING THE WORLD AND LOSING HEAVEN

It is a terrible thing to lose heaven after gaining everything in this world. The kingdom of God is more precious than the most treasured virtues of this world.

I Sam. 9:5-27, 10:1-8, 9-13, 17:24, 11:5-11, 31:4, Jud. 9:53-54, Matt. 27:5, Rev. 21:8, Matt. 16:25-26, Jn. 12:25-26, Rev. 2:25-26.



PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 2)

Text: Luke 9:62

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we began to examine how Christians can have and maintain consistent victorious life. We identified commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ as key to achieving this. As we continue in our studies, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to teach us in Jesus name. Amen.

1. QUALITIES OF COMMITTED PEOPLE.

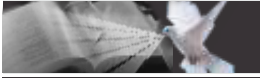
Certain qualities are common to those who are committed to God which mark them out of the rest of the people.

I Kings 19:19-21, Esther 4:16, Dan.3:17-18, 6:10-13, Acts 21:10-13, 2Tim.4:6-7, Matt. 26:42, Dan.11:32b, 2 Tim.4:7-8

2. BELIEVERS' COMMITMENTS

Believers are expected to be committed to activities that advance the kingdom of God.

Esther 4:14, Dan. 6:11, Acts 4:31, 12:5, 16:25, I Th. 5:177, Ps. 108:1-3, I Cor. 1:17, Acts 1:8, 1 Pet. 1:15-16, 1 Tim. 2:8, 2 Chr. 1:6-7, Lk. 6:38.



PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 3)

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:19

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we saw that total commitment to God is not only key to achieving a life of constant victory, believers must be committed to fervent study of the word of God, constant praying, aggressive evangelism, cheerful giving to God and living a righteous life.

As we continue in our study, we pray that God will give us greater understanding in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. THERE ARE REWARDS FOR COMMITMENT

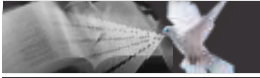
There will be prize to pay by the Christian for being committed to the service of God but, the rewards are also great.

Jos. 1:8, Ps. 1:2-4, Jam. 5:13-15, Jn. 15:2, 16, Prov. 11:24-25, Lk. 6:38, Prov. 11:20, Ps. 5:12, Prov. 11:8, Ps. 34:15, 17, 19, Ps. 37:25, Jam. 5:16, Ps. 92:12, Ps. 84:11.

2. THE REWARDS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THIS WORLD ONLY

While victory in the Lord Jesus Christ is assured her on earth, much greater rewards await the believer in heaven. This knowledge should encourage Christians to do everything possible to endure to the end.

I Cor. 2:9, Jn. 14:1-4, 2 Tim. 4:7-8, Ps. 112:6-7, Rev. 2:10, Rev. 2:25-28



PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 4)

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:27

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that there are rewards for living a life that is totally committed to God not only in the present world but thereafter.

As we continue in our study, it is our prayer that the Lord will increase our understanding in Jesus name.

1. THERE ARE OBSTACLES THAT MUST BE SURMOUNTED

There is need to properly understand the nature of the challenges that confront the believer in his Christian race.

Man is a spirit being, he has a soul that lives in a physical body. There is constant struggle between the spirit on one hand and the souls and flesh on the other.

I Thess. 5:23, Heb. 4:12, Rom. 8:16, Gal. 5:17, Rom. 8:5-6, Eph. 2:3, Gal. 5:19-21, Gal. 5:22-24, Gal. 5:16

2. THE PLACE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE

Discipline is defined as self-control. Disciple can be said to provide the support commitment needed to stand and be sustained. The victorious Christian is the one who can bring both the flesh and the soul unto subjection to his spirit.

I Cor. 9:27, Rom. 12:1-2, Col. 3:5, Gal. 5:24, Eph. 4:23, Phil. 2:5, Phil. 4:8, Isa. 26:3



PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 5)

Text: Romans 12:2

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that self-discipline or self-control is critical to the success or otherwise of the Christian who is determined to live constantly in victory. It is the responsibility of the believer to keep his body from doing what is contrary to the word of God.

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

1. THE MIND IS A BATTLE-FIELD

The devil desires to take over the mind of the believer to keep his thoughts knowing that what he thinks determines what he does. God is also interested in your mind and wants to speak to you and direct your ways.

Prov. 23:7, Jam. 1:8, Prov. 3:5-6, Ps. 119:34, Phil. 2:5, Ps. 1:1-3, Phil. 4:6-8, Ps. 119:9, 11, Is. 26:3

2. VICTORY IS NOT ONLY ASSURED THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD

God wants that you have a mind that has been renewed by the word. Your thinking then becomes transformed which in turn influences your behaviour positively.

Rm. 12:2, Jos 1:8, Eph. 4:23, Ps. 119:59, Phil. 2:5, Ps.1:1-3, Phil. 4:6-8, Ps.119:9, Is. 26:3



PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 6)

Text: Luke 9:62

INTRODUCTION:

In this series, we have learnt that total commitment or dedication to God is the sure way to achieve a life of continuous victory. As we continue in our studies, we pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us Himself, in Jesus name.

1. NO REAL PROGRESS WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO GOD

If believers are willing to pay the prize of getting themselves totally committed to God, they will not only live victoriously on a daily basis, God has other rewards for them as well.

Phil. 3:13-14, 1 Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:12, Eph. 1:20-22, Phil. 2:9-11, Dan. 11:32b, Esther 4:16, 2 Tim. 4:6-7, Dan. 6:11, Acts 1:8. 1 Cor. 1:17, 2 Chr. 1:6-7, 1 Pet. 1:15-16, Jos. 1:8, Jm. 5:13-15, Jn. 15:2, 16, Prov. 11:8, Prov. 11:24-25, 2 Tim. 4:7-8, Rev. 2:10

2. SELF-DISCIPLINE IS KEY TO TOTAL COMMITMENT

Self-discipline provides the support on which total commitment stands.

1 Cor. 9:27, Lk. 13:24, Rom. 12:1-2, Phil. 2:12b, Col. 3:5, Jam. 4:7, 2 Cor. 10:5, Phil. 4:8, 1 Thess. 5:17, Matt. 4:2, Phil. 4:13



PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 7)

Text: Matt. 25:14-30

INTRODUCTION:

In this series, we have learnt that a Christian who will live victoriously always must be totally committed or dedicated to God. We also discovered that self-discipline provides the support on which total commitment rests.

Today, as we conclude this series, we pray that we shall be hearers as well as doers of the Word in Jesus' name Amen.

1. EVERYONE WILL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIS STEWARDSHIP

It is not living victoriously here on earth the only reason for which believers need to give their total commitment to God, everyone will give account of his stewardship to God.

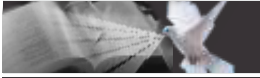
Matt.25:14-15, Lk.19:13, Mk 16:15, Acts 1:8, Lk. 16:1-2, Rom. 14:12, Heb. 13:17, I Cor. 3:13-15, 2 Cor. 5:10.

2. WHAT WILL BE YOUR STEWARDSHIP ?

Mat. 25:19-23, Matt. 25:24-26, Lk. 8:7 & 14, I Jn. 2:15-17, Lk. 12:47-48, Matt. 25:30, 2 Tim. 4:10, Matt. 24:13, Phil. 3:13-14, Phil. 2:12b, Phil. 4:13.

CONCLUSION

We must be committed to the end.



PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Text: 1 Cor. 3:5-11

INTRODUCTION:

God has called us into a partnership with Himself. We are His fellow workers. (Jn. 15:1-7,16). It is a great responsibility and also a great privilege to be in this position.

For us to be what God intended of us as partners we shall examine partnership in normal business and relate same of our call into God's vineyard.

May the Lord find us worthy to be His fellow workers in Jesus name, Amen.

A. WHAT IS A PARTNERSHIP ?

Partnership is a relationship which exists between persons carrying on a business in common with a view of making profit. As members of His family, ours is a family business. **Rom. 8:14-17; Lk.12:32; Acts 26:18; Gal. 3:29; Jn. 17:24; 1Cor.2:9; Rev.3:21**

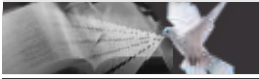
B. WHAT IS THE COMMON BUSINESS?

God has called us to the business of establishment and building His Kingdom. **Mt. 3:2;6:10; Mk. 1:14-15.**

HOW SHALL THIS BE DONE?

1. We must be witnesses for Him - **Acts 1:8; 2:14; 5:19-20; 1 Jn. 1:1-3; Lk. 11:2; 1 Pet. 2:9**
2. We must be committed to the preaching of the Gospel. **Mk. 16:15-16, 19-20; Matt. 28:20; Acts 10:1-6; Jn.15:16**
3. We must be engaged in spiritual warfare - **Eph. 6:10-13; 2 Tim. 2:3-5; Rom. 8:46; Gal. 2:20; I Sam. 15:1-3, I Jn.4:4.**
4. We must do everything to hasten the coming of His Christ. **Matt. 6:10; Heb. 9:28; 2 Pt. 3:10; Lk. 19:12-13; Mt. 24:14.**

CONCLUSION: Let His Kingdom come.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD (2)

Text: I Corinthians 3:9

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we examined principally what a partnership is and the fact that we are partners with God in establishing and maintaining His kingdom here in earth (Matt. 6:10).

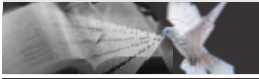
Today our emphasis will be on the various things we can do in establishing and maintaining His kingdom. May He teach us Himself on Jesus name, Amen.

A. YOUR ROLES IN THE PARTNERSHIP

- i. Witnessing and preaching the gospel; **Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15-18, 2 Tim. 4:2, Matt. 11:28-30.**
- ii. Make disciples of the converts **Matt. 28:19, 20, Mark 3:13, 14,**
- i. Be an example of a believer and not a stumbling block **Mark 9:42, 43, Phil. 3:17-19.**
- ii. Finance the work of the kingdom with all your might. **2 Cor. 9:1-10, Lk. 8:2, Mal. 3:8-12.**

B. CASE STUDY (John 6:5-13)

Our case study is the boy with five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish. He brought his food in order to satisfy a need in his life. While listening to Jesus, he discovered a need bigger than his own. He gave his little to satisfy that great need. The Lord received it, blessed it and used it. He went home with more than he gave and his name was written in the stone of history, never to be forgotten. The boy was a kingdom Builder. God wants you to be kingdom builder as well.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Text: I Corinthians 3:9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study on this topic, we focused attention on our role in the partnership with God Almighty. Our case study was the young lad who partnered with Christ in feeding the multitude.

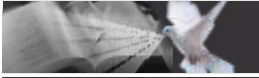
God want all of us to be kingdom builders today.

In today's study, we shall examine conditions for partnership. To be a partner with God, one must fulfill these conditions. May the Lord count us worthy to be labourers together with Him" Amen.

B. CONDITIONS FOR PARTNERSHIP

In a business enterprise, partners are expected to fulfill some condition before they can be referred to as such. One of such conditions is that there must be a common business between them. We have examined this before. Today we will look at other conditions:

- i. The business must result in profits. Since the partnership was set up to pull together more resources, higher profit is also expected to be declared. God desires fruit from us and He has also promised to reward us accordingly. **Luke 13:6-9, Jn. 15:16, Isa. 5:1-7, Heb. 11:6, Dan. 12:2,3, 2 Tim. 4:6-8, Jam. 1:12, I Pet. 5:2-4.**
- ii. The partnership remains in force as long as both partners are alive. God lives from everlasting and He is the God of the living. It is a tragedy to have known God, be used of Him and then be forsaken because of sin. **Ps. 42:2, Isa. 38:19, Matt. 22:3, Jer. 2:11-13, I Sam. 2:27-36, 3:11-14, 2 Tim. 2:12,13.**

STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS
PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD (3)

Text: I Corinthians 3:9

INTRODUCTION:

The passage under consideration sees our life as a building. Every believer is involved in that building exercise but the quality of work being done will be determined on the day of examination. Knowing this would help us to gird our minds, examine our motives and services in the house of God. May the Lord teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

A. WHAT DOES OUR WORK AS BELIEVERS INVOLVE?

- i. Laying the foundation for building the Body of Christ. This foundation is Jesus Christ Himself and it is only when He is the chief cornerstone that the house would stand.

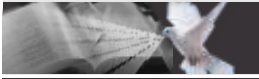
**Matt. 7:24-27, Ps. 118:22, Acts 4:11, Eph. 2:20,
2 Tim. 2:19, I Pet. 2:6, Matt. 21:42.**

- ii. Putting on the proper super-structure from the spiritual ingredients supplied by the Holy Spirit.

**Col. 1:13-15, 2 Pet. 1:5-7, 8-10, Gal. 5:16-18,
19-21, 22-23, Jude 20.**

- iii. Having a fine finish on the super-structure. That finishing is the quality of life that people see in us. It is also called character.

2 Cor. 3:1-3, I Tim. 4:12, Tit. 2:1-15.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS

GOD'S HUSBANDRY

Text: I Corinthians 3:9

INTRODUCTION:

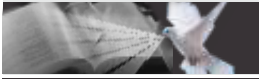
In the past few studies we have examined our role and unique privilege of being partners with God. How could He rely so much on us or depend so much as He is doing? It is because we are His husbandry, His field or His garden. As His garden, He is concerned about us and has made investment into our lives. May we never disappoint Him in Jesus name. Amen.

A. The Bible uses different words to describe what we are in order that we might have a perfect understanding of our position and calling. Some of them are: Sheep (**John 10:1-14**); the light of the world and the salt of the earth. (**Matt. 13:13, 14**) Branch of the vine (**Jn. 15:1-7**), the fig-tree (Luke 13:6-9) and so on. In the passage under consideration, the Bible says we are God's husbandry or vineyard; and to fully appreciate that we must know how a farmer works on his field.

B. What things has He done in our lives as the Husbandman?

- i. He chose us (**Jn. 15:16, Matt. 20:16, 22:14, Jn. 15:19, Acts 9:15, Luke 10:42**)
- ii. He cleared away sin and iniquity as a farmer clears the field. (**Eph. 2:1-6, Ps. 129:1-3**). If a field is left on its own without cultivation, it will bring forth weeds. Hence clearing is a painful work on the field.
- iii. He prepares the ground in order to receive the necessary seeds. This involves making of mounds. This is the stage when God moulds our lives to conform to His own image. (**Rom. 12:1,2, 8:29, Isa. 5:1-7, I Cor. 3:5-8, Eph. 4:11-13**).

CONCLUSION: God has an expectation concerning you. As an investor, He is waiting for returns and definitely He deserves them. Remain blessed.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS

GOD'S HUSBANDRY

Text: I Corinthians 3:9

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we concluded by saying that any soil that is not touched or tended will become useless and may not fulfill its destiny. Though plowing may be painful and weeding may be an unpleasant experience for the soil, yet that is the only way to achieve fruitfulness.

