DIGGING DEEP
1-100

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THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF GOD

DIGGING DEEP

Outlines

1-100

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LESSON 001

BLESSED IS THE MAN

Text: Psalms 1:1

INTRODUCTION

There is a difference between the meaning of the word "Blessing" and "types of blessings". What is the meaning of blessing? How many types of blessing do you know?

There are three categories of blessings:-

a) Physical
b) Soulish
c) Spiritual

A. PHYSICAL: include among others; Money, Servants, Cars, Buses, Animals, Wealth Etc. Genesis 24:35.

a. Health - Exodus 23:25
b. Large estate i.e. plenty of landed property - Isaiah 30:32
c. Large harvest or sufficient Income - Amos 9: 13
d. Ability to make money - Deuteronomy 8:18
e. Sound sleep - Psalms 127:2
f. Protection from enemies - Isaiah 25:4

B. SOULISH: blessing include among others:-

a. Honour, fame popularity, - I Kings 3: 13
b. Promotion - I Samuel 2:7 '
c. Rest of mind - Matthew 11 :28
d. Wisdom - Daniel 2:21, Ecclesiastes 2:26
Add yours

C. SPIRITUAL:

a. Glorious Name - Isaiah 56:4-5
b. Ability to know God - Jeremiah 24:7
c. A soft heart - Ezekiel 11: 19
d. The Holy Spirit and His gifts - Luke 11:13, I Cor. 12:4-20

e. Eternal Life - John 10:28
f. Spiritual crown - Revelation - 2:10
g. Hope - Provo 14:32, Heb. 6:18-19, Titus 2:13
h. Divine kingship - Revelation 1 :5-6
I. Answered Prayers - Psalms 91 :15, Isaiah 65:24.

CONCLUSION:

Now you know what blessings are. How can they be obtained? Psalms 1:1 says, "Blessed is the man. Do you wish to be blessed? Are you willing to meet God's conditions? Shall we pray?

LESSON 002

BLESSED IS THE MAN

Text: Psalms 1:1

INTRODUCTION

In the last week study we studied that there are three categories of blessings: (i) physical, (ii) soulish (i.e, pertaining to the minds) and (iii) spiritual. Can you recollect some of these blessings? In this study we want to know which of these blessings, physical, soulish or spiritual, belong to children of God.

A. PHYSICAL: physical blessings are for God's children.

(a.) Infact He intends for them to have the very best - Ps. 34:110, Ps.103:5

(b.) God also promised good health to His children - Deut. 7:15,Jere. 30:17, Exo. 23:25

B. SOULISH: Soulish blessings also belong to God's children.

(a) He want us to prosper physically and soulish - II John 1:2

(b) He wants us to have rest of mind - I Peter 5:7

(c) He is determined to give us all blessings - Matt. 6:31-33

C. SPIRITUAL:

(a) Not only are we expected to be blessed spiritually, we are even encouraged to be covetous where spiritual blessings are concerned - I Cor. 12:3

(b) We are told to strive strongly to improve spiritually- II Pet. 1 :5-7

Now that we know that these blessings are available to us, the next question is, how can these blessing be obtained?

A. PHYSICAL: physical blessings can be obtained by:-

(I) Letting the Lord dwell in your home - II Samuel 6:11
(II) Paying of tithes and offerings - Malachi 3:10
(III) Giving to others - Luke 6:38. - Add yours to the list.

B. SOULISH: Soulish blessings can be obtained by:-

(I) Studying the word of God - Proverbs 13: 18
(II) Following righteousness and mercy - Proverb 21 :21
(II) By humility - Prov.22:4
(IV) Serving God - John 12:26
(V) Praying - James 1 :5-6
(VI) Witnessing - John 15: 1-2
(VII) Abiding in Christ - John 15:7

C. SPIRITUAL: spiritual blessings can be obtained by:

(I) Living a Holy Life Isaiah 58:8-11
(II) By Faith Mark 9:23
(III) Trusting in the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ I Peter

CONCLUSION:

Now that you know that all these blessings are *available* for you as a chit of God and you know how to obtain them. God is willing to bless you you are willing to meet His conditions. Will you like to tell Him about yo decision now?

LESSON 003

THE UNGODLY, THE SINNER & THE SCORNFUL

Text: Psalms 1:1

INTRODUCTION:

We have learnt about various types of blessings and that these blessings are for God's children. However, Ps. 1: 1 states specifically that for a man to be blessed, he must avoid the company of 3 categories of people. Can you name them? Our first question tonight is.

1) **WHO ARE THE UNGODLY?**
Why is it dangerous to take the advice (counsel) of the ungodly? What do you think?
An ungodly man is someone who is not directed by God Rom. 8:14.
The advice of an ungodly man will therefore be dangerous because:
a) He will lean on his own understanding Proverbs 3:5
b) Yet his mind is reprobate i.e. he cannot think straight Rom 1 :28-32 .
c) If a man is not being directed by God, then he must be directed by Satan I John 3:8-10
d) In any case, an ungodly man cannot give a Godly advice Matt. 7:16-18.

2) **WHO IS A SINNER?** Job 25:4, Rom. 5:12. Who is nota sinner?
All those who have been washed in the blood of the lamb I John 1 :7.
If a man finds himself in the way of sinners, he should not stay or stand there but get out quickly. Why?
a) The way of sinners is darkness and sorrow - Prov. 4: 14-19
b) Their wicked ways will lead to their own destruction. Prov.1:10-19

3) **WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SCORNER?**
And therefore why must we avoid them? -
a) Pride - James4:6, I Peter 5:5
b) Lack of love - I John 4:7-8
c) They talk too much - Prov.3:33-34

d) God hates scorners - Provo 33:34
e) Scorners are fools - Prov.14:6,
therefore his reward is shame - Proverbs 3:35, judgment and stripes - Proverbs 19:29.

CONCLUSION:

Can you see now why a man who avoids the ungodly, the sinner and "the scornful will be blessed? Can you see why a man who mixes with them will be cursed? What do you want, blessings or curse? Won't you talk to God now to grant you the grace to be separated unto Him!

LESSON 004

THE SAINTS

Psalms 1: 1-2

INTRODUCTION

That single name describes the man who satisfies the conditions of Psalms 1:1? What is the meaning of THE in "the man"? We are told in the last study that the scornful talks too much, is it his fault in view of James 3: 8? What can a man do to tame his tongue? These and other questions will start to engage our attention as from today.

The man who satisfies the conditions of Psalms1:1 is godly, not a sinner, not scornful i.e. not proud, has love and has mastered his tongue. He can be called holy, righteous or SAINT.

God uses " THE " instead of "A" or "ANY" in " the man" just to bring to us the fact that God differentiate between man and man Prov. 16:5

Despite James 3:8 one who talks too much will bear the burden of his foolishness Matthew 12:36; Proverb 18:7, therefore, watch your tongue Proverb 17: 27-28. But how can a man tame his tongue? By praying in tongues frequently. That means surrendering the tongue to the Holy Spirit.

1. According to Psalms 1: 2, what benefits does a saint get?
   a. He enjoys studying the word (or law) of God 2 Tim. 2:15
   b. He enjoys applying them in his life James 1: 22-25
   c. Therefore his life is directed by the laws of God Joshua. 1: 7-8
   d. Therefore he meditates on these laws day and night so that he could understand them more and make them his model or standard of perfection
2. Why does he do these things? What benefits does he get as a result?
   a. He does not wish to offend God. Ps 119: 11
   b. He wishes to gain knowledge of God, wisdom and understanding

Eph. 3:4; rev. 1:3; Prov.9: 9-10

c. So that false prophets and teachers will not be able to lead him astray 2 Peters 2: 1-3.

3. How can I become a saint?
   By becoming nothing. Gal 2: 20; Ps. 116:15; Gal 6:14

CONCLUSION:

A saint is a blessed person indeed, but to become a saint involves a total surrender to Jesus Christ. Philip. 3: 7-11. Do you want to be a saint? Then, tell Jesus about it now.

LESSON 005

THE TREE BY THE RIVER SIDE

Psalms 1: 3

INTRODUCTION:

We have learnt that any one who satisfies the conditions of Psalms 1:1 could be called a saint and he will richly be blessed. In fact, his blessing had been compared in Psalms 1:3 to those of a tree planted by the riverside. Can you name some of the blessings you think a tree by the riverside will have?

(a) Abundant supplies of water
(b) Nothing to worry about even in dry seasons
(c) It will always be gloriously green
(d) It will produce plenty of fruits
(e) It will in turn provide shade for animals, birds and the river itself Add yours to the list.

1. DO YOU THINK COMPARISON BETWEEN A BLESSED SAINT AND A TREE BY THE RIVERSIDE IS AN APPROPRIATE ONE? IF YES, IN WHAT WAYS?

The comparison is appropriate in the following ways

(a) The saint will always be glorious Col. 1:27;
(b) The saint will have abundant supply of all His needs Phil 4:19;
(c) The saint will have nothing to worry about Mt 6: 25-33
(d) The saint will always be fruitful Ps 128: 1-6
(e) The saint is blessing to others around him Mat. 5: 13-16 and a source a blessing to God tool 1 Cor. 3:9.

2. IN HOW MANY WAYS CAN WE OBTAIN FRUITS? HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO A SAINT?

(a) By planting our own trees
(b) By inheriting trees planted by others Deut. 6: 10-12 and
(c) By grafting Rom 11: 17-18. Now a saints is grafted by the Lord Jesus Christ Pr.52: 8-9 that is why He is able to stand Mt. 15: 13.

3. **WHAT DOES "RIVER" STAND FOR IN SPIRITUAL TERMS?**
"River" is a symbol of spiritual blessings. Can you think of other interpretations? Ps. 36:8, Ps. 46:1-4, Rev. 22:1-2.

4. **WHAT ARE· THE CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THESE BLESSINGS AND BEARING FRUITS?**
(a) Obedience Isa 1 :19, Isa. 48:17-19,
(b) Continuous contact with the 'River' - John 15:5
(c) Understanding of things spiritual - Matt. 13:23
(d) Death of the old life - John 12:24
(e) Constant correction (trimming) by God - John 15:2.

5. **IS IT POSSIBLE TO REMAIN FRUITFUL TILL THE END O F ONE'S LIFE?** Jere. 17:7-8, Ps. 92:12-14, Deut. 34:7.
All these passages confirm that the answer is yes.

6. **WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR REMAINING FOREVER FRUITFUL?**
a) Complete severance from sin and idols Hosea 14:8
b) Continuous waiting on the Lord Isaiah 40:31 ,
II Corinthians 5.

CONCLUSION:
Would you love to be like a tree by the Riverside? Are you willing to meet God's conditions? If you are willing, God is also willing. Talk to Him now.

LESSON 006

THE CHAFF

Psalms 1:4

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study we learnt that a saint could be compared to a tree planted by the riverside. What a wonderful comparison. On the other hand, in our study today, the sinner is compared to the chaff. What a terrible comparison. So you know what the chaff is?

1. BY WHAT OTHER NAMES ARE THE UNGODLY COMPARED?

a. Children of the wicked one or tares mat. 13:38
b. Children of the devil John 8:44
c. Enemy of all righteousness. Act 13:10
d. Whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, boasters, covenant breakers, Rom. 1:28-31. Can think of some other names for sinners?

2. TO WHAT ELSE ARE THE UNGODLY COMPARED?

a. Job 21:17-20; Weak candle light, stubble, chaff.
b. Isa. 17:12-24; Chaff, a rolling thing before the whirlwind.
c. Hos. 13:1-3; morning cloud, early dew that passes away smoke out of the chimney
d. Mat. 3:11-12 ; Chaff to be burnt with unquenchable fire.

3. WHY ARE SINNERS COMPARED TO CHAFF, STUBBLE, MORNING CLOUD, EARLY DEW, SMOKE ETC?

Because they always die before their time.

a. Job. 22:15-16; Sinners are cut down before their time
b. Ps. 37:37-38; Sinners are destroyed, they are cut off.
c. Ps. 55:23; Sinners don't live out half their days.
d. Prov. 10:27; The years of sinners are shortened.
e. Ecc. 7:17; The wicked and the foolish always die before their time

4. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SINNERS DIES IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIFE?

a. II Chor. 21:16-20; They die in disgrace and despised.
b. Jer. 22:18-19; Sinners die unlamented.
c. Eze. 7:9-10; When sinners die there are no genuine mourners, no genuine sorrow.

5. WHY IS IT THAT SINNERS DIE UNMOURNED?

a. Deut. 29:24-28; Because it is God who got annoyed with them so that their death is more of surprise than sorrow.
b. II Chor 7:19:22; Because it is God who plucked them out by the root. Their destruction is always so completed that they become as astonishment.
c. Ps. 52:3-7; when the righteous sees the complete destruction of the seemingly indestructible sinner he cannot really mourn.
d. Since their roots are also destroyed who shall remain to mourn? Prov. 2:22 Mat. 15:13

6. BUT GOD IS LOVE. Can such a gentle Father destroy so completely? II Pet. 3:3-10, Rom. 1:18.

CONCLUSION:

God is love, no doubt it at all. But He is a holy God and He does not tolerate sin. Also He has made adequate provision for freedom from sin and destruction through Jesus Christ. The question now is what are you? The tree by the riverside or the chaff? Which will you like to be? It is time to pray.

LESSON 007

THE END OF THE UNGODLY

Psalms 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study we learnt that a sinner can be compared to the chaff, stubble, morning cloud, early dew, smoke and other worthless things, because their joys do not last, they are down before their time. This week, we shall learn more about the end of sinners. Before we start however, is there any difference between sinners and backsliders? Prov. 21:16.

1. WHERE IS THE LAST HOME OF SINNERS?
What is their fate for refusing Christ?

a. Mat. 13:41-42; Eternal Fire
b. Mat. 25:41; Everlasting Fire
c. Mark 6:11; Severe Judgement
d. Mat. 7:23; Christ Himself will disown them.

2. CAN SINNERS ACCUSE GOD OF BEING TOO HARSH IN HIS JUDGEMENT?

a. Proverb 1: 24-31,
b. Isaiah 65:12,
c. Hosea 9:17,
d. Jeremiah 7:15-16
Sinner have no excuse against God.

3. BUT GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL AND HE IS THE ALMIGHTY.
Why doesn't He use His power to prevent anyone from going to such dreadful place as eternal fire?

a. Mark 9:43-48
b. John 5:28-29
c. Isaiah 52:11
d. Ephesians 5:11
e. II Thessalonians 3:6. All these are some of the various warnings

that God gave to all. Can you still blame God since some people insist on perishing?

4. **There are many wicked things being done today by sinners** e.g. armed robbery, even highly placed people. Why is God not doing something quickly about it?
   a. II Peter 2:9
   b. II Peter 3:7
   c. Luke 13:7-9
   d. Proverb 11:21
   e. Amos 5:18-19
   f. Amos 9:2
   g. I Thessalonians 5:3
   h. Hebrew 2:3
   I. Hebrew 12:25-29

Sinners are reserved unto judgement. Also God is waiting for them to repent. But the judgement is inevitable.

5. **Will all sinners suffer exactly the same punishment?** Is hell uniformly hot?
   a. Luke 12:41-48
   b. John 9:41
   c. John 15:22

Punishment will vary according to the priviledges available to each sinner.

6. **Many sinners seem to be getting rich and powerful in the world today. What is God doing by allowing the wicked to prosper while some holy ones remain poor?**
   a. Psalms 37:1-2,10
   b. Psalms 92:7
   c. Psalms 73:11-19
   d. Psalms 75:5

Don't envy sinners even when they seem to prosper. Their end is terrible and they drink deep of the cup of the wrath of God.

7. **Some people talk of purgatory where a sinner can suffer a little and then released.** How true is that?

   (a) Isa. 30:12-14
   (b) Pro. 6:12-15
   (c) Pro. 29:1

The destruction of sinners is total, never partial. And it is sudden too, not gradual. Total and sudden in the sense that "once in hell, for ever in hell"

8. **Won't God exempt Pastors, prophets etc. who serve is God and still sin?**

   a. Jer. 23:9-12
   b. Eze. 34:1-10

   No exception at all.

CONCLUSION:

Now that you know that any unrepentant sinner is doomed forever and that there is no purgatory and no exceptions at all what do you think the future holds in store for you or that unrepentant member of your family? Pray about it now.

LESSON 008

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

Psalm 1:5-6

INTRODUCTION:

In the parable of the wheat and the tares, Matthew 13:24-30, the Lord compared the saint to the wheat and the sinners to tares. Can there be tares? Can there be tares even in Gospel Churches? How can we know the difference between the wheat and the tares? Can you list major differences?

1. **On the final Day of Judgement, won't some sinners be able to dodge in and mix with the saints?**
   a. Matthew 13:47-49 - if they dodge in they will be picked out
   b. Matthew 25:31-33 - Goats differ from sheep any day
   c. Luke 16:19 - There is a mighty gulf of separation
   d. Luke 17:34-36 - Even a wife may be separated from the husband or a husband from the wife.

2. **While we are still in this world, how can one know if he belongs to the wheat or to the tares?** Joshua 7:11-22, Isaiah 59:1-2, Hosea 5:6, II Thessalonians 2:11-12, Psalms 66:18, Isaiah 65:7. God ignores the tares, refuses to have any fellowship with them and refuses to answer their prayers. Are your prayers being answered? Are you enjoying a warm fellowship with God? Do you look forward to prayer time with joy?

3. **How does God distinguish between the wheat and the tares in this present life?** Proverbs 10:6-7, Proverbs 10:25, Proverbs 11:5-8, Proverbs 13:21-22, Proverbs 14:32, Proverbs 14:32, Proverbs 15:8-9, Romans 2:9-10, Proverbs 11:3 God distinguishes between the wheat and tares in this present life by blessing the wheat and curse the tares. There is nothing like good luck or bad luck in this world but only blessings and curses. Which are you receiving?

4. **What is to be the attitudes of the wheat to the tares, particularly the tares in the church of God?** What is the difference between worshipping together and fellowshipping? Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 5:9-11, II Thessalonians 3:6, I Timothy 3:1-7, Galatians 6:5, I John 1:6-7. Saints are to be separated from unholy brethren in the church we can worship together but saints don't really fellowship with sinners. One of the reasons for this being that evil communication corrupts good manners. Another reason being that light and darkness don't really mix.

5. **What is to be the attitudes of the wheat to the tares that are outside the church?** Ezekiel 33:1-9, Ezekiel 3:17-21, Galatians 6:1. It is the duty of the saints to warn the sinners of the danger ahead but the saints themselves must be very firmly grounded on the Rock so as not to be dragged into the pit of sin.

CONCLUSION:

From the distinctions between the wheat and the tares enumerated above, what do you think you are? Wheat or tare? Particularly now that you know that there may be tares even in the Gospel churches. Are you wheat or tare? Examine yourself if you be in faith and talk to God about it now.

LESSON 009

GOD KNOWS HIS OWN

Psalms 1:6

INTRODUCTION:

In a world consisting of millions upon millions of people how is it possible for God to differentiate good people from bad? How can He know those in Africa and at the same time those in America, Europe, India, China, the near and far East? What type of brain has He? Isaiah 40:28 answer these questions. But there are other questions.

1. **HOW INTIMATELY DOES GOD KNOW HIS OWN?**
   a) John 10:3 - He knows them by their individual names
   b) John 1:48 - Even in the offices or farms.
   c) Nahum 1:7 - Also in the time of trouble.
   What conclusions can we draw from I Corinthians 8:3, II Timothy 2:19-20. Does he knows the sinners too? Amos 9:3, Zephaniah 1:12, Jeremiah 17:10

2. **HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT HE KNOW THAT HE KNOWS YOU AND RECONGNISES YOU AS HIS OWN?**
   I John 2:3-5, I John 3:4, I John 3:24, I Jon 4:13, I John 5:9, John 15:14. If we find it easy to obey His commandment and find pleasure in doing it, then we can have the witness in us that He knows us as His own. Also a deep love towards all His children is another determining factor.

3. **WHO ELSE KNOWS THE SAINTS AS SPECIAL PEOPLE OF GOD?** Act 19:15, Act 16:16-16-18. All evil spirits recognize saints for what they are.

4. **HOW DO SAINTS KNOW THEMSELVES?** How can you recognize a true child of God if you meet one? Ps. 119:63, Malachi 3:16 Acts. 2:4, I John 1:17, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:17. All true children of

God, enjoy fellowshipping together and live a holy and blameless life.

5. IF I WANT TO BECOME A SAINT WHAT MUST I DO?

What benefits are mine if I become someone who is recognized by God as His own? Psalms 34:18, Acts 17:27, Psalms 145:18, Psalms 16:8, Genesis 25:24, Revelation 3:4, If you want to become a saint the first thing is to be truly sorry for your sins and humbly come to God for forgiveness. When you become accepted of Him there is hope of eternal life and eternal glory for you.

CONCLUSION:

How glorious is it to walk with Jesus! How wonderful to be recognized as a friend by God Almighty when even the state Governor does not know you! Imagine the glory of one day dinning with the King of kings and Lord of Lords! And all it takes is to live a holy life! Is that too great a price to pay! Are you willing to pay the price? Talk to Him about it now.

LESSON 010

ACCESS TO GOD

Text: Psalms 15:1

INTRODUCTION:

While Psalms 1 compares and contrasts saints and sinners and specified God's conditions for obtaining blessings, Psalms 15 deals mainly with the conditions for obtaining blessings and gaining access to God. So many questions comes to ones mind as we meditate on Psalms15. One of them is:

Can God, who fills the heaven, be localized or restricted to a particular spot at any given time? What do you think? Deuteronomy 12:11 should give you an insight.

1. **How can I gain access into God's presence?**
   Through whom can I book an appointment? Ps. 24:3-4, Isa. 26:2, John 10:9, Romans 5:1:2, Ephesians 3:11-12. Access is limited to the holy and the truthful. Appointments can be booked only through Jesus Christ.

2. **If I am not satisfied with merely gaining access to Him, how canl get real close to Him?**
   Psalms 34:18, Psalms 145:18, Acts. 17:27, James 4:8, Hebrews 10:22. The conditions for nearness to God are (i) a repentant and humble heart, (ii) calling on God in truth, (ill) seeking Him earnestly, (iv) sanctification and (v) a clean conscience.

3. **How can I have a good conscience?**

4. **What benefits are there in being near to God? .**
   Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 20:1, Isa. 43:2, Ps. 23:4. Some of the benefits are:

(i) Mind,
(ii) Courage in life's battles,
(iii) Security in times of peril, and
(iv) Fearlessness even in the face of death.

5. **If God has a sacred place in my home or heart, What do I gain?**
Joshua18:1, II Corinthians 6:17-18. My opponents will be subdued before me and God will be father at-home to me.

6. **But is it desirable to move close to holy God?**
Isaiah 6: 1-5. How can I be near without being uncomfortable? Isaiah 6:6-8. God's perfect holiness will reveal my extreme rottenness if I move near Him but If I am cleansed and covered in the blood of His Son, I can be near to Him as I wish.

CONCLUSION:
Do you wish to be near God? Are you clean enough to gain access to His holy presence?' Or would you rather stay away from Him? How about talking to Him now?

LESSON 011

CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY TO HEAVEN

Text: Psalms 15:2

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study in our deep examination of Psalms 15: 1, we discovered conditions for gaining access to God. In this study, we wish to examine the conditions for entry to heaven as specified in Psalms 15:2. How many conditions are specified here? Why are they crucial?

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1. WHY MUST BE UPRIGHT?

What exactly is the meaning of uprightness? What rewards are there in being steadfastly holy? Psalm 24:4, Matthew 5:8, Job 22:30, Proverbs 4:18, II Samuel 23:3-4, Proverbs 2:7, Psalms 37:18, Proverbs 2:21, Ps. 37:9-27. Uprightness means having clean hands (don't give and don't receive bribes, don't write destructive letters/cammendatians, watch your hand, particularly behind lacked doors, don't steal, be careful haw you fill those tax farms and mileage claim etc., pure heart (no. bitterness are hatred, no. sinful intentions lurking there, no. ungodly 'ambitions, no. unforgiving spirit etc.) walking according to. the commandments of God, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, of course, the steadfastly holy shall inherit the land since no. one having put his hand an the plough and lacking back is fit far the kingdom of Gad.

2. WHY IS RIGHTEOUSNESS SO CRUCIAL?

Why must I be righteous? Can you give same reasons? Joshua 10:12, Proverbs 11:17-18, Galatians 6:7-8, Psalms 34:15, 17, Psalms 34: 19. To. be righteous means *to.* be holy. Whatever you saw is what you reap. This is the unchangeable law of harvest. If you sow righteousness you reap mercy, the reward of truth. Your prayers are answered; you are delivered from all sorts of troubles and inherit eternal life.

3. WHY MUST I TELL THE TRUTH ALWAYS?

Can't I tell white lies, that is lies told that no. one is injured as a result? Psalms 26:7, Psalms 51:6, Ephesians 4:25, Proverbs 12:19, Proverbs 23:23. Truth is very precious in the sight of the Lord because He himself is the Truth. Just as He stands sure farever, everyone who. tells the truth always will also. stand forever.

CONCLUSION:

How can I remain standing (upright, steadfastly and holy) through life without ever slipping, with without falling? Is it enough just to. look onto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith? It is not enough to just look onto Jesus because occasionally our gaze might be diverted by "storms" or material pursuits. It is absolutely necessary to hold an the hand of Jesus. Psalms 73:22-24.

Will you like to call on Him tonight to hold your hand as He held the hand of Peter as you walk on the ocean of life?

LESSON 012

WATCH THAT TONGUE OF YOURS

Text: Psalms 15:3

INTRODUCTION:

The road to heaven is very narrow. Very few people ultimately get there. However, we are determined to make it and we pray that you will make it- also. But one of the greatest weapons of Satan in preventing you from getting there could be your tongue as Psalms 15:3 clearly shows. Why do you think this is the case?

1. **WITH WHAT IS THE TONGUE COMPARED?**
   Can you mention some good comparison? Ps. 5:9, Romans 3:1~-14, Psalms 140:3, Psalms 58:1-5, Psalms 57:4, Proverbs 30:4, Psalms 140:3, Psalms 55:21, Proverbs 5:3-4, James 3:6, Proverbs 1.6:27. The mouth of a sinner is likened to the graveyard and the poison of the tongue to that of a serpent, and deaf serpents for that matter. The tongue is also compared to a sharp sword and even to fire! This is particularly true of smooth-talking liars.

2. **WHY IS THE TONGUE DESCRIBED SO BADLY?**
   Why is it likened to such terrible things as the poison of a serpent, a sharp sword and fire? Can you give some reasons?
   Psalms 73:8-9, Psalms 10:7, Matt. 15:11, James 3:4-5, Psalms 53:1. The tongue is compared to terrible and destructive things because of the havoc that an uncontrolled tongue can cause. Evil words cause hardships and pain, wickedness and vanity are associated with the tongue and as small as small as the tongue is, it is extremely dangerous because it is what a sinner employs while denying God.

3. WHAT DANGERS ARE THERE FOR ANYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTROL HIS/HER TONGUE?

Why is it that those whose tongues are not controlled are heading for hell? Give some reasons.

Leviticus 19:16, Exodus 22:16, Psalms 12:3-4, Matthew 12:31-32, God forbids the misuse of the tongue like tale-bearing, lying, deceit, false witnessing and flattering. Moreover, the unforgivable sin can only be committed through the tongue.

4. IF YOU WANT TO REACH HEAVEN, HOW MUCH YOU USE YOUR TONGUE MATTERS.

Give some suggestions. Psalms 51 :14, Psalms 35:28, I Thess. 5:17, sing praises always to the Lord and speak of His truth at all times. Pray without ceasing.

CONCLUSION:

Where will you spend eternity, in heaven or in hell? If it is in heaven, then do something about that tongue of yours. Employ it in praising the Lord always. Shall we praise Him now?

LESSON 013

HOLD GOD IN HOLY REFERENCE

Text: Psalms 15:4

INTRODUCTION:

As we continue in our examination of the conditions for entry into heaven, we find listed in Psalms 15:4 the following conditions:

i. We are to hate sin
ii. Despise those who indulge in sins
iii. Pay our vows and keep our promises.

Why do you think that conditions (i) and (ii) are crucial?

1. **WHAT ARE SAINTS EXPECTED TO HATE?** How do you know a man who fears the Lord? How do you know a holy man and a wise man? Psalms 103:1-3, Psalms 119:104, Psalms 1 :2, Psalms 119:113, Proverbs 8:7, Proverbs 9:10, II Peter 2:5-8. Saints must hate sin, falsehood, lies, slander even vain (unproductive) thought, i.e. daydreaming. A man who fears the Lord, who is a wise man, hates sins and a holy man is 'known by the fact that he has sorrows and expresses it when others sin.

2. **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RESPECT AND REVERENCE?** Why must we revere God?
   Matthew 5:48, Hebrews 12: 14, Ephesians 5:5, Isaiah 11 :4, Job 4:9, Job 12:10, Psalms 51:1:1,4. The difference between respect and reverence is that reverence equals respect plus fear. We reference God because of His holiness, power, mercy, faithfulness and love.

HIS POWER: We revere God because He has the power to destroy but refair from doing so, He has absolute power but never uses it to the detriment of man Ezekiel 33: 11.

HIS MERCY: Suppose a judge finds you guilty of a serious offence, cautions you out of mercy and sets you free. Will you ever like tc appear before such ajudge again as an offender? Romans 3:3-6.

HIS FAITHFULNESS: A faithful person is automatically rigid, unchangeable. When He says He will do good He stands by it, when He says He will do otherwise, He stands b/'it also, Isaiah 45:23, Ezekiel 12:28.

HIS LOVE: Have you ever heard of love so great that a man lays down His life for His enemies? How can anyone dare offend such a friend and go unpunished? Songs of Solomon 8:6.

CONCLUSION:

Have you been giving God His sure place in your life, your business and your home? He deserves first place in all things. If you have not surrender all to Him, you will not be able to reign with Him. Will you like to talk to Him now about your own decision to make Him pre-eminent in your life?

LESSON 014

VOWS SACRED, USURY FORBIDDEN

Text: Psalms 15:4-5

INTRODUCTION:

What is a vow? In brief, a vow is a promise either made to God directly or to a man with God as a witness. Vows are therefore very sacred. I is a promise no one dares fail to fulfill. What is usury? Usury means lending out money with interest.

1. **HOW IMPORTANT ARE VOWS?** Can we defer to pay our vows? Under what conditions can vows be nullified? Number 30:9, Deut. 23:21, Matt. 5:23, Acts 17:30-31, Eccl. 5:4-5, Number 30:3-8, Number 30:9. Vows are extremely sacred and we must pay them quickly. We must rot defer payment till a convenient time. A father can nullify vows df his unmarried daughter and husband can nullify the vows of his wife, but a widow and a divorcee will be held responsible for their vows.;,

2. **WHY IS GOD SO PARTICULAR ABOUT PAYING YOUR VOWS?** Psalms 119:89, Genesis 3:15, John 16:33, Jeremiah 1 :19, John 15:7, John 14:2-3. God expects His children to be like Him. When He makes a promise He will never change. He will fulfill His promise. There are many vows He made, some of which are already fulfilled, some of which are being daily fulfilled and some yet to be fulfilled. Can you name some more in each category?

3. **ARE YOU PERMITTED TO LEND MONEY WITH INTEREST?** Can we save in the Bank and collect interest? What is the difference between the two? Lev.15:35-37, Exodus 22:25, Ezek. 22: 12, Luke 19:23, Proverbs 22:22-23, Proverbs 88:8, Deut. 24:19-21. Lending out money with interest is strictly forbidden by God. Of course you can put money in the bank and collect interest thereon. The difference is that the bank uses your money to trade and gives you only a fraction of the gain, but does not expect you to make profit out of the need of others who come to you for help in their time of need.

4. I**s there any danger in getting rich quickly,** particulary by method that are not completely clean? Should a Christian underpay his employees? What if the employees are lazy? Jeremiah 17: 11, Proverbs 21 :6: Isaiah 28: 15-18; Jeremiah 22: 13, Proverbs 16:8. Prosperity by deceit leads to death. Never underpay your employees. It is better to be cheated than to cheat.

CONCLUSION:

Have you a vow that. you have 'hot paid? Don't delay. Have you cheated in giving loan or interest? Ask God for mercy now

LESSON 015

LOAN, GIFTS AND BRIBERY

Text: Palms 15:5

INTRODUCTION

In the last study we learnt that a child of God must pay his vows at all cost and should not export another person either by giving loan with interest or by underpaying his employees. Today, we want to talk about loan, gifts, bribery as they affect God's children.

1. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT GOD LOANED TO US?

Can you name some of them? Is death the end of everything? Why must a Christian avoid wasting of time? Proverbs 27:1, Luke12:19, Ephesians 5:15-16, Psalms 90:12, James 4:13-14, Isaiah 57:16 Ecclessiates12:7. Everything we have is loaned to us by God including our time, life, soul and even the breath we breath. Death is surely not the end of everything and we must watch the way we spend these things loaned to us because we shall render an account one day of the Giver.

2. WHAT IS GOD'S STAND ON BRIBERY?

What about gifts, are we encouraged to receive all gifts? Does God accept gifts? Amos 5:12, Isaiah 33:15-17, Exodus 23:8, Deut.10:17, Deut.16:19, James.2:9, Proverbs 28:21, Ezekiel 13:19, Deut.25, II Chr. 19:7, Psalms 22:3, Ps. 99:9, Ps. 33:1-3, John 4:24. Bribery is absolutely forbidden and not all gifts are acceptable either. This is because not all gifts are sincere and many have perverted justice because of gifts. Not all gifts are acceptable to God and in fact the only gift that God will certainly not refuse is praise.

CONCLUSION

Beware of gifts. Don't give brides and don't accept it either. Learn to praise God always **Psalms 89:6.** Will you like to praise Him now.

LESSON 016

THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR HEAVEN

Text: Palms 15:5

INTRODUCTION

Psalms15:1 asks a question: "Who shall enter heaven"? Ps.15:2-5 supplies the answer to his crucial question. Many qualifications are listed and by now you should know whether or not you qualify for heaven, if you do, praise the Lord, if you not, call on the only one who can make you qualify, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. **Who are those who cannot be moved** according to Ps.15:5? Rom.2:13, James.1:22-25, John.13:17 live for ever and be immovable are those who know what is required of them as listed in Ps.15: and Do them. That is not hearers only, but those who put into practice what they have learnt.