Today our emphasis is on what comes out of the soil since the husbandry comprises of both the soil and what is on it. May we live up to His expectation in Jesus name and may our life bring forth manifold praise to His Name. Amen.

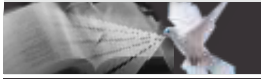
A. WHAT HAS HE DONE FOR HIS FARM?

Examine the following references carefully. **Isa. 5:1-2, Mark 4:3-9, Luke 13:6-9.**

- i. The farm is in a fruitful hill. The fact that we were chosen by God meant that our lives can bring forth fruit (**Gen.1:31; Ps.80:8**)
- ii. He fenced the farm round. He protect us in a very special way. (**Matt.21:36; Gen.3:7; Job 1:9, 10; Num.25:1-9; Ecc. 10:8**)
- iii. He gathered out the stones, He removes anything that could hinder growth and fruitfulness (**John 15:1**)
- iv. He sowed choicest vine in order to have a choicest vineyard. (**Jer.2:21**)
- v. He built a tower inside the farm in order to keep constant watch on it against intruders (**Exo. 13:21, 22; Ps.91:9-10**)
- vi. Every portion of the farm has equal opportunities. That is, same inputs were sown in. This means we have opportunities of hearing the same sermons, and of being partakers of the same gifts of the Holy Spirit; we are brought up under the same set of doctrines; we can get to God's throne room to present our petitions without any discrimination. (**Ps. 100:4-5, 1Cor.12:1-31**)
- vii. He gives the farm enough time to prove the investment made on it (**Ecc. 3:1; Jn.13:18**)

CONCLUSION:

"And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, please, between Me and My Vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it?" (Isa.5:3-4, NKJV)

STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS
THE DAY OF EXAMINATION

Text: I Corinthians 3:9-15

INTRODUCTION:**A**

postle Paul laid emphasis on how we're building on that spiritual Rock, Jesus Christ. The motive for our services is important to God, not just what we do inform of activities. He looks into the heart of everyone to discover the reason for our actions.

Gen. 4:5-7, I Sam. 16:6-7, Prov. 14:14, Isa. 55:8, Matt. 5:27-30, 23:27-28, I Sam. 2:3, Ps. 69:5, Dan. 2:22, I Chro. 28:9, Jer. 17:10, 23:24, Jn. 2:24-25.

Knowing that God reads the hearts and intentions matter to Him more than actions, every believer should be more conscious and think good and beneficial thoughts everyday.

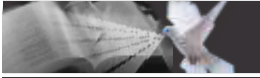
A. THE TEST OF FIRE

What would make the day so fearful? Every work or service shall be subject to a test of fire. That fire is the fire of God, of the same intensity for the so called strong and weak Christians, shepherd and sheep, committed and non-committed ones.

Rom. 2:2, 6, 16, 14:10, 2 Cor. 5:10, 11.

CONCLUSION:

The day of examination is a fearful day. Everything that passes unnoticed today will become important on that day.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS THE DAY OF EXAMINATION (3)

Text: I Corinthians 3:9

The Bible says that the commandments of the Lord are not grievous (**1 John 5:3**). But the little we know about His judgments reveal that His judgments are fearful. He told Samuel about the house of Eli, "I am about to do something in Israel. Every ear that hears it will tingle" **Sam. 3:11**. The other side of God's mercy is His judgement. They are both sides of the same coin.

Today may He help us to disappoint the devil as we turn to Him fully and move from the side of judgement to His loving embrace.

John 5:2, 2 Cor. 5:10

A. THE NATURE OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT.

This could be deciphered from the Bible as we look at judgments of kings and by kings. A look at God's judgment on the house of Eli, Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, David, Herod, Harman and some others would give us some idea about the nature of His judgement.

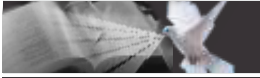
Rom. 2:2-6, 1 Sam. 3:11-12, 2:30-36, 4:10-18, Exo. 14:8-9, 23-28, Dan. 4:8-34, 5:22-30, 2 Sam. 12:7-12, Acts. 12:20-24, Est. 1:10-22, 7:1-10, Heb. 10:30, 31, 12:29.

B. THE TEST OF FIRE

Another frightening thing about the day of examination is the test of fire. Every work or service shall be subject to a test of fire. That fire is the fire of God. It is of the same intensity for the strong and so called weak Christians, committed and non-committed, shepherd and sheep. **Rev. 1:14, Eze. 1:27, Isa. 6:2.**

CONCLUSION:

Let us all take heed of the type of service we render to the Almighty God.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS TEMPLE OF GOD (Part 1)

Text: I Corinthians 3: 16-17, 6:19-20

INTRODUCTION:

The concept or idea of a temple in the Old Testament was different from that of the New Testament. In those days, a temple was a building made with stones, bricks and mortar. But God has decided from time immemorial that He will inhabit His people. (**2 Cor. 6:14-16**). We find this idea throughout the whole of the New Testament (**Jn. 2:19-21, I Pet. 2:5, Rev. 21:3**).

Today we will be examining how God progressively revealed His mind about the temple.

May He find us worthy to dwell in Jesus name. Amen.

A. THE PRINCIPLE OF PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

God reveals His will and purpose not at once, but a little at a time (progressively). When He wanted atonement, He began with the blood of bulls and goats. When He was to teach us about giving to Him as a duty, He began with tithing. When He needed a people to Himself from all tribes, He began with one tiny nation. When He wanted man to know that only one way leads to heaven, He began with the Ark. So also is your life. You will not know everything that God has in mind for you in a day. But the closer you are the more you will know.

Gen. 3:21, Exo. 12:21, Heb. 10:4, Jn. 1:29, 36, Mal. 3:10, Luke 6:38, Mk. 12:41, 1-44, 2 Cor. 9:6-9, Deut. 10:15, 14:2, I Pet. 2:9, 10, Matt. 3:8-10, Gen. 6:14-16, 7:7-16, Num. 21:7-9, Jn. 14:6, Acts 9:4-6, 10-16, Jer. 29:11.

CONCLUSION:

The Lord will lead you all the way when you decide to go with Him the next step.

STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS
TEMPLE OF GOD (2)

Text: I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we examined the principle or law of progressive revelation as it relates to some biblical themes.

This same principle explains the doctrine of the temple. God started to meet with His people at a place called the altar, then the tabernacle in the wilderness, then the temple. But His goal is to dwell in us (**I Kings 8:27, 2 Cor. 6:14-16**)

Today we will begin to examine the development of this theme as we consider the Altar.

A. ALTAR THE PLACE OF GOD'S COVENANTS

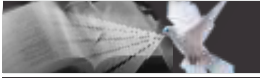
The patriarchs met with God at the altar. Beginning with the altar of Noah which he built after leaving the ark, altar featured prominently in worship throughout the Old Testament.

The history of God's covenants with His people can also be linked with the altars. Those who meet God at the altar are bound to hear from Him more often than others. Today God expects you to be an altar Christian.

Gen. 8:20-22, 12:7, 13:18, 22:9, 26:24-25, 28:18-22, 33:18-20, 35:1-7, Exo. 17:15, 24:4, Jos. 8:3-31, I Sam. 14:35, 2 Sam. 24:25, I Kings 18:32.

CONCLUSION:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
Rom. 12:1-2.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS

TEMPLE OF GOD (3)

Text: I Corinthians 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

The tabernacle is the place of God's presence. The next major step God took in expanding the concept of the temple was the inauguration of tabernacle worship in the wilderness. The tabernacle became a central focus of worship for all the members of the new nation of Israel.

Having been in the midst of an idolatrous nation for over four hundred years, they needed to have the true knowledge of the Jehovah God.

Even today the knowledge of the true God is needed by all believers of our dispensation. May He reveal Himself to us the more today in Jesus name. Amen.

Exo. 32:1-6, 24:1,2,9,-11, Hos. 4:6, Prov. 4:7, Rom. 10:2.

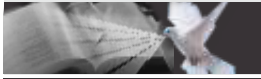
B. THE STRUCTURE OF THE TABERNACLE

God was particular about the design and construction of the Tabernacle that He took Moses to the mountain-top to show him the replica of the Tabernacle. He also gave the dimensions and the material specifications. God is concerned about how build our spiritual live. It must be according to the heavenly pattern.

Exo. 25:27, 28:15, 31:1-11; 40:2, Num. 9:15, 2 Pet. 1:13, 14.

CONCLUSION

As the glory rested on the tabernacle in the wilderness, so can we have His glory upon us always if we build according to His pattern.

STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS
TEMPLE OF GOD (4)

Text: I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20

INTRODUCTION:

When we started this series we made mention of the principle of progressive revelation. God began to reveal His plan to indwell us as His temple (**2 Cor. 6:14-16**).

Today we will examine the temple proper.

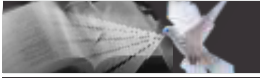
B. THE TEMPLE: THE PLACE OF HIS GLORY.

Three temples were mentioned in the Bible. The first was constructed by Solomon, son of David. David was not able to build the temple for God, though he desired to do; (I Kings. 7:1-13, I Chro. 22:8). The first temple was an architectural edifice. God honoured it with His presence. But the enemy devastated it because of disobedience. Zerubabel and others came back from slavery to build the second temple. Though, it didn't get anywhere near Solomon's temple in beauty, yet God decided to pour His glory upon it. The third temple was the one credited to Herod. This was divided to seven separate courts. When Jesus gave up the ghost, the veil of the Temple tore. Today we can have the best of God as His temple can be filled with His presence and glory all the time.

I Kings 5:5-12, 8:1-11, I Kings 8:22-53, 62:63, 11:1-4, 2 Kings 12:4-5, 22:1-11, 25:8-9, 2 Chro. 36:11-21, Ezra 5:1-2, Matt. 24:1-2, Hag. 1:2-5, 2:7-9.

CONCLUSION:

God has promised that the glory of this latter house shall surpass the former. We are that house. We can only have of Him to the extent we desire him.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS
THE DAY OF RECKONING

Text: Romans 13:12

INTRODUCTION:

The idea of examination is not a recent phenomenon. From time immemorial God has always put his own to test in order to give us the opportunity to demonstrate our love for Him. Tonight, we shall examine some factors that have led to the downfall of many.

A. WE ARE TO RECOGNIZE WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

It is dangerous not to recognize who we are. When one loses of who he is, the chances are that one becomes careless. We must always remember our source.

I Pet. 2:9, II Cor. 5:20, I Cor. 6:20, Jn. 16:33.

B. THERE IS ALWAYS A DAY OF RECKONING

To every night there will always be a day. To think that the night would never end can only lead to disaster.

Heb. 9:27, Jn. 14:2-3, Gen. 6:5, Gen. 7:21-22, Judges 16:30-31, Gen. 39:21, Gen. 39:42-43, Dan. 3:1-17, 3:25, II Cor. 5:10, Rev. 20:11-15, Rev. 2:20



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS

TEMPLE OF GOD (4)

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

God has called us into a partnership with Himself. We are His fellow workers. (**Jn. 15:1-7, 16**). It is a great responsibility and also a great privilege to be in this position.

For us to be what God intended of us as partners, we shall examine partnership in normal business and relate same to our call into God's vineyard.

May the Lord find us worthy to be His fellow workers in Jesus Name, Amen.

A. WHAT IS A PARTNERSHIP?

Partnership is a relationship which exists between persons carrying on a business in common with a view of making profit. As members of His family, ours is a family business.

Rom. 8:14-17, Lk. 12:32, Acts 26:18, Gal. 3:29, Jn.17:24, I Cor. 2:9, Rev. 3:21.

B. WHAT IS THE COMMON BUSINESS?

God has called us to the business of establishing and building His kingdom. **Matt. 3:2, 6:10, Mk. 1:14, 15.**

C. HOW SHALL THIS BE DONE?

1. We must be witnesses for Him **Acts 1:8, 2:14, 5:19-20, I Jn. 1:1-3, Lk. 11:2, I Pet. 2:9.**
2. We must be committed to the preaching of the gospel. **Mk. 16:15-16, 19:20, Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 10:1-6, Jn. 15:16.**
3. We must be engaged in spiritual warfare. **Eph. 6:10-13, 2 Tim. 2:3-5, Rom. 8:4-8, Gal. 2:20, I Sam. 15:1-3, I Jn. 4:4.**
4. We must do everything to hasten the coming of His Christ. **Matt. 6:10, Heb. 9:28, 2 Pet. 3:10, Lk. 19:12-13, Matt. 24:14.**

CONCLUSION - Let His Kingdom Come.



THE GODLY ATTITUDES

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

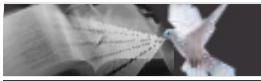
The Messiah, Jesus, prescribed some godly attitudes which, our Maker expects to see constantly in us, His children. These are to be found in Matt. 5:3-12.

True lasting salvation from corruption and its frustrating and destructive effects can only be achieved as we affect these prescribed attitudes.

- A. WHAT IS ATTITUDE?** It is a way of thinking, and therefore more importantly, of responding appropriately to events, actions and situations (as a result of how one thinks).
- B.** Ten godly attitudes that constitute all the wisdom the Messiah came to give man. They categorize broadly into two viz. Humility and Righteousness. **Matt. 5:2-12, Prov. 22:4, Matt. 6:33, 5:3-5, 6-12.**
- C.** Humility is the crowning virtue without which all other virtues become corrupted - availing nothing. **Prov. 10:19, 4, Matt. 5:3, 4, Heb. 12:5-8, Matt. 5:5, Ps. 25:9, Deut. 8:2-9, Matt. 6:33.**

CONCLUSION:

We ought to listen to our Saviour for our own present and eternal profit and not be found to be building on sand rather than on the Rock.



STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

INTRODUCTION:

The passages under consideration see our life as a building. Every believer is involved in that building exercise but the quality of work being done will be determined on the day of examination. Knowing this would help us to gird our minds, examine our motive and service in the house of God. May the Lord teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

A. WHAT DOES OUR WORK AS BELIEVER INVOLVE?

- (i) Laying the foundation for building the Body of Christ. This foundation is Jesus Christ Himself and it is only when He is the chief cornerstone that the house would stand. **1 Cor. 3:11; Matt. 7:24-27; Ps. 118:28; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:6; Matt. 21:42.**
- (ii) Putting on the proper super structure from the spiritual ingredients supplied by the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor. 3: 12; Col. 1:13-15; 2 Pet 1:5-7, 8-10 Gal. 5:16-18,19-21,22-23; Jude 20.**
- (iii) Having a fine finish on the super structure. That finishing is the quality of life that people see in us. It is also called character. **2 Cor. 3:13; 1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:1-15.**

B. THE DAY OF EXAMINATION

It is called "the day " in the passage. It is not to be understood as a twenty- four hour day. But it is an eternal day. Over there, there is no night. The day is also called the day of the Lord and the Bible has many things to say about it. **1 Cor. 3:13; Mal. 4:5; 1 Cor. 5:5; 1 These. 5:2; Isa. 10:3; Amos. 5:18-20.**



THE GREAT COMMISSION

Text: Matt. 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:

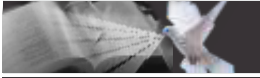
In almost all the gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, our Lord and Master is emphatic about the call for soul winning. He taught it, lived it and motivated His disciples to do the same. What was paramount in the ministry of our Lord must be uppermost on our list of priorities. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 10:1-3; 24:46-49; Acts 1:8). May He teach us today in Jesus name, Amen.

A. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WITNESS?

To witness is to present an evidence or give a testimony about another person. A witness is someone who has a personal knowledge of a situation and who is willing to share such information when needed. (Acts 1:8; Prov. 14:5; Acts 9:15; Jn. 15:16; 20:21; 1 Jn. 1:1-3).

B. WHY DO WE HAVE TO WITNESS?

- (i) That is the only job Jesus came for.
Luke 19:10; John 10:10; Acts 5:42
- (ii) There is no other solution for the lost souls except the gospel.
1 Tim. 1:15; Matt. 9:36; 14:14; Acts 4:12; Rom. 1:16
- (iii) God has left that work for the saved souls.
Jn. 20:21; Acts 5:17-20; 10:1-6; Jn. 14:12
- (iv) God has issued His decree concerning the sinner and the watchman. Ezekiel 3:18-19; 18:4; 33:1-9



THE LAW OF HARVEST

INTRODUCTION:

Lifetime is a sowing time, each of us by thought, word and deed is constantly planting for future reaping. We want to look into the rules of sowing and reaping. May the Almighty God bless us richly as we study at his in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.

1. THE RULE OF SOWING AND REAPING

Some seed are sown in secret, but the harvest can not be concealed; it will be open for all to see. Gal:7, Juges 1;7, James 2:13, 1 sam 1;33, rom2:1, Luke 8:17.

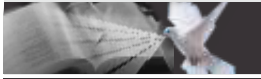
Sometimes the fruitage may not be completely viewed in this world; a time is coming when every hidden and secret things shall be revealed in the judgement. Eccl 12:14, 2 Cor. 9:, Jer. 17: 10.

There is always a time of waiting between the sowing and the reaping, but the harvest never fails, Prov. 20:12

The harvest will always be greater than that which is sown. Jer. 32;19 Ps 2:12, 2 Kg. 2:27.

CONCLUSION

Do not be deceived, whatever a man sow, that he will reap. Endeavour to sow quality and healthy seed, sow bountifully and sow correctly, surely you will have a bumper harvest.



GUARD YOUR HEART

Text Prov. 4:23

INTRODUCTION:

The heart is the most sensitive part of the human body. It pumps blood to all parts of the body and as the body cannot function without an active heart, there is a need to keep watch over our heart.

WHY SHOULD WE GUARD OUR HEART?

- (I) **It is the center of life.** Every activity of a man has its root in the heart. Prov. 4:23, Pro. 27:19, Acts 1:24. Hadly is anything a man wants to do that will not first be determined in his heart. Dan. 1:8.
- (II) **Determines Character** The way a man behaves is conditioned by the state of his heart. You cannot be what your heart is not. You are a product of your thought Numbers 13:31, Pro. 23:7.
- (III) **The source of evil** Every evil action is first and foremost conceived in the heart. No man wants to do any evil without it first being planned in the heart. Mt. 15:18, 2Pet. 2:14, Eccl. 9:3.
- (IV) **Control speech.** Your utterance is determined by what you think in your heart. A man speaks out of the abundance of his heart. What are the things that fill your own heart? Lk. 43-4.

CONCLUSION

The heart is very important to three personalities, God, Satan and Man. The one to whom your heart is yielded determines the use of the heart. Do not yield yours to Satan. John 13:2,27



SPIRITUAL CHECK UP

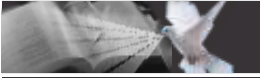
Text: 2Corinthians

INTRODUCTION:

There is always a time in life to do a check- up in some areas of one's life. Some rich people do go for medical check up monthly or bi- monthly as the case may be. The purpose of it is to put to order what might have been disorganized in the system. In like manner as children of God, we need regularly to do spiritual check- up to know if we are still in the race. May God help us in Jesus name.

AREAS TO CHECKS-UP

1. **PRAYER LIFE.** It is very important to examine yourself if you are growing in your prayer life. If you are dropping in your prayer life, it is better to call upon God quickly. Mark 1:35; Acts 6:4; Mark:6:46, Luke6:12; Psalm 5:3
2. **BIBLE STUDY.** The problem with some believer now is that the value of the word of God has dropped in them hence, the time for bible study has been lost and they have become world- full and word- empty. Gen. 24:3; Psalm 1:2;119"148; Acts 6:4;17:19;Isaiah 34:16; Rom. 1:4.
3. **FASTING LIFE.** Several people are now feasting instead of fasting. The early church sought God in fasting. Examine if you still fast to please God. Isaiah 8;3-10; Acts 13;1-3; 14:23.



SPIRITUAL CHECK UP (cont.)

4. **SANCTIFICATION.** It is rather unfortunate now that some believers do not see it necessary to live a sanctified life. Job 1:5 Heb. 2:11; Jude 1; Heb. 10:14.
5. **FAITH.** The question to ask is, are you growing in faith? Some Christians have gone down in faith to the level of not believing God for anything again. 2 Cor. 1 :7; 1 Tim. 1;; Heb:12.

CONCLUSION.

In the above listed areas, anyone who is not increasing or growing will tend towards backsliding. May God help us in Jesus name.



IT IS FINISHED

Text: John 19:28-30

INTRODUCTION:

The sufferings and agonies of Jesus in providing redemption for the fallen humanity were over and His work of redemption was completed. He had borne the punishment for our sins and opened the way of salvation for us.

1. HOW WAS IT FINISHED?

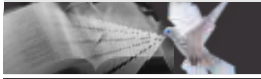
Jesus Christ surrendered and humbled Himself to the point of death laying down His life on the Cross of Calvary for the sake of mankind. Having commended His Spirit unto God the Father. Cried it is FINISHED dying a shameful death.

Jn. 19:30, Lk. 23:4, Ps. 31;3-5 Mt. 27:1:2. Ex. 2:33, 1Cor. 15:21-22, Rm.5 :12-14, Jn.3;16, Ph. 2:8, Jn. 15:13.

2. WHAT IS FINISHED?

Our Lord Jesus Christ by His death and resurrection had paid up for our sins. Defeated Satan ,put an end to our sorrows and pains and accomplished our healings and deliverance.

Heb.2:14-15, 1 Jn. 3:8, Rm. 5;9-10,Eph. 1:7, 1 Cor. 6:120, 1 pet. 2:24, Acts 1:8, Heb. 8;6-10, Gal. 3:13-25, Rm. 5:6-8



DIVINE WISDOM

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:7-25

INTRODUCTION:

A

According to Solomon, 'Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom' The importance of wisdom in the way we run our life cannot be over emphasized. Hence, the Book of Proverbs is devoted to differentiating between the wise and the foolish. But getting wisdom is not the most important unless one gets the right thing. That right wisdom is divine wisdom. May the Lord grant our heart desire for divine wisdom today in Jesus name Amen.

A. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HUMAN WISDOM?

- (i) We cannot know God by human wisdom. 1 Cor. 1:21
- (ii) The world seeks after wisdom 1. Cor. 1:22
- (iii) The wisdom of the world is foolishness to God 1 Cor. 1: -18-19,27
- (iv) Worldly wisdom encourages competition, envy, jealousy and strife Jer. 4:22; Rom. 1:22; Jam. 3:14-16.

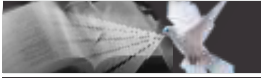
B. HOW ABOUT DIVINE WISDOM?

- (I) It is a gift from God. Ecc. 2:26; Dan.2:21
- (II) God shows His might through His wisdom. Job. 36;5; Eph 3;10
- (III) Divine wisdom is creative Ps. 104:24
- (IV) It is pure, gentle and teachable. Jam. 3:17

C. HOW CAN I OBTAIN DIVINE WISDOM?

- (I) Through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 1:30
- (II) By fearing God or reverencing Him. Job. 28:28
- (III) By asking from God. Jam. 1:5
- (IV) Through the scripture, that is, the word of God 2. Tim. 3:15

CONCLUSION Our wisdom is not determined by how much knowledge we possess. A man may be highly educated and yet never know true wisdom. A wise man is the one who is able to make right choices. He has a proper sense of values...'(George Sweeting).



THE GODLY ATTITUDES

Text: 1Corinthians3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

The story of every revival is always told long after it has passed. Generations that have been involved in great revivals hardly understood what was happening in their own time. But it is painful that most revivals have not maintained their peak of favour over a long period of time. In this study, we shall attempt to know i) What is Revival? ii) Why Revival? lii) What are the evidences (fruits) of Revival.

1. WHAT IS REVIVAL? HAB. 1:3;2-4; ACTS 2:1,2

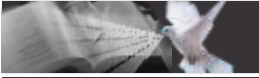
Revival simply means “GOD CAME”. It could also be futuristic “GOD COMES” Joel 2:28-32,. Revival takes place when heavens move their headquarters to the earth to do some unbelievable things.

2. WHY REVIVAL? JUDGES 2:7

- (A) That the people may serve the lord.
- (B) To counteract backsliding Judges 2:8-10
- (C) To increase Missionary work Isa. 59:19
- (D) To bring restoration to the Church Joel 2:24,2, Zech. 2:11

3. THE EVIDENCES OF REVIVAL

- (A) Fresh Awakening and new sensitivity to sin
Isa. 44:3-, Num. 23:23, Mk. 7:20Mt. &:24-27
- (B) Revival brings a new and deep consecration to God.
Eph. 4:23-30,;26-27, Heb. 12:14



THE GODLY ATTITUDES cont .

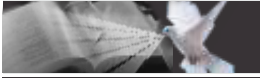
- (C) Revival brings a fresh loyalty to the Church
Heb. 4:12, 2Tim. 2:15.
 - Concern for Souls
 - Insatiable appetite for God's word

- (D) Revival brings a new love for the brethren
Gal. 5:22-23, Acts 2:46-47

- (E) Revival ushers in a new concern for the lost
Acts . 5:22-23, Mt. 22:10, Jer. 20:9

CONCLUSION

All these evidences of revival are here with us. May we receive grace to understand and launch into the fullness of God's programmes for this movement.



THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM

Text: 1 Galathians 3:13-16

INTRODUCTION:

God made a covenant with Abraham and blessed him. Because God is the everlasting God, He purpose that the blessings would outlive Abraham. Consequently, God promised that through Abraham's seed's, every nation on earth would be blessed.

1. SEED OF ABRAHAM

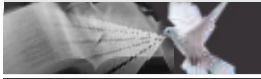
There are only two lineages in the whole world. Those who are connected with the lineage of Abraham and those who are not. Believers in Christ are seed of Abraham through Jesus Christ and are automatically qualified for the blessings of Abraham.

Gal. 3:13-16, Gen. 12:2-3, 17:6,24:35, Gen. 28: 3-4, Ps. 72:17-18, Gal. 3:8 Acts 3:25-26.

2. THE BLESSED ASSOCIATION

We are blessed because we are positively connected with Abraham through our faith in Christ. But the question is who do you associate with? If you associate with someone who is cursed, the curse will also spread.

1 Cor. 5:11-13, 2 Thess. 3:6-7, Rm. 16:17, Jn. 9-11, 1 Cor. 15:33, 2 Kgs. 6:11-17, 5:27, Mt. 11:28-30, Rev. 3:20-21



SIN

Text: Romans 6:6-10

INTRODUCTION:

Somebody defined SIN as SUCCESS IN NOTHING. It is even more than that. But we do not bargain for success in nothing (SIN). We are bound to be great this year of unlimited greatness. If then we must be great. We need to understand what sin really is so as to remove it from our ways, as the way to TRUE greatness is a way free from sin. Apart from being anti- success/ greatness, sin has devastating consequences. It enslaves people and demands that they obey the flesh. It carries death as its wages. Rm. 6:6, 12, 20,23.

(A) SOME DEFINITIONS OF SIN

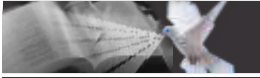
The Bible has sin in so many ways. Some of which include:

- (i) Falling short of the glory of God. Rm. 3:23
- (ii) It is lawlessness . 1 Jn. 5:17
- (iii) All unrighteousness is sin. 1 Jn. 5:17
- (iv) Knowing what is good and doing it not. Jam. 4:17
- (v) Approving sins of others. Rm. 1:29-32

(B) REMEDIES FOR SINS

Jesus Christ has finished the work of salvation and redemption for our sins on the cross of Calvary. His blood made atonement for our sin. This is a great remedy for sin. Rm. 5:9,11. However, we have our own parts to play;

- (a) Place our faith in Jesus finished work of redemption and accept Him as our personal Lord and Saviour. Rom. :1, 8:9, Acts 16:31
- (b) Confess and repent from every sin. 1 Jn. 1:7- 9, Prov. 28:13, 2 Ch. 7:14
- (c) Cry out for grace to overcome temptation and sins. 1 Cor. 10:13, 2 Cor. 9:8



SIN (Part 2)

Text: Romans 69-14

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, in the first part of this series, we looked into the definition of sin and remedies for it. Today, as we continue in our series, may the lord Himself teach us His word and deliver us from sin in Jesus Name.

1. NATURE OF SIN

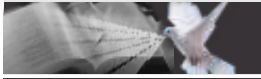
Man is born conceived in sin. Every man born of woman has the nature of sin from the youth. That is the reason you don't need to teach a child to sin. The nature of sin is already in him. However, anyone born of God cannot live in sin because the seed of God remains in him.

Gen. 3:6, Rm. 5:12, Ez. 18:4, Job 14:4, 15:14, Ps 1:, Gen. 6:5-6, 8:21, Mt. 2:28, 1 Cor. 1:3, Jn. 1: 12:13, 1 Jn. 1 :12-13, 1 Jn. 3:9, 5:18, 1 Pet. 1 :23.

2. WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE NATURE OF SIN

Believer in Christ must exercise their powers over the nature of sin. Not only should they be dead to sin, they must also war against it.

Rm. 7:17-19,23, 6:14, 2, Job 34:32, Rm. 8:13, Col. 3:3-5, Ps. 39:1, Prov. 8:13, Ps. 97:10, 34:14-16, Job 11:14-15.