2. **Can you give some reasons why saints are immovable?** Ps.40:2, Ps.27:5, Ps.31:20, Job.5:19-24, Ps.33:18-19, Job.31:4, Eze. 9:4-6, Dan.7:27, Heb.13:5-6, Ps.55:22, Ps.37:5, I Pet.5:7, Ps.37:24, Prov.24:26, Ps.146:8, Ps.147:6.

   The reasons why saints are immovable and eternal are very many. Some of them are these; Their feet are planted firmly on the rock of ages, they are hidden in time of trouble, their steps are controlled by God Himself, since they are going to be joint-rulers with the one whose kingdom is eternal, they have to be eternal themselves. God is their helper so that even if they slip and fall God will raise them up again, they also have learnt the secret of trusting the Lord thereby casting their burdens on Him, including the burden of how to get heaven, and lastly, God loves them and those whom the Lord loves cannot perish.

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ said that not all who call him Lord, Lord, would enter the kingdom of heaven only those who do what? Are you willing to do the will of God? Then you will never be moved. But are you willing to be doers also and not hearers only? Why not talk to Jesus about it now?

LESSON 017

IN THE BEGINNING

Text: John 1: 1

INTRODUCTION

The Gospel according to Saint John is loved by many as the gospel that records (i) The origin of Jesus Christ Jn.1:1,14; (ii) The doctrine of the new birth John 3:13. (iii) The great and the universal love of God Jn.3:16 and (iv) Many speeches of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin to dig deep into the first chapter of this wonderful book, may the Almighty Himself quicken our understanding as we open our hearts to the Light of His Word. Amen.

1. **Is the beginning of Jn.1:1 the same as that of Gen.1:1?**
   Give reasons for your answers. To which two events do the passages refer? Gen.1:9,11,12,20 and Gen.1:16,21, Prov.8:22-30. The beginning of John.1:1 is earlier than the beginning of Gen.1:1. One refers to the origin of God. The other to the origin of man.

2. **(a) Has God a beginning? Hebrew 7:1-3**
   (b) Has He an end? Isaiah 9:6 and Malachi 3:6, Heb.13:8. God is eternal, without beginning or end.

3. **(a) What other things are eternal?**
   Ecclesiastes 12:7, Psalms102:26, Proverbs 27:20;
   (b) What is your origin? Genesis 2:7. Some of the things eternal are you, the generation of the righteous, heaven and of course hell. You originated from God.

4. **Can we know some of the things that happened in the beginning?** What of those that happened in the beginning of the beginning?

(a) Heb.1:10, Ps.102:25, Job.38:4-7, (b) Rom.16:25-26, Eph.3:1-6, Eph.3:8, Col.1:25,26. In the beginning God drew the plans and laid

the foundation of the world and there was great rejoicing in heaven. In the beginning of the beginning God arranged a mysterious thing and kept it hidden for ages. The mystery being that (i) There will be Jews and Gentiles (ii) Gentiles (i.e. you) can be heirs of God. (iii) to have Christ is to be unspeakable rich and (iv) only those who have Christ shall be glorified.

5. **How many beginnings are there?**
John 3: 3-6, Acts 2: 1-4, Isaiah 65: 17-25. There are many beginnings among which are when you are born, when you are saved, when the church of God was born and when Christ returns.

CONCLUSION

The return of Christ begins a new era of unsurpassed joy and peace for the Christians. Unfortunately not all be in His kingdom for many are called but few chosen. Will you be among the chosen few or will His return be the beginning of sorrow for you? Talk to the Lord about it now.

LESSON 018

THE WORD

Text: John 1:1

INTRODUCTION

In the last study we began the study of John.1:1 with a detailed look at "In the Beginning" From that study. It was evident that God has loved us from the beginning John 3: 16 and has prepared an inheritance for us. Praise His holy name. Now we wish to look at "The word" May the word himself speak to our hearts tonight in His Name. Amen.

1. Who is the Word? (b) How can we explain that Jesus is the Son of God? (c) How do we account for the Holy Spirit in the Trinity? How then is Jesus equal to the Holy Spirit? (a) John 1: 14, 1 John 5: 7; (b) John.6:63, Ps.119:50, Jesus is the Word of God and a man is known by His words. The Holy Spirit is the Breath of God and both the Holy Spirit and the Word quickens. The word and the Holy Spirit are the same.

2. (a) Can God's Word change? (b) Isa.40:8. Why not if not? (c) Give some of His Unchangeable Words. (a) Isa.40:8, (b) Isa.9:6, Heb. 13:8, Isa.53:5, Acts.1:8, John.9:31, God's Word cannot change because Christ, the Word, changes not and is Eternal. Some of His unchangeable Words are that we are already healed, the Holy Ghost is available for us to empower us and sinner's prayers will not be answered unless they repent.

3. (a) What are some of the results of the facts that "the Word was with God from beginning" (b) How can we know the mysteries of God? (How do we know that Holy Spirit loves Jesus? (d)How can we demonstrate our love for the Word? (a) John 14:8-11, John.9:4, John.14:24, Mat.11:27, John.17:25, John.3:35, John17,26 (b)Amos.3:7, John.15:15, I Cor.2:9-10, (b) John.14:21, Mat.5:16, John.15:8, John.4:24.

4. (a) The outcome of the Word being with God from the beginning includes: (a) intimacy in outlook, in works and words; (b) deep and total knowledge of each other and (c) deep love and a trust of each other.

   We can know the mysteries of God by (I) revelation, (ii) nearness to Christ, the Word, and (iii) through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We know that the Holy Spirit loves Christ because He glorifies Him. We too can demonstrate our love for Christ by keeping His commandments and glorify Him.

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Word; the Word is life and spirit. The Word knows everything about the Father and reveals deep mysteries of God to man. And you know that the Word loves you, but do you love the Word? Do you glorify Him in your words, thoughts and deeds? World you love to start doing so from now on?

LESSON 019

THE WORD OF GOD

Text: John 1:1

INTRODUCTION

In the past two studies we have been digging deep into John1:1. That we come again to look into John.1:1 this week which reveals to us once again the unchangeable riches hidden in the Word of God, even in a single verse. We already know some of the things that happened in the beginning of beginnings, who the Word is. Now comes the great statement. The WORD WAS GOD!

1. **How can we show that Jesus Christ, the Word, and God are the same?** Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, Isaiah 43:11-12, Revelation 1:8, John.17:5, lCor.1:24, Col.2:2-3. They bear the same Name and have the same glory the same wisdom and knowledge.

2. **Can you give some instances when God appeared in Word-Form?** Exodus 3:3-4, I Kings 19:12-13, Act. 3:3-4. Some of the instances are (i) in the burning bush, (ii) on mount Horeb and (iii) on the road to Damascus.

3. **Do you consider "the Word" and appropriate description of God? If yes, why? And if not? Why not?** Job.23:8-9, Job.11:7, Deut.32:39, Yes, the Word is an appropriate description of God. The Word is inexhaustible and God is infinite. The Word is invisible, so is God. The Word is a mystery and God is unreachable. All great decisions are expressed or executed by the written or spoken word the word comes from the hidden parts of man and God knows even the hidden thoughts of man. The Word fills the world and still resides in man, so is God.

CONCLUSION

Now that we have seen why God chose the little "the word" there remains one pertinent question: how can we walk with an unseen friend? Gen.6: 9 gives us the clue. Do you want to walk with God? Are you determined to live a perfect life? Let us talk to the "Word" about it.

LESSON 020

THE SAME WORD

Text: John 1: 2

INTRODUCTION

In our deliberation on John.1:1. we discovered some of the hidden truths of God. We found for example that why God chose the title "THE WORD" is that though we may not see Him, we can still walk with Him, if we live a perfect life Mat.5:48 Now John.1:2 seems to be repeating what John.1:1 has already established. And since God is not a talkative, there must be a reason for this. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we dig deep into His Word. Amen.

1. **What is the purpose of repetition in the scriptures? Can you give some examples of such repetitions?** Gen.41:30-32, Jos.1:6, 7, 9 18. John.3:15,16, John.6:35, 48,51. The purpose of repetition in the scriptures is for emphasis. Examples are the Lord's charge to Joshua, the need to be born again, how to obtain eternal life, who is the Bread of Life etc.

2. **Are there any lessons for us from the repetition to Joshua?** II Cor. 10: 4, Eph. 6: 11-12, I Tim. 1: 18, I Tim. 6: 12, II Tim. 2: 4, Moses in a way, stands for Jesus and Joshua stands for us. Moses never actually took part in battle but Joshua did. Therefore, we are called to be soldiers, though our Lord did not sight wars during His life time.

3. **What is the significance of "The Same"** in John.1:2, Exo. 3: 14, John 15: 1, II: 3-4, Gal. 1: 8-9, The same means no counterfeit acceptable. In other words, there may be other jesuses, christs, ways of vines but the only acceptable one is the one who had been with the father from the beginning. This is to warn us against false religions.

4. **Who are the best friends of the Lord?** Why? Ps. 127:3, Mat. 19: 14, Mat. 21. 15-16. The best friends of the Lord are children. Because

they know how to praise God.

5. **What then must we do to enter the kingdom of God?** Why? Mat.10: 15, Luke 18:17, John 4:23-24. We must become like small children. Because God wants people who will praise Him wholeheartedly, like children to be in heaven.

CONCLUSION

Have you ever wondered how old you are compared to the mountains? Then how old are you compared to the one who had existed in the beginning of beginning? You are nothing but a child to Him. Why not come to Him in full surrender and claim all the love, affections, protection etc. that is always bestowed on a new born babe?

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

LESSON 021

THE CREATOR

John 1:3

INTRODUCTION

In the last study we discovered that God emphatically stated that there is only one Jesus Christ. All the others are counterfeits. The only genuine Christ is the One who was originally with God from the beginnings. Today, as we begin our study of John 1:3 we face many questions like who created heaven an earth, death, evil darkness etc. and why? May the Lord Himself teach as we look closer at the WORD.

1. **Who created all things? Why are they created? Out of what they created? Who is the caretaker of the Universe?** Col. 1:16, Heb. 11:3, I Cor. 8:6 God the Father created all things through God the Son, for Son, out of nothing. All things thus created are sustained and preserved by God the Son.

2. **Who appoints Presidents, Kings, Governors etc. and who removes them? Who invented the motorcars, radio etc.** Pro. 5:15-16, Isa. 40:22-23, Pro.8:12. The Lord Jesus appoints all in authority and removes them all will. He is also the brain behind all inventions.

3. **Who created darkness, and evil? And benefit from sorrow?** Isa. 45:7, Jam. 1:3-4, Heb10:36, Jam. 5:7, Heb 12:5-11, The Lord created darkness and evil because without darkness light is not appreciated nor good appreciated without evil. The greatest benefits from sorrow and trials is that they teach patience and patience is very precious.

4. **Can we truly say that Jesus created the heavens? Why did He created heaven? Why did He create the earth? Have you any relations in heaven? How far away is heaven anyway?** I Cor. 16:26, Ps. 102:25, Pr. 8:1, 22, 27, Deut. 26:15, I King 8:30, Isa. 66:1, Ps. 73:25, Ps. 123:1-2, II Chr. 30:27. God the father created heavens but the Wisdom upon. Yes I have as least one relation in heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ who is my elder brother. Heaven is near enough for God to hear when I call Him.

CONCLUSION

Since heaven is sufficiently near as to be within calling distance, will you like to send messages to your relations there now?

LESSON 022

WHO CREATED THE DEVIL?

Text: John 1:3

INTRODUCTION

In the last study of John 1:3, we saw that Jesus Christ is the Creator of all thing including light and darkness etc. this week, we want to answer these questions? Who created the devil ? Why? Why is the devil not yet destroyed? How do we explain Rev. 20:7-8. May the Lord Himself explain this deep lesson to us. Amen.

Who created the devil? Why?
Did God know that Adam and Eve would eat the forbidden fruits in the Garden of Eden? If yes, then why did He get angry with them for doing so? How do I know that God loves me? What must I do to remain secure in His love?

The answers to all these questions reveal one and only one thing: In the first meeting ever held by the Beginning of the beginnings, It was decided that there would be a gigantic Divine Drama. The drama will involve a set of creatures called human begins. They must be able to choose between good and evil, Deut. 30:19, to be able to do this, there must be someone who will be evil totally I John 3:8, A section of these creatures must be specially set aside for God (Abraham- Isaac- Israel). Later other will be included Eph. 1:3-6, by Jesus and the father John 15:18-19, John 6:44, But after the choice by Jesus you are not eternally secure Phil. 2:12

Because God can remove and replace Mat. 12:33, Rom 11:19, therefore, we must be careful Eph. 5:15-17, Paul is the one who revealed this plan to us. Eph. 3:2-11. How should you behave now that we too know Eph. 5: 1-5, 8:11), 19-20. When is the play “over” as far as in individual is concerned? John 21:23, How soon is the next act in the play? Rom. 13:12, shall we survive? God willing. Phi 1:16, but are you?

LESSON 023

IN HIM WAS LIFE

Text: John 1:4

INTRODUCTION

What is life? What differentiates a dead man from a living one? What differentiates a dead tree from a living one? These questions we believe everyone can answer fairly correctly. But if we ask, What is life? Only Christians can give the correct answer. For Jesus is the life. John.11:25, John.14:6, I John 5:12, but there are other questions we must answer.

What human life is like compared to God's?
How can God's type of life be obtained? In view of Heb.9:27 can we say that a certain day is already fixed when I will die? In other words can I choose my day of death?

When we compare the life of a man to God's we can say that it is like a shadow I Chr.29:15, a hand breath in extent Ps.39:5, or a vapour. James.4:14. There is only way to obtain God's types of life and that is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. II Tim. 1:10, Deut.8:3, John.5:24. And if you want to live kind of life that God gives then your give the longer you live.

Even though Heb.9:27 says that man has an appointment with death, the day is not fixed. You can lengthen your life if you watch your sex life. Gen.5:6-31. if you obey parents Exo. 20:12 (of course not at the expense of Jesus Mat.10:37) and if you control your tongue. I Pet.3:10 of course you can also shorten your life you choose Prov.10:27. What is your choice tonight Deut.30:19-20.

LESSON 024

THE LIGHT (PART 1)

Text: John 1:4

INTRODUCTION

In the last study, we began our study of John 1; 4 by considering Him, in Who is life. We discovered that though every man has an appointment with death, the date of death is not fixed. In fact, you can lengthen or shorten your life of will. Today, we want to consider the Light. What is Light? What does it do? Light is simple that which drives away darkness Gen.1:3-4, Luke.1:78-79. Light aids sight and growth of both plants and other living things. Ps.128:1-4. But there are other questions for us to answer. Mays the Lord quicken our understanding as we dig deep into His word. Amen.

1. What is the colour of the brightest light?

What does this colour signify? How many colour combine in a rainbow: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and violet. 7 is the number for perfection Matt. 5: 48

Red stands for danger John 3: 17-21. It is also the colour of blood I John 1:7 and fire. Matt. 3: 11 orange and yellow can be taken together as the colour of the sun and gold. Jesus is the sun of righteousness Rev. 21: 23, Rev. 22: 5, with healing in His wings. Mal. 4: 2 giving grace, glory and other things. Ps. 84: 11 and supplying life to those who behold him. Ecc. 11:7, John 3: 14-15, Gold of course stands for wealth so that to be truly rich you need Jesus Ps. 34: 10, Deut. 8: 18, I Chr. 29: 12.

Green is the colour of vegetables and stands for productivity or fruit bearing. Jn. 15: 1:6, Indigo for hope I Tim. 1:1 Violet is for glory.

CONCLUSION

By a close study of white light, the perfect light, are you not amazed at what is available to you in accepting Christ? Think of it: His blood Holy Spirit baptism, healing, wealth, productivity, hope and glory to mention a few, with these wonderful revelations, is backsliding worth considering? As for me, NO TURNING BACK in Jesus Name.

LESSON 025

THE LIGHT (PART 2)

Text: John 1:1

INTRODUCTION

In the last study, we considered the seven colours that combine to give us white, the colour of the perfect light and we saw the spiritual implications of each colour. Tonight we want to consider the various grades of light, from match light to star light, and investigation the spiritual implication because earthly things are not unconnected with heavenly things, John 3: 12. May the heavenly teacher teach us Himself. Amen.

How many grades of light can you mention?
What do you consider as spiritual implication? For example, match light. This is a light that burns fast and it is very brief. It is useful in lighting others but himself burns within seconds. This represents "brethren" who are "halleluyah" men. The men who warmed up other Christians on their way to heaven but are not going themselves. Mat.12:19, Deut.4:9, what then do you think are the spiritual implications of candle light, lantern light, electric light, moon light, sunlight, and star light?

Candle light: Weak, feeble and brief. This represent those who come for healings Job etc. and disappear as soon as their problems are solved. Mat. 13: 20-21. Deut. 6: 10-12.

Lantern Light: Limited range of illumination. Extent of light depends on quantity of all present. This represents those who are saved but will never witness or fellowship in a true gospel church, soon their oil burns out and they relapse into darkness. Mat.14:22, Jer.3:21.

Electric Light: Strong and bright. Could be switched off. This represents Christians who are still subject to discouragement. Gal.5:7, Ph.2:12-15, Phil.3:12-14.

The Moon Light: Gives light to the whole world but has no light of its own. Represents professional evangelist whose effort benefits other while they themselves live a life with sin, sickness and frustration. II Tim.3:5, Rom.2:21, Tit.1:16.

Sun Light: Produces its own light by consuming part of itself, represents sanctified preachers. Wherever they go, they spread warmth and life. Gal.2:20, 1John.3:24

Star Light: Mighty expanses of space supplied by star light.
Pure White Light: Represents Christians who are far gone beyond the point of no return. Almost as perfect as their Lord. Dan.12;3.

CONCLUSION

The Lord's goal for me and for you is to shine like the star forever. Have you attained the goal? Will you like to? How about talking to the Lord about it now?

LESSON 026

THE LORD GOD

John 1:3-4

INTRODUCTION

In the last few studies, we have been looking at the deeper meanings of Jn.1:3-4. But now every morning is the word and you can never dig too deep because the Word is infinitely deep. Job.11:7-9. Consequently, there are many more gems to be uncovered. May the Word reveal Himself to us more. Amen.

1. Who is usually referred to as the Lord God in the Trinity?

Who actually created man? Who planted the Garden of Eden? Who visited Adam and Eve after the fall? Why was the devil able to attack Jesus He was in the world? Why cannot the devil do so now? Why does God hate lust? Why must a Christian be beware of pleasure. Can a man know when to go home? If you want to know what must you do? Why must we pray in the Name of Jesus?

God the Son is usually referred to as the Lord Rev.19:6-7, II Tim.6:15. This helps to know that Jesus actually created man Gen.2:7 and the garden of Eden Ge.2:8 and is the One who visited Adam and Eve after the fall. Gen.3;8-9. Also Heb.2:9 explains why the devil was able to attack his creator while in the flesh and Eph.1:17-22 gives the reason why the devil cannot attack the Lord God now.

God hates lust because God is Life and lust leads to death. Jam.1:15, it is also the same reason why a Christian must be beware of pleasure. 1Tim.5:6. Every Christian can know all you need to do is be holy. Num.23:10, II Pet.3:13-14.

The reason why we must pray in the Name of Jesus are (i) He is our next of kin 1Tim.2:5; (ii) He is our link to the Trinity. John.14:6. (iii) He is our best Referee Phil.2:9; (v) No one dares oppose a prayer prayed in Jesus Name Phil.2:10 and finally, God the Father has no alternative other than to answer such prayers.

CONCLUSION

Now that you know your prayers that are said in Jesus Name must be answered, how about doing some asking tonight?

LESSON 027

THE GREAT BATTLE

Text: John 1:5

INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial, there had been a continuous battle between good and evil, light and darkness. Today, we want to explore a little into this great battle of the ages to see where we are involved and how to be a victor always. The following questions will aid our exploration.

Why cannot darkness overcome light? How can you avoid being overcome by the evil forces? When can darkness triumph over light? When is there absolute darkness? What can cause light to go out of a lamp? If the light goes out how can we start it again? How can we determine the brightness of the light? When should one be more careful and Why?

Darkness cannot overcome light because light created darkness and the only time when there is absolute darkness is when light withdraws. Job. 12:23 or when people reject Christ. John 3:19.

One man reason why light can go out is lack oil. Rev, 2:4-5, if light goes out, we restart by getting rid of the ashes and cleaning the lamp. Job 11: 14:17, get oil from the source. Micah 7:8 and a new flame Mal. 4:2.

The brightness of light is determined by the intensity of the darkness around it. II Kings 6:15-17, II Kings 1:13-14, We should be most careful when our light is brightest Jud. 16:9-15 because satan is cunning Prov. 29:3, Jud. 16:19-24.

Conclusion

How bright is your light? How careful are you?

LESSON 028

THE AMBASSADOR

Text: John 1:6

In the previous study we concluded that a man should be most careful when his spiritual light is brightest because if Satan discovers that the man cannot be defeated by a direct assault, then satan will change his tactics to an indirect attack. Today, we read about a man sent by God, an Ambassador of God, and we want to dig out what we must do, know or possess to be chosen by God as His Ambassador.

The following questions will aid in our search for these deeper truths.
When does an Ambassador become necessary? Who is an ambassador? What are this qualifications? What are his responsibilities? Who maintains an ambassador? How much is available to an ambassador of God? How much can he spread? What happens to an ambassador who creditably finished his job? What happens to an ambassador who lets down his country?

Whenever a king wants to get a job done in another country but could not go himself, he sends an ambassador. John.6:38, therefore an ambassador is someone "who is sent" Isa.48:16, John.20:21.
To be an ambassador one must have an intimate knowledge of who sent him John.7:28-29, one must know the laws of his home country. II Tim. 2:25, one must be rid of all hindrances II Tim.2:20-26, Isa.6:1-8.

The responsibilities of an ambassador include:
(a) representing the king who sent him Ex.5:1-2;
(b) Delivering his messages. John.17:8
(c) Doing what the king himself would have done John.9:4
(d) to warm the foreign country whenever they offend his home country Isa.62:6, Eze.3:10,
(e) To glorify his king. John.17:4.

An ambassador is maintained by the one who sent Him. 1Cor.9:7, Prov.27:18 using the currency of the foreign country Gal.6:6, the fund available to an ambassador of God is unlimited Ps.24:1, Ps.50:10, Hag.2:8, the ambassador is free to spend as much as he likes. John 14:14.

An ambassador who finishes his job creditably is given a red carpet home e.g. Elijah, II King.2:11, Stephen Acts.7:55-60 On the other hand, an ambassador who failed his king is heavily punished Eze. 33:6, II Kings. 5:25-27, Jam.3:1 and may suffer premature home calling. Acts.5:1-10.

CONCLUSION

We are all ambassadors for Christ. But what type of ambassador are you? What types of retirement are you expected? Shall we pray about it now?

LESSON 029

THE WITNESS

Text: John 1:7

INTRODUCTION

In the previous study we studied about the Ambassador, the one who is sent. But this week, we want to consider the "Witness" mentioned in John.1:7. The following questions will be assisting our digging deep into the Word of God.

1. When is a witness necessary?
2. Who can be a witness?
3. What does Jesus witness about God?
4. How beautiful are the mansions up there?
5. Why is it necessary for Jesus to come for us?
6. How can we be a true witness?
7. What is witnessing?
8. Can a true witness be intimidated?
9. Any reward for witnessing for Christ?

A witness becomes necessary when there is an accusation of judgement to be passed Isa.53:7-8. To be a true witness one must know the facts or have seen certain things happen John.3:11. John 8:38 Jesus told us about beautiful mansions is His Father's House John.14:1-3, Mat.16:26. The glory of heaven is so great that Jesus himself has to need the Holy Spirit. Acts. 1:8, John.16:13-14, because witnessing is telling what you know Acts. 4:18-20, Mat.10:18-20. And there is abundant blessing for those who witness for Christ. Mat.10:32-43, John.3:26-31, Mat.11:11, John12:26.

CONCLUSION

Are you a true witness of Christ? Will you like to be? Pray about it now.

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

LESSON 030

THE WITNESS Part 2

Text: Psalms 1:7

INTRODUCTION

In the previous study we began a study of John 1:7 and described a true witness as someone who knows the facts and tells it exactly as it is. Today, we want to go deeper as we try to answer the following questions.

Can someone be a true witness of an incident in which he is absent? Can someone be a true witness of an incident that is yet to happen? Can your mention some things that are yet to happen which you know will surely happen? Has the spirit of anti-christ been manifest before in one form or the other? The mark of the anti-christ is 666, what are the marks of Jesus Christ?

Every Christian has two pairs of eyes: Physical and spiritual. Therefore, they can see things happen even if they are not physically present II Kings 5:25-26. Also they can see thing that are yet to happen I Kings 18:23-24, 23-38, II Kings 2:5 and they can hear sounds that others cannot hear. I King 18:41.

Some of the things that are yet to happen which will surely happen are recorded in Isa. 21:11-12, Rev. 9:1-6, Rev. 7:9-17, Rev. 13:11-18.

The Spirit of anti-christ was manifested in Goliath I Sam. 17:4-7 (6 cubits high; 6 pieces of amour, spear weight 600 shekels of iron) it was also manifested in image of Nebuchadnezzar Dan. 3:1,5 (Height 60 cubits, width: 6 cubits, musical instruments: 6)

The marks of Jesus Christ include among others, the marks of obedience Ph. 2:8, Devotion Rom. 9:2-3, Love Eph. 5:2 and Separation II Cor. 6:14-17, Jam. 4:4.

CONCLUSION

A day is coming when many will receive the Number of the anti-christ. Which would you prefer: the marks of Christ or the anti-christ?

LESSON 031

PREGNANT WITH JESUS

John 1:8

INTRODUCTION:

One may ask the question: What is the difference between the light and the witness of Light? A simple answer is that the light has light in itself but the witness has no light in himself but merely reflects the light he gets from the light. A good example being the relationship between the sun and the moon. This observation leads us to some interesting questions that will aid our digging deep to earth the hidden meanings of John 1:8.

1. What is the difference between John the Baptist and a born again Christian?
2. When can two people be totally part and parcel of each other and what are the implications?
3. How can I be the Light instead of a mere witness of the Light?
4. How can I be pregnant with Jesus?

In this world, there is a major difference between us and John the Baptist. He is a witness of the Light but the Light called us light Mat.5:14-16. He is a reflector of the Light but we are expected to be mush more than a mere the Light Rom.13:12, the Light is to finally spring up in our hearts II Pet.1:19.

In heaven, we are greater still than John the Baptist. He is the Bestman and we are the Bride Matt.11:11.

Two people can only be totally part and parcel of each other when one is pregnant with the other. The implications are (i) the same blood John15:5; (ii)The same breath Gen.2:7; (iii) the same food John4:31-34 and (iv) the same life and death. Gal.2:20 are shared.

The only way I can be the Light is to become part and parcel of the Light i.e. to become pregnant with Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Which would you rather be: The Light or the reflector of the Light? Are you willing to pay the price of a total surrender?

LESSON 032

THE BURNING TORCH

Text: John 1:9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study we studied John 1:8 or how to be pregnant with Jesus. Tonight, we wish to study John 1:9 or how to be a burning Torch for Christ. We believe that you are already putting into practice all you have learnt in the past. If so, you must have noticed a tremendous change in your spiritual life by now. If not, then begin to be doer not just hearer of the word and your life will change for the better.

Our questions for tonight are as follows:-

a) In how many ways can the Light lighten a man?
b) What happens before a piece of wood becomes a flaming torch?
c) Once the flames starts, how does it keep burning?

There are two ways the light can lighten a man.

a) By providing light for the journey as we follow Him – John 8:12, Psalms 119:105, and obeying his guiding instructions Proverbs 6:23.
b) By turning the person itself to light – Psalms 119:130, John 1:4, together with I John 5:12, Judges 5:32.

Before a piece of wood can become a flaming torch the following steps must be taken.

a) It must come in contact with fire.
b) It must be raised to the temperature as the fire through systematic warming up, John 20:22.
c) This warming up is only possible if the wood remains still in the fire for long enough – Luke.24:49, Hebrew 10:36, James 5:7, Isaiah 40:31.

Once the fire starts, it keeps burning by eating up the wood. Once you are lighted for Christ, if you wish to remain forever shining, then the flesh must be consumed daily, II Corinthians 12:15, Matt. 16:25, II Corinthians 8:9, Philippians 2:5-11.

CONCLUSION:: Christ is our example. He died to save others and in return He obtained a name above every name. You want to be a flaming torch for God? Are you willing to pay the price? Pray to God about it now.

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

LESSON 033

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM Part 1

Text: John 1:10

Introduction

Jesus Christ is the word of God and He is also God. Jesus is the life and the light of the world. He created all things but he has a special love for the world. What is the special love? In John 1:10 and down the line, we begin to discover what exactly this special love is.

But first of all let us ask the following questions:

1. Was there a tine when Jesus was not on earth?
2. When has he been in the world?
3. Can you say precisely when He has been in the world before He was born in Bethlehem?
4. From the above, what can we learn about the coming of Christ?
5. When is He, Is Jesus far from us?
6. Where is Jesus presently?

1. Only once was Jesus not in the world as mentioned in Psalms Ps. 90:2.

2. He has been in the world before the world existed Gen. 1:4

a. He came in the form of Melchisedec Heb. 7:1-3, John 8:56-58
b. He was in the burning bush. Ex 3:1-6.
c. He was the Captain of Hosts that appeared to Joshua Jos. 5:13-15
d. He was the Rock the followed the Israelites. I Cor. 10:1-4
e. He was the Rock that killed Goliath I Sam. 17:45-47.
f. He was the fourth man in the fiery furnace. Dan. 3:24-25.

In each of these cases we see that Christ is always around in the time of victory because He is the Victor. Gen. 14:17-20 to deliver Exo. 3:7-8, to remove obstacles even in the time of deadly crisis Ps. 23:4, Isa. 43:2

3. **He is only far away when rejected.** II Chr. 15:12
4. **And He is with me now.** Mat. 28:18-20

CONCLUSION

Jesus is ever present. Are you happy? He will share you joy. Are you in a light corner? Call on him He is near.

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

LESSON 034

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM Part 2

JOHN 1:10

INTRODUCTION

In the first part of John 1:10 we have learnt that Jesus is always near to those who welcome Him, be it in the fire or in river, in a storm or in a night corner, in time of sorrow or time of victory. However, He is far away from those who reject Him. Also, that right now, He is seated physically on the right hand of God but He is in my heart through His Holy Spirit.

Tonight, we want to know more about Him as we answer the question who is Jesus Christ? What are His Names? What are implications of His various Names?

His various Names and titles could be found in the following passages.

Emmanuel	-	Isaiah 7:14,
Wonderful	-	Isaiah 9
King	-	Isaiah 32:2, Matthew 211:5
Divine Servant	-	Isaiah 42:1, Mark 6:2
Army of the Lord	-	Isaiah 53:1, Isaiah 11:3
Divine Evangelist	-	Isaiah 63:1, Luke 19:10,
Illuminator	-	Isaiah 9:2
Liberator	-	Isaiah 42: 7
Burden Bearer	-	Isaiah 53:4,
Sin Bearer	-	Isaiah 53:6,
Intercessor	-	Isaiah 53:12,
Son of Man	-	John 13:31,
Bright and Morning Star	-	Revelation 22:16
My Bridegroom	-	Ephesians 5:23.

CONCLUSION

Paul said '… that I may know Him…" We know Him as the Healer, Saviour, Liberator, Burden Bearer etc. But has he revealed His power in your life? When He returns as the judge will you be seated with Him on His judgment throne or will you stand as an accused? Think on these things and pray.

LESSON 035

FAVOURITES OF THE ALIMGHTY

Text: John 1:11

INTRODUCTION

In John 3:16, the Bible says God loves the whole world so much that He sacrificed His begotten Son on their behalf. This seems to imply that God has no favourites. But the opening section of John 1:11 says that He came unto HIS WON…Does that mean that there are some who are not His own? Is god not the Father of all? If He has some favourities, how did He choose them? How I become one if them? These are similar questions will be answered as we continue our study of John 1:11

Let us star with question: Who are His own? Who are the Israelites? Who is Israel? Why did God choose the Nation of Israel? Why did God choose Abraham? How can I become a favourite of God.

The Children of Israel were originally the special favourites of God. Mat. 10:5-6, Rom. 9:1-5, others are dogs to God. Mat. 15:22-27, Rev. 22:15, Phil 3:2-3, Israelites are the descendants of Israel who was formerly Jacob, Son of Isaac. Son of Abraham, Gen. 32:24-48, God chose Abraham because he was

(a) Peace loving Gen 13:8
(b) Self Sacrificing Gen 13:9-11, John 10:17, John3:16,
(c) Read to give his best, his all to God. Heb 11:17,
(d) Obedient even if a lot of pain is involved, Gen 17:24, Gen 12:1-3, Phil 2:8

CONCLUSION

If we want to become a favourite of God, we should learn from Abraham to be peace loving, self-sacrificing consecrated and obedient, always remembering Mat. 20:16

LESSON 036

THE DIVINE VISITOR

John 1:11

INTRODUCTION

In the previous study as we started our study of John 1:11, we considered the theme "HIS OWN" and discovered hoe to become a favourite of God. This week we want to consider the two words "HE CAME." In order to discover more about the Divine Visitor, Jesus Christ.

The major questions we wish to answer are as follows: (i) why did Jesus come? (ii) Why was Jesus crucified on the day of the Passover and (iii) what is supreme achievement of Jesus Christ?

Jesus came to preach the kingdom of God Luke 4:23, (What is the difference between His preaching and the gospel? He came as a minister Mat. 20:28 to fulfill the law. Mat. 5:17-19, to seek and save the lost Luke 19: 10, I Tim. 1:15, to save the world, John 3:17 to give abundant life, John 10:10, to bear witness to the truth, John 18:37 or rather to reveal the Truth (Himself) to bring a sword, Mat. 10:34 a symbol of judgement. John 9:39.
Jesus died on the day of Passover because He is the Passover Lamb of God. John 1:29.