BACK TO BETHEL (Part 1)

Text: Gen. 28:10-19, Gen. 35:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

One of the major concern in the church today is how to bring back the people to God because there are a lot of superficial relationship. Anybody who want to deal with God must have a deep relationship with Him; hence this topic Back to Bethel. Bethel as we all know was renamed by Jacob in Gen. 28:19. What does Bethel stand for? It is a place of consecration , worship& meeting with God. May the Lord bless you as we study together in Jesus name (amen).

(a) A PLACE OF CONSECRATION

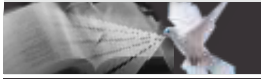
Consecration is setting apart of yourself as an holy vessel for the use of God.

11 Cor. 6:14-17, Acts 13:2, Gen. 35:2, 1 Cor. 3:16-17, Micah 4:13b, Lk. 8:2-3, John 4:34, John 8:29, Lk. 22:42, 1 Chro. 29, 11 Cor. 11:23-33, Rom.8:35.

(b) A PLACE OF WORSHIP

To worship means to reverence somebody, to adore, to love & admire. God command us to worship Him, and this we should do with reference & fear because He is holy. However, we should guide against all those thing that can hinder our true worship in order that our sacrifices might be acceptable to Him.

Ps. 29:2, Ps. 5:7, Haba 2:20, ps. 99:5, Rev. 4:10-11, Rev. 3:15-16. Gen. 13:1-4 Ps. 107:22, Ps. 15:1-3.



BACK TO BETHEL (Part 2)

Text: Gen. 28:10-19, Gen. 35:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

In part 1 of our series, we dealt with the fact that God wants us to consecrate our lives, money and will to Him . And these we are to do willingly and ruggedly. Also we were reminded about the need for personal altar in order to receive fresh messages and strength for the journey of life. Today, we shall be looking at Bethel as a place of meeting with God. God intends to meet with His people and expect a true and uninterrupted worship from them. Hence the need for healing and deliverance because the sick and the oppressed cannot worship as they ought to. It is our prayer that as He sent out His word today you will be healed and be delivered from all forms of oppression in Jesus Mighty name (Amen).

(a) A PLACE OF HEALINGS

God can heal all forms of sicknesses when consulted because He is the healer.

I Pet. 2:24, Exo. 23:25, Deut. 7:15, Mat. 4:23, Mk. 5:25-26:34, Jn. 5:2-8, Mat. 9:26, Acts. 3:1-8, Acts. 9:33-34.

(b) A PLACE OF DELIVERANCE

Physical ailment attracts healings while spiritual sicknesses require deliverances.

Obadiah 1:17, 1 Sam. 1:7-8, Mat. 15:21-28, 11 Kings 4:1-7, Rom. 8:15, Prov. 3:24, Acts 4:12, Ps. 107:20, Isa. 49:24-26.



STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY Part 1

Text: Prov. 24:10

INTRODUCTION:



Adversity refers to trouble, misfortune or difficulties. Though every believer would prefer to always live in prosperity, peace and joy. Adversity or difficult times do feature in the life of the Christian. As we begin this series, may the Lord give us understanding in Jesus name, Amen.

A. ADVERSITY IS NOT AVOIDABLE

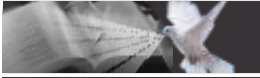
The wind of adversity blow strongly in every direction and believers are sometimes faced with great challenges as well as storms in their Christian race.

Eccl 3:1-4, Eccl 7:14, Is 43:1-3 Job 1:13-19, Job 2:10, I Sam30:1-6, Dan 3:20-22, Dan 6:16-17, Jam1:2-3

B. THE KEY TO VICTORY IS PROPER RESPONSE

When adversity comes, Christian are suddenly faced with problems and pressure too big for them to resolve. The key to ultimate victory lies in the way the believer responds to the situation.

Prov 24:10, Lk 18:1 Ps 25:1-2, I Th 5:18, Job 1:20-10, 2 Cor 13:5a, Ps 139:23-24, Ps16:8-9, Job1:21



THE SERVANT OF GOD

Text: Romans 1:1

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this study, we saw Paul identified Jesus Christ as his Master, and we were able to understand the importance of identifying one's Master and hence how to render our service unto Him. In today's lesson we shall look at the life of separation, as it affects anyone who will serve the Lord. Separation is one of the words that we must understand as it affects our Christian living. Your services unto God require a life of separation.

1. SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD

Anyone who will faithfully serve the Master Jesus Christ must be separated from the worldly inclinations. Light and darkness should not be blended neither should righteousness and unrighteousness be married together. The word of God says "COME OUT"

II Cor. 6:14-18, I Cor. 3:16-17,6:18-20, Jn. 15:19, Eph. 5:11, II Thess. 3:6

All demon, moral and physical uncleanness should be renounced.

2 SEPARATED UNTO GOD

There must be a complete declaration for the Master by the renewing of one's mind through the word and be law abiding to the Master. Rom. 12:2, II Tim. 2:4, Lk. 6:22-23, Ps. 119:115, Jn.

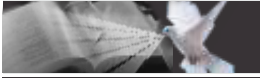


THE SERVANT OF GOD (Cont.)

17:15-17, Ps. 19:13; 141:3.

3 THE FINAL SEPARATION

The steps above will qualify one for the final separation that will be done by the Master. We pray that the Almighty will count us qualified in Jesus Name. Mt. 25:31-35, Mt. 13:30, Lk. 16:26



THE TWO WAY TRAFFIC

Text: Matthew 7:13-14

INTRODUCTION:

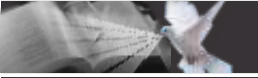
One of the messages taught the disciples by Jesus Christ on the Mount is about the broad and narrow ways. The message came in between others. He first mentioned the narrow way and its characteristics before the broad way was mentioned and its characteristics too.

Both ways according to Jesus have gates leading to them. One gate is strait while the other is wide. You have a choice on which of the way you want to travel in. May God help you to make the right choice in Jesus name.

We shall look critically at the features of the two ways so that you can examine yourself and see which way you belong.

FEATURES OF THE NARROW WAY.

- 1. The way leads unto life.** Jesus Christ is the way that leads unto life. John 14:6. It is rather the deceit of the devil to think there is any other way unto life rather than Jesus. Several religious leaders claim to know the way but we know no other way but Jesus. 1 John 1:2; 5:12.
- 2. The gate is strait.** The gate is not as wide as to contain two people at the same time. Luke 13:24 says 'we need to strive in order to enter this gate'. Paul understood this statement too when he said he kept his body under and anyone from entering. Hebrews 12:1; Matthew 19:16-24.
- 3. Only few will find the way.** In the days of Noah, only 8 people made it into the Ark. Gen 7:13. Only Joshua and Caleb out of the multitude that left Egypt to go to the Promised Land made it to the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 2:35:38. There is a need to seek this way.

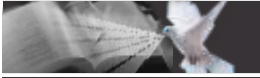


FEATURES OF THE BROAD WAY

The way is very broad as to accommodate every Dick, Tom and Harry. The way to destruction is broad. Anything goes in this way.

1. **The gate is wide.** In some rich people's house, you discover that the gate that accommodates cars is different from pedestrian gate. It is absolutely impossible to attempt driving a car through the pedestrian gate.
2. **The way is broad.** It is a broad way that can accommodate millions at the same time. The way of this world is broad. Anything can go. The way to hell is very broad. Proverbs 12:15; 13:15
3. **It leads to destruction.** Due to the nature of this, destruction is the lot of those who walk therein. Pro. 12:14 15:9. Destruction physically and spiritually is always the portion of those who walk in this way. It is the way of sin.
4. **Many there goeth in.** It is the way of disobedience and as a result it can entertain many people. Jesus said many are called few are chosen Matthew 22:9-14. A multitudes went out of Egypt but only two entered the Promised Land. The rest could not because of unbelief.

CONCLUSION. You have a choice to make today. If you desire the narrow way, we shall meet there. But if you choose the broad way we cannot see again.



A HEART WITH IDOL (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

Idolatry is not an occasional sin. It is an everyday occurrence. It rules, and maintain a stronghold in our lives with a view to enslave us. It is interesting to note that Christ doesn't personally destroy sin of idolatry and self within us. Rather, He points to them, with a request and persuasion for us to tackle them. May we receive grace from Him tonight to pull down all the idols in our lives in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

Idolatry generally meant nature worship in one form or another. It is an attempt by man to carve out for himself a peculiar god to whom it ascribes his prosperity and misfortunes. It can also be the creation of an image, which stood for Jehovah in worshipping something else in addition to Jehovah.

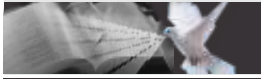
1 Kg 14:7-9, 1 Kg 15:11-14, 2 Chro 22:2-3, Isa 6:1-3, 1 Cor 10:14, Col 3:5

2. THE IDOL OF LUST

Sin committed in the sanctuary and outside it will be punished. Exo 25:1-13, Exo 34:12-14, 2 Thes2:3-4 Rom 6:23.

There should be no relationship with the ungodly; disobedience to God's word will bring sudden destruction. God will only make covenant of peace with anyone who would destroy the idol.

2 Cor 6:16-17, James 1:15, Isa 52:11, Oro 29:1, 1 Cor. 5:11-13, 2Cor 36:15-16, Mal 2:4-5



A HEART WITH IDOL (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

When God sees an idol within us, He expects us to respond by demolishing it completely. Any slightest intention of ever using them again will spell doom. The idol of rebellion and pride are the most potent ones the devil uses to derail a Christian. May the Lord deliver us from these idols as we study today, in Jesus Name.

1. THE IDOL OF REBELLION

Rebellion goes hand in hand with witchcraft. It sponsors you to disobey God and have a headlong collision with Him. It promotes you to spite and deride everything about God. It is anti-God. Rebellion moves you to doubt God and belittles God ability.

Deut. 9:7, Num 16:28-33, 2 Sam 18:9-14, Exo 15:24, 1 Cor. 10:10

2. THE IDOL OF PRIDE

Pride is the tendency for a man to lift or think himself higher than he is. A proud man is an enemy of God. Pride goeth before destruction. God abhors pride. An haughty man will not find favour before God. Pride is a destroyer; it does not spare its owner. Prov 16:18, 1 Tim. 3:6, Prov29:23-24.

It involves disrespect for leaders, murmuring and refusal to take instructions from authority. A proud man is the only "right" man, everyone else is wrong. Gal 3:1, Num 14:9-12, 1 Sam 15:23, Gal 5:7-8. Pride is a sickness of the heart Mk 7:21-33. It defiles. Eventually, God will become an enemy to a proud man.



“ LOVE NOT THE WORLD ”

Text: John 2:15-17

INTRODUCTION:

The World in the physical sense refers to the Earth, the people on it and its various political boundaries. But from our text and for the purpose of this study, “The World” refers to the people on earth and the System of the world. The established cultural practices, norms and value systems that are at variance with the will of God. We shall identify some of these practices and the will of God concerning them.

- What is the Main purpose of Man on earth? Eccl 1v1 -18, Eccl. 12 v 13, Rev. 4v10
- Man and everything on earth were created primarily for the pleasure of God. God expects worship and praises from Man. No wonder the first commandment among the ten is “Thou shall have no other gods before me Ex. 20v1-6.
- The main goal of the man that Love the world 2Tim 3v1-9. Rom 12v1-2

Those who love the world are out to please men. They do this by engaging in the practices of the world even when this is explicitly against God's ordinance. They find justification for their actions by quoting the scripture upside down.

Polygamy e.g. King David

Corruption “Give unto Caesar what is Caesar”

Acquisition of wealth

Eating of things sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 10 v 20)



LOVE NOT THE WORLD (cont.)

Fornication I Corthians 6v18

Music and sexuality

Fashion and style (Naked dressing)

1 Corthians 6 v 20, 1 Corthians 10 : 31, I Tim. 2 v 9

- **Children of God are not of this World** (Jn. 17:15-16, Jn. 15:18-19)
Children of God cannot love the World , because friendship with the world is enmity with God James 4v4. The requirement for the kingdom of God are Holiness, Love of God, patience, meekness and mercy Col3v12. Children of God must put off Anger, Wrath, Malice, Blasphemy, filthy communication.

- **How to Recognise those who love the world**

- By the word that proceed out of their mouth
- Pleasure of life
- Talkativeness
- Ostentatious living
- Lack of foresight 1 Jn. 4v5-6
- Envyng Rom 13 : 12-13.

CONCLUSION:

Let us examine ourselves and see if we are living to the Glory of God or we are just pleasing men or conforming to the system of the world.



THE GODLY ATTITUDES

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

Disciplineship begins when you get born again-As a follower of Christ you take Him as your Teacher and Model and strive to be like Christ - Mk. 11:29, Rm. 8:29, Jn. 10:27-28.

(1) THE CHARACTER TRAITS OF A DISCIPLE

- (a) Hearing the Master and following Him - Jn. 10:27.
- (b) Willing to forsake anything in order to follow the Master Mt. 4:19,22.
- (c) Always available Acts 9:10
- (d) Obedient Acts 9:10
- (e) Holy conversation and living I Pt. 1:15-16
- (f) Humility I Pt 5:6

(2) CAPABILITY OF A DISCIPLE

- (a) He is able to personally hear from God Acts 9:10
- (b) Win Soul for Christ
- (c) Preach with results Acts 2:40-41
- (d) Perform Miracles Acts 8:5-8.
- (e) Disciple and train new and young converts Rm. 12:1-4.
- (f) Grow and become fruitful
- (g) Pray and be transformed in character, conduct and live like his Master e.g Paul rm. 7;15-25, James, John (love)

(3) PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP

No true discipleship is without a price. They are

- (a) Self-denial- Mt. 16:24,19:21-22
- (b) Abandon of one's will for Christ -1 kg. 19-20



THE GODLY ATTITUDES (cont.)

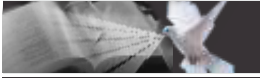
- (c) Inconvenience Acts 10:10, 19-21.
- (d) A life of consecration to one's God
Mt. 6:23, Ex. 28:3-41, 29:9, Mic. 4
- (e) Cross-bearing-Mt- 10:38, Lk. 14:27
- (f) Separation from the world practice 1 Jn. 2;16.

(4) GOALS OF DISCIPLESHIP

- (a) To translate precepts and principles received into practice and lifestyle
- (b) To conform with the ideal of their Master
- (c) To aspire not only to be like the Master but also to do exactly the work He does.

CONCLUSION:-

Are you a disciple? what is your aspiration as a disciple of Christ?



HAPPINESS

Text: Romans 8:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

Every human being needs and desire 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? John 3:16
- (c) Why? Rom. 8:16

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

2. 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

- ### 3. 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 happiness when you have Jesus and you entrusted your whole being into His hand. And you also show love to others.