His crowning is to send fire on the earth. Luke 12:49.

CONCLUSION
The crowning work of the Divine visitor is to send fire on the World. Whether that fire purifies you or burns you up depends on whose side you are: whether on the side of Christ or on the side of the world John 16:17-15. Can you pray that Holy Ghost fire should fall on you?

LESSON 037

THE REJECTED CORNERSTONE

John 1:11

INTRODUCTION:

In the last two studies we have been studying john 1:11 and we have discovered why Jesus came and who are the Divine favourites. We also learnt how we can be one of His favourites and the crowning work of our Lord and Saviour. Today, we find out the secret behind the strange statement: "HIS OWN received Him not".

Why did his own reject Him? Is it a plan of God? If so, why? Why dangers are there in rejecting the Word?

There are several reason why His own rejected Him. In the first place, they failed to recognize Him. In the second place, God planned it that way, Rom. 11:7-8, Why? So that (a) Salvation may come to you and me. Rom. 11:11 (b) that prophecies concerning the gentiles might be fulfilled e.g Gen. 22:27, ps. 86:9, and Isa. 9:2 (c) that Israel may be jealous, Rom. 10:21, Mk. 6:4, because they misused their priviledge and (d) their hearts were hardened. Jer. 7:13-15.

Rejecting Jesus Christ or the Word of God is extremely dangerous because it brings down the wrath of God. II Chr. 36:16. Zech. 7:12, and Isa. 5:24.

CONCLUSION:

His own rejected Him and you benefited thereby. What do you think your fate will be like of you too should reject Him. If you so not want your blessing given to another, harden not your heart today. Prov. 20:1

LESSON 038

THE PROBLEM OF WEALTH

INTRODUCTION

For those who think of this world, money is absolutely everything. They believe that all their problems will be solved once they have enough money. But for those of us who are heavenly minded, wealth should not be problem. To us, money is simply a tool for spreading the Gospel quickly thereby hastening the return of our king.

In the series on wealth and poverty we shall study in some details the problems of wealth as well as the problem of poverty.

1. One of the series of a worldly mined person is that he wants as much money as possible. They are willing to go to any extent to get the money, even if it involves cheating and trampling down the poor. Ps. 43:4-12, Jer. 5:26-31, Mat. 16:26, Luke 21:24, I Pet. 5:2.
2. If we want more money than we deserve or more than we need, then we are suffering from greed. What is Greed? It is an unsuitable longing for money; The Bible is full of examples of greedy men. Deut. 32:15-18, I Sam, 8:3, Eccl. 5:10. Ps. 52:27. I Tim. 6:9-10, James 5:1-6.
3. Greed is a sin and it creates problems for those who encourage it. Some of these problems are family problems, loss of good name, dissatisfaction, false hopes and security, divine punishment, backsliding, violence, serious temptations and misery. Pro. 15:27, Prov. 28:20, Mk. 4:19, I Tim. 6:10, II Pet. 2:15, Act 16:19, I Tim. 6:9, I Tim 6:17 Jam 5:3.

From the above, it is clear that greed results in the most serious consequences. Surely, godliness and contentment is great gain. However, there are examples in the Scriptures of Famous people (like job and Abraham who have been very rich and yet have been very faithful to the Lord. Obviously, it is possible to have money and not backslide. How can this be achieved? We shall discover this as we proceed in this series.

LESSON 039

THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY

INTRODUCTION

There has always been poor people in the world, even. Among Christians Rev. 2:19, Why should Christian ever be poor? What can be done so that no one is ever poor again? What is poverty? What causes it? Is poverty a friend or an enemy of a Christian? These and similar question shall be answered as we continue with our series on wealth and poverty.

1. Poverty is defined as a desperate shortage of spending power and it is not a new problem. It is also not a problem that can be solved easily unless we follow Divine methods. Deut. 15:11, Prov. 10:15, Mat. 26:11, Deut. 15:11.
2. There are several examples of poverty in the Bible, Gideon, the widow of Zarephat, Apostle Paul are but a few example Jud. 6:15, I King 17:12, II King 4:1, Mark 12:42, II Cor. 6:10.
3. There are three categories of what cause poverty: (i) person looses; (ii) human outside causes and (iii) cause beyond the human realm.

Personal causes include laziness, foolish spending, miserliness, love of pleasure etc, Prov. 20:13, Pro. 11:24, Prov. 21:17, Prov. 23:21, Prov. 28:19.

Human outside causes includes bad government, harsh employers, corrupt trading, robbery, wars, etc. Isa. 3:14, Jam. 5:4, Prov. 22:16, Acts 11:28, Luke 10:30, Ps. 79:1-4.

Causes beyond human realm include drought, diseases, bad weather, satanic meddling and Divine punishment. I king 17:7, Acts 3:1-10, Ps. 78:47, II Cor. 4:4, I Sam. 2:7.

Poverty cause a lot of problems includes national, family and social problems, increase in crimes, sickness, mental stress, etc. Therefore, poverty is an enemy and it must not accommodate. Since God wants is to prosper II John 2, there is no reason why we must be satisfied with anything less than true prosperity. But how do we handle poverty and its twin evil greed? This question is answered in the text study.

LESSON 040

WEALTH IS NO SIN

INTRODUCTION

We have seen in our previous studies that the love of money and nit money itself is an enemy and it is not God's will for us to be poor. II John 2.

In thus study we want to see why Christian could be wealthy and still remain good Christians.

1. Now the Lord Himself is wealthy. Therefore, if having wealth makes one evil, then the Lord must be evil. But we know the Lord is not evil and so having wealth does not necessarily mean that one will be automatically evil. Exo. 19:5 Lev. 25:23, I Chr. 29:14, Ps. 24:1, Ps. 50:10, Ps. 89:11, Hag. 2:8.
2. Secondly, wealth can be a gift from the Lord, Surely, the Lord will not give evil things to his children. Gen 39:2, Exo. 3:7-10, Deut. 8:18 Deut. 30:9 I sam 2:7, I Chr. 29:12, Ii Chr. 31:21, Ps. 1:1-3, Ecc. 5:15, Hos. 2:8, II Cor. 9:8, Ph.4:19.
3. Moreover, the Lord has given great wealth to some godly people. People who have been declared by the Lord to be “blameless” and upright, fearing God, and shuning evil have also been trusted with very great wealth. Gen. 13:2, Gen. 26: 12-14, Gen. 30:43, II Sam. 19:32, Ichr. 29:28, I Chr. 1:11-17, Job 1:3, Mat. 27:57.

So wealth need not to be an evil thing but remember the rich fool. But there is a lot more to learn about wealth and poverty. So join us in the next week and let us reach the bottom of this topic together.

LESSON 041

GENEROSITY – PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

We have learnt that the law of harvest in the basic principle on how to become wealthy. Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over will men give to your bosom. The harvest is always abundantly more than the seed sown. But how much should we give? To whom? When? Where? How? All these questions are reasonable and we believe the Lord will answer them for us.

1. Our greatest example of generosity is God Himself. God the Father is so generous. He gave His all – John 3:16, and God the Son is generous. He gave His life – John 10:11. God the Holy Spirit is so generous. He give all the glory to Jesus Christ – John 16:13-14. Another word for generous is liberal – II Cor. 8:2, 9:6, I Tim.6:18, Nahum 1:7, Ps. 25:8, Ps. 86:5-15, Ps. 33:5, Exod. 34:6, Isaiah 63:7, Ps. 63:3.

2. The giving of the Lord is not only generous but constantly too. What is the lesson to us His children. Deut. 11:13-15, Gen. 9:12-15, Job 5:10, Gen. 1:2, Jer. 31:3, John 10:28, Deut. 8:18, Luke 11:13, Eph. 4:11, Romans 12:4-6, I Cor. 12:4-11, James 1:17
3. The Lord expects us to be generous to Him, to His people and to the poor – Exod. 35:5, I Chron. 29:9, Malachi 3:8-9, Mark 12:41-44, Deut. 15:7-8, Matt.5:42, Luke 10:35, Rom.12:13, Gal. 2:10, 6:10, II Kings 6:22, Prov. 25:21-22, Isa. 58:7, I Tim. 6:17-19, Heb.13:16.

We shall conclude this series on generosity next week in Jesus Name. But now that you know that the Lord is generous, why not ask Him to bless you generously? Why not start being generous yourself even from now on?

LESSON 042

GENEROSITY – PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of generosity, we learnt that:

a) The Lord Himself is generous in all ways including mercy, goodness, loving kindness etc.

b) The Lord is not only generous, but constantly so and

c) The Lord expected us to be generous also:

   i. To Him

   ii. To His people who are in need and

   iii. To those who are sincerely poor, including our enemies.

In this concluding part of generosity, we want to see the blessings of generosity and the principles of giving.

1. The Lord has special blessings for those who are generous. These blessings include prosperity. Divine glory, overflowing sufficiency and rewards in the life to come – Psalms 41:1, Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:25, 22:9, Proverbs 28:27, Isaiah 58:7-10, Malachi 3:10, Proverbs 11:25, Luke 6:38, 14:14, Luke 18:29-30.

2. The Divine principles for giving are clearly set out. We are to give according to our ability, gladly without deceit, freely, from the heart, regularly and often secretly, Deut. 2:68-69, Deut.16:17, Matt. 5:42, Acts 1:29, II Cor. 8:1-15, Mark 12:44, II Cor. 9:7, Acts 5:1-2, Matt. 10:8, Luke 6:38, 12:33, Exodus 25:2, Romans 12:1, Phil.4:18, Hebrews 13:16, I Peter 2:5, Romans 12:8, I Corinthians 16:2, Hosea 6:13, Amos 5:22, Malachi 1:8, II Corinthians 9:6, Matt.6:1-3, Malachi 3:3.

Therefore, we see that if we give to the Lord, to His saints and to the needy, we shall be abundantly blessed. However, we must give as the Lord directs so that our “left hand should not know what our right hands is doing. May one giving earns us rich dividends not only in this world but also in the next to come in Jesus Name.

LESSON 043

BLESSINGS IN WORKING

INTRODUCTION:

We have learnt a lot about riches and poverty, blessings in giving and being generous. In this study we want to study about blessing in working. The Bible has a lot to about work. God does not say that working is evil: but that working is blessing.

1. Work is part of God's creation (man, animals, angels etc). God commanded man to work before and after the fall. Angels worship God day and night, they work continuously without resting. The academicians today might have said that an unwilling attitude to work is the beginning of mental problem – Genesis 2:15, 3:17-19, Ruth 2:17, I Kings 11:28, Nehemiah 4:21, Prov. 31:10-13, Isa. 18:3, I Cor. 4:12. If it is possible, we enjoin us to work from morning till evening.

2. Individuals must have their respective duties. Every individuals must be full of work especially Christians who should be good examples to the world around them. The rich themselves must work – Exodus 20:9, 34:21, Eph. 4:28, I Thess. 4:11-12. Laziness is a destroyer. We are not only commanded to work, but to work hard.

3. Hard work brings great gain, but laziness takes one to a position of poverty, hunger, and shame – Prov. 6:6-11, Prov.10:5, Prov.14:23, Prov.19:15, II Thess.3:6-15. If ants works why will human beings not work as long as our God Himself works, john 5:17. Remember the parable of the talents and pray that God will give you grace to be a faithful worker.

LESSON 044

THE BLESSING OF PERSONAL PRAYER

INTRODUCTION:

Many Christians only pray when in the Church or in a group. They do not realize the importance of personal prayer. Just as it is important that we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, so must we maintain a personal contact with Him everyday, every moment of our life.

1. One of the secrets of the successful saints of old is a love personal prayers – Ps. 5:3, Ps. 119:147, Ps. 55:17, Daniel 6:10, Zechariah 8:21, Luke 2:37, Acts 10:2, I Thess.3:10, I Tim. 5:5.

2. Personal prayer encourages the development of a relationship with the Lord. Saints like Enoch and Moses know the great blessings of such a relationship with God. Gen. 5:22, Exodus 25:22, Exodus 33:7-34, Exodus 34:29,35, Psalms 73:28, Matthew 6: 5-8, John1:3, Revelation 3:20.

3. Personal prayer makes public worship more lively by and is sure for and protection against depression. It assists in the process of sanctification and save us from doctrinal error. Acts 2:42-47, I Kings 19:1-4, Ps. 42:1-11, Joshua 4:8, Acts 27:1-44, II Cor.4:7-12, Luke 11:13, James 4:8, I John 3:6, Psalms 16:8, Psalms 147:18, Colossians 1:26-27, Hebrews 13:7-9, II John 1:7-8

LESSON 045

THE BLESSING OF PERSONAL DISCIPLINE PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

INTRODUCTION: The Africans have a proverb: "Once God has revealed our enemy to us, he should not be able to kill us again". In order to save ourselves from falling into suitable temptations which surround us, we need to be aware of our "enemy", and we need to know the blessings in personal discipline, which coupled with grace of Jesus Christ and will make us overcomers all the time.

1. There is a long list of temptations that Satan can use as a bait to fish us out of the Kingdom of God into hell. These include avarice (miserliness), bitterness, covetousness, disobedience, disregard of others, excessiveness, gluttony, gossip, greed, hypocrisy, immorality, impatience, improvidence (lack of care for the future), jealousy, laziness, love of money, pleasure-seeking, pride, selfishness, slander, slovenliness, strong-drinking, stubbornness, uncontrolled habits, unwise speech and worldly worship:Eccl. 5:10, Mal.3:8-12, James 5:3, Ephe. 4:31, Heb.12:15, James 3:14, Exod.20:17, Micah 2:2, Mal. 3:8-12, I Sam. 12:15, Eph. 5:6, Ezek. 34:18-19, I Cor. 6:10, Romans 12:3-8, Luke 12:19, Luke 16:19, II Thess 1:8, Isa. 5:8, Exod. 34:20-21, Amos 6:4-7, Luke 21:34, Prov. 11:13, Prov. 11:13, Prov. 26:20, II Thess. 3:11, I Tim. 5:13, I Sam. 30:21-24, Prov. 15:27, Luke 12:15, Prov. 26:20, II Pet. 2:14, Matt.6:16, I Tim. 3:8, Titus 1:7, Rom. 13:13, Col. 3:5, Heb. 12:16, Isa. 47:8-15, Heb. 12:5, Prov. 12:27, Luke 15:13; Gen. 37:4, I Tim. 3:3, II Tim. 3:10, Matt. 20:12, Luke 15:28, Rom. 13:13, Prov. 21:17, Luke 8:14, I Tm. 3:11, I Pet. 2:13, Prov. 16:18, Dan. 4:30, Luke 18:11, I John 2:16, Matt.25:43, Mark 10:37, Luke 10:31-32, James 3:13-16, Exod. 20:16, Lev. 19:16, I Cor. 6:10, Eph. 4:31, Rev. 21:8, Rom. 14:8, I Cor. 14:40, I Pet. 4:11, Prov. 20:1, Isa. 5:11, Isa. 56:12, I Cor. 13:11, Phil. 4:8, I Tim. 5:13, James 1:26, James 1: 26, James 4:1-12, I Pet. 3:10, Exod. 32:1-12, Deut. 11:16, Isa. 42:8, I Cor. 14:40, I Cor. 14:40, I John 5:21.

The list is a long one, but almost all Christians have to face it and subdue it if he is to reach his goal. Personal discipline is vital to the conquest of these personal enemies even as Christ gives the grace and the strength. In the next study we shall consider other reasons why we need personal discipline

LESSON 046

THE BLESSING OF PERSONAL DISCIPLINE PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study we listed many subtle temptations that Satan may want to bring our ways as baits to lure us to hell. We called them our enemies and that we need the grace and power of Jesus Christ to overcome them. We also stated that we too have a part to play and that is personal discipline. This week, we want to consider four (4) main reasons why we need personal discipline.

1. The first reason is for the Lord's sake – Matt. 6:18, Luke 1:15, Acts 13:2, Romans 6:11-14, Romans 13:14.
2. The second reason why we need personal discipline is for the sake of Truth and Divine principles – Luke 14:26-33, Romans 12:9, Galatians 5:16-18, I Timothy 3:9.
3. The third reason why we need personal discipline is for the sake of others, Romans 12:10, Romans 14:21, I Cor.10:31-33, Phil. 2:4.
4. The fourth reason why we need personal discipline is for the sake of one's own eternal security – Matt. 16:24-26, Luke 16:9, I Cor. 9:24-27.

So, in order to walk with the Lord adequately, in order to uphold the truth, in order to maintain a healthy Christian relationship with others and in order to reach heaven at last, we need personal discipline of the highest type. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abound to us, Amen.

LESSON 047

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

INTRODUCTION:

There is a common idea, which is unbiblical. That is there is a distinction between the clergy and the laity. In I Peter 2:9, the Apostle says that all Christians are …"a royal priesthood…" which means all "clergy" are laymen and all "laymen" are clergy. We are all part of the Royal Priesthood of God.

1. This should not surprise us because several passages in the Bible said that God's people are to be named the priests of the Lord and Ministers of our God. Some of such passages are – Exodus 19:5-6, Isaiah 61:6, Revelation 1:6, Revelation 5:10, Revelation 20:6

2. As priests of God, we are to offer sacrifices unto God, not of rams and goats as the Old Testament priests, but spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. What are these spiritual sacrifices? They includes, among other things:

a) **Praise,** - Psalms 9:11, Psalms 67:3, Hebrew 13:15, Revelation 19:5

b) **Singing** – Psalms 81:1, Ephesians 5:19, Revelation 5:9, Revelation 5:19

c) **Rejoicing** – Psalms 107:22, Philippians 4:4, Isaiah 12:6

d) **Glorifying** – Revelation 5:12, Revelation 7:12, Luke 2:20

e) **Thanksgiving** – Psalms 100:4, Colossians 3:15, I Thessalonians 5:1

8

f) **Listening** – Ecclesiastes 5:1, Isaiah 55:3, John 5:25,

g) **Doing** – Matthew 5:16, I Corinthians 10:31, Hebrew 13:16.

Thus we see that praise and thanksgiving are offerings but we must remember as worth priests at God, that there is a great temptation just to praise God in song without offering one's self, money, and one's time. Remember Romans 12:1.

LESSON 048

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD – PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part on the Royal Priesthood, we established that all born again Christians are Priests and Kings to God Almighty. We also established their duties as consisting of offering spiritual sacrifices to the Lord by way of praises, songs, rejoicing, etc.

Today we, continue our study of the Royal Priesthood as we consider the priviledges of being a priest and king to God.

1. **Since Christ is the High Priest and we are priest too,** it follows that we share His responsibilities, doing His works and extending His ministry. Consequently, we shall share His blessing and reward also. Galatians 3:29, Romans 8:17, Titus 3:7, 17, Galatians 4:7, Philippians 2:15, I John 3:1, I Thessalonians 5:5.

2. **Priests are special people.** They are higher in honour and authority than ordinary people. This is more so when they are royal priests, because then, they are real power being on the throne. Exodus 19:5, Deut. 14:2, Deut. 26:19, Psalms 29:11, I Samuel 12:22, I Cor.1:26.

3. **As Priests, they normally wield tremendous powers;** not necessarily directly in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm. However, since spiritual laws are superior to physical laws those who understand and operate spiritual laws control the physical realms also. Ephesians 6:12,, II Corinthians 10:4, I Samuel 17:46, Hebrews 4:12, Revelation 12:11, Matthew 18:18.

LESSON 049

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD – PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

In the first two parts of our study on the Royal Priesthood, we have learnt that all born again Christians are priest and kings to God. A chosen set of people sharing the responsibilities and blessing of Christ. As royal priests, we are actually the power behind the throne operating spiritual laws that are superior to the physical laws of any land. Last week, we concluded that we can influence every affairs of our land by using our authority to bind and loose. This week, we want to see how priests and priestesses of old changed the course of history of their lands.

The Men we shall study are:

a) **Moses** – Num. 14:11-21, Deut. 9:24-29, Exodus 32:30-32, Exodus 33:1-3, 12-17

b) **Nehemiah** – Nehemiah 1:1-11, Nehemiah 2:9-10

c) **Daniel** – Daniel 9:1-24

d) **Samuel** – I Samuel 15:10-11, I Samuel 12:23

e) **Deborah** – Judges 4:1-9, Judges 5:20-21

f) **Esther** – Esther 4:10, 5:3, other include

g) **Hezekiah** – II Chronicles 30:13-20,

h) **Ezra** –

Each priest/priestess identified himself/herself with the sins and iniquities of His/Her people and prayer a self-sacrificing prayer that moved God to action.

CONCLUSION: Their God is our God, Hebrews 13:8, therefore what they did, we can do also: we can alter the course of history of our Nation. The question is, “Are we ready to pay the price'?

LESSON 050

GOOD WORKS

INTRODUCTION:

Apostles James wrote that Faith without works is dead, being alone. In other words, a Christian's faith is dead and useless if it is not accompanied by good works. Without doubt, good works cannot obtain salvation for anyone - Romans 9:32, Romans 3:20, Gal. 2:15-16, Eph. 2:8-9, II Tim.1:9, Matt.7:22-23. However, once we are saved by faith in Christ Jesus, good works becomes essential – Col.2:10, Acts 10:38.

1. Good works are essential additions to Salvation for several reasons:

a) They demonstrate the faith of the believer – James 2:17-18. We are of course not ignorant of those who are pretenders who "do good" while living in sin.

b) Certainly, good works are the will of God for us – Luke 10:37, Eph. 2:10, Titus 3:1, James 1:27.

c) Good works are acts of service to the Lord – Matt. 25:32-36, Col. 1:13, II Timothy 2:21

d) Good works aids the ministry of our Lord, i.e. Evangelism, particularly because lack of good works might frighten people from accepting the gospel – Matt.5:16, Luke 10:36, Acts 9:36, I Peter 2:12, I Peter 3:1-2.

e) Good works aid the spiritual advancement of the believer – Mark 10:13, John 13:14, I Cor. 9:6-15, I Timothy 5:25, I Timothy 6:18, Titus 2:7, Titus 2:11-13, 3:9.

2. Good works are accessed on the Day of Judgement and are divinely rewarded – Matt.26:6-13, Matt.10:42, Luke 6:35, Rom. 13:3, Rom.14:10-12, Gal. 6:10, I Tim.6:18, Hebrews 13:16.

3. **What are good works?** They are works of love, done in accordance with a moral standard – I Tim.3:16-17, for a moral motive, I Thess.1:3, Hebrews 6:10 and with the aim of glorifying God – I Cor.10:31.

CONCLUSION: Without doubt, good works are essential additions to a true faith and we should heed the admonition in Hebrews 10:24. Remember also to be doers of the word not hearers only.

LESSON 051

WE NEED A REVIVAL PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

What is a religious? Revival means a religious awakening, a rousing from spiritual slumber, a rekindling of a dying spiritual flame, a refilling of a dying spiritual lamp with Divine oil. We believe many, if not all, of us need a revival now.

1. **Who needs a revival?** When can I know that I need a revival? There are several danger signs along the pilgrims pathway that can warn him of the need for a revival. Some of them are:

a) When you pray less than before – I Thess 5:17, I Tim.2:8, James 5:13,16

b) When you do not study the Word as before – Jos. 1:8, Deut. 17:18-19, Ps. 1:1-2, I Chron. 22:12-13, Prov. 3:1-4.

c) When you sleep too much – Prov. 6:9-11, Prov. 20:13, Psalms 13:3-4 d) When you are depressed or sad – John 14:1, Ps. 30:5, Ps. 34:19, II Cor. 4:17

e) When little things begin to offend you – John 15:5, Jer.10:23, John3:17, II Cor. 3:5.

f) When your love for material wealth is overriding your longing for spiritual wealth, I John 2:15-17, Heb. 11:24-25, Gal. 6:14, II Tim.2:4.

g) When you overeat – Prov. 23:21, Phil.3:19, I Kings 12:19-20, I Tim. 5:6

h) When you easily become impatient – Eccl.7;8, Heb.10:36, James 1:4

I) When you begin to talk too much – James 1:26, Eccl. 3:7, Prov. 17:27

j) When you faith grows weak – Ps. 27:1, Isa. 43:2, Ps. 66:10-12

k) When you worry over little things – Matt. 6:25-34, Ps. 56:22, I Pet. 5:7

LESSON 052

WE NEED A REVIVAL PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous study, we listed the danger signs on the pilgrim's way that tell him when he needs a spiritual awakening, a revival. Among these danger signs inability to pray and study the word of God as before, oversleeping, overeating, impatience, talkativeness, worries, lack of faith etc.

This week we want to answer in some details: what is a revival?

1. **It is a time when Christians collectively humble themselves before God in true repentance –** Lam.3:40-42, Hos.6:1-3, Ezra 10:1-13, Luke 3:1-20.
2. **It is a time when Christians collectively rejects the idols in their lives.** By idols we mean anything that is striving to displace God as our number one priority – II Kings 23:4, II Chro. 19:3, Acts 19:17-20.
3. **It is a time when Christians collectively seek the Lord afresh and wholeheartedly.** This brings in the sinners too – Zechariah 8:20-23, Ps. 80:7, Acts 9:25, Acts 11:21.
4. **It is a time of spiritual repairs after satanic destruction.** This is because whenever a people seek the face of the Lord in truth, the Lord will move on their behalf, Isa.57:15-17, Jere. 3:21-22, Hosea 14:4-8, Joel 2:25-27.
5. **It is a time of the restoration of the joy of Salvation and divine blessings –** Ps. 51:12-13, Ps. 85:6, Acts 8:8, II Chron. 7:12-14.

This is because as the people seek the Lord the more a desire to pray more often develops in them until it envelops them – Psalms 80:18, Acts 2:42-47.

CONCLUSION: Shall we now collectively humble ourselves before the Most High in true repentance confessing our sins and rejecting them? Shall we collectively seek the Lord our Redeemer afresh and in truth? Shall we or shall we not?

LESSON 053

WE NEED A REVIVAL PART 3

Text: Psalms 1:3

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of the series, we listed the conditions in a Christian that would show him that he/she needs a revival. In the second part of the series, we described what a true revival is. We said that a revival among other things is a time of collective seeking of the Lord in humility and repentance, a time of rejection of sins and idols, a time of revivals of prayer meetings and the restoration to the joy of salvation. Today, we want to see another aspect of a true spiritual revival.

1. A true spiritual revival is a time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Once a community has cleansed itself from idols and sins, the Holy Spirit moves in – Isaiah 32:16, Micah 3:8, Joel 2:23, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 6:8.
2. The Holy Spirit moves in as showers of early and latter rain, refreshing and in good measure – Joel 2:23, James 5:7-8, Acts 3:19, Luke 6:38, Luke 24:49
3. The power of the Holy Spirit is imparted to the revived Christian then overflow to the needy human as streams into the desert land is 35:1-10, John 7:8, Luke 6:19, John 7:38-39.

4. As a result of mighty demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, many sinners begins to flock in to the fold of God – I Cor. 2:4, Ps. 80:7, Acts 2:41, Acts 9:35, Acts 11:21.

CONCLUSION: Do you now see why we surely need a revival? Let us pray that the Lord may revive us so that we can be filled to overflowing with the power of the Mighty Holy Spirit, Psalms 23:5.

LESSON 054

WE MUST HELP THE POOR PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

There are certain political philosophies that aim at redistributing the wealth of the world. They claim that if we can get a government that will take all the money from the rich and distribute it to the poor, then everybody will be happy and satisfied. Are they genuine? Are they right? What does the Bible teach about the relationship between the rich and the poor? These and other questions we shall answer this week and the next in Jesus Name.

1. The Bible teachers that there will always be poor people till Jesus returns to set up His millennium kingdom and therefore commands us to be kind to the poor and needy even if he is our enemy – Deut. 24:14-17, Prov. 25:21, Isa 58:7, Luke 3:11, Romans 12:12-13, Gal.2:10, 6:10, I Tim. 6:18, Heb. 13:16, James 1:27. Included amongst the needy are widows, orphans, strangers, ministers of God and other believers in need.

2. However, many do not practice this injunction of God at all. But it is nothing new. It has always been so Job 24:1-11, Ps.109:16, Eze.22:12, Amos 2:7, 5:11, Titus 1:12. This is despite the fact that we are all poor compared to God – Matt. 18:23-34.

3. What has God done about it? He says in His word that he is taking note of everything and will reward everyone accordingly – Eccl.5:8-10, Isaiah 10:2.

CONCLUSION: Do you know the greatest cause of unanswered prayers? It is refusing to help the poor, Prov. 21:13. Have you been unkind to the poor? Will you like to talk to Jesus about it.

LESSON 055

WE MUST HELP THE POOR PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

INTRODUCTION: In the previous study we discussed the urgent need to help the poor so that they do not fall prey to dubious philosophers and self-seeking politicians. We concluded by saying that since anyone who has not got Jesus is poor. Helping the poor really means giving them Jesus Christ. If they have Jesus, they will not need communism since they have got Elohim they will not need either socialism or capitalism and since they have Cherubim and Seraphim to serve them. Today we shall look at the blessing waiting those who help poor.

1. **The Bible says those who help the poor shall be blessed indeed –** Ps. 41:1, Prov. 28:27, Isa. 58:6-11, Matt. 10:42, Luke 12:32-34, Dan.12:3, Matt.25:23, Luke 6:35, Rom.2:10, Eph. 6:8, John 4:36, Colossians 3:23-25.

2. **Several other blessings are listed in the scripture.** Some of such passages are – Prov. 29:14, Jere. 22:16, Prov. 19:17, Matt.19:21, Prov.14:21.

3. **The greatest reward of all is God himself.** To have Him as your reward is surely more than anything else in the world – Gen. 15:1, Isa.62:11, Revelation 22:12, II Timothy 4:8, I Peter 5:4.

LESSON 056

DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

In the world today, fake prophets, astrologers, palm-readers, Babalawos and other occultists are doing brisk business because men and women are consulting them for guidance. The future looks so uncertain, men's hearts are failing them for fear, the economic situation seems hopeless and men and women do not know what will happen next.

Must a child of God join the queue of sign seekers? Will God guide His own? How far will God lead us? When can we turn to God for guidance? These and other questions will be answered in this study in Jesus Name.

1. God has guided His own before even in a trackless wilderness – Exodus 13:21, Nehemiah 9:19-20, Psalms 77:20. He has not changed since then because He is an unchangeable God. So we can expect Him to guide us yet again – Hebrew 13:8, Matt.2:1-11, Job 22:27, Ps. 23:2-3, Psalms 139:10, John 8:12, Acts 9:6.

2. He will not only guide us in physical matters, He will guide us in Spiritual matters also – Ps. 25:9, Matt.13:36, Luke 1:79, Luke 18:18, Luke 11:1, John 14:26, John 16:13. He will not guide us for a short period, like the short-sighted seers, but He will guide us forever – I Cor. 12:9, Isa 30:21, Ps. 48:14, Ps. 73:23-24.

Surely, He will guide us by His Spirit, even as a Father guides his son – Romans 8:14, until we reach home at last.

LESSON 057

DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study, we learnt that God has guided His people before and He will guide them still, Heb.13:8. Also, He is able and willing to guide in all matters, physical, financial, marital and spiritual and also forever. Now, God has various ways of guiding His people. One of this ways through prophesies.

1. Talking about prophesy, there are two types:

a) Direct, which is readily recognized and

b) Indirect, which is blended with inspired preaching. There are also two major functions of prophesy:

i. Directive i.e. Specific instructions about a course of action –Acts 13:1-2 and

ii. Imperative i.e. By the laying on of hands and prophesying, the Holy Spirit imparts certain gifts or specific calling on the believer, I Tim.4:14. Hence, prophecy is not evil even though it may be abused – I Cor.14:1,22,39.

2. There are three (3) possible sources of prophesies:

I. The Holy Spirit Jere 1:9, II Sam. 23:2, Acts 19:6, Acts 21:11,

ii. Evil and lying spirits, I Kings 22:20-22, Isa. 8:19-20, Matt. 8:29, Acts 16:17, and

iii. The human spirit, Jere.23:16. It is important to note that God is against false prophets and warns us to beware of them, Jere. 23:31-32, Deut. 13:5, Deut. 18:20, Isa. 9:15, Jer. 2:8, Jer. 14:14, Ezek.22:28, Hosea 9:7, Micah 3:5, Zephaniah 3:4, Zechariah 13:3, Matthew 7:15, 24:11, Mark 13:22.

3. There are nine guidelines for judging whether a prophesy is true or false

I. Fulfillment – Deut.18:21-22,

ii. Accompanying conditions – II Chronicles 7:14

iii. Agreement with the word of God – I Cor.13:8-9, with Isaiah 40:8

iv. Public acknowledgement – I Corinthians 14:29,

v. Confirmation of something God has already told you – Acts 13:2,

vi. Spiritual witness – Rom 8:16,

vii. The purity of the vessel of prophecy, i.e. the life (holy or unholy) of the person prophesying

viii. The Spirit of the message – Revelation 19:10, Jesus is never unnecessarily harsh – Matthew 23:37-39, and

ix. The burden of the Lord – Isaiah 1:19-20.

4. Just a prophecy for your consideration and meditation – Isaiah 21:11-12

LESSON 058

DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

In the second part of our study on Divine Guidance, we leant about prophecy, direct and indirect. We also learnt the nine guidelines for judging a prophecy to know whether it is true or false. In this third Part, we will look at Visions.

1. A vision is a direct illumination from God, Invariably, visions occur while the person concerned is awake or on the verge of sleep. This is perhaps because some people are too busy or too impatient to hear the small still voice of God so that they need to see since they refuse to hear, Exodus 3:1-6, Judges 6:11-23, Judges 13:2-14, Acts 1:1-9, Revelation 1:9-16. The intensity of a vision works on the principle that the farther away we are from God, the louder He has to shout.

2. Visions are also given at times because some people need a concrete experience, a sort of strong point of reference for future service. The principles is that God must speak to us in direct proportion to the challenge we will face in the future, Joshua 5:13, 6:5, Acts 16:9-10, Acts 16:22-24, Acts 26:16.

3. A vision may be given to guide or to prepare someone for an important ministry, particularly when the ministry may be dangerous or risky – Acts 10:1-8.