OBEDIENCE THE POWER TO FULFILLMENT

Text : Judges 7:1-25

INTRODUCTION:

Obedience is a weapon that empowers us to be fulfilled in life and ministry. God honours those who honour Him in Obedience by leading them to their rest. Gideon, a man whose clan was so insignificant and weak, and who was nobody to be reckoned with in this family, was fulfilled in defeating the Midianites, by his simple act of Obedience.

Obedience is like a compass which shows the direction that would lead you to our fulfillment in life.

1. WHAT IS OBEDIENCE?

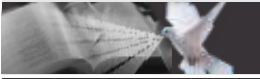
It is doing what you are told to do. When you are told to do it and how you are told to do it. Half- Obedience (Rev. 3:16) is worse than disobedience (1 Sam. 15:23). There is no half measure with God, you are either totally for Him or totally against Him.

2. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE FULFILLED THROUGH OBEDIENCE

- (a) Joseph Gen. 39:1-3; 6-12:20-23;41-43
- (b) Widow of Zarephath 1kings 17:9-15
- (c) Joshua Jos. 1:6-8;5;6:2;10:12-15
- (d) Peter Mk. 16:17-18; Acts3:1-18

3. OBEDIENCE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS LEAD TO FULFILLMENT

- (a). In Love: Mk. 12:28-31; Rom. 13:8-11; Genuine love bears other people's burdens Rom. 12:13
- (b). In Prayer: 1Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18



OBEDIENCE THE POWER TO FULFILLMENT (Cont.)

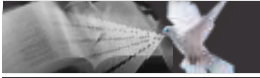
- (c). In Evangelism: Mk. 16:15-16. The best way to lay treasure in heaven is to get your converts there.
- (d). In Worship Ps. 150;1-6
- (e). In Holiness: Heb. 12;14; Rom. 12:1-2
- (f). In Giving: II Corin. 9:6-11
- (g). In Spiritual Gifts and Callings: 1 Corin12:7-11, Eph.4:11-13.

CONCLUSION

Whenever we obey God, He is pleased with us. Obedience shows our level of determination to reach our goals and God always intervene to make sure we arrive. He has done it before, He is Still doing it and He will do it again

NOTE:

If you ignore Obedience, you can be sure fulfillment will elude will you



CRY FOR REVIVAL

Text: Psalm 85:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

Tonight, we want to possess the tongues of fire through revival from Heaven. We shall study the meaning of revival, example of past revival, 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 raising to rebuke, improve and instruct in righteousness 2 Tim. 3:16.

(2) EXAMPLES OF PAST REVIVALS

The Lord has always had his special messenger 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 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
- © Ezekiel - Ezekiel 37:10.

(3) REASON FOR REVIVALS: Reasons for revival can be endless. A revival is needed when:

- (a) There is lack of brotherly love and Christian confidence among professors of religion.
- (b) There are wordliness in the church, evil speakings and heartless of heart.



CRY FOR REVIVAL (cont.)

- (c) There are church members falling into scandalous sins, and grossly indifferent to the cry of the lost.
 - (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, a definite plan must be followed.
- (a) There must be a **desire** for revival leads to genuine repentance born of a deep contrition in the heart Isa. 57:15
 - (b) There must be humility to 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 to be at 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 entire nation. Psalm 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.



THE JESUS CONNECTION

Text: Mat. 1:1-16, Mal. 3:7

INTRODUCTION:

A deep study of the Bible shows that many things don't just happen without a foundation that is established for such to occur. This foundation that may have been established several years ago can then be referred to as the connection linking the past with the present. In like wise manner when man was first created, he has direct connection with God. This is so because he has the image of God, God gave him dominion over all things and God was his friend Gen. 1:27-30. Among all the creatures, it was only man God had fellowship with.

Connection with God and his blessing could arise as result of:

1. GENEALOGY:

The Blessings a man enjoys today could be as a result of Connection by genealogy. From our Bible Text we can see that God is interested in genealogy. If we trace the parentage of our Lord Jesus Christ, we can see that he is from the root of David and David is from the root of Judah. Judah was one of Jacobs Children who won the heart of Jacob so much that he pronounce blessing on him and promote him above his brethren Gen. 49:8-9. From the above we can see that we as individual today can do something that will gladden Gods heart and he will pronounce blessing on us that will last from generations to generations and we by our actions too can bring curses on children yet unborn. Matt. 27:24-25. Another example is Isreal. The Bible says Isreal is going to be a leading Nation in the world. This is so because they are connected with Abraham whom God blessed Gen. 12:1-3.

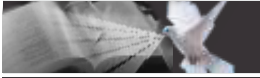


2. COVENANTS:

A covenant can be described as an agreement or promise between two people to do or not to do something. God made a covenant with Abraham which also extend to his children and their children children. This covenant is a very strong connection the Israelites are having with God uptill today Isreal has with God. So each time they need something from God they will always tell him. God remembers your covenant with our fathers Gen 17:28

3. COVENANTS CAN BE ESTABLISHED BY:

- (a) Blood: Hebrew 13:12, Lev 17:11, Mark 14:24
- (b) Sex: 1 Corinthians 6:16
- (c) By Participation: 1 Corinthians 10:20
- (d) Ancestral Curses



BIRTH RIGHT

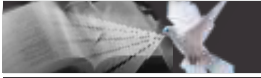
Text: Romans 8:28-39

INTRODUCTION:

A

Spiritual rebirth takes place at redemption and then one is said to be born again. This spiritual rebirth means we've been given a new life in Christ, which means the nature of God (i.e. divine nature) has been planted into us. We then become associated with God and are called gods (PS. 82:6), we automatically have some basic right attached to the new birth.

- 1. RIGHT TO DIVINE HEALTH AND HEALING:** 111 John 2
Our Lord Jesus Christ carried our sorrows, pains, and sicknesses at the cross of Calvary so we are not supposed to carry them any longer. Isa. 53:4-5. However this refers to every aspect of our lives not physical health alone. Other areas include mental, spiritual, emotional and financial.
- 2. RIGHT TO DOMINION** Col. 2:15 Gen.1:26-27
The dominion given to man at creation was lost as a result of sin but restored at redemption. Luke 10:18 -19. The devil has been placed under our feet. Phil.2:5
- 3. RIGHT TO HOLINESS** Obadiah 1:17; Matt. 5:48
We have been given the power to be perfect and live holy lives. It is our possession Rom 6:14. This is important from the following passages: Matt 5:8, Heb. 12:14;1 Thess. 5:23; Rom. 6:23
- 4. RIGHT TO THE THRONE** Rom. 8:12-17
As sons of God, we are heirs to the throne and so have some



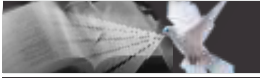
BIRTH RIGHT (cont.)

privileges such as:-

- a. Standing uncondemned before God - Rom. 8:1
- b. Having His righteousness and access to the throne of grace
11 Cor. 5:21, - Heb.4:6.
- c. Needs being met - Phil. 4:19
- d. Access to His rest - Heb. 4:1
- e. Ability to do all things - Phil. 4:13

CONCLUSION

God has given us all that pertain to life and godliness so we cannot lack any good thing. 11 Pet. 1:3-4. What do you need, you have a right to receive it, so just claim it.



HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

Text: Exodus 15:26

INTRODUCTION:

The source of sickness and affliction is Satan, though the causes are many, the principal cause being sin. (Job 2:7; Jn. 8:44; 10:5:14). Satan (Lk. 10:18) is referred to by many names, showing his nature and evil works. He is called Accuser (Rev. 12:10) Adversary (1 Pet. 5:8) Abaddon or Apollyon (Rev. 9:11) Beelzebub (Mt. 12:24) Dragon (Rev 12:3) Fathers of lies (Jn 8:44) liar (Jn. 8:44) Lucifer (Is. 14:12) God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) Old Serpent (Rev. 12:9) Prince of this world (Jn. 14:30) Prince of the devils, Prince of power of the air (Mt 12:24; Eph. 2:2) Ruler of darkness (Eph. 6:12) Sinner (1 Jn. 3:8). And Murderer (Jn. 8:44).

Note: CHRIST and all Christian have power over the devil and his works (Lk. 10:18-20;9:1; Eph. 1:17-23; 3:14-20; 1Jn. 3:8).

BUT YOU CAN'T BE MASTER OF SATAN IF YOU ARE HIS SLAVE!

Evil spirits, devil or demons also assist satan in its destructive work on human bodies. They possess people and cause: dumbness and deafness (Mt. 9:32-33, Mk. 9:25-27) blindness (Mt. 12:22) grievous vexation and torments (Mt15:22) lunacy and mania). Mt. 4:24;17:14-21; Mk. 5:1-18; Lk. 9:38-42) suicide (Mt. 17:15; Jn. 10:10; Mk. 5:1-18) false prophecy (1 Sam. 18:8-10; Acts. 16:16).

One or many can inhabit one person (Acts 19:16; Mk 5:22; Lk. 8:2; Mk. 5:5-9). They enter through sin, consulting with familiar spirits, palm-reading, magic, witchcraft, fortune- telling, hypnotism, etc. or through failure to resist them.(Jn. 5: 14; 1 Sam. 16:14,15; 1 Pet.



HEALING AND DELIVERANCE (cont.)

5:8,9; Eph. 4:27; Mt. 12:44,45; Ja. 4:7). If you open your heart to devil practices, he will quickly take advantage of such surrender. And as long as you have any of the devil property, he will stay around to guard them. If you want deliverance, burn them all.

Jesus frequently healed the sick by rebuking the devil or casting out the spirit who caused the sickness. Mt. 4:23,24; Mt 8:28-34;9:32,33 10:1,8; 12:28,29; 17:14-21; Acts10:38. See also Acts 8:5-8; He did it by the Spirit of God (12:28,29;Acts 10:38) and the same Spirit dwells in us. Rom 8:11; 1 Cor 6;19. We can do ALL the deliverance work Jesus did by using the name of Jesus in Prayer. Mk 16:17,18;Lk 10: 18-20; Lk9:1; Jn14:12-14; Mt 18.18,19.



“OCCUPY TILL I COME”

Luke 19:11-27

INTRODUCTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke this parable to his disciple to illustrate what great commission they are called into. It shows what their responsibilities are, what is expected of them, what authority is given to them and the consequence of falling in their responsibility. May the Holy spirit teach us as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. Responsibilities of a Believer:

In the parable, the noble man commanded his servant to “occupy till I come”. This signifies that he has vacated certain position or seat for his servant and he expect them to act in his stead. Like wise our Lord Jesus Christ expect we believers to perform those functions he performed while he was on earth (Mt 28:18-20).

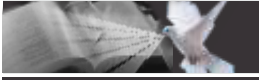
2. During his earthly ministry the Bible records that he was;

- Teaching : Matthew 5:1-2
- Healing : John 9 V 25
- Evangelizing : Matthew 10:5-9, Rom 10:14-17
- Praying : Luke 22:40-44
- Deliverance : Luke 8 v 27-33
- Signs and wonders and many more : John 21:25

All these are what he expect believers to do in his absence.

3. Authority of a Believer:

Authority can be described as the enabling power that is necessary for the accomplishment of a responsibility. Once there is responsibility there must be authority to back it up. The noble man



“OCCUPY TILL I COME” (cont.)

gave his servant varying amount of Talents according to what he expect of them with clear instruction to “Occupy till I come” Likewise our Lord Jesus Christ gave us power and clear instruction of what to do with it. Luke 9:1-2, Mk28:18-20, Lk16:15-18. There is a measure of God's gift in every believer which he expect us to use for his work and Glory 1 corth 12:4-12. How are you using God;s gift in your Life?

CAUTION:

Believers must beware of three possible dangers ahead:

- The Danger of not doing the job Lk 19:20-24
- The Danger of doing the job wrongly 1 Corth 3:10-15 we must be careful the way we build on the foundation
- Danger of double standard Matt 5:19. Christians must lead by example

CONCLUSION:

We must continually perform a self evaluation of our lives to make sure we are doing what is expected of us, because the owner of the Job will soon return and we shall all give account of our stewardship IPet 4:11.



REKINDLING THE FIRE

Acts 2:1-11, Joel 2:15-18, Matt 3:11

INTRODUCTION:

When we talk about rekindling the Fire, It suggests we are referring to a particular kind of Fire “The Pentecostal Fire”. This is sometimes referred to as “Holy Ghost Fire”. “Holy Ghost Baptism” Acts 1:5 and Pentecostal fire because it belongs to God and it first came on the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, Scientifically, fire represents a form of energy conversion that produces heat. In similar vein the Holy Ghost Fire is a deposition of a measure of Gods power on to his own children. This was the experience of the early Apostles (Acts 2:2-4), with whom they were able to work signs and wonders. Ours should not be different but greater. May the Holy Spirit teach us as we study.

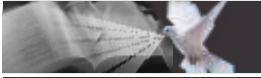
1. WHO NEEDS THE FIRE?

Our Lord Jesus Christ was always drumming it to the hearing of his disciples that “without me you can do nothing” - John 15:5. In this wise we need the Holy Ghost Fire for:

- Power to witness, to move mountains - Acts 1:8
- To be able to keep the statute of God - John 14:20
- Power to overcome the wiles of the devil and for sign and wonders. - Heb 2:4
- For Liberty - Isaiah 61:1

2. REKINDLING

To rekindle means to start afresh or to increase the burning rate. This means that once upon a time, the fire was burning and for one reason or the other, it died out. It is an indication that something has gone wrong. If we must rekindle the Fire, then we must look for the



REKINDLING THE FIRE (c o n t .)

cause of the going out. Here we are talking about restoring the power of God in his children. Some known causes of the extinguished Pentecostal Power are:

(a) Carelessness - Matthew 26:41

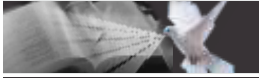
Many of us become careless as soon as the power of God begins to manifest in our lives. Yet , the word of God says clearly in Matthew 26:41 that we should watch and pray that we may not enter into temptation. Example is in the death of a careless prophet 1King 13:11-18 . By the time many of us succeed in healing somebody headache, we then relax, thinking we have gotten there and there is no need for prayer and fasting again.

(b) Comfort:

Many at times when we are in need of something from God, we are ready to go to any length in prayer. But immediately those needs are met we sit back and give less attention to things of God. This of course make us prone to temptation and possibly falling. We see examples of this with king David who was relaxing at home when he was supposed to be at war 2Sam 11:1-25.

(c) Overconfidence - 1Corinthians 10:12, Mk14:30

(d) Outright sin - Isaiah 59:1-2: Its often said in some quarters once your are born again you can sin as many times as possible all you need do is just ask for forgiveness. This is a lie of the Devil because the Bible say he that sinneth is of the Devil and the power of God can never operate in devil's property 1 John3:8.