4. A vision can also be given to warn against the danger of self-over estimation or to announce the impending judgement of God – Isaiah 6:1-5, Dan.5:1-5, 25-30, Isaiah 21:1-2, Ezekiel 11:24, 12:27, Daniel 8:1-14.

5. Do you wish to see God? Can you satisfy the necessary conditions? - Matthew 5:8, Number 21:9, John 3:14-15, Acts 7:55, II Kings 6:17, Hebrews 11:24-27, Hebrews 12:4, I Corinthians 2:9-10.

CONCLUSION: What more can a man ask than to have God as a Reward!.

LESSON 059

DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 4

Text: Psalms 1:3

INTRODUCTION:

In the third part of our study on Divine Guidance, we learnt about Visions. We saw that visions are direct illuminations from God given either to provide a strong point reference to someone being called to higher service to warn against self-overestimation or to prepare someone for an important or risky ministry. In this fourth part, of our study, we shall look at Dreams.

1. God speaks in dreams at times, infact; dreams are one of the languages of the Holy Spirit. Dreams could also be used as whip in the punishment of sinners and as a source of comfort and encouragement to those that God loves – Number 12:5-6, Job 33:14-15, Joel 2:28, Job 7:13-14, Deuteronomy 28:67, Gen.28:10-15, I Kings 3:5-15.

2. Dreams can warn against impending danger or judgement of God and when the dream is repeated, it means its fulfillment is very near indeed – Genesis 20:1-33, Matt.27:1-2,19, Genesis 41:17-24, Genesis 4:32.

3. Dreams can foretell apparently impossible things but with God all things are possible. Infact, God often uses dreams to further His purpose and achieve His planned goals – Genesis 37:5-11, Luke 1:37, Genesis 42:5-9, Genesis 40:9-14, Genesis 41:9-14, 38-41, Judge 7:9-15, Matt.1:18-25, Matt.2:11-12, Matt.2:13-15, Matt.2:19-23.

4. However, we should not put our trust absolutely in dreams and visions for several reasons. Some of these reasons are:

I. What you think on much may be reflected in your dreams.

ii. There are false dreamers

iii. There are false dreams through the influence of Satan

iv. Dreams need to be interpreted and only God can give the correct interpretations

v. The word of God is superior to any visions and dreams and Jesus is the word – Eccl. 5:3, 7, Jere. 23:25,32, II Cor. 11:13-14, Gen. 40:8, Gen. 41:16, Dan. 2:1-5, Dan. 19:23, 27-28, Jere. 23:28-29, Phil.3:8-10.

LESSON 060

PSALM 8 PART 1

Text: Psalms 8:1

INTRODUCTION:

Psalms 8 talk about the Lord our God whose name is just excellent. Lord who is more to be honoured and adored than any other god in the whole world. Who is this Lord? How much of Him do you know? Why must He be praised, adored, magnified, exalted and glorified? These and other questions will be answered as we study Psalms 8 in detail.

1. To be able to praise the Lord Jesus Christ, as you ought, you must make him yours personally, endeavour to know Him intimately. As you become aware of His power, glory, loving kindness, greatness, mighty acts, majesty, goodness and compassion you cannot but praise Him particularly when you recollect how shamefully Satan your former master had treated you – Psalms 63:1-3, Psalms 145:1-9, Matthew 22:45, Phil.2:11, Phil.3:8.

2. Why will we not praise Him when they are doing so in heaven? Why won't we praise Him whose name endureth forever? Why won't we praise Him whose name brings untold blessings to anyone who cares call on Him? He cares for the poor, the needy and the barren. No one is too low for His attention even though He alone is the wonder-working God. Revelation 19:5-6, Psalms 72:17-19, Ps. 113:2-9, 148:4-13, Exodus 15:11.

3. With all His powers, He is still merciful, gracious, patient and forgiving, His mercy and faithfulness are as high as the heavens. His righteousness as great mountains, his loving kindness just excellent, His pleasure as a river and His life like a fountain. So that He abundantly cares for the fatherless, supports the widows, fellowship with the lonely and releases the prisoners of sin and Satan – Exodus 34:5-7, Psalms 36:5-9, 57:10-11, 68:4-6, 108:4-5.

4. Do you ever wonder that such a mighty God can listen to prayers and petitions from ants like us? And not only listen, but bother to answer too. No wonder he has a name above every name, He lives forever, unchangeable, able to save His own to the uttermost, absolutely holy and yet harmless, higher than the heavens and yet so humble. O Lord our God, how excellent is Thy Name. I Kings 8:27, Habakkuk 3:3-4, Ephesians 4:10, Philippians 2:6-10, Hebrew 7:24-25, 26.

LESSON 061

PSALM 8 PART 2

Text: Psalms 8:2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series on Psalms 8 we began to learn about our God whose name is just excellent. We learnt of His great might, strength, love, loving kindness, mercy, grace, miracles, compassion, majesty, glory, etc. No wonder they praise Him ceaselessly in Heaven. Hence we must praise Him unceasingly on earth also. We now go on to the second verse in order to discover more about Him whose Name is excellent.

1. **God prefers to deal with "babies" than with the so-called "adults".** He always reveals deep mysteries to babies" not to the academic giants. For example, praise is the greatest weapon in the hand of any Christian and it is babies who know how to use this weapon most. God strategy of war consist simply in choosing the despised and the weak to launch a surprise attack on His enemies, Matt.11:25, 21:16, Luke 10:21, Psalms 84:4-7, I Corinthians 1:27-28, II Corinthians 20:22, 31:2.

2. **True strength, unfailing strength, ever increasing strength comes from the Lord and only those who praise Him constantly have it.** Those who think they are strong will fall, but those who fall back on the Lord in their weakness shall exchange their weakness for the strength of the Lord. Our God always turns defeat into victory, death into life, darkness into light the defeated into victor. Human extremely in weakness is God's opportunity to demonstrate His own might strength – Isa 40:28-31, Amos 5:5-9, II Cor. 12:9-10, Psalms 4:4, 46:10, Amos 5:8-9, II Samuel 22:33, Psalms 28:8, Psalms 73:26, Exodus 11:7.

3. **When God decides to help you, He has ways you cannot dream of.** He has the ability to immobilize your enemies till He has fully established you. A good example is the testimony of Rehab, the harlot. You must remember that you cannot win the

battle against Satan on your own strength anyway. However, your enemies cannot win against God either. And God will help you because He loves to help the poor and the helpless. Exodus 15:15-17, Deut. 26:19, Psalms 78:52.

4. **An excellent example that our God is the help of the helpless is the true story of Sennacherib verses Hezekiah.** That same God is here with us and will subdue our enemies. Therefore, let us show our complete trust in Him by shouting in triumph in defiance of our enemies and in praise of our God whose name is just excellent. Isaiah 37:20-29, 37:33-38, Habakkuk 2:20, Psalms 46:7, 44:5-8, 46:1-3, 47:1-3.

LESSON 062

PSALM 8 PART 3

Text: Psalms 8:3

INTRODUCTION:

In part two of this series on Psalms 8 we saw how God preferred to operate through "babies", the weak the foolish and the despised in order to surprise his enemy, the devil. We saw how those who think they are strong, wise and independent of God will fail but those who fall back on God in their weakness and helplessness will obtain strength and hope. God is the help of the helpless and those who know Him always praise Him. Now, we move on to the third part of the series as we go on to Psalms 8:3.

1. If you wish to see the glory of God, just look up at the heavens. If you want to visit the showroom of the Almighty, just consider the firmament. His works are so glorious and honourable that Solomon in all his splendour falls short of the glory of ordinary grass. But only those who know the value of the works of God appreciate them and to such meditating on the works of God is sweet. Have you ever considered the fact that as high as the stars are, God is higher still? Psalms 19:1, Psalms 19:1, Psalms 111:2-3, Psalms 97:6, Job 37:14, Matt. 6:28-29, Psalms 104:34, Job 22:12, Psalms 102:25-26, Psalms 47:9, Psalms 57:9-11.

2. Have you meditated on the fact that the age of God is unknown that there was once upon a time when there was nothing except God? Have you tried to comprehend His creative ability? Why then do you think there is a problem of yours that he cannot solve? Do you know that his creations do not consist of visible things alone but that there are uncountable invisible things also? The wonder of it is that He just spoke and all things were made. Surely, He is a wonder working God, as even a heathen king confesses – Job 36:22-29, Psalms 102:27, Proverbs 102:27, Proverbs 8:23-27, Romans 1:20, Psalms 33:6, Psalms 77:11-16, Genesis 1:1, 3,6,9, 11, Daniel 4:1-3.

3. What He can do with a single finger of His, all the world scientists can never do. With a single finger, he overpowers Satan, binds him and casts out demons. He controls the movements of the sun, moon and stars and He can make them obey you if you know how to please Him. Exodus 8:16-19, Exodus 31:18, Luke 11:20-22, Daniel 5:5, Psalms 104:19, Joshua 10:12-13, Ps.186:7-9.

4. The heavens and all they contain are not to be worshipped by us but they are to join us in praising the Creator of us all. Now He has such a large army of His own that could praise Him continuously so that if you do not praise Him, He loses nothing by it, it is you who would lose something. Also, consider the fact that even the stars are not pure in His sight because the sight of His glory is like a devouring sire. So much so that whenever His glory descended in the olden days even the priests could not stand? Do you not therefore count it a great priviledge that a dirty worm like you can praise the one who is called Glorious in Holiness? Psalms 148:1-5, Deut. 4:19, Job 25:3-6, Exodus 24:17, I Kings 8:11.

LESSON 063

PSALM 8 PART 4

Text: Psalms 8:4

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous studies in this series, we saw why we must praise the one whose name is excellent in all the earth. The works of His mighty hand, the stars, the moon, the sun, the firmament, the birds, fishes, animals, insects, plants, flowers, precious stones etc, are all objects of great beauty and glory. All His creatures praise Him, why should we human beings the best of all His creations fail to praise Him continuously? Now, we wish to discover other reasons why we should magnify the Lord.

1. Man is nothing whereas if God merely touches the mountains, they begin to smoke. God is so big that heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. So He fills the heaven and the earth as well. He knows how much water is in the oceans and the weight of the mountains. He knows what is in the darkness and even the secret thoughts of every man. His wisdom and knowledge is beyond comprehension. Psalms 144:3-5, II Chronicles 6:18, Jeremiah 23:24, Isaiah 66:1-2, Acts 17:27, Isaiah 40:12-17, Daniel 2:22, I Corinthians 3:20, Isaiah 40:28, Job 25:6, Psalms 4:2, I Samuel 2:3, Matthew 6:8, Psalms 80:17.

2. Man is so frail, so transient that he cannot be relied upon. He is here today and gone tomorrow like a grass that withers and fades away. Whereas, not only does God live forever but He has the power to make and unmake. Yet God loves man so much that He calls Himself – "The Son of Man". Even though He is so high, yet He humbled Himself to the level of man, reaching down to help even those on the dunghill – Psalms 146:3-4, Isaiah 40:6-8, Isaiah 51:12-15, Psalms 90:5-6, Psalms 103:15-16, Isaiah 51:12, I Peter 1:24, Psalms 78:39, Matthew 8:20, Psalms 113:4-6, Psalms 138:6.

3. God magnifies the dust of the earth called man to such an extent that He wants to visit man daily. Not only does He come to visit but He does not come empty handed either. The first present in His hand is Salvation. Other presents include: children for barren, deliverance from slavery to sin and Satan, comfort to the afflicted, answers to prayers, etc. How else can we repay this Great visitor for all His kindness except to praise Him continually? Job 7:17-18, Psalms 106:4, Genesis 21:1-3, Exodus 4:31, Luke 1:68, Luke 19:44, I Peter 2:12, Psalms 116:12-13.

LESSON 064

PSALM 8 PART 5

Text: Psalms 8:5

INTRODUCTION:

We have been considering the Excellency of the name of our God. But much as we study we will find that there is so much to learn about our great, majestic and wonderful God. It is easy to agree with the Scriptures as recorded in Job 37:22-27, it says, "fair weather cometh out of the north, with God is terrible majesty. Touching the Almighty, we cannot find Him out: He is excellent in power, and in judgement, and in plenty of justice, he will not afflict. Now we want to proceed to Psalms 8:5.

1. Angels are very strong, yet they obey God and do only those things that are pleasing to Him. They worship Him by the millions. However, excellent as angels are, God still decided in His infinite wisdom that He would still prefer a creature that is like Himself so he gave a part of Himself and transformed ordinary dust to something wonderful called man. It is not only life that God imparted to man but He transferred part of His glory also. Psalms 103:20-21, Nehemiah 9:6, Daniel 7:10, Hebrew 12:22, Acts 12:7, Acts 27:23, Exodus 14:19, James 2:26, Proverbs 20:27, Job 32:8, I Corinthians 11:7.

2. As excellent as angels are, God considers them foolish. Even though angels are immortal and man is ordinary dust yet God loves man. It is this inexplicable love that changes God Himself to man in the form of Jesus Christ. That is, God puts Himself into the "prison" of a clay body so that he might fully appreciate the difficulties of man and thus be able to help us sympathetically. Also, all the blessings that man lost when he sinned, God restored them after salvation. But these valuable blessings honour, success, victories etc were paid for dearly by Jesus Christ with His precious blood, Job 4:28-21, Philippians 2:5-8, John 3:16, Genesis 2:16-18, Psalms 21:3-5, Hebrew 7:26, Hebrew 8:1, I Corinthians 6:21, I Peter 1:18-19, Psalms 45:1-36, John 13:31-32, Psalms 91:15, John 12:26, I Samuel 2:7, Psalms 75:7, Daniel 2:21.

3. Tremendous power and glory are transferred to man through the achievements and glorification of Jesus Christ. One of such unspeakable blessings transferred to us is that death has lost its power over us because Christ has removed its sting. And there is no greater power than being able to use that name that is above all names, that excellent name JESUS –

Ephesians 1:15-23, Hebrew 2:9, I Corinthians 15:51-57, I Peter 1:18-21, Proverbs 16:7, John 8:29, Hebrew 13:16, Philippians 2:9-11.

LESSON 065

PSALM 8 PART 6

Text: Psalms 8:6-9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last few studies we have been study Psalms 8 in details, learning about our God whose Name is excellent. We have learnt about His greatness, His awesome power and His love for the dust of the earth called man. We have discovered that even angels, as powerful as they are relegated to the background while God in His infinite wisdom exalt man. Now, we want to conclude our series Psalms 8 and we look at the last four verses together.

1. God created a lot of things and in great numbers too. And there are quite some giants among them too, living on land and sea. Notable among these giants are the behemoths and leviathans. God made them all in different sizes and shapes in His infinite wisdom and supplies all their needs in His infinite providence. Finally, He created man in His own image to oversee all His creatures and to rule over them. To make the assignment easy, God puts the fear of man in every creature so that man can tame any animal. But man, who God call a "god" lost his highly exalted position when he sinned – Genesis 1:20-25, Job 40:15-24, Job 41:1-7, Psalms 104:24-27, Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 9:2, James 3:7, I Corinthians 11:7, James 3:9, Matthew 6:20, Psalms 82:6-7.

2. However the great love of God for man persists so that he sent Christ to redeem us. Through Christ the dominion that man lost has been regained so that no power is great enough to defeat us now. Today, Jesus Christ backs every believer with an awesome power: the total power in the universe since Christ Himself is seated on the right hand of power of God, we can claim that we have a friend in the highest office in the universe. And that friend is the Lord of both the living and the dead, including "non-living" things as well. Now since Christ is our Brother, we being children of the same Father, whatever Christ has belongs to us because we are part and parcel of Him, even of His flesh and bones – Hebrew 1:1-4, John 17:23, Romans 8:38-39, Matthew 28:18-20, Genesis 28:15, Exodus 33:14, Hebrew 2:8-12, Deuteronomy 20:1,

Matthew 18:20, Psalms 110:1, John 3:31, Romans 14:9, Genesis 28:15, Colossians 1:8, Matthew 8:27, Romans 7:4, I Corinthians 6:15, I John 2:24, Ephesians 5:30.

3. So now we have God the father at the head of all things, The Lord Jesus Christ is at His right hand and all believers as the body of Christ with all else at our feet. Now, there are many questions that man, in His own wisdom, can never answer. For example; who is the father of the rain or the mother of the dew? But God has the answer to all these questions and many more. Infacts it is possible to know all the details about God but believers should rejoice nonetheless. This is because since there is none more blessed than the people of God. No wonder we should just keep on blessing that excellent Name, JESUS – I Cor. 15:23-28, Ephesians 1:19-22, Job 38:28-41, Job 39:1-5, Job 11:7-9, 5:9, Eccl.3:11, I Corinthians 2:16, Deuteronomy 22:26-29.

LESSON 066

THE NEW LIFE

Text: Psalms 8:6-9

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible says that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, II Corinthians 5:17. What exactly does that mean? What are the implications of being in Christ? What does being born again implies? These and other similar questions should be full settled by the time we finish this study in Jesus Name.

1. If you are truly in Jesus, then you are in God and God is in you through Christ. Consequently, you not only have redemption and righteousness of God but also sanctification and the wisdom of God become available to you. As a result of this, tremendous blessings from God can be yours through Christ. However, these blessings carry some responsibilities too: holiness, purity and love. In short, we are expected to be saints. In other words, we are either sinners or saints since there is no such combination as half-sinner half-saint. And what we are will show through our fruits: our behaviour speech, habits, mode of dressing etc, John 14:20, John 15:5-8, I Corinthians 1:30, Ephesians 1:3-4, Philippians 4:21, Romans 8:1-9, Romans 16:7,11, Galatians 3:28-29, Galatians 5:6, Psalms 51:10, Ezekiel 18:31-32, John 17:23, Matthew 12:33.

2. In actual fact, being in Christ means we must become new babies, without a past record, starting completely afresh. We must become brand new creatures. Even our former “good works” must be forgotten too so that God can start His own good works in us. Any patch of our old self with the new will only make our life completely miserable. Therefore, the person we used to be must be dead and buried. An entirely new person must resurrect to whom sin must be a total stranger. Otherwise, we will not be able to fellowship with other true saints, join the household of God or be temple fit for God to occupy – John 3:3,5, Galatians 6:15, Ephesians 2:8-10, Isaiah 65:17-18, Matthew 9:16-17, Romans 6:4-7, Romans 8:19-14, Ephesians 2:18-22.

3. Therefore, our new life in Christ implies two things: (i) We must put off our old sinful self and (ii) we must put on a new righteous man who is truly holy. The things that have to go are nothing but dung compared to the blessings in Jesus Christ anyway. Some of them are: fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, filthy communication and lying. And when you remember that your old self belongs to a fast perishing world and that new self will belong to a coming kingdom where there is no sorrow, death, pain or any evil, it should be easy to choose. I prefer the new life in Christ to the old life in sin. What of you? Ephesians 4:22-24, Philippians 3:7-10, Colossians 3:1-10, II Pet.3:10-13, Revelation 21:1-5.

LESSON 067

WHY GOD CHOSE YOU PART 1

Text: Psalms 8:6-9

INTRODUCTION:

The word of God says: "Many are called but few are chosen" – Matthew 22:14. Praise God you are one of the chosen few: But why are you chosen by God? Jesus made it plain in John 15:16, when He said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruits should remain…"

1. God who has chosen you from your mother's womb has a purpose for doing so. He wants to be glorified in you, by you and though you. He loved you even before you know Him and it is only reasonable that you respond to that love. It is the supreme mercy of God that has made you what you are today, a saved soul, it is His purpose that you be an instrument of honour to Him – Isaiah 49:1-3, I John 4:10, 19, Exodus 19:5, Deut. 14:2, Psalms 78:52, Luke 1:17, Acts 15:14, Romans 9:11-16, 21.

2. One of the reasons why God chose you is to bear fruits. Now there are many types of fruits that God expects from you. These includes:

(I) fruits of repentance as evidence of your turning away from sin

(ii) fruit acceptable to God, the type of fruit that those who had died with Christ and had arisen with him can bear

(iii) fruit of the Holy Spirit which is in goodness, righteousness and truth and

(iv) souls for Christ, Matthew 3:8-9, Romans 7:4, Romans 6:22, Hebrew 12:11, Matthew 13:8, Philippians 1:11, II Corinthians 9:10, Philippians 4:17, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:9-10.

3. **In order to be able to bear fruits for Christ, there are certain conditions to be satisfied.** These conditions include

(I) being in perpetual contact with Jesus Christ who is the living water

(ii) understanding Jesus fully, because He is the word of God

(iii) Being dead to the old life,

(iv) constant spiritual polishing and

(v) abiding permanently in Jesus Christ the Lord – Psalms 1:1-3, Matt.13:23, John 1:1, John 12:24, John 15:2, John 15:5, Philippians 4:13.

4. **It is a dangerous thing not to bear fruits for the Lord.**

There are several reasons why this is so. Some of them are the facts that unfruitfulness

(I) is a sign of worldliness

(ii) a sign of misuse or disuse of talents

(iii) disappoints the Master

(iv) leads to Divine judgement and

(v) ends in final rejection Matthew 12:22, Luke 13:6, Luke 19:20, Matthew 3:10, Hebrews 6:8, John 15:6.

LESSON 068

THE CRUCIFIED LIFE PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

It was established in part one of this study that God chose you so that you may (i) go (ii) bring forth fruit and (iii) that your fruit should remain – John 15:16. It was also established that there are two types of fruits: (a) fruits that result from repentance and (b) producing (i.e. converting) other children for God. Both types are connected. There is fruit of righteousness which is sown only by those who get men to make peace with God i.e. soul-winners Proverbs 11:30, James 3:18, and happy are such fruitful people, Isaiah 55:10-13. Now, we want to look at the second type of fruit – souls

1. The reason we are separated unto God from our mother's womb is so that we might preach the gospel to others. It is not to all that the light of Jesus has been shown. It has been shown to you in all His power so that you too can show it to others. God allowed you to see and hear what you have heard so that you can pass the message on to the rich and the poor, the educated and illiterate, big men and "small". Since God used others to reach you, it is only reasonable that you must reach others yet unreached – Galatians 1:15-16, Acts 10:38-41, Acts 9:10-15, Acts 22:14-15, Romans 1:13-14, Romans 15:16-19.

2. Witnessing to others is not a matter of choice. It is not something you do if you like, when you like or how you like. It is compulsory and seriously so. Infact we are in great danger if we fail to do so effectively. God will not accept any excuse from you either. He that sends you will supply the strength, grace, wisdom, and power to be successful soul-winner once you yield to Him. Not only will He back you up with all the

powers in heaven and on earth. He even allow a tremendous amount of personal power through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I Corinthians 9:16-18, Jeremiah 1:5-7, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:47-49, Romans 15:15-16, Matt.28:18-20, Acts 1:8.

3. As a Christian, you are of the seed of Abraham and must therefore be a blessing to the whole world. This can only be so if you produce children who will in turn produce more children. That is you are not only to win others to Christ but you are to make disciples of them also so that they too can become soul-winners. You are to pass the batons of the Gospel of peace to your children who will pass them on the their children and so on till Jesus comes. Generations after generations are to carry on the works of witnessing for Christ Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, was sent to win you back to God. He paid a terrible price to achieve this purpose. Now, as the Lover of your soul, He sends you to claim the world back to Him. You must not let his sacrifice be in vain. Remember. He loves you so, Genesis 18:18, II Timothy 2:2, I Corinthians 3:6-15, Psalms 71:17-18, Psalms 78:4-6, Psalms 145:4, Acts 20:25-28, John 21:15:17, John 20:21.

LESSON 069

THE CRUCIFIED LIFE PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

Paul said in Galatians 2:20 that "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, but not I Christ liveth in me…" How can a man be crucified and at the same time he is alive? What does it means to live a crucified life? What does Paul mean by saying "Christ liveth in Me? This and many other questions we will try and answer in this study in JESUS name.

1. **THE CRUCIFIED LIFE IS ONE EXPECTING THE RAPTURE:** Death as Christians knows it does not mean the end of life. Yet Christians have to be dead to certain things: that is there are certain things he will never do anymore or support doing. These include flesh and the lust thereof, lust and pleasure of the world. Galatians 5:17, Galatians 6:14, Colossians 2:13. It is important that we are crucified with Christ, so that (i) we will not continue in sin. (ii) we can grow in the Spirit (iii) So that we can please God (iv) we can have new life and peace (v) we might reign with Christ during his appearing – Romans 8:3-9, Colossians 2:11-14, Romans 6:8, Colossians 3:3-6, John 14:19-20.

2. **BEING DEAD TO SIN LIVES TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE SPIRIT:** The world will constantly tempt us and this is why we must be dead daily to all the world ropes that Satan might be throwing. Also, since the body is dead, the Spirit will overrule and the Christian will b established and rooted in God, until we are empowered in the knowledge and fullness of God – II Corinthians 4:10-11, II Corinthians 13:3-5, Ephesians 3:16-17, Colossians 1:23-27, I Thessalonians 5:9-10. Being crucified with Christ is like inflicting oneself with punishment but is a truthful life to enjoy divine deep fellowship. This is because flesh is a co-

worker with Satan, a spy in his army and terribly dangerous enemy too. I Peter 4:1-2, Revelation 3:20, II Corinthians 10:3.

3. THE CRUCIFIED LIFE IS ONE THAT LIVES BY FAITH IN JESUS AND IS POWERFUL: being crucified with Christ, according to the experience of some Christians is a life of faith. It is faith in a hidden power and grace of God that makes the crucified life not only possible but also with peace, joy and glorious hope Gal 3:11, John 6:57, Romans 1:17, Romans 6:1-2, II Corinthians 1:24, II Corinthians 5:7, 14-15, Philippians 4:13, I Peter 1:8-9. Jesus gave himself for you, not only to save your soul but also that victorious Christian life might be yours also, with unfilthiness and holiness. He loves you and he will make you more than an overcomer, if you allow him to do that for you. Titus 2:11-14, Gal. 1:3-4, Matt. 20:28, John 10:11, John 15:13-14, Rom.8:37

LESSON 070

LOVE NOT THE WORLD PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

In the book of John 2:15-17 the word of God says "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but of the world. And the world passeth away and the lust of it, but he that doeth the will of the father abideth forever". This passage is one of those that many people hate most in the Bible because many want the advantages derived from being Christians, forgetting the part they have to play. What exactly is God saying here? How can we be in the world without loving the world? What are the dangers in loving the world? These and many other questions we will try to answer in this study in Jesus name.

1) THE MAIN GOAL OF HUMAN BEINGS THAT LOVE THE WORLD IS TO PLEASED MEN ONLY

a) Those who seek to please men cannot please God. This is because you cannot perfectly please God in a way that is acceptable if you are still being controlled by paying attention to the world. You cannot eat your cake and have it. You either love God and hate the world or not at all. God will not compromise this issue at all. God is a jealous God. Nothing can be called a spiritual-worldly-person. He is either world or spiritual – Galatians 1:10, Romans 12:1-2, Matt. 6:19-24, Jam.4:4-6, Luke 16:13, Galatians 5:16-17.

b) CHILDREN OF GOD ARE STRANGER ON EARTH BUT CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

Children of God cannot love the world because the world is an enemy of God. If the world does not hate you, then you must have failed spiritually. Once we were of the world, doing things that made God angry but has passed away now. What concern us now should be those things of our new citizenship and not of the old one. Also, Naira is not spent where we are going and the houses are not built with hands. Our passport into His Kingdom will be holiness, love, patience, meekness, etc John 15:18-19,

Ephesians 2:1-3, Colossians 3:1-2, Titus 2:11-14, I Tim 6:6-12.

2) **IT IS EASY TO RECOGNISE THOSE WHO LOVE THE WORLD:**

a) One way to know those who are worldly is through the word that proceeds out of their mouth. Other traits of the world include: disobedience, pleasure, malice, murmuring, accusation, talkativeness, ostentation and contempt, jealousy is also a trait of worldliness especially when it proceeds from (i) an ambition to outshine others (ii) dissatisfaction (iii) lack of foresight, I John 4:5-6, Titus 3:3, Judges 16:19, Romans 13:12-14. Loving the world is not limited to just amassing wealth alone, but also wrong use of our money and eyes as well as those who refuse to bless the needy with their substance are worldly, Matt.5:27-30, Num. 11:4-6, 33-34. Ps. 78:18-31, Prov. 6:25, I John 3:17.

b) **THE CHRISTIANS HAVE THEIR OWN MARKS TOO**

Spiritual Christians are easy to recognize in that they are full of praises, self control, faithfulness, obedience, patience, humility, good works, honour God and His commands. Regularly read the Bible broaden in learning, prayerful, fellowshipping with the saints. Hates former sinners of the past. I Peter 17, 1:14, 4:1-4, II Peter 2:10-18, I Peter 2:2, Joshua 1:8, Psalms 1:1-2, II Peter 3:18.

3) LUST IS A DESTROYER, RUN FROM IT

a) Sin started with lust of the flesh as one who is smart. Instant destruction came upon man though lusts of the eyes and flesh. The sin of Achan and the destruction that followed started when he looked – Genesis 3:6, Genesis 6:1-7, Joshua 7:20-26.

B) WISE CHRISTIANS LOVE NOT THE WORLD, BUT FOOLISH CHRISTIANS LOVE THE WORLD:

The wisest and richest king Solomon amongst those who ever lived in the world knew that it is vanity to heap wealth to one self. Satan's proclamation today is how to draw people with the glittering things of the world. Job knew the danger in the lust of the eyes. David knew what he paid for loving the things of the world especially in the areas of agonizing prayer.

Eccl.5:10-12, Matt. 4:8-10, Luke 4:5-8, Job 31:1-3, Ps.119:36-38. Loving the world is very dangerous.

LESSON 071

LOVE NOT THE WORLD PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series on “love not the world”, we learnt that the chief desire of worldly people is to please men rather than God. But true children of God are strangers in this world because they are actually citizens of heaven. Therefore, their desire is to please God rather than men. We also discovered some of the characteristics of worldly people as well as those of spiritual Christians. We concluded with a warning to flee from the killer called “LUST”, and that wise Christians are not worldly whereas worldly Christians are not wise. Now, we want to continue our study on this essential theme. May the Lord quicken our understanding in Jesus Name.

1) WEALTH WITHOUT CHRIST IS WORTHLESS:

a) Wealth without Christ is a waste of time, energy and effort. The best the world can offer us is vanity. There is nothing to be envious about in the prosperity of sinners. Their end shows that those who put God first are wise. The poor Christian in the will of God is far superior to the rich sinner and any business endeavour that leaves God out of the picture or places God second is foolishness of the highest degree – Psalms 39:9-6, James 4:13-15, James 1:9-11, Psalms 73:3, 18-20.

b) THEY SAY, “THINGS OF BEAUTY IS OF JOY FOREVER” BUT DOESN'T BEAUTH FADE?

All the beauties of the world are transient. The old women of today were the beautiful damsels of yesterday. Everything will fade except the word of God. That is why it is foolish to follow the fashions of this world. In any case, how long are we going to be here for? And why must we love the creatures more than the Creator? Particularly when we know that the creatures will pass away but the Creator remains forever – Isaiah 40:6-8, I Corinthians 7:31, Psalms 90:9-10, Psalms 102:25-27.

2) IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CALL JESUS 'LORD' HE MUST BE TRULY 'THE LORD'

a) If the living God is your God, you will desire above all things to know his will and do it, because He is a good God and His will is not grievous. In any case, you have to do His will to qualify for heaven and His will opposite to that of the world. Only those who do the express will of God are true brothers and sisters of Christ. Others bear the titles "brother" and "sister" in vain Psalms 143:10, Matt.7:2, Matt 21:28-32, Mark 3:31-32, John 7:11-17.

b) TO KNOW JESUS IS TO LOVE HIM: TO LOVE HIM IS TO DO HIS WILL:

The will of God concerning your body is that it be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to Him (not to the world). Concerning your mind, His will is that you do not think the way of the world but to constantly strive to be exactly like God in goodness, perfection, soberness, humility, and faith. He wants you to know Him, please Him. Be worthy of Him, joyful, strong, fruitful, wise, patient sanctified holy, honourable and always thankful. In particular, He wants you to avoid fornication and adultery at all cost – Romans 12:1-3, Colo.1:9-11, 4:12, I Thess 4:3-7, 5:18, Heb.10:36, I Pet.2:2.

3) DEATH ENDS YOUR STAY IN THIS WORLD, BUT DEATH IS NOT THE TRUE END

The things of the world will perish with the world. You came with nothing into this world and when you die you will take nothing out. But if you decide unchangeably to pitch your tent with Christ today and forsake the world, then there is an inheritance that cannot be corrupted or fade, which will be yours on the last day. The choice is yours: either to love the world or to love the Lord – Psalms 125:1-2, Proverbs 10:25, John 4:14, 6:58, 10:27-30, I Peter 1:3-5.

LESSON 072

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

Many people believe that Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the Apostles of old. Definitely, he did much for Christ. II Corinthians 11:5. But one of the most profound of his statements in our opinion is in Philippians 3:7-14. These verses of the Scripture are what we want to look at more closely in this beginning from this study. It is our prayer that by the time we finish those series, we shall know Christ the more.

1) **TO REIGN IN THE NEXT WORLD, YOU MUST FORSAKE THIS ONE:**

a) Since this world is going to perish with all its wealth and admirers, those who will reign in the next world are those who are prepared to forsake all. And if all you have in this world and all the world can offer you be forfeited in exchange for the kingdom of God, it will be a good bargain indeed. If it costs you the loss of friends and relations too, it is still a very light loss. However, if you prefer this world to the next then you better enjoy as much as you can now, because there is no enjoyment in hell. And without doubt, if you cling to this world and its deceitful riches, you are doomed forever, Genesis 19:17-26, Matt. 13:44-46, Luke 14:26, 33a, Luke 16:9, Luke 17:32-33.

b) YOUR SOUL IS TOO PRECIOUS: DO NOT JOKE WITH IT:

Solomon, the richest man ever to live, considered losing your wealth to save your life a reasonable deal. He said that wise men will pay any price for the truth, but we know that Jesus Christ, the Truth is priceless. Jesus considers your soul more precious than the whole world. He should know, because it cost him His own life to redeem your soul. Surprisingly, even the devil knows that your life is more precious than your possessions, Proverbs 13:8, 23:23, Matthew 16:26, Acts 27:18-19,38, Galatians 2:15-17, Job 2:4.