REKINDLING THE FIRE (c o n t .)

(e) Oil Leakage Matthew 25:8-12:

As long as there is oil in the clay the light will continue to burn. Jesus demonstrated this by going into fervent prayer even immediately after miracles Lk 6:10-12. Many times after sign and wonders we are tired and we prayed the general prayer and go to sleep.

Conclusion:

From the foregoing, it is obvious that the most dangerous things that can happen to a man is to once have the Fire burning in him and not to have it any more. The devil will make such a man an easy prey. So why don't you pray now for God to keep his Penticostal Fire Burning in you.



THE INHABITANTS OF GOD'S HOLY HILL

Text: Ps. 15, Isaiah 33:14-17

INTRODUCTION:

The inhabitants of a place are people who live in that place and their life is affected by what goes on there. The inhabitants of God's Holy hill are people who will not be sick in any form and whose iniquity are forgiven. Isaiah 33:24. God's Holy Hill is a place of meeting with God. Exodus 19:1-6.

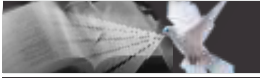
WHO CAN INHABIT GOD'S HOLY HILL?

This is a question that only the owner (Landlord) of the hill can answer Ps. 15:1. people who will inhabit (Abide) are people.

- (a) who walk uprightly - Ps. 15:2
- (b) who work righteously - Ps. 15:2
- (c) Who backbiteth not - Ps. 15:3, Num. 16:3, 11 and 27-32
- (d) Who does no evil to his neighbor - Ps. 15:3, 1 Sam. 1:6-7
- (e) Who take no reproach against his neighbor - Ps. 15:3, 1 Sam. 1:6-7
- (f) Who speaks out against sin and confronts those who are doing it Ps. 15:4, Acts 5:1-10.
- (g) Who commends faithful followers of the Lord. - Ps. 15:4. Ph. 2:25-30.
- (h) Who are promise keeper. - Ps 15:4, Jg 11:31-35.
- (i) Who does not crush those who own him money - Ps. 15:5
- (j) Who does not lie against the innocent. - II Kings 5:21-22.

CONCLUSION

The visa for entry into God's Holy Hill has been examined. Do you have them? If not pray that God will help you to qualify for His Holy Hill.



OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Text: James 1:1-16

INTRODUCTION:

Temptation is one of the experience a child of God should and will encounter. No one is above temptation but one can have victory over temptation. We cannot stop temptation from coming but we can stop ourselves from yielding. Being tempted is not a sin but yielding to temptation is sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ had victory over the temptations he faced. We can also have victory over those temptations facing us.

1. WHAT IS TEMPTATION

Temptation is one nudging or enticement to do evil or anything contrary to God's will or standard. It is a strong persuasion to do something wrong. Devil is the source of all temptations Matt. 4:1.

Trial is different from temptation. James 1:23. Trials is meant to build us up while temptations pull us down.

2. METHODS OF TEMPTATION

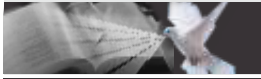
Satan uses subtle and divers methods to tempt Christians. This can be identified from the following passages. Prov. 1:10, Matt. 16:22&23, Job2:9-10, 1 John 2:14-16; 1 Tim 6:8-9. Gen. 39:7

3. HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS

- i. By relying on the faithfulness of God. 1 Corin. 10:13; Heb. 2:18
- ii By using the word of God appropriately. Matt.4:1-11; Ps. 119:11
- iii. By praying personally. Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18
- iv By resisting. James 4;7; Say **NO** to the devil.
- v. By fleeing or avoiding every appearance of evil. II Tim. 2:22; 1 Thess. 5:22; Prov. 4:14-15; Psalm `1:1

CONCLUSION

Overcoming temptation strengthens a Christian's faith and testimony. He grows stronger to resist other temptation and his obedience to God is confirmed. Live in the spirit always ; use the word of God to overcome temptation and praise the lord for the possibility of victory.



HEAVENLY AFFECTION

Text: Col. 3:1-17.

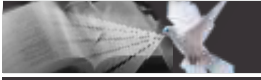
INTRODUCTION:

A

child of God is a different being because he is dead yet he lives. He becomes dead to the affairs of this world but his Father who rose from dead, he rises and lives to the lord. May the best teacher Himself teach us as we learn in Jesus name, Amen.

1. What is heavenly affection: Col. 3:1-2
2. How can we set affection in Heaven ?
 - a. abstaining from fleshly lusts. 1 Pet. 2:11
 - b. Mortifying its members Col. 3:5-8,Rom.8:13
 - c. Putting on the new man Col. 3:9-12
 - d. Forebearing and forgiving Col. 3:13
 - e. Live Holy Rom.12:1-2, Heb. 12:14
 - f. Be obedient 1 Sam. 15:22, Josh. 1:7-8
 - g. By Praises and worship Acts. 16:25-29,

CONCLUSION: Our heavenly father requires constant fellowship with us even while we are still in this world, which often starts with appreciation of all about him. It is therefore necessary to set our affection in heaven, if we must make it at the end.



THE LORD KNOWETH HIS OWN

Text: Psalm 1:6

INTRODUCTION:

The everlasting Almighty God knows his own people i.e the righteous. The people of God are those keeping the commandment of God. Almighty God knows and called them by their individual names both in offices, farms and also in the time of trouble. May the Holy Spirit teach us better in Jesus mighty name "Amen".

The true people of God are also recognised by the evil spirit as the saints (Acts 19:15) and possesses the same attributes as God himself. Acts 19:15, Amos 9:3, John 15:14, John 10:3

ATTRIBUTES/QUALITIES OF THE TRUE PEOPLE OF GOD

- 1 They enjoy fellowshiping together with the people of God
- 2 They are lovers of righteousness and holiness (Hebrew 12:14, 1st John 2:29)
- 3 They live a blameless life
- 4 They are committed and dedicated to the things of God (John 8:31, 1 Cor 15:58, 2 Tim 3:14)
- 5 They are true worshippers who worship God in spirit and in Truth
- 6 They keep to God's commandment absolutely (Joshua 1:8, 1 John 2:3-5)
- 7 They are peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9)
- 8 Their focuses and goal is heaven. Their hope is eternal life and eternal glory (Heb. 10:10,16)

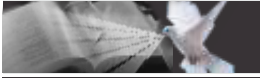


THE GODLY ATTITUDES (c o n t .)

- 9 They does not Compromise with sin
- 10 They are people with great faith in the Lord
- 11 They are always willing to do the worthy in the sight God (John 9:4)
- 12 People of God suffers persecution and trials for eternal glory (2 Tim 2:10, Matthew 10:21&22)
- 13 They always follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, Love, patience, meekness, charity and desire spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 14)
- 14 Their names are written clearly in the book of life

CONCLUSION

Evidence abound that this world is old and will soon pass away 2Tim 3:1-5. Do the lord know you as his own? Remember Rev. 20:12-15



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIANS LIVING: 1

Text: Colossian 2:6-15

INTRODUCTION:

Avictor is a winner in a battle while victory means success in a battle or contest, achieved by gaining MASTERY over one's opponent(s). To be victorious according to the Bible is to know Jesus and to be in Him. For anybody that is in Christ is a new creature (II Cor 5:17) i.e. a born victor. To have Jesus is to have victory because all the fullness of God dwells in him (Col. 2:9). Christians have victory today through the wonderful name of Jesus, His Blood, Death, Resurrection and through His ascension (Eph 4:8).

Some of the things that a Christian have victory upon are:

1. VICTORY OVER SIN

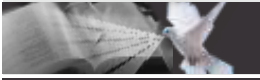
We have victory over sin because whosoever that is born of God commit no sin for Jesus was made to be sin so that we might be the righteousness of God in Him. Matt 5:48, Heb 12:14, I John 3:8-10, Jn8:34 &44, 1 Jn 5:18

2. VICTORY OVER FLESH

A Christian is no more under the control of the flesh again when he is born again, because his/her spirit is now born or renewed unto God and so the works of the flesh have no way to manifest, but instead the fruit of the spirit. Gal. 5:17-24, Prov. 25:28, James3:2; 1:26.

3. VICTORY OVER THE WORLD

Jesus over came the world and give unto us the victory. Therefore he says be of good cheer. Jn 16:33; 1 Jn5:4-5. Ps. 44:5; Mal. 4:3.

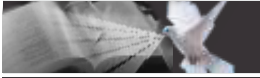


4. VICTORY OVER PRIDE

Devil been the arch angel of the Almighty God before, fell because of pride. For this purpose, Jesus came down to destroy the work of the devil of which pride is one. Today spiritual pride is hindering the flow of anointing. We should all learn from our leader Jesus the main victor. Phil 2:5-11, Prov. 11:2,8:13; 16:19;23, Isaiah 57:15, Matt. 18:4, James 4:6.

5. VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL AND HIS HOSTS

The Lord Christ conquered the devil and death and thereby gave us victory over them once and for all. Lk 10:19, Mk 16:17-18, Eph. 4:8, 1 Cor 15:55-56



CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

Every believer has a responsibility of ministering in the household of faith. A Christian Steward has a duty to live his whole life to the glory of God, preach the gospel and serve fellow believers willingly. He administers spiritual blessing, comfort and edification.

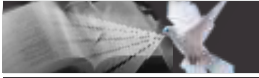
1 WHAT IS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP?

It is a voluntary and sacrificial service rendered by genuine children of God to the body of Christ with a sole desire to satisfy and please God. Acts 8:26-40.

2. WAYS IN WHICH A CHRISTIAN STEWARD CAN BE INVOLVED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ARE NUMEROUS. Few among them are teaching Acts 6:4, Singing in the choir, Ushering, Caring for the sick, Helping members who are in trouble Acts 6:1-3, Warning and Counselling backsliders and young converts, Visiting the sick etc.

3. ESSENTIAL QUALITIES REQUIRED TO BE A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

- Holiness Is. 52:11
- Faithfulness I Cor. 4:2
- A challenging life with good character I Thess. 2:10
- A life of prayer Gen. 24:12-15
- Hard- Working and diligent Luke 12:42, II Pet. 1:10



4. REWARD OF FAITHFUL STEWARD

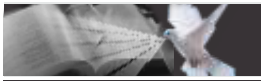
- Ruler and Administrator of God's household Lk 12:42, 44
- Receive the blessing of God Lk. 12:43

UNFAITHFUL STEWARD

- Will be cut in sunder and be with the unbeliever (Hell)
Lk. 12:46, Mt. 25:30, Mt. 25:41
- Will be beaten with many stripes. Lk. 12:47

CONCLUSION

A Christian steward has a fixed heart dedicated to carry out God's given assignment and must strive for EXCELLENCE in his services, as a result, no duty is too small to undertake and no sacrifice will be too much to make.



LIVING A CHRIST-LIKE LIFE

Text: Matthew 5:38-48

INTRODUCTION:

Everybody has the choice to live his/her life in conformity to a particular person who is his mentor. There are reward for every way of life either good or bad a person chooses to live. King Hezekiah lived a David- like life which please the LORD (2 Chro. 29:2) but some kings like Zimri, Omri and Ahab lived a Jeroboam like life which is evil in the sight of the LORD (I kings 16:17-18,30). Today, we will examine the BEST life someone can live and the way you can live it.

1. CHRIST-LIKENESS (MEANING)

The road to perfection is by being Christ- like and going the extra mile to do everything especially in service and love Mt. 25:1-13. It is having the mind of Christ. Phil. 2:5

2. WAYS YOU CAN BE CHRIST-LIKE

1. To be Christ like in affection and compassion. I Pt. 3:8, Mt. 14:14-15, Mk. 1:41, Mk. 8:1-8.
2. To be Christlike with unbelievers. LK. 19:1-7, Jn. 4:6-30
3. To be Christlike with believers.
4. To be Christlike in loving God. Jn. 14:15
5. To be Christlike in our conducts I Tim 4:12
6. To be Christlike in our words. Js 3:2, Prov. 17:28
7. To be Christlike in temptation. Heb. 4:14-16, Mt. 4:1-11

CONCLUSION:

God want you to live a life that is Christlike which the world can read, feel, see and know that Christ truly lives in you. Hence, the world will be drawn near unto him for salvation and deliverance.



THE PROMISE LAND

Text: Genesis 12:1-20

INTRODUCTION:

The promised land is a place of rest. It is a land flowing with milk and honey. Our promise is the fulfilment 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 promised land, (The place, God desires that you should be) May the Holy Spirit teaches 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:- Gen. 5:12,7:1.
- 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 :- II Kgs 2:1-15
- B. Abstain from sin and lust :- Gen. 39:7-10
- C. Determination
- D. Obedience
- E. An Overcoming desire and Spirit :- Prov. 24:10

3 THOSE THAT DID NOT GET THERE

- A. Gehazi :II Kgs. 5:20-27
- B. Moses :- Deut. 4:21-22
- C. Samson :- Judges 16:30-31



THE PROMISE LAND (cont.)

D. Anannias and Sapphira :- Acts 5:- 1-10

4 OBSTACLES ON THE WAY

A Hatred :- Gen. 37:1-20

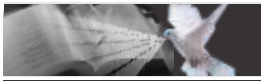
B. Discouragement and Giants :- Num. 13:25-32

C. Persecution

D. Worldly desire and lust :- II Sam 11:11-27, Ii Kgs 5:20-27

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 promise land :. Are you ready to get there?



MAN & TEMPTATION

Text: James 1:12- 15

In the beginning when God created man. He gave him dominion over all things both living and none living. Until the tempter came, and man fell to his temptation and ever since then ,the tempter has gotten easy access to man to tempt him with evils at will. Today we shall study the diverse ways of access of the tempter and how to overcome such. May the Holy Spirit teach us in Jesus name. Amen.

1. TEMPTATION:

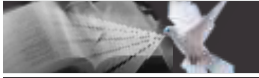
Temptation can be described as an evil suggestion to do that, which is contrary to the will of God Gen 3:1-5. The person being tempted has the option to reject or accept the suggestion.

2. WHY GOD ALLOWS TEMPTATION.

- Because man wilfully surrendered his power of dominion to satan in the garden of Eden by giving in to the temptation of satan.
- As a prove of our faith: As ever since the above incident, any one that must be promoted to heaven (God's dwelling place) must be an overcomer Heb 2:14 i. e overcome the world (the whims and caprices of the Devil) James 1:3.
- That the name of the lord may be glorified.
- As an example to believer. James 5:10, 1 Peter2:21, Jude 1:7, 1 Corinthians 10: 8-10.

3. MOTIVE OF THE TEMPTER:

The motives of the tempter can be summarized as follows.



MAN & TEMPTATION (CONT.)