2) TO KNOW CRIST IS TO HAVE THE WISDOM OF GOD, PHILODOPHIES ARE VANITY:

a) There is not glory in human wisdom; your children cannot inherit your certificates. There is not glory in human might or riches: they do not last forever. But it is glorious to know Christ. Moreover, many of the wise men of this world do not know the only person they should know in order to become truly wise. And those of us who know Him did so through the grace and mercy of God and not by our own wisdom or cleverness, Jere.9:23-24, Matthew 11:25-27, I Corinthians 1:18-20, Matthew 16:16-17, Luke 10:22, I Cor. 2:2.

b) TO KNOW CHRIST IS TO LIVE FOREVER, BECAUSE IT IS GOD WHO REVEALS HIM TO PEOPLE: what is life eternal? It is to know the true God and Jesus Christ his Son. Those who believe not are blinded by the devil and those of us who believe must rejoice and glorify God because it is God who commanded His light to shine into our hearts. It is through the mercy of God, who had known us before we were born, that we know Jesus Christ today as our Saviors and Lord. To some people, Jesus Christ means nothing. But to those of us who know Him, He is the most precious thing in our lives John 17:2, II Corinthians 4:4-6, Gal. 1:15-16, Ephesians 1:17-18, John 14:19-21, I Peter 2:7-10.

3) BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT MOURN NOW: THEY SHALL LAUGH LAST, AND SOON TOO: saying good-bye to all your former dreams may cause you some initial sorrow, but at the end you will rejoice. We may suffer some hardships because of our determination to follow Christ completely, but then the glory to come is just incomparable with sufferings of now. Consider how Jesus suffered and how he now reigns supreme. Moreover, the end is much nearer than you think. Keep up the race; the glorious day is fast approaching. Psalms 126:5-6, Romans 8:16-19, Isaiah 53:7-12, Philippians 2:5-11, Revelation 3:21, II Peter 3:17-18, I John 2:18.

LESSON 073

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we learnt that there is nothing as precious as our soul. That the wealth of the whole world is not enough to pay for one soul. Consequently, we learnt that anything that the world may offer us in exchange for the knowledge of Christ and eternal life must be vigorously rejected. Now, we proceed in our quest to know him more.

1) MAN IS NATURALLY WICKED, FILTHY, AND TOTALLY UNRELIABLE.

a) We all know that man is naturally wicked. He takes to sin as a fish takes to water. Evan the so called saints of old are not totally reliable: they did strong things under pressure David versus Nabal, Peter versus the gentiles, etc. In fact, before the advent of Christ, God's testimony of man is that He is absolutely filthy without exception. The great problem about sins is that there are some we commit unknowingly. But ignorance is no plea in law. Thank God for the blood of Jesus that cleanses from all sins. Job 15:14-16, Psalms 14:2-3, Psalms 130:3-4, 13:1-2, 19: 12-13, I John 1:7.

b) THE SIN OF THE WHOLE WORLD WAS SUCH A BURDEN THAT EVEN THE ALMIGHTY JESUS GROANED UNDER IT: When man is at his best, he is like a rag dipped in night-soil in the sight of God. When at his worst, he is desperately wicked. Thank God, Jesus came for sinners not for those who trust in their own righteousness. Because we all had strayed at one time or the other and it takes the Almighty God's son Himself to bear the iniquities of us all. And it was such a heavy burden that even Christ groaned under it. Isaiah 64:5-6, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 9:12-13, Isaiah 53:6, Matthew 26:37-39, Mark 14:33-36, Luke 22:41-44.

2) TO KNOW CHRIST THEREFORE IS TO BE FREE, JOYFUL, HOPEFUL, SAFE AND POWERFUL:

a) To know Christ is to be free from your burden of sin, sickness, sorrow, and condemnation. To know Him is to be full of joy and hope; strong unshakable hope that provides an anchor that is sure and steadfast in any storm of life. The whole world may perish, but those who know Christ and are in Him shall be safe from eternal destructions. To know Him is to have the unfathomable wisdom and power of God. Isaiah 53:4-5, Romans 8:1, John 1:3-5, Hebrews 6:17-20, Genesis 7:23, Deuteronomy 19:1-3, I Corinthians 1:24.

b) THE MORE YOU KNOW HIM, THE HUMBLER YOU BECOME: The closer you get to Christ, the humbler you become. This is because the knowledge of His holiness exposes your sinfulness, His purity exposes your corruption. To catch even a glimpse of Christ in all His glorious holiness and spotless perfection is to utterly abhor your so-called holiness and purity. Job 42:5-6, I Corinthians 4:9-13, Isaiah 6:1-5, Psalms 24:3-4.

3) TO KNOW JESUS IS TO READILY ACCEPT HIM AS LORD: King David saw Jesus Christ a far off. And though he was His great ancestor, He still called Him Lord because he realized even then that He is the King of kings. Those who had felt the delivering power of this great Monarch. Jesus, who has power over even the devil, find it easy to call Him Lord. Those who had doubted Him before always call Him Lord whenever they see Him in His resurrected glory. Beside, He is a most generous Lord. Others have surrendered all to Him before: why not you? Luke 20:41-44, John 20:1, 11, 13, John 20:26-28, Matthew 19:27-29

LESSON 074

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 3

Text: Psalms 1:3

INTRODUCTION:

In the two previous studies, we have been studying Philippians 3:7-14 in some details. Our desire is to know Jesus more. The question then is: How do I know that I know Him? I John 2:3-4 gives the answer (i) if I find Him I will keep His commandments, (ii) if I enjoy His words and I am guided by them, (iii) if I walk as He walked, love, compassion, purity, holiness and power; then I know Him. And what about the power of His resurrection?

1) THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION IS PRESENT WHEREVER CHRIST IS PRESENT:

a) Before the History of man, Jesus Christ lived. Some 2,000 years ago, He dies for 3 days but He arose and has been alive ever since. From eternity to eternity He is alive. He tasted death once, for you and for me, but He is above now so that we who are crucified with Him may live forever triumphant victoriously and above sin. The power of His resurrection can (i) raise the dead, (ii) give life to the dying , (iii) bestow eternal life to the believers (iv) rescue the perishing and (v) bring believers out of their grave on the resurrection morning. The power is present wherever Jesus is. Revelation 1:18, Romans 6:4-11, John 5:28-29, John 10:18, John 11:25-26**.**

b) YOU MUST DIE IN ORDER TO LIVE. THE MORE YOUDIE, THE MORE YOU LIVE: This power to permeated the body of Jesus Christ that even though He spent 3 days in the grave His body did not rot. That same power is given to those who are baptized in the Spirit. But for this power, it would have been worthless being a Christian. This is because our present body is death-bound and we must not put our trust in it. In fact we must die daily to the flesh so that resurrection power of Christ might be made more abundantly manifest in our lives. Acts 2:31-39, I Cor. 15:16-20, II Cor. 1:9-10, II Cor. 4:10-15.

2) IF YOU WANT TO SHARE IN HIS POWER AND GLORY, YOU MUST SHARE IN HIS SUFFERINGS TOO:

a) When Christ surrendered Himself to death on the cross, He was mocked as a weakling; but when He rose triumphantly, seasoned soldiers fainted at the sight of His glory. You can share in this powerful glory if you are prepared to share in the mocking too. To share in His power and glory, it is only fair that you share in His trials, persecutions, death and burial. You must die in order to live; the cross must precede the crown, II Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 1:19-21, Matthew 20:20-23, Col. 2:13, Romans 6:3-5.

b) JOINT – PRIVILEDGES IMPLY JOINT – RESPONSIBILITIES: If we are to be joint-heirs of the unthinkable riches of God, we have to be joint-heirs in the sufferings for the building of the kingdom. If we are to live with Him, we must die with Him; if we are to reign with Him, we must suffer for His sake. If we deny Him, we are the losers since He has nothing to lose now. Therefore, the more you suffer for Him, the happier you should be because this is your evidence that the "Spirit and glory of God resteth on you" Romans 8:17, 29, II Tim.2:11-13, Col. 1:23-27, II Cor. 1:5, I Pet.4:13-14.

3) THOSE WHO HAVE THE RESURRECTION POWER IN THEM HAVE A LINK WITH HEAVEN: The rapture is coming even as it is written. Those of us who are living or dying who belong to Him have an unimaginable blessing waiting for us when our Lord shall come again. Of course, it is because He rose from the dead that he can come again. And the beauty of it all is that those of us who truly have Christ in us, have this power in us and hence we have a "telephone" link with heaven. Hence when the trump shall sound, we shall hear and off to glory we go, I Thess 4:13-17, Col. 3:1-4, I Pet.1:3-6, Romans 8:9-11.

LESSON 075

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 4

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study, in this series, we delved deeply into "The Power of His Resurrection". This week as we continue in our quest to know Him more, we wish to peep into "the resurrection of the dead" the need for Christian perfection and how to attain it. This is an extremely important series: do not miss any part of it.

1) THE COST OF SALVATION IS HEAVY: IT IS THE BLOOD OF JESUS:

a) Money cannot buy salvation, nor any gift of the Spirit of God. Neither can we save ourselves by self-effort. The cost of Salvation is the blood of Jesus, the life of the Almighty God Himself. That is why winning a soul is so important that a true witness must be able to adapt himself to any situation in order to win more souls. Psalms 49:6-7, Acts 8:18-22, Romans 7:18, 25, I Corinthians 9:19-22.

b) SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL BEWARE OF HIM: while winning others to Christ, you must constantly remember that your own soul is precious too and you must do all you can to preserve your salvation. You must realize that Satan has improved tremendously in his basic technique, which floored Eve. So that as you follow-up your new converts you must watch out for Satan as well. He knows how to drain oil from a burning lamp. Do not for a moment give room to the ally of Satan, the flesh, so that you might not leave the narrow road that leads to the resurrection morning, I Corinthians 9:24-27, II Corinthians 11:3, I Thessalonians 3:5, Galatians 5:16-17, II Thessalonians 2:1-3.

2) APPARENTLY, THE JOY OF RESURRECTION SURPASSES THE JOY OF THE RAPTURE:

a) Some people think that there will be no resurrection but many saint know better. Seeing far into the future to the wonderful day of

resurrection, they refused Divine deliverance once an opportunity to die come. Makes one to wonder if resurrection is better than rapture, Acts 26:8, Hebrews 11:25, Psalms 119:176.

b) GETTING TO HEAVEN IS A BATTLE: NO CIVILIANS IN THE ARMY OF THE CROSS: Because of the great blessings in heaven, the Christian life is a war; but a war we have won 2000 years ago. The hottest of the warfare is in the mouth; the use of the tongue. Another hot zone is the hand, with all the spiritual implications of the team "clean hands". However, if we will humbly ourselves and allow Jesus to lead the way, we will make it. I Timothy 6:12, James 3:2, Job 17:9, Psalms 138:6-8.

3) ONLY THOSE WHO ARE PERFECT CAN DWELL IN HEAVEN

a) Everything in heaven is perfect, therefore only those who are perfect will feel at home there. In the city of the living God, only the perfect saints can dwell there, it is to help us reach perfection that God provided the five-fold ministers of Apostles, prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers. I Cor. 13:9-10, II Cor. 7:1, II Cor.13:9, Heb.12:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-12.

b) GOD WILL MAKE YOU PERFECT, IF YOU ALLOW HIM TO:

Becoming perfect is a matter of cooperation between you and God, i.e. God does it if you allow Him to. First, He provides the water then creates a thirst in you and then shows you the way to the water. But even though a true thirst after righteousness is more agonizing than any physical thirst. God will never force you to drink of the river of perfection: Hebrews 13:21, I Peter 5:10, Psalms 42:1-2, Psalms 63:1-3,8, Psalms 84:2, Ps. 94:15, II Peter 1:5-8, II Peter 3:17-18.

LESSON 076

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 5

INTRODUCTION:

In the series on Philippians 3:1-14 we have examined topics like "the resurrection of the dead, Christian perfections e.t.c. Now we continue our in-depth study in an attempt to know Him more. Please remember that you must not be hearers only but the doers of the things you have learnt and are learning particularly in this series. Do not forget to share these important truths with others. They need to know Christ more, you know.

1) JESUS ALWAYS REVEALS HIMSELF TO ANY PERSISTENT SEEKER:

a) Jesus is the Wisdom of God, a Mystery or a hidden wisdom and it is only those who seek Him diligently and persistently who can find Him out. A fuller knowledge of Christ is only possible by persistently following after the Lord. However, a stage of seeking is reached when you sought, even Jesus Christ, reveals Himself plainly – Hosea 6:3, John 8:31-32, I Corinthians 2:7, John 16:25, Psalms 18:28, Psalms 119:130, Isaiah 29:18.

b) **THERE IS A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR THOSE WHO SEEK GOD: THEY FIND HIM:** It is a student who whole-heartedly observes the ways of the teacher who will become like the teacher. Those who whole-heartedly seek to know the Master always become like the Master. That is why God pronounced a special blessing on those who seek Him whole-heartedly. This special blessing consists the fact that they shall find Him, the source of all joy, wealth, peace, glory and success, Proverbs 23:26, Psalms 119:2, Jeremiah 29:13, 2 Peter 2:

2) **TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEDGE RESERVED ONLY FOR TRUE SONS OF GOD:**

a) Suffering for Christ is a special priviledge. Only worthy children of

God, true heirs of the Almighty are called upon to taste it. Consequently, those who suffer for Christ's sake should have this consolation that they are actually the privilege ones. In any case the disciple cannot be greater than His Lord. Also, we must constantly remember that whatever Christ suffered, He suffered it for us that we might be blessed eternally, Acts 5:41, Romans 8:17, II Corinthians 1:5-7, Isaiah 50:6, II Corinthians 8:9.

b) **EVERY SAINT THINKS HE IS PERFEXT UNTILL HE ENCOUNTERS THE LORD:** It is natural for a man to think that he is always right even when God considers him as fool. Infact nobody ever admits his filthiness until He encounters the Lord. Proverbs 12:15, proverbs 20:9, Prove3rbs 16:2, Proverbs 30:12, Rev. 1:12-17.

3) **THE RACE TO HEAVEN IS A FIGHT TO FINISH: ONLY THE FITEST WILL SURVIVE:** Paul compared the Christian race to a fight; a fight against terrible odds of Satan, his agents and allies like the flesh, the world with its deceitful attractions. He also warns us to be constantly aware of the sobering fact that not all who run in a race will win. It is a terrible thing to have run in vain. Yet only the absolutely perfect will win the Christian race. Therefore, brethren, gird up the loins of your mind and soberly, resolutely, perseveringly, perseveringly press forward toward the goal for the end is nearer than you think, II Tim. 4:7, I Corinthians 9:24, Galatians 2:2, II Tim.4:8, I Cor. 9:25, Luke 13:24, Heb.12:1, I Pet.1:13, Rev. 3:11

LESSON 077

HANDS ON THE PLOUGH PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

A ploughman who wants to plough straight and true must keep his eyes always forward. He must never look back, or else he will make mistakes. That is why the Lord said in Luke 9:62 "…No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God". In other words, no man or woman, having decided to accept Christ, and changing his or her mind is fit for the Kingdom of heaven. Today we are beginning a series on backsliding under the title "Hands on the plough" it is our prayer that we will never backslide in Jesus name, Amen.

1. IT IS POSSIBLE TO BACKSLIDE, BUT IT IS DANGEROUS TOO: The Bible makes it plain that it is possible to fall from grace. Even after Salvation, there is the possibility of going back to perdition. Lot's wife is an example. Demas is another. It is because of the way that backsliders end up that God says He has no pleasure in them. It is better never to have been saved than to backslide because sinners may have some excuses but backsliders have none moreover. Backsliders always begin their downward journey by ignoring God; then after they had gone back from Him, they are tormented by fear day and night. I Cor. 10:12, Luke 17:31-32, II Tim. 4:10, Hebrew 10:38-39, II Peter 2:20-22, Matthew 12:43-45, John 15:22, Psalms 53:1-5.

2. GOD DOES NOT TREAT BACKSLIDING LIGHTLY: HE CALLS IT "SHAMING MY SON, DESPISING MY HOLY SPIRIT: when backsliders start mingle with sinners again, those, who used to know them as children of God begin to blaspheme the Name of the Lord. That is why God does not regard backsliding as a light thing He calls it, "crucifying my Son afresh", "putting my son to an open shame" "stamping on My Son" and "despising my Holy Spirit". Backsliding is truly a dangerous proposition because it invokes the fiery indignation of God. Ezekiel 36:20, Hebrew 6:4-8, 10:26-31, Psalms 125:3-5, Matthew 11:23-24, Proverbs 28:1, Deuteronomy 32:29, Ezekiel 18:24.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE NEVER TO BACKSLIDE: INFACT IT IS GLORIOUS TO GROW OLD IN THE NARROW WAY: God's plan for us is that we live a life that will be pleasing unto Him, a sanctified, holy, clean life. The way of the cross is the way of holiness, a narrow way of righteousness, but there is no death there, only life. Even if He tarries, press forward. To grow old in the way of righteousness is to be crowned with glory. In fact, to backslide is to admit that you do not belong to the great company of light: of joyful, victorious, triumphant people of God, the saints, I Thess.4:1-7, Prov. 12:45-48, Prov. 16:31, Ezek. 3:17-21, Prov. 26:10-11, I John 2:19.

LESSON 078

HANDS ON THE PLOUGH PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous study we discovered that God takes a very serious view of backsliding. The terms He uses for backsliding in His word include "Shaming my Son" Trampling Jesus under foot" "Despising the Holy Spirit", etc. It is therefore evident that backsliding is a dangerous thing indeed. Today, we continue in this series by beginning on in-depth study of the story of the prodigal son in, Luke 15:11-32. May the Lord uphold us till the end in Jesus Name.

1) SOME BACKSLIDE IN ORDER TO GAIN SUDDEN WEALTH, BUT JESUS IS ENOUGH FOR ME:

a) Those whose inheritance is the Lord are blessed people, just as sorrows belong to backsliders. Like the prodigal son, many leave God, their Father, because they want sudden wealth, but Jesus is enough for me. He should be enough for you too. Some people, due to a lot of prosperity believe they no longer need God. They forget that whatever we have comes from God anyway. Psalms 16:26, Psalms 17:15, Mark 12:44, II Chronicle 33:1-10, Job 21:7, Job 22:15-18, Psalms 10:4-6

b) BACKSLIDERS HAVE A LOT OF QUERIES TO ANSWER FROM THE LORD: A chick that stays away from the mother hen is playing with death. Similarly anyone who stays away from the shadow of the Almighty is playing with fire. The excuse that the "The truth is hard" is unacceptable because God is the Truth anyway. Those who forsake the Lord have a lot of queries to answer therefore. Some of the queries are (i) is God evil? (ii) Has He ever failed? (iii) Was it not to fellowship with Him? (iv)What evil has the Lord done? Psalms 73:27-28, Proverbs 27:6-9, Isaiah 1:4-5, Isaiah 30:8-15, Jeremiah 2:5, 13, 17-19, 31, Micah 6:2-3, Eph.2:11-18, Luke 16:1-19.

2) SEX AND LAZINESS ARE POTENT FORCES THAT PUSH MANY DOWN HILL:

a) Many had been lured away from the narrow way by sex. Illicit sex may appear attractive to you but beware, its end is as “bitter as wormwood”. God terms adultery as taking “fire in the bosom” even though Satan may inform you that it is “enjoyment”. Some Christians are also backslidden today because they are too lazy to pray, study, and attend services, etc. For some, the down hill journey is caused by a love of pleasure. Proverbs 5:3-14, Proverbs 6:26-33, Proverbs 18:9, Proverbs 21:16-17.

b) DON'T ENVY THE FUN-SEEKERS: THEY ARE HEADING FOR DIVINE JUDGEMENT: worldly pleasure may appear to be “fun”, but its end is sorrow. Once you know the truth don't let Him go. When the urge to backslide comes, please listen to the counsel of elder of elders, or else there will be sudden destruction. For each “fun” had by the fun-seekers they will be judged by God. That is why those who are reveling today have a secret fear; that death will come one day, Proverb 23:19-23, Proverbs 28:7, Proverbs 29:1, Eccl. 11:9-10, Isaiah 22:13, Isaiah 56:12.

3) WE HAVE WASTED ENOUGH OF OUR LIVES: LET US SPEND THE REST FOR HIM: Those reveling as if the day of reckoning is still far away are in a surprise: the end is nearer than they think. Surely, this is not the time to backslide; rather, it is the time to tighten our belts. In any case we have wasted enough of our lives. To go back to our former “allies-in-sin” is to tarnish our garment and miss the rapture. The end is near; let us do all we can before the Lord returns for His spotless Bride. Amos 6:3-7, Romans 13:11-14, I Peter 4:3-4, II Peter 2:12-18, Eph. 5:27.

LESSON 079

HANDS ON THE PLOUGH PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

In our previous studies on "Hands on the plough", we have discovered that it is a dangerous thing indeed to backslide because God does not regard backsliding as a light thing. We also discovered as we began to study the story of the prodigal son in details that some people backslide for different reasons like a desire to have sudden wealth, pleasure or freedom from the narrow way of truth and self-sacrifice. Today, we continue our in-depth study of the story of the prodigal son. May we never backslide in Jesus Name.

1) SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN THE EASY WAY: a) Some people never learn their lessons the easy way. They prefer to suffer first before realizing that God is truly the Lord and Master of all. When a person deserts God, the only true source of all good things and instead of spends his substance on programmes other than those approved by God; God has a way of bring such a person to his knees. The so-called "enjoyments" they went after things turn sour, and an insatiable hunger will develop within. However, when the hands of God are heavy upon some people, for their transgression, they make matters worse by going farther and farther away from God, II Cor. 33:9-13, Ezek. 16:27, Hos. 2:8-14, Amos 8:9-12, II Chronicle 28:19-23.

b) GOD HAS A TIME LIMIT WHICH HE EXPECTS BACKSLIDERS TO REPENT: If a backslider shows a true signs of repentance, God moves in quickly to the rescue. However, he is not interested in mere words of mouth but a genuine heartbroken repentance. Once the backslider realizes the errors of his ways and is determined to forsake his sins, the mercy of the father will become available to him. But God will not wait forever. When the time limit He sets for a backslider to repent is exceeded, judgement falls, Isaiah 1:4-5, 9, Isaiah 67:15-21, Jeremiah 5:2-3, 8:4-6, 31:18-20, Proverbs 28:13, II Tim. 2:25-26, Rev. 2:21-22.

2) DIVINE JUDGEMENT ON BACKSLIDERS ARE EXECUTED FOR ALL TO SEE:
a) Invariably, when some one falls, he takes other people along with him. Consequently, when God judges a backslider, He turns him to a public spectacle of shame. Those who refuse to mortify the flesh should not blame God when His wrath hits them because those who follow the fashions of this world must share in the wrath of God reserved for the world only – Malachi 2:8-9, Romans 1:24-32, Rom.1:24-32, Ephesians 2:2-3, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5-7.

b) ONE OF THE HORRORS OF BACKSLIDING IS THAT IT REDUCES A MAN FROM KING TO BEAST: One of the borrows of backsliding is that those who used to feed on the Living Bread now feed on ashes. They that used to partake of the King of kings table now eats beside the gutters amidst the stench of human and animal refuse. They become a shadow of their former glorious self, like a beast without wisdom or knowledge. Isaiah 44:20, Lamentation 4:5, Hosea 12:1, Ps. 73:22, Rom. 6:19-20.

3) WHEN A BACKSLIDER COMES TO HIS SENSES HE WILL REALISE THAT HE IS A PRISONER: Whenever a backslider comes to himself, he would realize the following (i) he no longer has true friends (ii) those he calls friends do not really care for him (iii) he has been brought low (iv) instead of mends friends he now has enemies that are stronger than he is and (v) he has lost his freedom and is a prisoner of Satan. Ps. 142:4-5, Ps. 73:12, Isaiah 57:3, Psalms 73:16-20.

LESSON 080

THE PEACE OF GOD

Philippians 4:7

INTRODUCTION:

There are two different types of peace: true and false. There is worldly peace and Divine peace: those who have Divine peace never worry of fear John 14:27. On the other hand, worldly peace is really tribulation. It is only Divine peace that brings good cheer and victory with it John 16:33, it is our prayer that those of us who have not obtain Divine peace will obtain it before the end of this study, Amen.

1) TRUE PEACE COMES ONLY FROM THE TRIUNE GOD
a) True peace like true grace comes from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. True peace cannot be found in associations, societies or cults. There is only one source of true peace and that is God – Phil.1:2, Rom. 1:7, Rev. 1:4, Gal. 5:22, Isa. 45:5-7.

b) DIVINE PEACE DOES NOT WALK ALONE: God's blessings, safety, grace and peace always go together. Therefore, if you want wealth, security, answered prayers, success together with peace, what you must do is to get acquainted with God intimately. Particularly as no one can trouble you if your peace is from God. Num.6:24-26, Job 22:21-28, Ps. 29:11, Isa. 59:19-21, Job. 34:29.

2) IF YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL WANT PEACE YOU MUST SATISFY CERTAIN CONDITIONS:
a) An individual who wants the true peace that God only can give must satisfy certain conditions. These are: he must (i) trust God, (ii) hearken to His commandments, (iii) turn from sin (iv) seek the Lord and (v) call on Him. Isa. 26:3, Isa. 48:18-22, Jer. 33:6, Isa. 55:7-12, Ps. 85:8.

b) A CONGREGATION CAN ONLY HAVE PEACE ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS: A group of people who desire that the peace of God be with them on an enduring basis must satisfy the following conditions

among others: they must individually and collectively be (i) perfect, (ii) of good comfort, (iii) united (iv) merciful (v) kind (vi) humble (vii) meek (viii) patient (ix) forgiving and (x) loving. II Cor. 13:11, Rom. 15:13, II Thess. 3:16, Heb. 13:20, Col. 3:12-15.

3) THE PEACE AVAILABLE TO A DETERMINED CHRISTIAN IS LIMITLESS: once a Christian has been justified by faith and he is prepared to concentrate only on spiritual things, ever putting the kingdom of God first; and is prepared to walk along the narrow way under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; his peace cannot only increase but it can always be multiplied. Rom. 5:1, Rom. 8:6, Rom. 14:17, Luke 2:78-79, Jude verses 1-2.

LESSON 081

THE JOY OF THE LORD

Philippians 4:7

INTRODUCTION:

Joy, like peace, is of a great variety; true joy, false joy; lasting joy, ephemeral joy; but the best and most enduring type of joy comes from the Lord. This joy is available to those who love the Lord, John 14:28, and obey him in all things John 15:10-11.

1. THE JOY OF THE LORD GIVES STRENGTH: The secret of the Christian strength is the joy of the Lord. Because His joy is like a healing balm for the body. Soul and Spirit. The foundation of this strength is based on the fact that the Lord reigns for ever and not only hastily break the back of our enemies, they are permanently under our feet. Infact not only have we strength enough, but we have more to spare so that we can be channels of joyful blessings to others in need by breaking their yokes through the supernatural strength that comes from the joy of the Lord. Neh.8:10, Prov. 17:22, Isa. 52:7-10, Isa. 60:14-15, Job 29:11-17, Isa. 61:1-3.

2. ONE OF THE GREATEST LOSSES OF THE BACKSLIDER IS JOY: One of the demarcating characteristics between sinners and saints is that sinners have sorrows while saints have joy. Infact backslider misses the joy of the Lord so badly that is usually an instrument of their restoration. That is why a restored backslider praises, the Lord more than a non-backslider because he has tasted the Lord and the devil and he now knows the difference. It is also the reason why unrestored backsliders cannot praise the lord. If your praise worship is losing its quality, watch out; you may be slipping backwards. Isa. 65:13-14, Ps. 42:1-4, Ps. 43:3-5, 48:2, 137:6, Prov. 17:21, Jere. 31:10-13, Jere. 33:1-11.

3. THE GREATEST JOY IN THIS WORLD COMES FROM HAVING ABIDING FRUITS: It is a spiritual law that when people joyfully praise the Lord, the harvest will be great. This does not apply to material harvest alone but also to spiritual harvest as well. Spiritual children, more than physical children, are sources of great joy. The Bible calls them “crown to rejoicing”. Even though there are “joy unspeakable” and joy exceeding” the greatest joy in this life is to have spiritual children who will stand firm in the Lord. Psalms 67:4-7, Psalms 126:5-6, Phil 4:1, I Thess. 2:20, I Pet. 1:8, 4:13, 3 John v.4.

4. THE FULLEST JOY IS IN HIS PRESENCE: Joy is never absolutely full except ion the presence of the Lord. That is why there is never a place more delightful than the secret place of prayer. Only the beloved of the Lord know this secret and cherish it. Ps. 16:11, Jer.15:16, Matt. 25:21, Rev. 2:10, John 3:29.

LESSON 082

THE LOVE OF GOD

Philippians 4:7

INTRODUCTION:

John 3:16 has been described as the Bible within the Bible, as a summary of the entire Bible; because it talks about God, about His love, how He demonstrated His love, the consequences of receiving that love, the Son of God, eternity of God etc. It is this love of God that we intend to study in details tonight and we pray this love of God "will be shed abroad" in all hearts here tonight in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. TRUE LOVE IS ACTIVE: IT GIVES ITS BESY, ITS ALL: True love is God's type of love and it is superior to human love. Very few men can die for their friends; no one except God can die for his enemy. We are terrible sinners, enemies of God when God sent His only begotten Son to die for us. Surely, such love demands that we should stop sinning and thus cease to be enemies of God. God, through His marvelous love has given us His best, His all. There is nothing else He cannot give us if we ask Him. Romans 5:7-8, II Cor. 5:19-21, Titus 3:3-8, I John 4:9-10, 19, Romans 8:32.

2. TRUE LOVE IS NEVER DORMANT: IT IS DEMONSTRATIVE: God demonstrated His love by giving His all; so does Abraham demonstrate his love for God by giving his all. Infact we can demonstrate our love to God by obeying Him and doing all we can to bring our fellow men also. Infact the only way we can demonstrate that we truly know God is by showing His type of love to others, since God Himself is love. Genesis 22:12, I John 2:3-5, I John 5:3, I John 3:16-17, I John 4:21, I John 4:7-8.

3. TRUE LOVE IS EVER – INCREASING, EVER-LASTING: Since God loved us so much while we were still enemies, surely He must love us much more now that we are reconciled to Him. Love is strong and indestructible. True love lasts forever, it is priceless. It is a continuous process, ever increasing everlasting. Consequently, our hope in God

has a solid foundation not only has He, through His marvelous love given us His Son, the Holy Spirit is ours also: two everlasting Anchors for our souls. Romans 5:10, Songs of Solomon 8:6-7, Hebrews 13:1, Romans 5:5.

4. TRUE LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR HOLINESS: If you truly love all men, you will never sin. Love is the foundation for perfect holiness. For true love of God and man will make it impossible for you to hurt a man or disobey God. That is why Jesus demands that we love ourselves with Divine love. Without this type of love, calling ourselves Christians is mere hypocrisy. True love is first on the list of the fruit of the Holy Spirit; all other follows and grows on this foundation. You cannot even hurt your enemies if you have love. Romans 13:10, John 13:34-35, Galatians 5:22, Romans 12:9-10, I Peter 1:22, Matt. 5:44-46.

5. LOVING TRULY HAS ITS ADVANTAGES: IT PAYS TO LOVE: Harbouring true love in your heart has its advantages. Some of these are (i) You will dwell in God (ii) God will dwell in you (iii) You are not afraid of the judgement day (iv) Fear becomes a stranger to you (v) You are free from tormentors (vi) You are never alone because God will always be with you (vii) You are more than a conqueror, I John 4:16-18, John 14:15-24, Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-20, Romans 8:37.

LESSON 083

THE MERCY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

INTRODUCTION: Mercy is underserved favour, that which causes you to help someone who has no claim to your help or to show kindness to someone who has no claim for it and without the ability to repay you. The mercies of God are great, II Samuel 24:14, and while the world gave His Son a crown of thorns, he gave them a crown of mercies, Psalms 103:4. Of course, there is no comparison between the mercies of God and that of a sinner: the nearest word to "mercy" in the book of the sinners is "cruelty" Proverbs 12:10.

1. MERCY IS ONE OF THE TREASURES OF GOD: Mercy is one of the precious things in the treasury of God: He has it in abundance. Infact His mercy is so plenteous it fills the whole earth and goes beyond the heavens in height. And as far as those who fear Him are concerned, the mercy of God upon them is forever, Ephesians 2:4, Psalms 119:64, Psalms 103:11, Psalms 106:1, Luke 1:50, Psalms 89:28, Psalms 103:17.

2. WE LIVE PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY ONLY BECAUSE GOD IS MERCIFUL: To keep us alive, God has to renew His mercy day by day, because none of us really deserve to live because of our numerous sins. But He enjoys being merciful and hence forgives easily. None of us deserved to be saved and live eternally but for the mercy of God. Furthermore, because He is plenteous in mercy, it takes a lot of provocation of really make God angry. Lamentation 3:22-23, Mich. 7:18, Titus 3:5, Psalms 103:8.

3. THE LAW OF HARVEST EXTENDS TO MERCY TOO: SOW MERCY, REAP MERCY: It pays to be merciful. Mercy has its rewards just like wickedness does. Mercy obeys the law of harvest: if you sow mercy, you will reap mercy. If you show no mercy you will receive none. Each time you let offences committed against you go unrevenged you

will inherit a blessing. Besides, being merciful is a sign that you are a true Son of God. Proverbs 11:17, Matthew 5:7, II Samuel 22:25, James 2:13, I Peter 3:9, Luke 6:36.

4. GOD'S MERCY IS NOT TO ENCOURAGE SINNERS BUT REPENTANCE: One unfortunate thing is that men often misunderstand the mercy of God, mistaking it for license to do more evil. That God's merciful does not mean that he tolerates sin. He does not punish immediately we sin because He is patiently waiting for us to repent. Those who refuse to repent will pay the necessary penalty and the fact they abused the great mercies of God will add remorse to their agonies in hell, but those who return to Him in penitence shall obtain abundant mercy. Eccl. 8:11, Eccl. 34:6-7, Joel 2:13, II Pet. 3:9, Proverbs 11:21, Proverbs 16:5, Proverbs 19:5, Hebrews 2:3, II Chronicles 30:8-9.