- To cause the victims to sin against God. Gen 3:6-7.
- Withdrawal of Gods protection & favour.
- Death (hell fire) Rom. 6v23, Ps. 9v17. Behold the robber came to steal & destroy

4. HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS.

- Pray without ceasing. 1 Corinth. 10v12-13
- Read & meditate upon the word of God. Ps 1v1-3
- Ask for discerning spirit.
- Discipline your thought, your tongue and your taste. Ps 34v13
- Flee every appearance of evil. 1 Thess5:22
- Fellowship with the people of God.
- Avoid evil company, evil Communication Ps. 1:1-3
- Do good all the time Rom.12:21

CONCLUSION :

May the lord help us to overcome every vices of devil. But we must pray.



DARE TO BE AN ACHIEVER

Text: Gen. 37:39;40;41

It is a fact that anyone can be an achiever but not everyone is an achiever. Being an achiever takes a lot more than saying it. It involves consistent, progressive actions. If you are willing, you can be an achiever.

Joseph, though a foreigner in Egypt but he made a name for himself because he dared to be an achiever against all odds. You can be achiever in soul winning, business, academics/career etc. May the Holy Spirit teach us today in Jesus name (Amen).

1. WHO IS AN ACHIEVER?

An achiever is anyone who completes or accomplishes a particular task(s) by putting effort, skill and courage. An achiever sets a goal and gets the goal. He is a success in all he does. Some Biblical example of achiever are:

David - 1 Sam17:34-49;30:1-20;II Sam. 8:1-4; 10:1-15

Solomon - I Kings 5:3-9;6:1-38

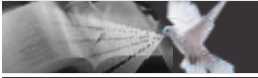
Moses - Exo. 3:1-10 ;31-51; 17:8-16

Paul - 1st Cor. 9:16-18;27;14:18, Phil3:12-14; II Tim. 3:6-8

Jesus - John 4:34; 5:36-38; Acts 10:38; Phil. 2:5-11

2. STEPS TO BEING AN ACHIEVER

- (a) Have a dream i.e. decide what to achieve, by setting goals (plan) Prov. 21:5
- (b) Commit it to God (through prayers) Prov. 3:5-6;16:3; Jer. 33:3



DARE TO BE AN ACHIEVER (CONT.)

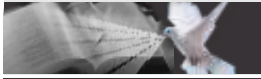
- (c) Get information about it Prov. 19:2 and seek godly counsel Prov. 27:17
- (d) Have faith (believe in it) Luke 1:37; Heb. 11:1
- (a) Be persistent and apply wisdom James 1:5
- (b) Confess positively about it Prov. 18:21
- (g) Be diligent (i.e. work hard) Prov. 22:29; 14:23

3. HINDRANCES TO BEING AN ACHIEVER

- (a) Sin (doubt, fear, pride etc) James 1:6-8, Prov. 16:18; II Tim. 2:19
- (b) Laziness - Prov. 6:6-8; 10:4; 26:13-15
- (c) Procastination - Prov. 6:10-11
- (d) Shortsightedness - Prov. 14:18
- (e) Discouragement from men Prov. 13:20

CONCLUSION:

You can be what you want to be in life. What do you desire? If you desire nothing, you will achieve nothing. Nothing is impossible, you can do anything you desire Phil. 4:13. Why don't you dare to be an achiever, do something today.



ARE YOUR PRAYERS ALWAYS ANSWERED?

Text: 2 Corinthians 7:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

We will assume that we all know the rudimentary element (or rules) of prayers, such as praying in the name of Jesus Christ , John 14:13-14, John 16:23; praying, without condemnation of heart Ps 42:2; having faith Jms 1:6-8, Heb. 11:6. and that we have been praying without ceasing, 1 Thes 5:17, Acts. 6:4, and with fasting, 1 Cor. 7:5, Mt. 6:16. The question now is whether or not your prayers are being answered always ? the experience vary. If your answer is affirmative, to God be the glory. And if not , God shall reveal Himself to you in Jesus name . Amen.

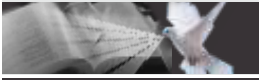
1. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

God is still God. A covenant keeping God . Who changeth not. Isa. 42:8, Rev. 19:16, Rev. 22:13, Ex. 3:14. John. 1:1, Gen. 17:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, John. 8:58

2 WHY ARE PRAYERS NOT ANSWERED?

1) NOT BEING BORN AGAIN: You have to be a true Christian and accept Him as your Lord, Saviour, and Redeemer before there could be son/ father relationship with Divine favour Acts 11:26, 1 Pet. 2:9; You have to be called by His name.

2) PRIDE : lack of humility leads to destruction. That is the reason why our lord Jesus Christ practically demonstrated humility by washing the feet of His disciples. John. 13:5; 1 John. 2:16; Mt. 23:12; Pro. 15:25; 1 Pet. 5:6; Pro. 22:4



ARE YOUR PRAYERS ALWAYS ANSWERED? (CONT.)

3) SIN : sin is synonymous with darkness and the wages of sin is death . Not only that the prayer of a sinner is an abomination unto God . Rms 3:23; 1 John. 1:8, 10; Isa. 59:1-2; Rms. 6:23; Pro. 28:13; 1 John . 1:9; Rms.12:1-2.

4) WICKEDNESS: our unpleasant, harmful, evil and mischievous ways towards human being and God , is a great gully separating us from God. Forsake your wicked ways and it shall be well with you . Ezk. 33:15; Pro. 3:7; Pro . 5:8; Rev. 2:5; Mal. 3:8-11; Mt.5:37.48 Mt. 25:42-46.

5) FAILURE TO SEEK HIS FACE : We often rely on our ingenuity ,head knowledge and power , instead of living all for God . Let His will be done and not yours . Isa. 1:8-19; Isa. 8:13; Jms . 4:7; Mt. 6:10

6) PRAYER : Prayer is the spiritual weapon with which to fight the devil . There is nothing you can do without prayer . Pray with faith that you will receive from God . Our Lord Jesus Christ , who is God , prayed Mt. 26:36; the Apostles prayed, Acts 4:24-31; ps. 37:5; Mt. 7:7 ;; Jer. 33:3 John. 15:47; Jms. 4:3.

7) ANSWER GUARANTEED : He is a listening and just God . He is a covenant keeping God. Ps. 94:9; Lk. 1:37; John. 14:13

CONCLUSION

Our God is holy and expects us to be holy. The very nature of God is holiness. The glory of God is holiness. His ways are holy. To live a holy life , we need His spirit because it is not by might nor by power but by my spirit says the Lord. Zech. 4:6, 1 Tim. 2:15, 4:6.



IN HARMONY WITH GOD

Text: Daniel 6:10

INTRODUCTION:

To be in harmony with God is to be in agreement with Him in terms of feelings, interest, opinions, conscience etc. When you are in harmony with someone, decision taking is easy even though decision taking is not a one man business. It involves the people in harmony to agree together even when suggestions are made, the people who are in harmony will agree with the suggestion which best solve their problems or is beneficial to the people.

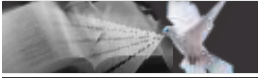
Therefore, since we know the word of God stands firm, we should always desire His will.

1. **CONDITION TO MEET BEFORE WE CAN BE IN HARMONY WITH GOD**

- Lowly in mind Phil. 2:2-8
- Self denial- Dan 1:8
- Thirst after righteousness Mt. 5:6
- Obedience Phil. 2:8
- Showing God's kind of love II Cor. 13:4-7
- Fear of God Prov. 1:7

2. **WHAT CAN STRENGTHEN THIS HARMONY?**

- Prayer Dan. 6:10
- Confession of the word Rm. 10:6-8, Joshua 1:8
- Consistent edifying oneself in the spirit I Cor. 14:4
- Purity



3. **WHAT CAN HINDER ONE FROM BEING IN HARMONY WITH GOD**

- Lukewarmness Rev. 3:16
- Loving the world Rm. 8:6-8
- Walking in craftiness II Cor. 4:2
- Lack of knowledge Hosea 4:6
- Lack of vision- Prov. 29:8

4. **BENEFITS OBTAINED WHEN ONE IS IN HARMONY WITH GOD**

- Victorious life Dan. 6:21-28
- Having perfect knowledge about God I Cor. 3:18
- Moving unto greater heights
- Free access to God's blessings

CONCLUSION: For your life to fulfil God's plan and purpose, you must be in harmony with your creator. Shall we begin to fight against those hindrances on our ways in Jesus name.



THE PLACE OF CHARACTER IN EVANGELISM

Text: Matt. 5:13-15

INTRODUCTION:

The work of evangelism is a must for every believer. It is a command given by our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15). Since it is expedient to preach the gospel to the unsaved, some important factors that affect its efficiency must be considered before embarking on it.

Character plays a very important role in evangelism. Paul the successful evangelist had three basic attitudes to evangelism: I am debtor, I am ready, I am not ashamed (Rom. 1:14-16) These and others are important element in order to be an effective evangelist.

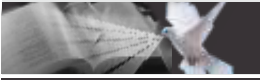
1. WHAT IS CHARACTER?

Character can be defined as all the mental or moral qualities that make a person different from others. A person can be distinguished by his/her character. Your character is also a sum total of all your good and bad attributes. I Tim. 4:12

2. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERS NEEDED?

(a) Love: It is impossible for you to preach to the person you do not love. I John 4:7-8; Matt. 5:44

(b) Faith: If we don't have faith in the gospel we are preaching, how can people believe our word. There is a need for strong faith that will gear up the faith of those who hear us. John 14:12; 1 Corin 16:13. faith is what makes us and our service acceptable before God Heb. 11:6.



THE PLACE OF CHARACTER IN EVANGELISM (CONT.)

(c) Prayerfulness: 1 Thess 5:7 ;1 Tim. 2:1-4. prayer evangelism is winning souls through prayer ,ie affecting them in the spirit realm which will consequently manifest in the physical realm

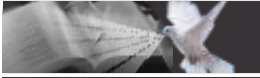
(d) Speech/ Confession: Be an example in speech 1 Tim 4:12, Col . 4:6 Always say positive things. Avoid the use of foul language.

(e) Dressing : Dress the ways you want to be addressed.

- It suggests the kind of person we are. Matt. 7:20
 - It must be moderate. Phil. 4:5; 1Tim. 2:9
 - It must glorify God. I Corin. 10:31; Col. 3:23
 - It must not be corruptible. 1 Peter 3:3-4 (Inner Dressing)
- (f) Others include temperament, Purity etc.

CONCLUSION

We must begin to live our lives in a manner that those who see us will want to give their lives to Christ. Don't be an object of discouragement to others who are yet to give their lives to Christ.



ONE INDIVIDUAL USED BY GOD

Text : 1 Sam. 1:1-2:10

INTRODUCTION:

The story of 1 and 2 Samuel begins by showing us how the personal problems of one individual can sometimes greatly be used by God in the progress of His Kingdom. Hannah was just one woman. One might ask what significance does one unknown woman have in the kingdom of God? Sometimes one person has a great part to play in what God is doing. That person may not be very famous or very important. He or she may be in the middle of some awful problems. In our Bible study today we shall see how God used the problems in the life of Hannah to advance this course here on earth. May the Holy spirit teach us in Jesus Name.

1. GOD HAS A HABIT OF USING OUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS

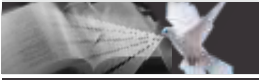
Consider the first eight verses of 1 Samuel chapter 1. In some respects you would think Hannah might be quite happy. But Hannah was not happy and live in a culture that set a high value upon the number of children that a woman has 1 sam 1:1 8; 1 Chron. 6:16 -26; 1 sam. 9:5; Prov. 21:19; Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-12, 1 Cor 7:10, 11; Ezra 10:10,11; Eccl. 7:3, Jn 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12.

2. HANNAH'S TROUBLES DROVE HER TO PRAY

It is often easier for the people of God to pray when we are in trouble. It produces a kind of desperation in us. We give God more time. We are willing to come to term with God. Troubles may lead us to pray with fervency, with energy, with determination and with persistency 1 Sam. 1:9-20

3. HANNAH'S TROUBLES GAVE HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORGIVE

She had to forgive her husband. She had to forgive Peninah. She



ONE INDIVIDUAL USED BY GOD (CONT.)

had to forgive Eli. And she had to break through the feeling of being betrayed by God Matt. 6:12; 18:21,22.

4. **A BREAKTHROUGH CAME IN HER LIFE WHEN HER WILL AND GOD'S WILL CAME TOGETHER**

There came a point where she was ready to make a 'bargain' with God. God took her serious by her word, At that time God also needed a little boy He could rely on, because the leadership in Israel was so corrupt 1 Sam 2:12; Judg. 2:10; Rom. 1:28, 1 Sam. 2:22-25

5. **HANNAH'S PRAYER WAS ANSWERED**

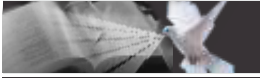
Hannah's found peace before the answer, came. She was given the peace that passes all understanding simple by casting her care upon God, even though the answer had not yet come. 1 Sam . 1:19-28; Phil. 4:7 Jn. 14:27; 1 Pet. 5:7

6. **THE BREAKTHROUGH LED HANNAH INTO DEEPER AND RICHER PRAISE OF GOD**

Hannah's psalm in I Samuel could have been a psalm that was already in existence. Or she may have written it herself. It certainly looks out to wider matters than her own concerns. She seems to have praised and worshipped God as energetically as she had put her requests to God before . She said "those who oppose the Lord will be shattered" 1 Sam. 2:1- 10

CONCLUSION

So there are advantages in trials and tribulations. From them we learn God's ways and discover his greatness. In the end our Knowledge of God is deepened. Amazingly, our troubles have a part to play in getting the will of God done. Will you allow God to use your problem to turn things around for you? God did it for Hannah. He can do it for you also.



WALKING WITH GOD WHAT IT IS

Text: Phillippians 3:7-12

INTRODUCTION:

The Holy Scripture describes most men of old who pleased God as people who “walked with God”. Infact, the prophet Micah reveals that it is God's heart desire that men should walk with Him. (Micah 6:8) and the Hebrew translation of the phrase “walk with God” as revealed by Micah denotes doing it as a habit. In this lesson, we shall seek to understand the various dimensions of walking with God.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF GOD LEADERSHIP (OBEDIENCE)

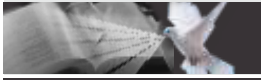
To accept God's leadership is to accept this instruction and obey them. This is fundamental in walking with God, It show our love like Noah and Enoch did. Heb 11: 5 & 8; Gen. 6:9.

In the Old testament, God gave his servants instruction and commandments (the law). And by so doing, led them in his right way. Today, we walk by the spirit. Rom. 8:13-14; Gal. 5:16 & 25.

2. FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Friendship involves a special relationship and fellowship which enable those involved to get close to each other. They share secrets, have good knowledge of each other, and support each other in times of need. All who walked with God and also shared His secrets. Gen17:1-3;18:1,17-21.