5. GOD'S THRONE IS CALLED "MERCY SEAT" NOT "POWER SEAT": An example of the immensity of the mercy of God is illustrated in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah: God is willing to spare two sin drenched cities for the sake of only ten people. Another example is in His dealing with Lot and His family: they were literally dragged into safety. No wonder the throne of God is called mercy-seat not the holy-seat or the power seat, Gen.18:26-32, Gen.19:5, Ezra 9:13, Neh.9:16-17, 31, I kings 21:29, Exodus 25:17, Number 7:89.

LESSON 084

THE GLORY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

The glory of man is at best like the flower of grass, I Pet. 1:24, infact Solomon at his best did not compare favourably with lilies of the field, Mat. 6:28-29. Whereas the glory of the Lord is like a devouring fire, Exod. 24:17. If a sinner, not covered in the blood of the Lamb, should look on Him, the glory of his face alone will kill the sinner instantly, Exodus 33:18-23. But a saved soul will obtain a portion of this eternal Divine glory, II Timothy 2:10.

1. DIVINE GLORY IS BRIGHTER THAN THE NOON-DAY SUN: Saul of Tarsus saw the glory of God at noon-day and it was brighter than the noon-day sun. John the revelator saw Jesus in full glory and described His hair as whiter than earthly white, His eyes as flame of fire, His feet like brass in a furnace, His voice loud, deep and yet soft, His countenance as the radiance of the sun on a cloudless day. When the Apostles saw Him in glory, the very garments He wore changed colours, Acts 22:6, Rev. 19:11-12, Mark 9:2-6.

2. THE HUMAN BODY IS TOO WEAK TO WITHSTAND HIS GLORY: whenever the glory of God appears to ordinary men, there are serious reactions. For example, His glory drove out the priests in Solomon's temple, prevented Moses from entering the tabernacle, revealed the sinful state of Isaiah, knocked down Ezekiel and Saul of Tarsus, and knocked out Daniel and John the revelator. His glory can kill a careless priest our bodies must be changed to be able to fully enter into His glory at His second coming. I Kings 8:15-18, Exod. 40:34-35, Isaiah 6:1-5, Ezek. 1:26-28, Acts 9:3-4, Daniel 8:15-18, Rev. 1:17, Leviticus 16:2, Luke 2:9, Philippians 3:21, II Corinthians 4:17

3. DIVINE GLORY HAS WEIGHT: THE MORE SOULS YOU WIN THE HEAVIER YOUR GLORY: There are different kinds of glories and one glory excels another. For instance, the glory of grace excels the glory of the law. Also, glory has weight and some are heavier than other. And

since one condition for obtaining glory is winning souls, it follows therefore that the more souls you win, the heavier will be your weight of glory. I Cor.15:40-41, II Cor.3:5-11, II Cor.4:17, I Thess.2:19-20, Daniel 12:3, John 15:8.

4. BELIEVERS CAN SHARE IN THE DIVINE GLORY: since everything about God is glorious, His holiness, His works, the honour of His majesty, His gospel, His liberty, His power, and His appearing, it follows that His church must be glorious too. Which means that believers, who constitute His Church, must share in His glory. But there are conditions to be satisfied before you can share in His glory apart from being born again. Some of them are; you must (i) be holy, (ii) suffer with Him, (iii) win souls, (iv) be wise, (v) be full of good works, (vi) keep your body, souls, and spirit pure. Exod.15:11, Ps.111:3, Ps.145:5, II Cor.4:4, Rom.8:21, Col.1:11, Titus 2:13, Eph.5:27, Matt.19:28, 13:43, Rom.8:17, Prov.3:35, Isa.24:16, I Pet.4:12-14, Rom.2:10, I Cor.6:20.

5. YOU CAN BRING HIS GLORY DOWN TODAY: To bring down the glory of God at any time, all you need to do is praise Him. But all present must do so in one accord i.e. with one heart and mind and with the same purpose in view. Also, if you intend to praise Him at all, you must do it gloriously. Ps.50:23, II Chron.5:13-14, Rom.15:6, Ps.66:2.

LESSON 085

THE POWER OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

Many men claim that they have power, but they are lying. Some men claim that the Government is the one in power, but that is a mistake. Some declared that satan has power but that is untrue. There is one and only one person who has power, and that person is God Almighty, Ps.62:11.

1) TRUE POWER BELONGS TO GOD ONLY: True power, all powers without exception, belongs to God only, because He is supremely powerful. God does exactly as He pleases: no one can challenge Him or forbid Him. He can deliver from any captor but no one can deliver from Him, He can use His power to help or to hinder, to make rich and honourable, Matt.6:13, Matt.28:18, Ps.115:3, Ps.135:6, Dan.3:17, Isa.43:13, II Chronicle 25:8, I Chroni.29:12.

2) GOD CAN DO ANYTHING: God has enough power to do anything: nothing, absolutely nothing is impossible for Him. What men cannot attempt, God can do easily. Because He controls all flesh, He can cause even an old woman to conceive and deliver. Because He made the earth and the heavens out of nothing, he can produce children from stones. He is able to do more than we dare ask for, Luke 1:37, Job 42:2, Matt.19:26, Gen. 18:13-14, Jere.32:17 ,27, Luke 3:8, Eph. 3:20.

3) SATAN HAS NO POWER, BUT HE IS A JUDO EXPERT: Satan has no power but he is extremely cunning. What he does is simply to put his victim into opposition with the all-powerful God. That is how he got the children of Israel into trouble in the wilderness. That is how he destroyed Samson. That is how he nearly ruined David. But in Jesus Name, he will not be able to ruin us since we are not unaware of his tricks. James 1:13-15, Number 22:15-18, Num.23:7-11, Num.20:23-26, Numbers 24:8-10, 15-19, Numbers 25:1-5, 9, Judges16:6, 19:21, II Sam.12:7-13, II Cor.2:10-11, Eph.6:11.

4) GOD CAN KEEP ANY WILLING CHRISTIAN FROM FALLING: The word of God gives us the assurance that God has enough power to establish us in the gospel and to lead us all the way home. He is able to keep us from falling and can save to the uttermost. Also, because He has all the powers and the enemy has none, any obedient son to God is sure of final victory any day. Rom.16:25-27, Jude v24, Heb.7:25, Luke 10:19, Ps. 91:1,7, 13-16.

5) THE POWER OF GOD CAN TRANSFORM ANY MAN TO A GIANT-KILLER: The only way a man can have a share in the power of God is through the Spirit of God. Through this power of the Holy Spirit, a Christian can perform wonders for God. Examples abound in the Bible of men like Samson, Elijah, Elisha, Peter, Stephen, and Paul etc. And since God is no respecter of persons, and He changes not, what He has done for others, He can do for us too. And He will if we so desire. Micah 3:8, Acts 1:8, Zech.4:6, Rom.15:18-19, Judges 14:5-6, 19, Jud..15:14-15, I Kings 18:46, II Kings 2:9-12, Acts 5:12-16, Acts 6; 8,15, Acts 9:17-22, Acts 19:11-12, Acts 10:34, Heb.13:8.

LESSON 086

THE WISDOM OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous study we studies about the power of God. This week, we want to study about His wisdom because power can be dangerous in the hand of a fool. There are all sorts of wisdom but true, pure, beneficial and divinely approved wisdom comes from God only, Daniel 2:20.

1) DIVINE WISDOM IS A GOLD MINE: The Spirit of the Lord that gives power is also the same that gives wisdom, understanding, knowledge and the fear of God. However, the scriptures confirm that Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This proves that the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ are one and there is only one God. The wisdom of God is like gold mine: the deeper you dig, the richer you become. Which implies that the more you know of Christ, the wiser you become because Jesus Christ is that "Gold mine" Isa.11:2, I Cor.1:24.

2) BUT THE HIGHEST WORLDLY WISDOM FALLS SHORT OF THE "FOLLY" OF GOD: The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God because (i) they are based on vanity and pursue vanity (ii) it eventually leads to destruction, so that what men call the foolishness of God is still wiser than the wisdom of men. For one thing, God can destroy the wisdom of men, but men cannot destroy the wisdom of God. Worldly wisdom is sensual and devilish, but divine wisdom is pure, peaceful, gentle, patient, merciful, good, impartial and straightforward. I Cor.3:19-20, I Cor.1:25, Isa.29:14, Jre.4:22, Jam.3:15-17, Rom.1:22.

3) TRUE WISDOM IS A VERY PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD: True wisdom is worth more than gold, silver, pearls, and rubies. That is why a Divine wise man is a happy man. True wisdom is in the same category as light, which is understandable since Jesus the wisdom of God, is also the light of the world. A wise man is stronger than tem mighty men, hence when God gives a man wisdom; no one will be able to resist him. Consequently, if you cannot get anything else from God be sure you get

wisdom from Him. Job 28:12-19, Prov.3:13-14, Prov.8:11, Eccl.2:13, Eccl.7:12, Eccl.2:26, Luke 21:15, Dan.2:21, James 1:5, Prov.4:7

4) **IT IS EASY TO RECOGNISE A MAN WHO LACKS WISDOM:** some of the signs of a man devoid of wisdom are (i) unwillingness to acknowledge God as supreme, (ii) inability to forgive others (iii) back-biting others, (iv) making fun of sin as if it is a trivial things, (v) hatred of correction, (vi) love of arguments, (vii) meddling in other peoples affairs, (viii) trusting his own abilities, (ix) acquiring wealth by fraudulent means, (x) crookedness or hypocrisy, and (xi) living as if everything ends in this world. Ps.53:1, Prov.10:18, Prov.14:9, Prov.19:6, Prov.20:3, Jer.17:11, Luke 11:39-40.

5) **IT IS ALSO EASY TO RECOGNISE A WISE MAN:** some of the signs of a wise man are (i) he fears God, (ii) he puts into practice whatsoever he learns from the scriptures, (iii) he searches the scriptures constantly to discover how God wants him to live, (iv) he is a man of few words (v) he is considered a fool by those who have worldly wisdom. Job 28:28, 32:7, Matt.7:24, I Cor.2:6, I Cor.12:8, I Cor.3:18, II Tim.3:15, Eccl.5:3, Prov.15:2, Prov.12:23.

6) **GOD'S TRAP FOR THE WORLDLY WISE IS THEIR WISDOM:** God's way of catching the wise man of this world is by turning their wisdom to foolishness, spoiling their grand designs while God ultimately has the last laugh. Examples in the Bible include Samson versus the Philistines, David versus Goliath, King Saul and the witch of Endor, David versus Nathan, Haman versus Mordecai, the case of Gehazi and Saul's journey to Damascus. Judges 16:23-24, Isaiah 17:43-51, Isa.28:7-19, Isa.12:14, Ester 7:9-10, II Kings 5:20-27, Acts 1:7-22. Are you on His side or in His trap?

LESSON 087

CURSES AND BLESSINGS PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

In this study on curses and blessings, we intend to answer such questions as what are the various sources of curses and blessings, what causes them, what are the signs that a curse may be at work, how can we deal with curses, etc. May the Lord Himself teach us and bless us mightily, Amen.

1) CURSES COME FROM VARIOUS SOURCES: there are various sources of curses. It could be from God Himself or from a man of God on behalf of God. Other sources could be a man who has positional authority over you, e.g. a husband, or a man on behalf of the devil. Also, curses could be self imposed – Gen.3:14-19, Gen.4:9-12, Joshua 6:23, I Kings 16:34, Judges 5:23, Gen.31:19, 20-35, Gen.35:16-18, I Sam.17:43-44, I Sam.17:45-47, 50, Gen.27:11-13.

2) CURSES WITHOUT CAUSE WILL NOT COME: ACURSE IS NEVER EFFECTIVE WITHOUT A CAUSE. In other words, no curse will affect you unless you have done something to deserve it. Conditions for curses includes: (i) not listening to the voice of the Lord, (ii) not observing His commandments, (iii) not doing His commandments (iv) forsaking God, (v) going after other gods,(vi) breaking His covenant. Other causes are (vii) betrayal of friends (viii) rewarding good with evil (ix) being merciless (x) persecuting the poor and the needy (xi) taking advantage of the sorrowful (xii) loving to curse.

The following people are also under the curses of the Lord: (i) worshippers, (ii) people who bow down to any image, (iii) people who keep charms at home (iv) those who dishonour their parents (v) land thieves (vi) those who mistreat the helpless, (vii) those who cheat strangers, the fatherless or widows, (viii) those who have sex with

animals, (ix) those who have sex with their step mothers or step-fathers, (x) those who have sex with their brothers or sisters, step-brothers or step sisters, (x) those who have sex with their father-in-law or mother-in-law, (xii) murders, (xiii) hired killers or thugs (xiv) those who break the law of God (xv) false preachers (xvi) enemies of God, (xvii) those who do not pay their tithes. Are you in this group? Deut.28:15, Deut. 31:16-17, Ps.55:12-15, Ps.109:5-18, Deut.27:15-26, Gal.1:8-9, Ps.68:1-2, Deut.28:16-68, Judges 5:23, Gal.3:10, Lev.26:14-17, Nehe.4:1-5, Jere.7:11-15, I kings 14:14-16, Malachi 3:8-9.

LESSON 088

CURSES AND BLESSINGS PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series on curses and blessing we learnt that curses may come from God, a man of God, a husband, parent or a man of the devil. Also, we learnt that curses may be self-imposed. We also mentioned about 29 causes of curses including not listening to the voice of the Lord and not obeying Him. We shall continue this series by looking at 3 notable curses and their causes and consequences before proceeding to other aspects of this study.

1) THREE (3) NOTABLE CURSES: CAUSES ANS CONSEQUENCES: The three (3) notable curses we wish to study in details are (i) the curse placed on David by Nathan (ii) the curse placed on Gehazi by Elisha and (iii) evil plotting (iii) murder (v) ingratitude to God (vi) lack of contentment (vii) injuring the Name of the Lord and (viii) judging others. The consequence is that Israel had always been at war. Gehazi on his own part was guilty of (i) covetousness, (ii) evil plotting (iii) lying (iv) hypocrisy (v) injuring the name of the Lord (vi) attempting to deceive the Holy Spirit. The consequence is that leprosy is difficult to eradicate. Joab on the other hand was guilty of (i) desire to revenge (ii) evil plotting (iii) struggle for position (iv) cold-blooded murder. It is from the Joab's curse that we discover some signs that a curse might be at work. These are (a) incurable disease defying medicine and prayers, (b) being accident-prone (c) regular miscarriages (d) inexplicable poverty. II Samuel 12:7-14, II Samuel 3:26-29, Psalms 7:11-16, Psalms 94:20-23, Proverbs 5:21-23.

2) SOME CURSES WORKS INSTANTLY: Some curses have delayed effects. However some do work instantly. Almost invariably, there are curses pronounced by men of God. Examples include Elijah's curses on the 2 captains and their bands of fifty soldiers each, Elisha's curse on the insolent children, Elisha's curse on Gehazi mentioned above and Elisha's curse on the Syrian army. Similarly, blessings pronounced by a

man of God could also have instant effects. II Kings 1:10-12, 2:23-24, 5:25-27, II Kgs.12:7-14, 6:18, II Kgs.2:19-22, 4:4.

3) THOSE YOU MUST NEVER CURSE: There is a set of people you must never curse. Infact the penalty fro cursing some of them is death and in some other cases severe curses. This set consists of God, your parents, rulers and those who curse you. Job 2:9, Exodus 21:17, Leviticus 20:9, Proverbs 20:20, Mark 7:10, Luke 6:28, Romans 12:14, Exodus 22:28, Acts 23:1-5, Psalms 109:28.

LESSON 089

CURSES AND BLESSINGS PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

In the first two parts of this series, we have learnt about the sources and causes of curses. We have examined 3 notable curses in details and have learnt about certain curses that work instantly. We concluded the second part by listing those people we are forbidden to curse. These include God, our parents, rulers and those who curse us. Now, we wish to continue on study by examining the sources and causes of blessings and those who qualify for Divine blessings.

1) SOURCES OF TRUE BLESSINGS: There are only three main sources of true blessings: God, His representatives, and those with positional authority. The devil and his disciples do not give true blessings; their type of blessing always have sorrow mixed with it. The first blessing that God pronounced on man is five-fold: (i) be fruitful, (ii) be multiply (iii) fill the earth (iv) subdue the earth i.e. be victorious always and (v) have dominion over all living things, including demons and all foul spirit. Till today, if you serve God, seek first His Kingdom and its righteousness, pay your tithes to Him, study His word and apply them to your life, God will bless you mightily.

In the old testaments times, the priest, as a representative of God is to pronounce a six-fold blessing on the congregation (i) The Lord bless you, (ii) the Lord keep you (iii) the Lord make His face to shine upon you (iv) the Lord be gracious unto you (v) the Lord life up His countenance upon you – i.e. the Lord look with favour upon you and (vi) the Lord give you peace. Some of the Apostolic blessings on those who remain steadfast are: (i) May God make you perfect (ii) may He establish you (iii) may He strengthen you (iv) may He settle you (v) may He give you victory over Satan (vi) may He give you peace and grace and (vii) may God love you and fellowship with you. Genesis 24:35, Prov.10:22, Ps.3:8, Gen.1:28, Exod.23:25, Matt.6:33, Malachi 3:10, Joshua 1:8, Deut.23:5, Luke 1:28,

Num.6:23-26, I Pet. 5:8-10, Rom.16:19-20, II Cor.13:14.

2) CONDITIONS FOR BLESSINGS: The following are the causes of blessings i.e. the conditions to be satisfied in order to obtain blessings from God. (i) obedience to God (ii) keeping His covenant (iii) fearing Him (iv) keeping His commandments always (v) walking in His ways (v) being a doer of the word and not hearers only (vii) having clean hands and a pure heart (viii) giving to the Lord and (ix) make God welcome in your home. Exodus 19:5, Deut.4:30, Deut.5:29, I Kings 3:14, Reve. 22:14, Job 36:11, Zechariah 3:7, James.1:1-25, Psalms 24:4-5, I Samuel 2:20-21, II Samuel 6:11.

LESSON 090

CURSES AND BLESSINGS PART 4

INTRODUCTION:

In this series, we have learnt about the sources and causes of both curses and blessings. We have examined the conditions for receiving blessings and what to do to escape from curses. In this concluding part of the series we wish to look at some special features of blessings and the special case of Jacob versus his sons.

1) **UNCONDITIONAL BLESSINGS ARE IRREVOCABLE:** Some blessings are conditional, i.e. the blessings will come if certain conditions are satisfied. But some blessings are unconditional. Such blessings are irrevocable. An example of such an irrevocable blessings is that which Isaac pronounced on Jacob. Blessing could be spoken or transferred through the laying on of hands. Normally, only fathers can pronounce blessings on their children and the first-born should have more blessing than the second son but at times the first is the last and the last first. Deut. 28:1-14, Gen.27:26-29, 33, Gen.27:34-40, I Sam.1:12-17, I Sam. 1:19-20, Gen.48:14, Matt.19:15, Mark 10:16, Acts 13:1-3, I Tim.4:14, II Tim.1:6, Gen.48:17-19.

2) **THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM CAN BE YOURS TOO:** The blessings of Abraham are seven-fold: (i) you will become a great nation (ii) you will be blessed materially, (iii) your name will be great (iv) you will be a blessing (v) those who bless you will be blessed (vi) those who curse you will be cursed of God (vii) all the families of the world will be blessed through you. All these blessings can be yours too, if you are in Christ.

All the blessings of Abraham were reconfirmed in his son Isaac who in turn pronounced a ten-fold blessing upon Jacob. The blessings of Jacob are (i) may God give thee of the dew of heaven (ii) may God give thee the fatness of the earth (iii) may God give thee plenty of food (iv) and plenty

of drink (v) may people serve you (vi) may nations bow to you (vii) may you be master over your brothers (viii) may your mother's sons bow to you (ix) let him be cursed who curse you (x) let him be blessed who blesses you.

In his parting words to his sons, Jacob cursed some and blessed some. Finally, he transferred the Abrahamic blessing unto Judah, from whose line came the Lion of Judah Himself. Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are all blessed today. Genesis 12:2-3, Gal.3:13-14, Gen.26:24, Gen.27:27-29, Gen.48:15-16, Gen.49:1-28, Deut.21:17, Deut. 27:20, Gen.35:2, Gen.34:25-29, Ren.5:, Num.14:17, Ps.60:7, Isa.63:1-3, Rev,.19:11-16, I Chron.5:1-2, Isa.22:1, Ezek.21:27, Dan.9:25, Matt.21:9, Luke 1:32.

LESSON 091

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

The journey to the Promised Land is not a bed of roses: Joshua had his wall of Jericho. The journey to the throne is never a down hill but uphill task: David had his Goliath. There is never a crown without a cross first. No one will reach heaven without starting first at Calvary and then resolutely fighting his way through to glory. Matt.11:12. There is no royal road to success.

1) **A CHRISTIAN IS AN UNUSUAL CREATURE: A MAN OF TWO WORLDS:** A Christian is an unusual personality, he is dead yet alive: in the world but not of the world; living in the flesh but not operating in the flesh; dwelling in a world of science yet living in faith; in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ yet absent from the Lord, a man of flesh and bones yet led by the Spirit, the son of God is a spirit. Galatians 2:20, Jn.17:15-16, I Pet. 4:1-2, II Cor. 5:4-8, Romans 8:13, John 4:23-24.

2) **A CHRISTIAN IS ENGAGED IN A WAR: CONTINUOUS AND HOT:** every Christian is engaged in a big war. He is a soldier of Christ, expected to be hardened and disciplined. The war is a continuous fight from salvation to rapture. It is a running battle; continuously hot one that no one dares fight negligently. As a soldiers combat, the Christian must be prepared for afflictions, necessities, distress, wounds, imprisonments, hard work, vigils, fasting etc. I Tim.1:18, II Tim.2:3-4, II Tim.4:7-8, Heb.12:1-2, II Cor.6:3-5, Rom.6:13.

3) **THE ENEMY HAS MANY FACES AND TITLES:** The caption of the opposing forces has many faces and titles: He is a liar, a murderer; the original sinner, a roaring lion, a serpent, a dragon and an accuser of the brethren, a thief, a killer, a destroyer, etc. Assisting him in his diabolical conflict with children of God are a host of well trained officers and agents with frightful titles like principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, highly placed and wicked spirit, John 8:44, I Jn.3:8, I Pet.5:8, Gen.3:1,

Rev.12:7-12, Jn.10:10, Eph.6:11-12.

4) **OUR WEAPONS AGAINST HIM ARE NOT CARNAL: THEY ARE MIGHTY:** Human wisdom and philosophies cannot win this war. Our human abilities are too puny against an unseen and tireless enemy. Victory is through the trinity because our sufficiency is of God. However, we have the Armour to put on. It is called the Armour of light, of righteousness of God. It involves pureness, knowledge of the word, patience, kindness, love,, truth and the power of God. There are six pieces in the Armour but there is a single word to describe it: JESUS. I Cor.1:18-24, Zech.4:6-7, Rom.13:12, I Cor.6:6-7, Eph.6:13-18, II Cor.3:5,I Thess.5:8, Judges 15:14-16, I Samuel 17:45-50.

5) **WITH THE LORD ON OUR SIDE WE WILL WIN:** We do not need to fear because of this battle. With the Lord on our side we shall win. God has said that (i) we should not fear (ii) He is with us (iii) we should not be dismayed (iv) He will strengthen us (v) He will uphold us (vi) those against us shall be ashamed (vii) they will be confounded (viii) they shall be as nothing (ix) they shall perish (x) they shall vanish (xi) we shall be a terrible weapon against them (xii) we shall rejoice in the Lord, and (xiii) we shall glory in the Holy One of Israel. Ps.110:1-2, Isa.41:10-16, Jer.20:11, Jer.15:20-21, 17:18, 18:18-22, Heb.13:8, Jer.1:10, Heb.11:30.

LESSON 092

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we saw that we are fighting against a highly organized army whose captain, Satan, has many titles like liar, murderer, serpent, lion, destroyer etc. We also learnt that with God on our side, we shall win. Infact, He said in His word that whenever our enemies are preparing for war against us, He will (i) laugh them to scorn, (ii) speak to them in anger and (iii) trouble them greatly, Ps. 2:1-4, in this second part we want to find out why some perish in the war while others survive.

1) THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE GROUND IS IN THE MIND: The battle ground in the war against Satan begins in the though-realm and it starts right from youth. All sins originates from the heart in form of thoughts, knowing that if God fights for a man, he will always win. Satan uses the strategy of putting wicked thoughts into a man's mind. He knows that God abhors wicked thoughts. He knows that foolish thoughts (not necessarily immoral) are sins. So he introduces into a man's mind thoughts that are frivolous, not based on the fear of the Lord or the furtherance of His kingdom on earth. He knows that vain thoughts lead men to (i) becoming tools (ii) doing damnable things and (iii) suffering horribly as a result. Gen.8:21, Matt.15:18-22, Prov.15:26, Deut.15:9, Ps.139:2, Prov.24:9, Isa.55:6-9, Rom.1:21, I Cor.1:19, 27-29.

2) MOST OF THE CASUALITIES ARE CAUSED BY PRIDE: Satan knows that God is willing to aid those who are attacked by evil forces. He knows the stories of Pharaoh and Sennacherib very well. But he also knows that pride locks God out and opens the door to the enemy. Infact, pride turns God from being a supporter to an opposer. He also knows that human beings never learns from the experience of others as is well illustrated in the story of Bel-shazzar, son of Nebuchadnezzar consequently, one of the greatest causes of perishing in the war is pride.

Ps.18:27-30, Exod.5:2, 9:13-17, 7:11, II Kings 19:20-22, 27-28, 35-37, Ps.10:4, Isa.2:11-12,17, Ezek.17:24, Dan.4:34-37, Dan.5:22-30.

3) ABSOLUTE SUBMISSION TO CHRIST IS THE KEY TO ETERNAL SECURITY: putting on the ability of God involves (a) putting off the ability and achievements of the flesh (b) submitting to the Directorship of God, which means Ii) surrendering your heavy burden to Him (ii) putting on His easy yoke and (iii) putting on His light burden. By humbling ourselves before God, we can be transformed into a terror to Satan. Like in all armies all over the world, the key to survival, continuous victory and eternal security is total obedience, no more no less. Phil.3:4-10, Matt.11:28-30, Acts 9:11-12, Heb.5:8-9, I Pet.1:2-5.

LESSON 093

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

We now know who our enemy is. We also know that with God on our side we will win. Furthermore, we know that God insists that soldiers of the cross must surrender all to Him and be absolutely obedient. In this third part we want to learn about how to put on the Armour of God and have the ability of God.

1) **ALL OVERCOMERS HAVE A SECRET: GOD IS WITH THEM:** The power of God is exceedingly great and it is a available for our use. There is a fullness of God, which any desirous Christian may enjoy through the Holy Spirit, and a deeper, more complete knowledge of Christ. And that is the secret of the strength of all over-comers down the ages: God was with them. And since God never faints or tire, it follows that if His strength is yours, you too will never faint or be weary. Eph.1:19, 3:14-19, Deut.31:23, Jos.1:6,7,9, I Sam. 23:16, I Chron.28:20 , Isa.40:28,31, Ps.138:3.

2) **YOU CANNOT BE CLOTHED WITH GOD AND SINS SIMULTANEOUSLY:** In order to put on the ability of God, we must first put off certain things. These include among others (i) lusts of the flesh, (ii) lies, (iii) anger, (iv) wrath, (v) malice (vi) blasphemy and (vii) filthy communications. Initially, there may be some hardships encountered in the putting off process and as result of it. However, after a while, as we gain more experience in the Lord, we become stronger, more stable, more settled, more perfect and more victorious. Then with our new-found ability of God, we can pull down strongholds of Satan in our lives, cast down wrong imaginations and pride, capture and hold captive any desire to disobey our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph.4:22-25, Rom.13:14, Col.13:8-10, I Pet.5:8-10, II Cor.10:4-5, Judge 16:24:25.

3) **SATAN IS A STRATEGIST BUT OUR GOD IS SUPERIOR:** Satan is an accomplished strategist, but thank God, we are not ignorant of his devices. His devices include (i) blinding the mind of unbelievers to the truth of the Gospel (ii) deceiving people, many times not openly but indirectly (iii) demonstration of fake power (iv) the use of false prophets and teachers who are good copies of true ones (v) giving of false signs and wonders (vi) roaring like a lion. II Cor. 2:11, 4:3-4, 11:3-13,15, I Thess. 2:9-10, I Pet. 5:8, II Pet. 2:1-3, Rev. 2:24, 12:9, 13:11-15, 19:20, Rev. 20:1-3, 7-8.

4) **GOD HAS NO ROOM FOR COWARDS IN HIS ARMY:** God does not expect us to be cowardly. With the lord of Hosts, on our sides why must we be afraid? Since the strength we are going to use is not ours, every weakness in our life is an opportunity for God to demonstrate His awesome power. Consequently, for all true soldiers of the cross, it should be **FORWARD EVER, BACKWARD NEVER.** I Cor.16:13, Hag. 2:4, Zec. 8:9,13, II Cor.12:9-10, Phil. 4:13, Col.1:11, II Timothy 2:1, II Timothy 4:16-17.

LESSON 094

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 4

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous parts of this series on soldiers of the cross, we have identified our enemy and his soldiers and we have been assured by the promises of God that with God on our side we shall win. We have discovered the conditions for enlistments in the Army of the cross as total submission to the will of God and unquestioning obedience. We have also learnt that we have to put on the whole Armour of God, which we can only do if we put off sins and lusts of the flesh first. Finally, we have learnt of the strategies of Satan and that God does not expect us to run from battle but to stand courageous. In continuation of this series we shall study in some details, Ephesians 6:13-17.

1) FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL, THERE IS AN EVIL DAY: this is the end time we are living in. Therefore, days are generally evil. But for every person, there is a particular evil day when he comes face to face with the adversary. Only those who are fully prepared will survive such a day. However, for the whole human race, there is a period called “The Evil Day” or “The Hour or temptation”. Those who belong to the Lord completely shall miss that terrible period. Eph.5:16, Eccl.12:1. Amos 6:1-7, Luke 8:13, Rev.3:10, Mal.3:2, Luke 21:34-36, Rev.6:15-17.

2) THE GIRDLE AND THE BREASTPLACE: Your loins must be girded with the truth because Satan delights in hitting below the belt. If you ever tell a single lie, it is enough to neck you. Telling the truth always is a sure road to holiness because if you sin you cannot lie when challenged. You must protect your chest with righteousness, i.e. good words done in Christ, Protecting your chest implies protecting your heart out of which is the very issues of life. Eph.5:9, Luke 12:35, II Cor.6:4,7, I Pet.1:13-16, Isa.59:16-17, I Thess.5:8, Prov.4:25.

3) THE BOOTS AND THE SHIELD: Satan is under your feet if you are a child of God. Moreover, Satan is a serpent. Consequently, your feet must be well protected or you might be bitten. Take Jesus wherever you go. Witness for Him always and you will always be on the mountain top. God is the shield of Abraham and we are of the seed of Abraham. Therefore God is our shield also. Consequently, our protection is in faith in God, a simple trust in the Almighty God as being the all sufficient, the El-Shaddai. Habakkuk 3:19, Deut.33:25, Luke 15:22, Isa.52:7, Rom.10:13-15, John 15:16, II Cor.5:18-21, Gen.15:1, Ps. 56:3-4, 10-11, Prov. 18:10, II Cor.1:24, 4:16-18, Heb. 11:24-34, I Pet.5:8-9, I John 5:4-5.

4) THE HELMET AND THE SWORD: The helmet of the victory is true Salvation. That is the only protection against all the false philosophies and religions of this world. Without genuine Salvation, one is likely to be confused by the various religions and ideologies claiming to be the true way. Your mouth contains the most powerful weapon ever created: your tongue. Therefore, if your mouth is filled with the word of God you stop Satan dead in his tracks always. To overcome Satan perpetually, you need both the blood of the Lamb and your own word of victorious testimony. But how much of the word do you know? Isa.59:17, I Sam.16:46-49, Isa.49:2, Heb.4:12, Rev.1:16, Rev.2:16, 19:15, Matt.4:4,7,10-11, Heb.13:5-6, Rev.12:1.

LESSON 095

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 5

INTRODUCTION:

We have been learning about how to win the battle against Satan, his principalities, powers, ruler, and wicked spirits. We have studies in details the whole Armour of God, how to put it on and why, in this concluding part we want to look at the greatest weapon of all i.e. prayers, Ephesians 6:10-18.

1) PRAY AS YOU BREATHE: It is only hypocrites who should find it difficult to pray because they know that God will not answer them. But when the saints call, God hears and comes to their rescue. Some people only call on God when in trouble but children of God should pray as they breathe. If Daniel had waited until he was thrown into the lions den before praying, it would have been too late. When Peter was imprisoned, the church did not hire a lawyer, they prayed. Job 27:8-10, Ps.34:17, Isa.26:16, Dan.6:10, Acts 1:12-14, 6:2-4, 10:1-2, 12:5,11, Phil.1:4-5.

2) THE ONLY EXCUSE FOR NOT PRAYING IS LAZINESS: those who would not pray are just lazy and lukewarm. Whereas we are expected to be active, fervent, happy, strong, hot, some Christians are world champion worriers but we are expected to be world champion prayer warriors. However, no one can pray, as he ought without the help of the Holy Spirit. There is a spirit of supplications: if you call on God, He can impart Him to you. Furthermore, the only way to pray without ceasing and to build up your faith is by praying in the spirit. Rom 12:11-12, Phil.4:6, I Thess.5:17, Rom.8:15-16, 26-27, Zech.12:10, Jude v.20-21.

3) QUITERS ARE NEVER WINNERS: WINNERS NEVER QUIT: Jacob wrestled with God till he got the blessings he wanted. The woman that the Lord compared to a dog persisted till she got what she wanted. We are better than dogs: we are children of the Most High. Let us persevere in prayers and we shall always defeat Satan all the time. No matter how "busy" God may be, if we persevere, we shall get our blessings. Gen.32:28, Matt.15:25-28, Luke 11:5-8, Luke 18:1-8.

4) WE CAN RESCUE OUR NATION FROM SATAN: God heard Solomon when he prayed for his people. God has not changed. He will hear us too if we pray for our nation. When the devil tried to destroy the Jews, it is to the only person that they had in the palace that they sent to for help. We are in the palace of the Most High; we are His Brides. Our Nation needs our held now more than ever before. I Kings 9:3, Esther 4:8, Dan.9:20-23, I Timothy 2:1-4, Colossians 4:2, II Timothy 1:3, Philippians 4:5.

LESSON 096

STEPS TO GREATNESS

INTRODUCTION:

In the recent time, the Almighty told us that the beginning of greatness has come to His children 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 the Heaven and Earth, the infallible one desires 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, III 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 pre requisite to his choice and calling to greatness. He demands for identification. To prevent contamination so that he might be able to accomplish His purpose. He requests that we be separate from the heathens, Evil doers and associations.
Ex. 33:16: Jos. 23:7, Neh. 10:30,1, II Cor. 6:12-18. Neh.13:3, Ps11 :9:115,Isa.52:11 ,Eph.5:11 ,Thess.3:6.ITim.6:5.

Examples of those who complied and the results.
Dan. 1 :8.3:15-16, 3:30, Dan.6:10.6:22,28, Gen.13:1.24:35

LESSON 097

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

Many Christians are frustrated, defeated and fruitless. Many are wallowing in spiritual poverty unaware of the great resources of God available to them. But the wonderful truth is that every Christian has the potential to live supernaturally. The key is God the Holy Spirit. He is supreme in revival, evangelism and every Christian endeavour. Today we shall begin to study about Him from John 14:16-18.

1) **ANOTHER COMFORTER IMPLIES THERE WAS AN ORIGINAL COMFORTER:** The original Comforter was Jesus Christ. He was the "consolation of Israel". He was the Day Star, the Sun of Righteousness bringing light into darkness and shadows of death. He brought comfort to wherever He went. Whether at the rich Jairus' house, the widow of Nain, on the road to the cemetery of the poor beggar by the wayside. Those who came to Him went home comforted: be it a leper, a penniless woman bleeding to death or a "dog" with a demon possessed daughter. Now, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. No wonder He is "another Comforter", of the same type, not different in any way. Luke 2:25, II Pet.1:19, II Cor.4:4,6, Ps.84:11, Isa.9:2, John 1:9, Isa.42:6, Luke 2:28-32, Isa.60:20, John 14:17, 15:26, Romans 8:9.

2) **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALSO AN INSTRUCTOR, TEACHER, MONITOR, ADVOCATE:** The word translated "Comforter" also means instructor, Teacher, Monitor, and Advocate. Jesus was the teacher, the instructor. They called Him Rabbi but those who had revelation knowledge knew Him as Rabboni, the instructor of Rabbis. No wonder He promised not another Pope or Archbishop but another Teacher, an Instructor in the mysteries of God revealing the deep meanings of the word of God. With Him to instruct you, you do not need the enticing words of human wisdom.

LESSON 097 conts.

A monitor is a sort of overseer, watching over you, leading you, guiding you and assisting you when need be. So is the Holy Spirit. An advocate pleads for or against a person. The Holy Spirit pleads against a dead conscience convicting a sinner of his sins but pleads for the saint with a grooming that cannot be uttered. He is a loving Comforter, faithful, wise and true. Surely you need Him now. Matt.23:7-8, John 20:16, John 7:46, Isaiah 58:11, John 16:12-14, Romans 8:26, John 4:24, I John 4:8, I Cor.3:19-20, 24, James 3:17, Col.1:19.

LESSON 098

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In part one of this study, we learnt that the Holy Spirit is not only the Comforter, but He is our Instructor, Teacher, Monitor and Advocate. He not only Comfort, but He also Teaches, Watches over, leads, guides and assists those who would let Him. But He does much more than these. The Bible talks of diversities of gifts of the Holy Spirit, manifestation of the spirit and the working of the Holy Spirit, I Cor.12:4, 7, 11. Evidently, there is much to learn about the Holy Spirit. May we take step forward tonight in Jesus Name.

1) **TO SEEK THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO SEEK GOD:** The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as eternal. He has no beginning and no ending. He is also everywhere at all time. He knows all things including the hidden mysteries of God. He has all powers including the powers of the Most High. These are just other ways of saying that the Holy Spirit is God Almighty Himself and definitely not any prophet. Therefore, to seek the Holy Spirit is to seek God. Heb. 9:14, Ps. 139:7, I Corinthians 2:10-11, 1:35, Job 33:4.

2) **YOUR ETERNITY COULD BE DETERMINED BY YOUR RESPONSE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:** Various people respond to the Holy Spirit in various ways. Some have lied to him and have paid the heavy penalties of so doing. Others have resisted Him, for example by refusing to yield their tongues to him. Some heave grieved Him either through deliberate sins, resistance or disobedience. Some have even insulted Him or blasphemed Him, thus permanently closing the door of heaven against themselves. Some have quenched His fire and light in their lives. But you could choose to obey Him instead. Acts 5:3, Acts 7:51, Heb.10:29, Matt.12:31, I Thess.5:19, Acts 10:19-20.

3) **IF YOU LISTEN, YOU CAN HEAR HIS VOICE:** We learnt in part one that He helps us in prayer, He teaches and guide us and also convicts

sinners and backsliders, in addition, how can He do these things except He speaks? Of course, He speaks and if your spiritual ear is open you can hear Him. However, His first words to you may be a command. Romans 8:26, John 14:26, 16:13, John 16:7-8, 15:26, Romans 8:16, Rev.2:7, Acts 13:2, Romans 8:14, Acts 8:26.

4) **HE IS WILLING, IF YOU ARE:** What is the Holy Spirit willing to do for you today? He is willing (i) to make you new (ii) to dwell within you, (iii) to seal you for Christ, (iv), to fuse you into the Body of Christ through baptism (v) to clothe you with Christ (vi) to clothe you with power and (vii) to perform miracles on you, for you and through you. Titus 3:5, I Cor.6:19, I Cor.3:16, Eph.1:13, Eph.4:30, I Cor.12:12-13, Gal.3:27-29, Acts 1:8, Acts 8:39, Acts 10:38.

LESSON 099

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

We have learnt that the Holy Spirit, who is God Himself, is able to comfort, teach, lead and guide because He speaks. But how can we hear Him? The Bible says there are all sort of voices in this world. I Cor.14:10. How can we differentiate the voice of God from the rest? These and other questions we believer God will answer for us tonight in Jesus Name, Amen.

1) **THE DEVIL SPEAKS IN TWO PRINCIPAL WAYS:** We all hear voices, Divine or devilish. Even before conversion, we hear voices e.g. the voice of conscience and the voice of lust. There are two ways the devil can speak (i) the small voice to the spirit of man and (ii) through human beings. Of course he occasionally speaks through dreams. Examples include the decree of Caesar Augustus, the advise of Sarai to Abram, Job's wife to Job, Peter to Jesus Christ and the elder prophet to the younger. Luke 2:1-7, Genesis 16:1-6, Job 2:9, Matt.16:21-23, I Kings 13:11-24.

2) **SPEAKS IN DIVERSE WAYS:** There are several ways in which God can speak. He might speak (i) in the small still voice to your spirit, (ii) through human beings, when your spiritual ear is deafened by sin, e.g. Nathan to David, Samuel to Eli, Samuel to Saul (iii) by direct confrontation particularly when you are too occupied to listen to the small still voice or you may doubt the prophet e.g. Moses at the burning bush, Joshua before the wall of Jericho, Gideon in hiding, the shepherds watching flocks by night and Saul on the way to Damascus, (iv) through any means in critical situations e.g. Balaam and his ass. I Kings 19:12, II Sam. 12:1-2, I Sam.3:11-18, Exod.3:1-14, I Sam.15:16-23, Joshua 5:13, Jos.6:5, Judges 6:11-16, Luke 2:8-14, Acts 9:1-7, Number 22:28-30.

3) **HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE VOICE OF GOD AND THE DEVIL'S:** The devil's voice is easy to recognize because it contradicts God's word. We recognize the voice of God in the following ways: (i) it agrees with the written word of God, (ii) it frightens sinners and (iii) it is a source of joy to believers. To hear God's voice, if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, all you need to do is harden not your heart. John 8:44, John 10:4, Genesis 3:9-10, John 3:9-10, john 3:29, John 16:33, Ps. 95:7-8.

LESSON 100

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT PART 4

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous study we learnt that the devil speaks in two principal ways through the small voice and through human beings. we also learnt that God speaks in diverse ways: in the small still voice and through human beings, by direct confrontation, through any means in critical situations. The voice of God agrees with the Bible, frightens sinners and is a source of joy to believers, whereas the voice of Satan disagrees with the Bible. In this study, we want to study the power of the Holy Spirit and how to harness it for our God.

1) THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS YOU TO BE A CONDUCTOR OF HIS POWER: There are two kinds of power; constructive and destructive; it is Satan's duty to destroy continually. God constructs and destroys where need be. The Holy Spirit gives life, restores life and destroys the works of the devil wherever it may be found. Through the Holy Spirit, you too can construct and destroy at the case may be. This is because God wants you to be a conductor of His power; He wants His power to flow through you. There are several examples in both the Old and New Testaments of men who conducted the power of the Holy Spirit to perform miracles of construction or destruction. Men like Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul and Stephen. Now, with the earthly electricity, so it is with the heavenly the purer the conductor, the greater the flow of the power. John 10:10, I John 3:8, II Kings 5:7-8, Gen.2:7, 1:2, Luke 13:10-16, Mark 16:18-9, Exod.14:15-21, 7:19-20, Jos.6:2-5, Acts 1:2, 10:36, Acts 3:6-8, Acts 19:11,12, Acts 6:5-8.

2) HE WHO HAS SURRENDERED HIS TONGUE HAS SURRENDERED HIS ALL: Our body particularly our hands, represent the wire through which the power of God flows. But our tongue is actually the switch that sends the power flowing to stops it from flowing. Life and death is in the power of the tongue and when we are filled with the Holy

Spirit whatever decree we make shall be established. Again there are several examples of men like Elijah, Elisha, Paul, etc. who decreed things under the influence of the Holy Spirit and they were established. That is why the Holy Spirit insists on taking over your tongue because whoever surrendered his all can be a true channel for the Holy Spirit's power to flow through. Consequently, the more you pray in tongues the greater the mighty works you will be able to do for God. Prov.15:14, Prov.18:21, Prov.25:15, Prov.12:18, Proverbs 31:25, Mark 11:23-24, Job22:28-29, I Kings 17:1, II Kings 6:14-17, 6:8-11, II Kings 6:18, 5:9-10, Acts 13:8-11, James 3:2-3, Jude v.20.

LESSON 101
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 5

INTRODUCTION: In the last study of this series in volume one, we discovered that the Holy Spirit could be compared to Electricity, a sort of divine, heavenly Electricity. Your body, particularly your hands, could be the conductor of His awesome power while your tongue is the switch that sets the current flowing. That is why powerful Christians are Christians who pray in tongues often. But suppose a once powerful Christian lost his power, how can he regain it? How can a powerful Christian remain powerful? These are the questions we hope to answer in this study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. NO LOSS WITHOUT CAUSE

There is no smoke without fire. There can be no loss of power without a cause or causes. When the power diminishes or vanishes, the first thing to do is to try and locate the why of it Power could be lost through (i) absorbing false doctrines, (ii) innocent amusements (iii) flattery or (iv) the "oil" drying up. To get the fire going again, we must (i) trim the wick i.e. restitute our ways, (ii) obtain oil afresh, (iii) go back to the source of fire (iv) stay put till we become so conformed to the source that we can partake of His nature once again.

Eph. 4:14; Pro. 9:17-18; 29:5; Mf. 25:27; 25:9; Ps. 34:4-5; Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18; Phi. 3:21; II Pet. 1:4; I John 4:17.

2. RETENTION IS BETTER THAN RECOVERY

It is good to regain lost powers, but it is better still never to lose the powers. If you do not want to lose your powers but instead you want the powers to increase, here are some suggestions on what to do. (i) Keep in continuous touch with the source, whatever it costs (ii) your desire and thirst for Him must be intense and continuous (iii) you must have a deep and continuous burden to serve Him, passionately, desirous of winning souls (iv) you must be temperate in all things (v) you must constantly keep your body under even as you feed on the word (vi) you must forget past glories and aim higher each day and (vii) you must constantly increase your flying time: i.e. hours of prayers, the type of praying that shuts all else out except God.

Is. 44:3; Jer, :9;11-13; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:2-4: 8:29-30; I Cor. 9:25-27; II Cor.4-.ll; Phil. 1:21; Deu. 8:3; Phil. 3:13 – 14; Is. 40:31; Act. 4:31: Col. 4:12.

LESSON 102
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 6

INTRODUCTION: In the previous study, we learnt that since God never changes, if anyone loses the power given him by God, there must be a reason for it. Therefore, a person who wants to regain his lost powers must examine himself to find out why he lost the powers. Then he must restitute his ways and return afresh to the source of all powers for recharging of his battery. In this study, we want to begin to look into the gifts of the Holy Spirit and we pray that as we know more about these gifts they shall become more manifest in our lives and ministries. Amen.

1. **GOD REQUIRES PURITY BEFORE POWER**

Our God is a holy God. He demands that His children be like Himself. One reason for this is that those who operate the gifts of God arc usually targets of attack from the enemy. Another reason is that the gifts of God arc precious and are meant for the pure and holy. The third reason is so that the operator of the gifts of God may not be a castaway in (he end. Joel. 2:12-30; Matt. 5:48; John 1:5; Jer. 15:19-21; II Tim. 2:20-21; Matt. 7:6; Lev. 10:8-10; Heb. 12:14.

2. **BASIC GIFTS MUST BE DEVELOPED BEFORE RECEIVING OTHER GIFTS**

Every Christians has basic gifts or talents. These must be used and developed to the outmost before one could be justified in asking for more gifts. These gifts include the gifts of service and the gift of giving. Those who exercise these gifts cheerfully are superior Christians whose lives glorify God.

I Cor. 16:15-16; II Cor. 8:1-5; II Cor. 9:7; 9:11-13.

3. **THE GIFTS OF GOD ARE IN THREE CATEGORIES**

There are different kinds of Spirits, lying spirits, seducing spirits, spirits of error, etc. But there is only one Holy Spirit. His gifts can be split into three categories; (a) Revelation gifts, which consists of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits, (b) Inspiration gifts, which include prophecy, different kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues,
(c) The power gifts which are faith, gifts of healings, and the working of miracles.
There are three kinds of wisdom; (i) Satanic, (ii) human and (iii) divine wisdom; Satanic wisdom is corrupted wisdom. Human wisdom is at times called common sense whereas Divine Wisdom is pure and excellent.

Matt. 10:1; I Tim. 4:1-3; Pro. 4:7; James 3:14-16; Eze. 28:12-17; Luke 14:28-32; Ecc. 1:16-18; I Cor. 1:19; James 3:17; Matt. 6:19-21; II Tim. 4:7-8; James 1:5.

LESSON 103
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 7

INTRODUCTION: In the last study, we began a study of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We learnt that God demands purity before power and He expects us to develop our basic gifts of service and giving before requesting for other gifts. We also learnt that there are three kinds of wisdoms; satanic, human and Divine. Now, we want to study a Divine gift called "Word of wisdom", I Cor. 12:4-8. We pray that if you lack this precious gift you will obtain it today in Jesus Name.

1. **A WORD OF WISDOM IS LIKE AN APPLE OF GOLD**

Divine Wisdom is not limited to spiritual matters only. We can obtain Divine Wisdom for our daily trade, for leadership, forever/day living in addition to understanding spiritual things. To understand the term "Word of Wisdom", we need to note that God knows the past, present and future. He has a large storehouse of information. He gives only a bit of it at a time of need, hence the term "Word of Wisdom". It is a word fitly spoken.

Exo. 31:1-5; Dent. 34:9; Pro. 3:5; I Cor. 2:13-14; Eph. 1:17; Pro. 25:11; Ecc. 9:16-18; Ecc. 10:12; Isa. 50:4; Pro. 15:23.

2. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT IS VARIED**

Depending on the circumstances, there are various reasons why God may manifest the gifts of the word of wisdom in His body. Some of the reasons could be (a) to solve human problems (b) to confuse the enemy (c) for deliverance from a tight comer (d) to turn a fool to a learned person there by demonstrating the superiority of God's wisdom over man's and (e) to give direction.

I Kings 3:24-27; Acts 15.24-29; Matt. 2 2:1–22; John 8:4-11; Matt. 21:23-27; Ecc. 9:16-18; Acts 22:24-29; Acts 23:6-9; Matt. 10:18-19; Isa. 50:4; Acts 6:8-10; Acts 16:9-10.

3. **THE MANIFESTATION OF THE GIFT**

The gift of the word of wisdom could be manifested through four major namely: (a) by the audible voice, (b) by vision or dream (c) by prophecy, which we shall consider later and (d) through reading scriptures. A man may know that he has this gift when he finds it operating in a time of need and by faith a Her asking for it.

I Kings 19:11-12; Dan. 2:19-23; Gen. 40:5-22; 41:1-39; Ps. 119:105.

LESSON 104
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 8

INTRODUCTION: Last week we study, we learnt about the gift of the Holy Spirit called "Word of Wisdom". We learnt that God gives the gift for various purposes and that it could be manifested through four major ways. In this study, we wish to learn about another gift of the Holy Spirit called "The Word of Knowledge" I Cor. 12:8, We pray that as you hunger and thirst for this gift you will be satisfied. Amen.

1. **THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE IS A FRAGMENT OF GOD'S KNOWLEDGE**

God has a storehouse of knowledge from eternity past to eternity future. The word of knowledge is therefore a fragment of God's knowledge revealed to one of His children. It is a peep into the Divine's mind. It is related to the word of wisdom because wisdom is the right application of knowledge. The word of knowledge can be manifested through (a) the audible voice (b) visions and (c) Spiritual revelation.

Dan. 2:20-22; I Sam. 2:3-14; Isa. 40:28; Matt. 6:8;I Chr. 28:9; Jer. 23:24; Matt. 12:25; Mark 2:8; John 2:25; Amos 3:7; I Cor. 3:20; I Chr. 28:9; Jer. 23:24; Matt. 12:25; Mark 2:8; John 2:25; I Cor. 2:9-10; Eph. 1:9-10. I Cor. 3:20.

2. **GOD NEVER DOES ANYTHING WITHOUT A PURPOSE**

Since our God never does anything without a purpose, there are several reasons why God gives the gift of the word of Knowledge. Some of the reasons are (a) to warn against imminent judgment (b) revelation of secret sin or sinful intentions (c) to warn against mistakes in choices (d) to warn against impending danger (e) to give specific directions (f) to encourage or give good news.

Gen. 18:17-21; 1 Sam. 3:11-14; Acts 5:1-4; II Kings 5:25-26; I Sam. 16:6-12; II Kings 6:8-12; Acts 27:9-10; Acts 10:11; Acts 9:10-12; I Kings 19:9-10, 18.

3. **HOW TO OBTAIN THE GIFT**

The gift of the word of knowledge is usually given to covenant men and people whose sole aim is to serve the Lord with all they are and have. If you want the gift, you must be prepared to pay the cost.

Gen. 18:17-19; Phil. 3:7-10; Acts 10:1-2; John 15:14-16

LESSON 105
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 9

INTRODUCTION: In our study of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we learnt that the nine gifts could be grouped into three parts and that the first part consists of (i) the word of wisdom (ii) the word of Knowledge and (iii) the discerning of Spirits. These three are usually called the revelation gifts. Now we have studied the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. Right now, we wish to study the gift of the discerning of Spirit, I Cor. 12:10. May the Lord bestow these gifts on all the hunger and thirst for it in Jesus Name. Amen.

Ia. **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS IS DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL**

As we learnt earlier on, there are different kinds of spirits, unclean spirits, seducing spirits, lying spirits, spirits of error, spirits of anti-Christ, etc. To be able to differentiate between these evil spirits and good ones require a Divinely given gifts called the gifts of discerning of Spirits (not the gift of discernment). Matt. 10:1; I Tim. 4:1; I Kings 22:23; 1 John 4:6; I John 4:3; Acts 16:16-18; Matt. 16:15-17, 21-23.

Ib. **THIS GIFT ENABLES YOU TO SEE INTO AND HEAR IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM**

The ability to differentiate between evil and good spirit pre-supposes the ability to see into the spiritual realm and hear in it. Man is a spiritual being and has spiritual faculties i.e. eyes, ears, etc. Those who have this gift readily observe that the spirit world is highly organized.

I Thess. 5:23; Jude 13:2-5; 6:11-12; Luke 1:26-28; Eph. 6:12; Dan 10:12-13.

2. **THE GIFT IS GIVEN FOR VARIOUS PURPOSE**

There are various reasons why God could give the gift of the discerning of spirits. These include, among others, (a) to give an advance warning of impending judgment, (b) to reveal the future, (c) to enable special instructions to be given before a special event, (d) to announce special happenings that has happened (e) to assure in time of grave dangers (f) to stabilize a Christian warrior (g) when there is no other way to get the message across (h) to prepare someone for a special assignment and (i) to show Divine Appreciate. Gen. 18:1-3; 17-22; Rev. 1:10-12; Luke 1:11-17; 1:26-3 7; Jos. 5:13,; 6:5; Jude 13:3-4; Luke 2:8-15; II Kings 6:14-17; Acts 27:21-24; II Cor. 12:2-4; 12:2-4; Acts 10:1-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Dan. 3:24-25; Acts 7:55-56.

3. **HOW TO KNOW WHEN SPIRITS ARE NEAR AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM**

There are Biblical signs for knowing when a spirit or an angel is near. As soon as you sense the presence of a spirit you could command it to manifest in the name of Jesus Christ. To identify if it is good or evil you can ask the following questions: (a) Has Jesus come in the flesh? (b) Is Jesus Christ the Lord? Moreover, good spirits or angels always say, "Fear not" to subdue your fears whereas evil spirits enjoy your being troubled.

Job. 4:15-17; Heb. 1:13-14; I John 4:1-3; I Cor. 12-3; Mark 9:38-40; Luke 1:11-13; Luke 1:29-30; Jude 6:22-23.

LESSON 106

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 10

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt a lot about the three revelation gifts: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits. Now, we wish to begin a study of the three inspirational gifts: prophecy, divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. We shall start with prophecy. This is because this gift is a link between revelation and inspiration. I Cor. 12:10. May God make this valuable gift available to us today.

1. THERE ARE THREE SOURCES OF PROPHECY

Ordinarily, prophecy means revealing the mind of God over certain issues either at present or in the future. There are two types of prophecy: direct and indirect. Also there are three sources of prophecy namely, the devil, the human spirit and God the Holy Spirit. The devil and his evil spirits constitute the most dangerous source of prophecy. This is because the fake prophets possessed or controlled by these evil spirits actually hear from the devil. They can truly identify your problems but will never suggest the true solutions. They can tell you a certain measure of your past history only to mislead you concerning the future.

1Kings 22:20-22; Acts 16:16-18; Rom. 8:16; Jer. 23:16-17; Joel 2:28.

2. DIVINELY GIVEN PROPHECY COULD COME IN THREE WAYS

The Divine Source of prophecy is God the Holy Spirit. However, God send His word through (a) the gift of prophecy (b) the office of a prophet or (c) the Scriptures. There are several situations the future of which can be accurately predicted from the Bible. For example, when Elijah pronounced that there would be no rain or dew in Israel, he based his prophecy on the written Word of God, again when he said there would be rain again, he was also solidly supported by the written word of God

Isa. 3:10; Job. 11:14-19; Ps. 34:10; Isa. 3:11; Eze. 18:21-23: 18:24; I Kings 17:1; Dent. 11:16-17; I Kings 18:41; II Chr. 7:13-14.

3. TRUE AND FALSE PROPHECIES CAN BE RECOGNIZED

There is a purpose for prophecies as stated clearly in the word of God. Also, a true prophecy has the following characteristics among others: (i) fulfillment (ii) accompanying conditions, (iii) agreement with God's word, (iv) public acknowledgment (v) purity of the vessel, (vi) and the Spirit of the message. A false prophet can also be recognized by the way he opposes the truth, his failure to expose sin because of his own unholy life and his appeal, directly or indirectly, for money.

I Cor. 14:3; Jer. 18:7-8; II Chr. 7:14; Rev. 10:10; Matt. 23:37- 39; Jer. 23:21-22; Num. 16:28-35; Jer. 28:9; II Pet. 2:1-2; Acts. 13:8; II Tim. 4:2-4; Lam. 2:14; I Tim. 3:5: I Pet. 5:2.

LESSON 107

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 11

INTRODUCTION: As we learnt earlier, there are three gifts in the "inspirational gifts" group. They are, prophecy divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. In the immediate past study, we studied prophecy. Its three sources are satan, the human spirit and the Holy Spirit. We also learnt how to differentiate between true and false prophecies. In this lesson, we want to study the two other gifts in that group together, that is divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues, I Cor. 12:10. May the Lord satisfy our thirst for spiritual gifts today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **TONGUES ARE VOCAL MIRACLES**

Divers kind of tongues has nothing to do with linguistic ability. They are supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learnt by the speaker. They are vocal miracles. Interpretation on the other hand supernaturally reveals the meaning of what was said in tongues. Therefore, both normally go hand in hand. Tongues are not primarily for teaching or preaching. Instead they are for private devotion between men and God. Also, praying. Without ceasing is only possible if we pray both with understanding and with tongues.

Mark 16:17; I Cor. 14:13; 14:19; I Cor. 14:2 7-28; I Cor. 14:2,4; I Cor. 14:14-15, 18.

2. **THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION**

There are several reasons why God could give the gifts of divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Some of them are: (a) Tongues could be given as a sort of secret code when God wants to reveal His mind over an issue to His servant only. Of course, with His permission, the mysteries so learnt could be revealed while preaching the Gospel (b) To assist us to grow in spirit as we grow in age (c) To build us up and establish us in faith (d) To assist us in the controlled use of our tongues (e) To help us get out of tight situations. Interpretation on the other hand could be given to glorify God among heathens. Above all, the greatest purpose of tongues and interpretation is to prepare us for heaven so that we can all understand one another over there.

I Cor. 14:21-22; I Cor. 2:16; Amos 3:7; I Cor. 2:9-10; John 16:13; Eph. 6:19; Col.4:2-3; Luke 1:80, 2:40; I Cor. 3:1-2; Jude 20. II Cor. 8:7; I Cor. 1:4-5; Eph.4:29; Dan. 5:11-12; 24-28; Acts 2:4-8.

LESSON 108

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 12

INTRODUCTION: The third group of the gifts of the Holy Spirit consists of the gift of faith, the gifts of healing and the gift of the working of miracles. These are called the power gifts because they are the gifts that cause things to happen. We shall begin now with the first part of the gift of faith I Cor. 12:9; Since it is impossible to please God without faith, it is our sincere prayer that God will give us all this gift in Jesus name Amen.

1. **THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAITH**

Basically, faith is an acknowledgement that God exists and that He is holy and supreme. There are various types of faith; natural faith, supernatural faith, little faith, growing faith, great faith, mustard-seed faith, faith the fruit of the Spirit and faith the gift of the spirit. Everybody has the basic measure of faith to start with but false teaching could destroy faith. Also faith could falter severe stress.

Heb. 11:1; Heb. 11:6; Matt. 6:30; Luke 17:5; Matt. 8:10; Matt. 17:20; Gal. 5:22; Rom. 12:3; II Tim. 2:16-18; Matt. 11:2-3.

2. **FAITH THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRITS IS DIFFERENT FROM FAITH THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT**

Faith the fruit of the Holy Spirit, is the quiet restful type. "God said it, therefore it is settled" type of faith. No querying of God. A quiet confidence within the believer that all will be well. The type of faith that kept Elijah for one year beside the Brook Cherith and rescued the widow of Zarephath and her son from famine.

On the other hand, faith the gift of the Holy Spirit is active, dynamic type. The type that subdues kingdoms that sends angels hurrying to the rescue and raises the dead.

Rom. 11:33-36; 8:28. Acts 12:5-11; I Kings 17:2-6; I Kings 17:8-16; Job. 13:15; Heb. 11:32-35; Dan. 6:21-22; Acts 5:19 20; Gen. 22:10-12. Job. 14:19; II Kings 6:17: Gen. 15:1; Gen 17:1-8; Gen. 21:14-19; 46:1-4; Eze. 37:1-14; Acts 27:20-25; Matt. 5:8.

3. VISIONS BELONG TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM

Visions always take place in the spiritual realm. The physical is suspended for awhile and one is said to be "in the spirit", "taken up by the Spirit", "having spiritual eyes opened" etc. In a vision, journeys could be undertaken in the spirit to a place you have been before. And it is possible to see far into the future or even a glimpse of heaven.

II Kings. 6:17-18; Eph. 1:8 Acts 26:15-18; Col. 3:1-3; Ez. 11.:24; 37:2; Rev. 1:9-10; Dan. 8:1-12; II Cor. 12:1-4.

LESSON 109

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 13

INTRODUCTION: We have started our study of the Power gifts with the gift of faith part one. We have discovered what faith is and the various types and degrees of faith like little faith, mustard seed faith, growing faith, great faith, faith the fruit of the Holy Spirit and faith the gift of the Holy Spirit. We have seen the difference between the quiet restful faith that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the active, dynamic type of faith that is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now we shall continue our study of this gift of the Holy Spirit called the gift of faith. May the Lord make us receptive of this wonderful gift in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE REAL CORNERSTONE OF FAITH IS THE HOLINESS OF GOD**

Since God is holy, His word stands forever sure. Hence the cornerstone of faith is the holiness of God. The foundation of faith is the unchangeable Word of God. That is why we can be sure that He will supply any need of ours that is specifically provided for in His Word. Great men of faith like Elijah, Shadrach and his friends, Daniel and others based their faith on the written Word of God. Consequently, if God had said it, it will surely happen provided you satisfy your own part of the bargain, which is holiness unto the Lord.

Isa. 40:8; 53:5; I Pet. 2:24; Phil 4:19; Ps. 34:10; 84:11; 1:1-3; Jos. 1:8; I Kings 17:1; Dent. 11:16-17; Dan. 3:17; Isa. 43:2; Dan. 6:21-22; Pro. 29:25; Ps. 37:3; Isa. 26:3; Heb. 13:5-6; Isa. 54:17; Pr. 12:21; Ps. 34:17; Heb. 11:10.

2. **ONLY THOSE WHO ARE READY TO DIE FOR CHRIST RECEIVE THIS DEADLIEST WEAPON AGAINST SATAN.**

There are various reasons for giving the gift of faith. These include (i) protection against natural and supernatural dangers like storms, thunderbolt, reckless drivers, armed robbers, and demons (ii) To give courage when facing mountains of problems e.g. Jonah in the whale's belly and Job in the time of his severe trial. The gift is given primarily to (a) those who know the scriptures (b) those who put God first in all things (c) those who are ready to yield all, including their lives to God, i.e. those who are ready to die for Christ.

Ps. 91:1-13; Matt. 6:13; Matt. 6:13; Ps. 106:1; Jonah 2:7-9, Pro. 28:13; Pr. 24:16; Job 19:25-27; Exo. 3:14-15; Ps. 37:5; John 14:26; Ps. 23:4; Phil. 1:21; Rom. 14:8.

LESSON 110

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 14

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt that there are three gifts in the Power group of gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are the gifts of faith, healing and working of miracles. We have studied the gift of Faith. Now we want to study the gifts of healing, I Cor. 12:9. The first thing to note is that these gifts of healing have nothing to do with the medical art. Also while all may pray for the sick, not all have the gifts of healing, I Cor. 12:30. Furthermore, there are gifts of healing because there are categories of sicknesses and diseases. As many of us as desire these gifts, may God enable us to obtain them tonight in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **VARIOUS DISEASES NECESSITATES VARIOUS GIFTS OF HEALIN**G

There are three main reasons why the gifts of healing are given to the body of Christ (i) So that the Body of Christ may be strong physically (ii) So that the Body of Christ may be joyful and (hi) so that God may be glorified.

The various gifts of healing may be classified under five main headings (a) The general healing gifts which empowers one to deal with diseases/sickness caused by bacteria. Viruses and germs (b) the gift for casting out of blind, deaf and dump spirits (c) the gift for casting out of the more powerful demons like the epileptic demon, (d) the higher gift of healing involving recreation and (e) the gift of healing requiring the raising of the dead.

Acts 8:5-8; Isa. 38:18-20; Acts 3:8-9; 10:38; 5:15-16; Matt. 8:16; Luke 11:24-26; Eph. 6:12; Matt. 17:19-21; Luke 10:17; Matt. 12:28; John 9:6; 32, 11:39-40,44; Acts 9:36-41.

2. **HOW TO OBTAIN THE GIFTS**

There are conditions to be satisfied if you arc to obtain these gifts. They include: You must be (i) born again, sanctified, and baptized in the Holy Spirit (ii) Compassionate (iii) stubborn i.e. once you start something you must see it through and (iv) Industrious. Matt. 5:7; Pro. 11:17; James I:6-7;Acts 16:16-23; Luke 5:5; John 21:3; Matt. 25:28-29.

3. **HOW TO USE THE GIFTS**

There are seven important things to note in administering healing to the sick. They are (i) get the patient born again because healing is the Children's bread (ii) raise the faith of the sick (iii) get the sick to participate. Healing is a two-way traffic of giving and receiving (iv) healing is not a show business (v) Explain to the sick that healing may be gradual (vi) do not use the gifts indiscriminately. Be led by the Holy Spirit (vii) continue to seek the Lord in prayer and fasting.

Matt. 15:25-27; Mark 6:5-6; Matt. 9:6; Man. 12:38-39; Luke 23:8; Luke 17:12-14; John 5:2-3. 5; Luke 4:2 7; 6:12; I Cor. 9:27; Matt. 7:21-23.