Enoch, Noah and other faithful men also developed such special relationship with God. We too can walk with God by being His Friends.



WALKING WITH GOD WHAT IT IS (CONT.)

3. **WORKING WITH GOD IN PARTNERSHIP**

The third dimension in walking with God is working with aim, reaping men for the kingdom, reaching out to the needy, etc. All these require faithfulness and loyalty. Those who walk with God demonstrate willingness and co-operation in bringing God's presence and purpose to men (Emmanuel). Isaiah 7:14, Matt. 10:7-8, 1 Cor. 3:9

CONCLUSION

To walk with God means to be His friend, Obey Him and work with Him. No man can truly call himself a faithful servant of God if his life does not show an intimate walk with God.



DECEIT AND DEFEAT

Text: Genesis 3:2-5

INTRODUCTION:

F or every defeat experienced by man; it has to be preceded by deceit. Satan is the source of deceit. He loves to slander God, and attacks God's reliability, His faithfulness (Gen. 3:4), His goodness (Gen. 3:1b). He likes to suggest that God is harsh and restrictive. sin and Satan in reality are those one who are harsh towards us.

1. THE AIMS OF THE DEVIL

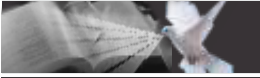
The aims of the devil are contained in the text. He wants to insinuate an anti God approach to life (Luke 15:12). In every area he wants to get people away from God, and wants to take over as though he were God himself.

The devil wants to get us away from God:

- i. The source of knowledge - I Pet. 5:8; Luke 21:34-36; Job 1:7
- ii. The source of authority - Matt. 4:8,9; 28:18; Dan. 7:13, 14; 8:44; Ps. 62:11.
- iii. The guide to conduct gen. 3:4, 5.
- iv. The one who controls our destiny Gen. 2:16,17; 3:4; Jer. 18:1-6; Isa. 45:9.
- v. The source of pleasure Ps. 16:11;36:8; Prov. 21:17; 2 Tim . 3:3.

Note that devil reveals the pleasure of sin but always hide its price tag.

- vi. The one we worship Isa. 14:13-15; Ezek. 28:17, 18.



DECEIT AND DEFEAT (CONT.)

2. THE WAY OF DEFEAT

Satan still lies. He flatters, speaks as if he is God. Satan is always plausible. He uses rising pressure and comes to us at our weakest point.

How did Satan succeed in getting Eve to sin?

- i. She got talking to the snake Eph. 6:11; Jam. 4:7; I Pet. 5:9.
- ii. She accepted his perverted use of God's Word, and even perverted it herself Gen. 3:2, 3; Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18, 19.
- iii. She keeps listening Mat. 4:3, 5 & 8; 2 Cor. 3:18.

CONCLUSION

The devil wants to control our minds, our worship, our conduct, our experience. He wants to keep us laden with guilt. He wants to hold us in darkness. In spite of all these I have good news for you. God still loves you. He wants you to come to Him Isa. 1:18, 19; Mat. 11:28; Rev. 2:5.



“CHRISTIAN WARFARE WEAPONS”

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

INTRODUCTION:

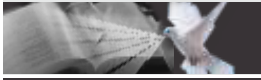
The Bible tells us in (Ephesians 6:12) that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in the high places. Every born again child of God engages, in spiritual warfare daily. The Bible in (Romans 7:23) describes it as an inward battle.

WHY MUST CHRISTIANS ENGAGED IN WARFARE (2 CORINTHIAN 10:4)

Our enemies are invisible (Ephesians 6:12) and therefore we should be ready for battle any time. The good news is that the God of the battle will fight for us and give us total victory in Jesus name. (Ephesians 2:6) As Christians, we have weapons that are available for our use in warfare; Though they are invisible but powerful and mighty.

And these weapons are:

- (a) The name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10, Mark 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 has been put inside the name. The name is mighty when used in prayer and service. Infirmity and demons bow in the name of Jesus.
- (b) The word of God (Joshua 1:8, Ephesians 6:17, Matthew 4:4)
- (c) Prayer & Fasting (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Isaiah 58:6 Matthew 17:21)

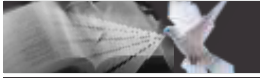


“CHRISTIAN WARFARE WEAPONS” (cont.)

- (d) The blood of the Lamb (The blood of Jesus Rev. 12:11)
- (e) Faith: Put away fear and clothe yourself with boldness (Hebrews 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 flesh are the arms of the flesh but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.



LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Text: Matthew 14:22-23

INTRODUCTION:

W

hen all things seem blurred, when all ways seem to be closed, when life is not taking shape, the solution is look unto Jesus.

1. HOW CAN I LOOK UNTO HIM?

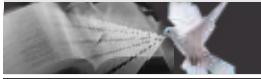
- a. By lifting my eyes to the hills PS 121:1-2
- b. By crying out to Him PS 34:15-18
- c. By seeking Him earnestly Acts 17:27, PS 42;1;63:1
- d. By submitting to God James 4:7-8, Heb. 10:22, Jos. 17:7-8
- e. By confessing positively Prov. 18:21, Rom10:10, Mk11:23
- f. By waiting unto the lord Is 40:28-31

2. BENEFITS OF LOOKING UNTO HIM

- a. Peace /Rest of mind Ex. 33:14:14
- b. Courage in life's battle Deut20:1;Ps. 34:5
- c. Security in time of peril Is43:2
- d. Fearlessness even in the face of death Ps. 23:4;27:1
- e. Constant victory in life's battles Exd. 14:13; Ps. 68:19

CONCLUSION:

Dearly beloved, having known all these, it is important to note that it is not just enough to look unto Jesus because occasionally our gaze might be diverted by cares of this life & storms(like Peter), but it is absolutely necessary to hold on to the hand of Jesus Ps. 73:22-24



THE INHABITANTS OF GOD'S HOLY HILL

Text: Ps. 15, Isaiah 33:14-17

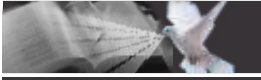
INTRODUCTION:

The inhabitant of a place are people who live in that place and their life is affected by what goes on there. The inhabitants of God's Holy Hill are people who will not be sick in any form and whose iniquity are forgiven. Isaiah 33:24. God Holy Hill is a place of meeting with God. Exodus 19:1-6.

WHO CAN INHABIT GOD'S HOLY HILL

This is a question that only the owner (Landlord) of the Hill can answer Ps15:1. People who will inhabit (Abide). These are people.

- (a) Who walk uprightly Ps. 15:2
- (b) Who work righteously Ps. 15:2
- (c) Who backbiteth not Ps. 15:3, Num. 16:3, 11 & 27-32.
- (d) Who does no evil to his neighbor
Ps. 15:3, I Sam. 19:1-2
- (e) Who take no reproach against his neighbor
Ps. 15:3, 1 Sam 1:6-7
- (f) Who speaks out against sin and confronts those who are doing it Ps. 15:4, Acts 5:1-10.
- (g) Who commends faithful followers of the Lord. Ps15:4, Ph. 2:25-30
- (h) Who are promise keeper. Ps 15:4, Jg. 11:31-35
- (i) Who does not crush those who own him money
Ps. 15:5



THE INHABITANTS OF GOD'S HOLY HILL (CONT.)

- (j) Who does not lie against the innocent.
1 Kings 5:21-22.

CONCLUSION

The visa for entry into God's Holy Hill has been examined. Do you have them?. If not pray that God will help you to qualify for His Holy Hill.



LIVING A CHRIST LIKE LIFE

Text: Matthew 5:38-48

INTRODUCTION:

Every human being has the choice to live his /her life in conformity to a particular person life who is his mentor. There are reward for every way of life either good or bad a person chooses to live. King Hezekiah live a David like life which please the Lord (2 Chro. 29:2) but some kings like Zimri, Omri and Ahab live a Jeroboam-like life which is evil in the sight of the Lord (1 Kings 16:17-18,30). Today, we will examine the **BEST** life someone live and the way you can live it.

1. CHRIST-LIKENESS

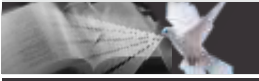
The road to perfection is by been Christ like and going the extra mile to do everything especially in service and love Matthew 25:1-13. It is knowing what your father does and doing it without changing. It is having the mind of Christ. Phil. 2:5.

2. WAYS YOU CAN BE CHRIST LIKE

1. To be Christ like in affection and compassion - 1 Peter 3:8, Mt 14:14-15, Mark 1:41, Mark 8:1-8
2. To be Christ like with unbeliever.- Luke 19: 1-7, John 4:6-30
3. To be Christ like with believers.
4. To be Christ like in loving God. - John 14:15.
5. To be Christ like in our conduct. - 1 Tim. 4:12.
- 6; To be Christ like in our worlds - James. 3:2, Prov 17:28.
- 7, To be Christ like in temptation. - Heb. 4:14-16, Matt. 4:1-11

CONCLUSION:

God want you to live a life that is Christ like which the world can read, feel, see and know that Christ truly lives in you. Hence, the world will be drawn near unto him for salvation and deliverance.

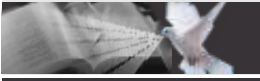


DIGGING DEEP CONTENTS

601-700

BIBLE STUDY
OUTLINE

LESSON 601	STUDIES IN JONAH	1
LESSON 602	KNOWING GOD'S WILL	2
LESSON 603	KNOWING GOD'S WILL (2)	3
LESSON 604	THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (1)	4
LESSON 605	THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (2)	5
LESSON 606	THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (3)	6
LESSON 607	THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (4)	7
LESSON 608	THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (5)	8
LESSON 609	THE CHOSEN OF THE LORD (6)	9
LESSON 610	STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS	10
LESSON 611	STEPS TO GREATNESS (1)	11
LESSON 612	STEPS TO GREATNESS (2)	12
LESSON 613	STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS	13
LESSON 614	TURNING ON THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING 1	14
LESSON 615	TURNING ON THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING (2)	15
LESSON 616	TURNING ON THE SHOWERS OF BLESSING (2b)	16
LESSON 617	A CALL TO RESTORATION	17
LESSON 618	IT IS TIME TO SHINE Part 1	18
LESSON 619	IT IS TIME TO SHINE (2)	20
LESSON 620	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 1)	21
LESSON 621	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 2)	22
LESSON 622	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 3)	23
LESSON 623	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 4)	24
LESSON 624	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 5)	25
LESSON 625	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 6)	26
LESSON 626	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 7)	27
LESSON 627	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 8)	28
LESSON 628	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 9)	29
LESSON 629	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 10)	30
LESSON 630	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 11)	31
LESSON 631	THE REJECTED VESSEL (Part 12)	32
LESSON 632	PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 2)	33
LESSON 633	PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 3)	34
LESSON 634	PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 4)	35
LESSON 635	PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 5)	36
LESSON 636	PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 6)	37
LESSON 637	PATHWAY TO VICTORIOUS LIVING (Part 7)	38
LESSON 638	PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD	39
LESSON 639	PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD (Part 2)	40
LESSON 640	PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD	41
LESSON 641	PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH GOD (Part 3)	42
LESSON 642	GOD'S HUSBANDRY	43
LESSON 643	GOD'S HUSBANDRY	44
LESSON 644	THE DAY OF EXAMINATION	45
LESSON 645	THE DAY OF EXAMINATION (Part 3)	46
LESSON 646	TEMPLE OF GOD (Part 1)	47
LESSON 647	TEMPLE OF GOD (Part 2)	48
LESSON 648	TEMPLE OF GOD (Part 3)	49
LESSON 649	TEMPLE OF GOD (Part 4)	50
LESSON 650	THE DAY OF RECKONING	51
LESSON 651	TEMPLE OF GOD (4)	52
LESSON 652	THE GODLY ATTITUDES	53



DIGGING DEEP CONTENTS

601-700

BIBLE STUDY
OUTLINE

LESSON 653	STUDY IN THE EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS	54
LESSON 654	THE GREAT COMMISSION	55
LESSON 655	THE LAW OF HARVEST	56
LESSON 656	GUARD YOUR HEART	57
LESSON 657	SPIRITUAL CHECK UP	58
LESSON 658	IT IS FINISHED	60
LESSON 659	DIVINE WISDOM	61
LESSON 660	THE GODLY ATTITUDES	62
LESSON 661	THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM	64
LESSON 662	SIN	65
LESSON 663	SIN (Part 2)	66
LESSON 664	BACK TO BETHEL (Part 1)	67
LESSON 665	BACK TO BETHEL (Part 2)	68
LESSON 666	STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY Part 1	69
LESSON 667	THE SERVANT OF GOD	70
LESSON 668	THE TWO WAYS TRAFFIC	72
LESSON 669	A HEART WITH IDOL (Part 1)	74
LESSON 670	A HEART WITH IDOL (Part 2)	75
LESSON 671	"LOVE NOT THE WORLD"	76
LESSON 672	THE GODLY ATTITUDES	78
LESSON 673	HAPPINESS	80
LESSON 674	OBEDIENCE THE POWER TO FULFILLMENT	81
LESSON 675	CRY FOR REVIVAL	83
LESSON 676	THE JESUS CONNECTION	85
LESSON 677	BIRTH RIGHT	87
LESSON 678	HEALING AND DELIVERANCE	89
LESSON 679	"OCCUPY TILL I COME"	91
LESSON 680	REKINDLING THE FIRE	93
LESSON 681	THE INHABITANTS OF GOD'S HOLY HILL	96
LESSON 682	OVERCOMING TEMPTATION	97
LESSON 683	HEAVENLY AFFECTION	98
LESSON 684	THE LORD KNOWETH HIS OWN	99
LESSON 685	VICTORIOUS CHRISTIANS LIVING: 1	101
LESSON 686	CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP	103
LESSON 687	LIVING A CHRIST- LIKE LIFE	105
LESSON 688	THE PROMISE LAND	106
LESSON 689	MAN & TEMPTATION	108
LESSON 690	DARE TO BE AN ACHIEVER	110
LESSON 691	ARE YOUR PRAYERS ALWAYS ANSWERED?	112
LESSON 692	IN HARMONY WITH GOD	114
LESSON 693	THE PLACE OF CHARACTER IN EVANGELISM	116
LESSON 694	ONE INDIVIDUAL USED BY GOD	118
LESSON 695	WALKING WITH GOD WHAT IT IS	120
LESSON 696	DECEIT AND DEFEAT	122
LESSON 697	"CHRISTIAN WARFARE WEAPONS"	124
LESSON 698	LOOKING UNTO JESUS	126
LESSON 699	THE INHABITANTS OF GOD'S HOLY HILL	127
LESSON 700	LIVING A CHRIST LIKE LIFE	129