LESSON 111
SPECIAL EDITION - EXAMINE

God's thought for you is for good. God wants you to live in peace and prosperity. He wants you to be healthy and happy. Jer. 29:11-13. Why is it then that so many fail to live a happy, prosperous and successful life? Why are prayers not answered promptly? Is there something wrong with God? Or is the problem with us? Let us examine ourselves today. May God guide us in the self examination. Amen.

1. **THOSE WHO FELL INTO A PIT SHOULD TEACH OTHERS TO WATCH OUT**
As we searched the Scripture, we discover that God's thought were for good for Cain, Esau, Noah, Lot, Eli, King Saul, Gehazi, King Hezekiah, Solomon, Judas and Nebuchadnezzar. But one after the other, they turned God's favour to something else. Cain was the first-born of the world but despite God's warning he lost everything. Esau was the first born of Isaac, but he lost his blessings because of food. Noah was rescued with his family but because of pleasure he cursed one of his children. Lot also was rescued but lie ended badly. Eli because of indifference lost the priesthood for his family. King Saul lost his kingdom because of his disobedience. Gehazi lost a double portion of the power of Elisha because of material gains. Solomon started well and ended poorly and so on. What do you think could prevent you from getting your blessings from God? Repent like Nebuchadnezzar.

Gen. 4:6-7; Gen. 4:9-12; Ex. 13:1-2; (Gen. 27:30-35; 7:21-23; 9:20-21; 24-25; 19:15-17,30-36:1 Sam. 4:12-18; I Sam. 2:27-30; 13:13; 31:3-6; II Kings 4:29; 5:25-27: ha. 38:5-6; 39:1-7; I Kings 3:11-14; Ecc 1:1-33; Luke 22:21; Matt. 27:3-6; Dan. 4:20-22: 4:29-33.

2. **GOD IS NOT A LIAR. WHAT THEN IS HINDERING YOUR PRAYER?**
The Lord God promised to answer prayers and He is not a liar. What type of prayers have you been offering? Have you got answers to all of them? Examine yourself if any of the following prayer stoppers are in your life: (i) disobedience, (ii) Secret Sin (iii) indifference (iv) neglect of mercy (v) instability (vi) self indulgence (vii) stubbornness. Surely God answers prayer but there is condition attached. Fulfill the condition today and your prayers will no longer be hindered.

Isa. 58:9; 65:24; Ps. 91:15; Dent. 1:42-45; I Sam. 15:22-23; Ps. 66:18; Jos. 7:10-12; Pro. 1:24-33; 21:13; Deut. 25:17-19: James 1:6-7; James 4:3; Zech. 7:8-13; John 15:7.

LESSON 112
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 15

INTRODUCTION: In the power gift group of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we have studied the gift of faith and the gifts of healing. Now, we shall be in the study of the gift of the working of miracles I Cor. 12:10. It shall be in two parts. May the Lord increase our faith so that we might be able to appropriate this gift also. Amen.

1. **WHAT IS A MIRACLE?**
Just as there are physical laws to regulate nature, so are there spiritual laws too. Even some physical laws have their spiritual equivalent e.g. the law of harvest. In all cases however, spiritual laws are stronger and more powerful than physical laws. A miracle occurs, therefore, whenever God uses a spiritual law to set aside a physical law. Since it is God who is behind the working of miracles, there is nothing like "the days of miracles" which can pass away, instead there is the God of miracles who lives forever. God may use natural means in performing miracle e.g. 5 loaves of bread and two fishes to feed over 5,000 people; or He may use supernatural means e.g. the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Matt. 7:16; Job. 4:8; Gal. 6:7; Hos. 8:7; John 11:23-26; 43-44; Acts 1:9; Heb. 13:8; Mark 6:37-44; II Kings 4:1-7; Ex. 14:21; John.2:7-10; Gen. 19:24-26; 11:6-10; Matt. 2:1- 2, 8-10.

2. **RECEIVING A MIRACLE DIFFERS FROM THE WORKING OF MIRACLES**
Miracles fall into seven major categories: they are miracles of (i) supply (ii) raising the dead (iii) judgment (iv) deliverance (v) overruling nature (vi) unusual manifestations and (vii) Salvation. Examples of those who had experienced unusual miracles include Gideon, Balaam, and the children of Israel in the wilderness. Now, receiving a miracle is different from the working of miracles.

Through the gift of faith you can receive a miracle but you need the gift of the working of miracles to perform a miracle yourself from God today.

I Kings 17:10-16; 17:17-22; Acts 5:1-5; Mark 5:1-5; 4:35-39; John 6:36-40; Num. 22:22-23, 28-31; Deut. 29:5.

LESSON 113
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 16

INTRODUCTION: In our last study, we defined what a miracle is. We showed how spiritual laws could be used by God to set aside physical laws thus producing what we call a miracle. Also, since God is the Author of miracles and He is unchangeable, miracles still happen today. Finally, we explained the different between receiving a miracle and working a miracle. We want to continue with our study of the gift of the working of miracles. May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHY IS THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES GIVEN?**
There are several reasons why this precious gift may be given. We shall mention seven of them. (i) To deliver God's people from tight corners (ii) to remove satanic obstructions (iii) to administer Divine discipline (iv) to keep the church pure and undefiled (v) to win souls (vi) to glorify God and bring fear on unbelievers and (vii) to demonstrate the supremacy of God over human impossibilities. We can see illustrations of these in the lives of Elijah, Elisha, Paul, Gehazi, Peter and our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

II Kings 4:1; I Kings 17:17-20; II Kings 6:14, 18; Acts 12:6-12; II Kings 5:25-27; Acts 5:5, 10-11; Acts 5:12-13; 5:14; 9:40-42; Luke 7:11-16; John 6:5-10; John 11:40.

2. **QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE GIFT**
Since having this gift makes you an archenemy of Satan, apart from being born again, totally sanctified and baptized in the Holy Spirit, you must (i) be fearless (ii) surrender all to God and (iii) be completely dedicated to Him. Illustrative examples include Joshua, Elisha, and Paul.

Jos. 5:13; 1:1, 24:15; II Kings 6; II Kings 5:9-12; II Kings 5:5-7; I Kings 19:19-21; II Kings 2:2, 4, 6; Acts 21:8-13; Phil. 3:7; Rom. 8:35-39.

3. **HOW TO USE THE GIFT:**
The gift of the working of miracles is not for show business. Therefore, it is preferable that you be alone and undisturbed when this gift is to be used. If need be, bodily contact with the patient is permissible but not more than thrice at most.

Luke 23:8-9; 8:42; 7:14; I Kings 17:19; II Kings 4:32-33; Acts 9:39-40; I Kings 17:20-21; II Kings 4:34-35.

LESSON 114
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 17

INTRODUCTION: We have studied about God the Holy Spirit as Teacher, Comforter, Guardian, the Revealer of the future, the Glorifier of Jesus Christ, etc. John 14:26; 16:13-14. We have also studied the gifts of the Holy Spirit in detail in I Cor. 12:4-11. Now we want to begin a study of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit manifest Himself mightily in our midst from now on and forever in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS ALREADY STARTED**
Daniel prophesied of a time when God will set up a kingdom that will be everlasting we believed that as Christians, we are already in that Kingdom. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that some of His hearers would witness the coming of the kingdom before they died. That kingdom started at Pentecost. You can become a part of that kingdom the moment you are baptized in the Holy Spirit because it is a kingdom for only those endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dan. 2:44; Isa. 9:7; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:2-4; I Cor. 4:20; Zcch. 4:6.

2. **MEMBERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM ARE THE TRUE RULERS OF THIS WORLD**
Since Christ is the power of God to all believers any one who is in Christ has no excuse for being powerless. Like Paul, every Christian must be able to demonstrate the power of God. Surely, there is power in the Gospel of Jesus Christ not only to save from sin but also to heal, deliver and meet every need. Therefore in order to make sinners submissive to His Children, God usually wrought wonders by the power of the Holy Spirit even as Christ is preached.

I Cor. 1:24; 2:4; Rom. 1:16-17; 14:17; Rom. 15:18-19; II Cor. 10:3-6; I Thes. 1:5.

3. **OUR GOD IS A GOD OF SIGNS AND WONDERS**
Since God's Kingdom is one of power, that is why every member of the Kingdom is a soldier. They have a Commander-m-Chief whose orders are (i) preach the Gospel (ii) heal the sick (iii) cleanse the lepers (iv) raise the dead and (v) cast out demons. In short, His orders are, perform signs and wonders. And since He is a God of signs and wonders Himself, he assured all of us that He would supply all the resources we need to perform these signs and wonders. And you can claim that promise tonight.

Acts 4:29-30; 5:12-16; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 2:17-18; Joel 2:28-29; Isa. 44:3; Matt. 5:6; John 7:37-39; Isa. 7:14.

LESSON 115
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 18

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt that the kingdom of God on earth started on the day of Pentecost. That you can be a part of that kingdom if you obtain the power that only the Holy Spirit can give, since the kingdom of God is not of words but of power. That all members of this kingdom are soldiers and our Commander-in-chief is Jesus Christ whose marching orders to us are (i) preach the Gospel (ii) heal the sick (iii) cleanse the lepers (iv) raise the dead (v) cast out demons Matt. 10:7-8, His promise is that He will supply the resources needed to carry out His orders and none will be excluded from the supply Acts 2:17-18. Tonight, we want to see some of the things that will happen if we carry out His orders as we continue our study of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

1. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN MANIFESTATION LIGHT IS BORN
Wherever Holy Spirit-filled children of God are preaching or witnessing, light is always born, i.e. People are born again. Because all born again Christians are lights. This is because God is Light and His children are automatically lights too. God made the Sun Moon and Stars to give physical lights but He recreated us to give spiritual light to the world. Whenever the Gospel preached under the power of the Holy Spirit, Light shines into dark hearts and the understanding of men are enlightened and they become born again. Just as the heavens declare the glory of God all soldiers of the cross are called to do the same by bringing more people into light.

Gen. 1:1-3; James 1:17; Deut. 4:19; Matt. 5:14-16; Is. 60:19; John 1:9; 18:12; II Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:18; I John 1:5; Ps. 84:11; Isa. 54:7; Rev. 21:23; 22:5; Ps. 19:5; I Pet. 2:9.

2. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS, THERE IS JOY: WHEN THERE IS JOY, THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS
When the Holy Spirit is manifesting through His children, there will be healings and miracles. Consequently, there will be joy. On the other hand, if we want the Holy Spirit to manifest, we can start by rejoicing. Therefore, if we want the Holy Spirit to be in perpetual manifestation in our midst, we must rejoice perpetually. Either while hoping for a miracle, in the midst of trials and temptations. In persecution or sufferings we can force the Holy Spirit to manifest simply be rejoicing.

Acts 3:1-8; 8:5-8; Jos. 6:15-16, 20; II Chr. 20:21-22; Acts 16:25-26; Phil. 4:4. Phil. 3:1; Rom. 12:12; Rom. 5:2-3; Ps. 34:1-2; 145:1-3; 146:1-2; Matt. 5:11-12; Acts 5:40-41; I Thes. 5:16-16; James 1:2-4; I Pet. 4:13.

LESSON 116
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 19

INTRODUCTION: We have seen that when the Holy Spirit is in manifestation lights are born. We have also seen that because of the miracles that accompany the manifestations of the Holy Spirit there is always joy when the Holy Spirit is in manifestation. Furthermore, we have learnt that if we want the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself, we can cause Him to do so by rejoicing that the more we rejoice the more the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. In the last study one of the stories we referred to was in Acts 3:1-8. In this lesson, we want to study that story in some details so that we can benefit more from it.

1. **SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ONLY POWERFUL BUT ALSO BEAUTIFUL**
The story starts with Peter and John going to Church. By so doing, they are following the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ who always want to go to church even though He knew every sermon in advance. The soul is like a plant needing water to grow. The church is like a river with an inexhaustible supply of water. Peter and John are vastly different people in temperament and outlook. Peter was a man of action and poor financially. John was visionary and rich. But because they both loved Jesus intensely, they naturally teamed up. The gate was called beautiful. Everything that belongs to God are beautiful too, particularly His children.

Luke 4:16; Ps. 122:1; Heb. 10:25; Ps. 1:1-3; Acts 13:14-16; Is. 2:3; Zech. 8:21; Col. 1:16-17; Rom. 11:36; I Pet. 4:8-11; Rev. 21:21-22; Dan. 12:3.

2. **THE SINNER IS UGLY, POOR AND HELPLESS: JESUS CAN MAKE HIM BEAUTIFUL, RICH AND STRONG**
The gate is beautiful but outside it is tragedy: a beggar, ugly, poor and helpless. The beggar is a symbol of a sinner who is always seeing the good things of God without everlasting it. The beggar asked for alms which could not have lasted him long just as a sinner is always asking for material things which are temporal whereas Jesus offers a permanent solution to all problems. Peter said, "Look on us" just as Jesus said to all the sinners in the world. Peter offered him no silver, no gold but Christ. And today, Christ is still enough for all your needs: physical, soulish and spiritual.

Rev. 22:15; James 2:14-18; Ps. 51:5; Ecc. 2:26; Is. 59:1-2; Is. 57:20-21; Matt. 11:28; Is. 45:22; John 3:14-15; Phil. 4:19; Phil. 4:13; Eph. 3:20..

LESSON 117
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 20

INTRODUCTION: We have been studying about the manifestations of the Holy Spirit; how there
is joy when He is manifesting and how joy brings His manifestations. How He empowers the members of the kingdom of God so that they can subdue the earth and rule it for Him etc. As we continue in our study, we want to see how manifestation of the Holy Spirit can lead to a solution of the problems facing our Nations. May God quicken His words that we shall study now in our heart in such a way that we shall be instruments of salvation to this Nation in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE ONLY POWER THAT CAN SAVE NIGERIA IS ONE THAT CAN MAKE US ALL HOLY.**
Force had never really solved any problem. Bows and arrows are never really the answer. It is not by human power or might but by the Spirit of God can the impossible and mountains of problems be leveled. The only power that can solve the problems of this Nation has to be a power that can make us all holy since
our problems are due to sin, which had eaten deep into the heart of every individual. That power is the Holy Himself. It is when the Holy Spirit is manifesting Himself in a man that he can have supernatural wisdom, understanding, knowledge and might with which to deal with the wicked forces on earth. The same Holy Spirit who caused dry bones to live can revive the economy of any Nation that will allow Him to control them.

Hosea 1:7; Zech. 4:6-7; Matt. 21:21; Is. 30:1; H Chr. 14:1 I Sam. 14:6; Jos. 23:10; Is. 11:2-4; Is. 32:13-15;Ps. 104:30; Is. 63.-9-10; Eze. 37:11-14.

2. **SPIRITUAL WARFARE CAN ONLY BE FOUGHT SPIRITUALLY**
Today, this Nation is no longer what it used to be. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, tomorrow will be alright. Our problems may be many, but once we realize that they are not just physical but spiritual problems, we can begin to fight through the Holy Spirit and win convincingly. If all of us who had been anointed by the Holy Spirit will keep calling on the Name of the Lord the war will soon be over and we shall win. God has promised that if ever there is austerity and His people pray to Him, as they ought there will be plenty. But how best do we pray if not by the Holy Spirit?

Hag. 2:2-5; Zech. 4:10; Is. 63:11; II Chr. 32:7-8; Ps. 55:18; IIChr. 10:4-5; Ps. 20:6-8; Ps. 33:16-21; Ps. 44:3-8; II Chr. 7:13-14; Rom. 8:26-27.

LESSON 118
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 21

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt that whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation, all sons of
miraculous things happen which brings joy. We have also learnt that if we want the Holy Spirit to move among His children, then we should rejoice. Now. we want to see other things that happen whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation. May the Holy Spirit manifest Himself mightily in our midst today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHENEVER THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES, ANGELS FOLLOW**
Angels are spirits that are holy intact. Therefore, it follows that when the Holy Spirit moves, holy angels must follow. Consequently, where Holy Spirit filled children of God are gathered together rejoicing, angels automatically abound. This is because every true child of God has a bodyguard of angels. These guards
have instructions from our Father God to take good care of us so much so that if we strike our feet against stones, the angels receive a query from heaven. Their duties also include (i) dealing with the lions in our lives, (ii) bringing answers to our prayers (iii) delivering messages to us that contains supernatural secrets (iv) giving us advance warnings of dangers and how to avoid them (v) carrying us home if we sleep before the rapture and (vi) gathering us together at the rapture.

Heb. 1:7; Heb. 1:13-14. Ps. 34:7; Ps. 91:11-12; Dan. 6:21- 22; 10:10-14; 9:21-23; Matt. 1:20; 2:10; Luke 16:22; Matt. 24:30-31; Acts 5:17-20; 12:5-11; 27:21-25.

2. **THE ANGELIC CHOIR NEVER STOPS SINGING: WHY MUST WE?**
Since the angels also form a substantial part of the heavenly choir and they move whenever the Holy Spirit moves, it follows that whenever the Holy Spirit is manifesting, there will be songs of praise. At least, the angels will be singing since they never stop singing anyway. Anyone can praise God when the going is good. But it is only spirit filled children of God who can praise God as he ought to be praised and at all times. In any case, since the angels never stop praising God and we are higher than the angels, why must we stop praising God?

Isa. 6:1-3; John 4:24; 16:13-14; Acts 16:25-26; Ps. 119:164; 50:23; Eph. 5:17-20; Ps. 103:1-5.

LESSON 119
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 22

INTRODUCTION: Whenever the Holy Spirit moves, there is joy, miracles and angelic visitations. The angels are around to minister to us children of God and heirs of salvation. We want to go further in our study of what happens when the Holy Spirit is manifesting. We give glory to God for His previous manifestations in our midst.

1. **WHENEVER THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN MANIFESTATION THERE WILL BE VISIONS**
Man has two sets of eyes: Physical and Spiritual. Things spiritual are seen with spiritual eyes, which is why it is the Holy Spirit that can enable you to see visions of heavenly and divine things. For example, Paul the Apostle, a man full of the Holy Spirit saw plenty of visions, which kept him going strong in the Christian way despite severe difficulties. What you fix your eyes on can have tremendous impact on your life. For example, looking backward arrests progress; looking at difficulties brings depression; looking at Jesus Christ brings salvation and hope and looking heaven ward brings glory. It is those with pure hearts that will have the greatest vision of all: they shall see God and behold His face in glory.

II Kings 6:17; John 16:14-15, II Cor. 12:1; Gen. 19:26; Matt. 14:26-30; Num. 21:9; John 3; 14-15; Acts 7:55; Matt. 5:8; Ps. 123:1; Is. 40:26; Dan. 4:34; I Cor. 13:12; I John 3:2; I Thes. 5:4; I Sam. 3:1; Rev. 22:4.

2. **WITHOUT VISIONS THERE WILL BE NO PROGRESS**
God promised that Holy Spirit filled young men would see visions. This is because without visions there will be no progress and where there is no progress, destruction will result. The samples of Moses, Jacob, Abraham, Joseph, etc., shows clearly that those who will become great must have great visions. They must see what others cannot see. They must see and fasten their eyes on “The Invisible One”. May God opens our eyes today. Amen.

Joel. 2:28; Acts. 2:17; Pro. 29:18; Heb. 11:13-16; Heb. 11:27; I Cor. 30:25-43; Gen. 15:1-5; Gen. 37:5-11.

LESSON 120
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 23

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt that whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation there will be joy, praise, angelic visitations and visions. We have discovered the importance of visions to progress and that where there is no vision, the people perish. Now, we want to dig deep and discover that whenever the Holy Spirit is manifesting there will be prophesy, demons will be cast out and special miracles will occur. Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Amen.

1. **WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES, PROPHECY FLOWS.**
Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will show us things to come. Consequently, whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation, the curtain is drawn aside for the children of God to see into the spiritual realm. Wherever the Holy Spirit is in charge, Christians are never kept in the dark about what God aims to do; hence, prophecy flows when the Holy Spirit moves.

John 16:12-13; Ecc. 2:26; Matt. 13:11; John 16:25; Acts 11:27-29; I Thess. 5:19-20; I Cor. 14:4-5; I Cor. 14:39.

1. **WHEN LIGHT FLOWS IN, DARKNESS MUST FLOW OUT. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES IN DEMONS MOVE OUT**
The Holy Spirit is Light, demons are forces of darkness, Consequently whenever the Holy Spirit moves in, demons must move out since darkness must always give room to light. Whenever the Holy Spirit is moving therefore, people not only hear of His movement but they also see physical proofs of His manifestations. Once of such evidences of His manifestations is the casting out of demons.

Acts 8:5-8; 16:16-18; Matt. 8:32; Matt. 9:33; 15:28; 17:18; Mark 1:26; Luke 8:2; Acts 19:12.

3. **SPECIAL MIRACLES BELONG TO SPECIAL PEOPLE: HOLY SPIRIT PEOPLE**
Miracles are special occurrences in the physical realm brought about by Divine interventions. Special miracles are therefore super-special occurrences. They only occur when the Holy spirit is moving among special people who are spirit-filled people.

Acts 5:14-16; Acts. 19:11-12; Heb. 13:8; John 14:12; Mark 2:17; Jer. 3:22; Luke 4:18; Hosea 6:1.

LESSON 121
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 24

INTRODUCTION: God is the source of true joy; which explains why there is joy wherever the Holy Spirit is moving. God is the miracle worker, which is why miracles accompany the movements of the Holy Spirit. Angels are Holy Spirits, which explains why angels follow wherever the Holy Spirit leads. And since God is Light and demons are forces of darkness, demons have to run when the Holy Spirit approaches. In this study we want to show that whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestations, there will be Holy fear.

1. **THERE IS ALWAYS HOLY FEAR WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES**
Note all fears arc bad. intact some are healthy and good. The Christians has only one person to fear and that is God. Godly fear is reverential i.e. the fear of hurting someone you love and adore. Whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation there is reverence for God. a holy fear that grips people whenever they see the demonstration of the power of the Almighty. This is always the case whenever the Holy Spirit exposes sinners and judges them. Pretenders become afraid of joining the church but earnest seekers troop in.

Is. 8:13; Matt. 10:28: Rom. 11:20. I Pet. 1:17; I Pet. 2:17; Deut. 10:12; Deut. 13:4; Jos. 4:24; Acts 5:1-5; Acts 5:11-14; Acts 19:13-20.

2. **GODLY FEAR AND GODLY SERVICE ARE LINKED**
Only those who fear God follow Him truly. Intact Godly fear and sincere service go hand in hand because only those who fear Him can obey Him implicitly. Which is why He says that the whole duty of a man is summed up in "fearing God and obeying Him." I Sam.l2-.14; Jos. 24:14; I Chr. 16:30, II Chr. 19:7, Pro. 3:7; Ecc. 12:13.

3. **MEN AND HOUSES OF GOD SHOULD BE REVERENCED TOO.**
Anything that belongs to God must be treated with almost the same reverence that is due to God. This includes all men of God who are in His truth. They must be held in high esteem because they represent God Himself. So also must His sanctuary be reverenced?

Matt.l0-40; Exo. 33:8; I Thes. 5:12-13; I Thess. 5:17; Heb. 13:7; Lev. 19:30; Ecc. 5:1.

4. **GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO FEAR HIM**
Those who fear God are always rewarded by Him. Their rewards include (1) Divine direction, (2) great goodness (3) mercy and (4) being His favourite bride.

Ps. 25:12.

LESSON 122
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 25

INTRODUCTION: In the last study we learnt that whenever the Holy Spirit is moving there is holy fear or reverence for God. That whenever the Holy Spirit exposes sinners and judges them, pretenders become afraid and genuine seekers of God troop into the Church of the Living God. In this study, we want to show that wherever and whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation, it is usual to find men and women in continuous and deep prayers. Acts 4:23-31.

1. WHEN SHOULD SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIANS PRAY?

The morning is a good time to pray, to greet our father before doing anything else. However, we need Him in the afternoon and evening too. Intact we need Him most in the night time when forces of darkness are about. In short, we need to be in continuous contact with our father throughout our lives

Ps. 5:1-3; 55:16-17; Luke 6:12; 18:1-7; I Thes. 5:17; Acts. 16:13.

2. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY

Prayer is a private and intimate affair between man and God, between a child and His father. Consequently, there are steps to be taken when engaging in meaningful prayers. They are (i) withdraw yourself or draw apart (ii) totally to it (iii) be fervent (iv) pray with the Spirit as well as with understanding (v) watch as you pray, keeping on the alert for His replies (vi) pray anywhere.

Matt. 14:23; Ps. 109:4; Acts 6:4; I Cor. 7:6; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; I Cor. 14:15; Matt. 26:41; I Pet. 4:7; I Tim. 12:8.

3. FOR WHAT AND WHOM DO WE PRAY?

Some people complain that they cannot pray long because they have nothing much to pray about. Well, apart from praising God and praying for the whole world, the nation of Israel and your country, pray for the following (i) those who hate you (ii) your pastors (iii) those in trouble (iv) one another (v) your leader, physical and spiritual, (vi) all your needs (vii) the sick. Matt. 5:44; Luke 16:27; I Thes. 5:25; James 5:13; 5:16; Acts. 12:5.

4. DIVINE INVOLVEMENTS IN AND CONDITIONS FOR PRAYERS

The trinity is involved with you in your prayers. We pray to the Father, in the Name of the Son with assistance of the Holy Spirit. Beside this is the fact that Jesus prayed and is praying for you, the Holy Spirit is groaning in prayer for you and the Father delights in your prayer provided you are Holy and you do not ill-treat your wife. Above all, He has promised to regard the prayer of even a destitute.

Matt. 6:6; John 14:14; Rom. 8:26; John 14:16; John 16:26; John 17:9; 17:20; I Pet. 3:12; Pro. 15:8; James 5:16; Rev. 5:8; Rev. 8:3-4; I Pet. 3:7; Ps. 102:17; Ps. 109:25:27.

LESSON123
REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: Someone said that everyone has the opportunity of affecting the course of history in their lifetime, but few realize this and the opportunity. Intercessors praying regularly and effectively for the nation, with clean hearts, become among the greatest history makers of their generation. You too can be a history maker if you choose to be one. You do not have to be a politician to be one. You can make history on your knees. This series of studies are to show you how.

1. **YOU PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT SHOULD STAR I WITH PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS.**
One of the reasons why we should ask God to bless us is so that we could use the blessing to evangelize the world. Moreover, God had said His house must be a house of prayer for all peoples i.e. for the whole world. Infact, the only times Jesus was openly angry was when He found this commandment of God being disobeyed.

Ps. 6 7:1-2; Ecc. 3:11; I Tim. 2:1-2; Is. 56:7; Mark 11:15-17.

2. **THOUGH GOD HAS SUPREME AUTHORITY OVER ALL NATIONS, HE INVITES YOUR COOPERATION IN SHAPING THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.**
God reigns supreme over the nations. He makes nations great or destroys them as He wills. But He says that at your request. He could hand over the nations to you to do with them as you please. At least you should prevent Him from destroying the nations by interceding for them.

Ps. 47:8; Job. 12:23; Ps. 2:8-9; Eze. 22:30-31; Ps. 106:23.

3. **THE GREAT MEN OF GOD OF THE PAST PRAYED FOR REVIVAL, WE SHOULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT IN OUR TIME.**
We are not the first set of people to have problems. There were problems in the times of David, Habakkuk, Isaiah, Nehemiah, Daniel and Ezia to mention a few What did these men of God do? Did they fold their arms and accept problems as their lot? No they cried unto God and God answered them. God has not changed. We too should cry unto Him now.

Ps. 80:7; Hab. 3:2; Ps. 119:126; Isa. 64:13; Neh. 1:6-7; Dan. 9:4-19; Ezra 9:6-15.

4. **THOUGH WE MAY FEEL ALONE AT THE TASK AND RESULTS MAY BE DELAYED, SURELY REVIVAL WILL COME ONE DAY**
The prophets of old also felt the loneliness and lack of others feeling desperate enough to pray these sorts of prayers for the nations. We, like Elijah, may need seven prayers or more to bring the rain of revival but results are assured. Nations that have not previously been evangelized not only will be, but they shall declare His glory among other nations. But before you begin to pray for revival, ask yourself, are you willing to be the answer to the prayer? If God calls you to go for Him, will you go?

Is. 64:7; 37:3; Is. 66:7-9; I Kings 18:42-44; Is. 55:5; Is. 61:11; 66:18-19; Rom. 10:14-15.

LESSON 124
REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: One of the greatest promises Jesus ever made to us is in John 15:7. It is the key to answered prayers; whether for yourself, your home or your nation. It is a tremendous promise of prayer power. It is therefore, not surprising that there are conditions to be met before much unlimited powers could granted to mortal man. The conditions are two: (i) if you abide in Christ (ii) if His words abide in you. Abiding in Christ needs little or no explanation but "His words abiding in you" needs some clarification. And that is what we propose to do from this study onward. May the Lord quicken your understanding as you dig deep into His words

1. **WHAT ARE HIS WORDS ?**
Christ's word include (i) those the Father gave to Him to give to us, (ii) those the Holy Spirit would teach and bring to our remembrance, (iii) those He Himself opened to us from the Old Testament between His resurrection and ascensions and (iv) His new commandments.

John 17:8; 14:25-26; Luke 24:27; 24:45; John 16:25; John 15:12, 17, John 15:16; Matt. 28:18-20.

2 **JESUS, IN HIS WORDS, TAUGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CLEANSED LIFE IN PRAYER**
Jesus was aware that it is possible for Christians to sin. The Apostles reaffirmed it. Infact, the commonest sins in the lives of the Christians are not the sins of commissions but of omission. These include the sins of tin forgiveness and failure to do what we know to be right. We shall now consider some ways in which we commit these sins of omission and had unwillingly hindered our own prayers from being answered.

Matt. 6:9-15; I John 1:8-9; I Pet. 3:12; James 4:17; Mark 11:24-26; II Cor. 2:5-11; Matt. 5:44; I Thes. 5:18; Eph. 3:20; Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:31; Rom. 12:3; Ps. 66:18.

LESSON 125
REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: We learnt in the previous study that the two conditions for unlimited prayer powers are given in John 15:7 i.e. (i) abiding in Christ and (ii) Christ's words abiding in us. In explaining the second condition, we learnt that the words of Christ are of 4 categories i.e. those the father gave Him to give to us, those the Holy Spirit would teach and bring to our remembrance, those Old Testament scriptures which Jesus opened up to us fore His ascension and finally His new commandments. Finally we discovered that the sins most prevalent in the lives of Christians are sins of omission and that these sins hinder our prayers. In the study, we shall examine more of these sins of omission and then begin to consider how to pray revival prayers. May the Lord Himself teach us as we learn at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **FAILURE TO DO GOOD OR DOING IT HALF-HEARTEDLY IS SIN**
Among sins of omission are (i) failure to take good care of our bodies (ii) careless or unclean use of our bodies even though we know that these bodies are (lie temples of the Holy Spirit (iii) slothfulness in business or daily work (iv) causing weaker Christians to fall by careless use of our liberty in Christ (v) attending services in body but not in spirit, (vi) Failure to love the brethren or the organization to which you belong whole-heartedly (vii) making money for money-sake (viii) listening to evil reports and meditating on them, and (ix) lusting.

I Cor. 6:19; Rom. 12:l; I Cor. 8:9; Heb. 10:25;.John 13:35; Eph. 4:28; 5:16; Matt. 6:24; Phil. 4:8; I Pet. 2:11.

2. **SOME STEPS TO REVIVAL PRAYERS**
Revival prayers are not aimless type of prayers. They are prayers with a goal. And goals can only be reached if certain steps are taken one at a time. So you must pray systematically. Also, since effortless prayer is often fruitless prayer, you must pray fervently thoroughly, intensely and intimately.

Is. 41:21; Luke 22:44; I John 5:14; Eph. 6:18; Dent. 4:29; Matt. 6:6.

3. **SOME STEPS TO REVIVAL PRAYERS (CONT'D)**
Since revival brings joy, in anticipation that God will answer your prayer, pray joyfully and with excitement. Forget all previous failures in prayer; instead fight all prayer hindrances fiercely. Pray expectantly, sincerely, unselfishly, humbly and frequently. Above all, learn to fellowship with the Lord in Love.

Ps. 40:16; Phil. 3:13; Eph. 6:13-18; Matt. 8:5-8; Luke 20:45-47; James 4:3; II Chr. 7:14; Dan. 6:10; Ex. 25:22.

LESSON 126
REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 4

INTRODUCTION: In the previous study, we began to learn how to pray revival prayers. Revival prayers must be purposeful, intense, sincere, expectant, earnest and intimate among several other things. When you pray revival prayers, you must forget past failures and press on, praying often and fighting all hindrances to prayer. Today, we want to take a close look at Mark 11:22-24 where there are several important truths concerning revival prayers. May God grant us a deep understanding of these truths in Jesus, name. Amen.

1. **THERE IS A TEACHER, FOUNDATION AND STUDENT OF PRAYER**
Christ is the true Teacher of all prayer. Before lie left, He promised to replace Himself with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was called Rabboni i.e. Teacher of teachers and so also is the Holy Spirit who guides into all truths. The foundation of all true prayer is God Himself. Thus, how we view God determines how we pray. And of course where there is a Teacher, there must be at least a student. Anyone willing to learn can enroll in Christ's school of prayer; be he a King or a beggar by the roadside.

John 20:16; Matt. 23:8; John 16:13; Luke 1:37; Gen. 18:14; Jer. 3 2:17-27; Ps. 51:1-2; Mark 10:46-52; Ps. 34:6.

2. **THERE IS A MYSTERY, DESIRE, REQUIREMENT AND PROMISE OF PRAYER**
The real mystery of prayer is that God has empowered us to command a situation to take care of itself, to speak things into or out of existence. The desire of prayer is the point around which prayer revolves. The greater the desire, the more intense the prayer. The true requirement of prayer is faith. Faith in God not faith in power. The promise of God concerning sincere prayers prayed according to His will is simply that they will be answered.

Mark 16:17-18; Matt. 18:18; Ps. 122:10; Pr. 10:24; I Cor. 14:1; Ps. 107:23-30; Heb. 11:6; James 1:6-7; Chr. 20:20; John 6:28-29; Mark 9:23; John 16:24; Ex. 15:23-25; I Sam. 1:27; 7:9-10; I Kings 18:37-38; II Chr. 18:31; Acts 4:31; Ps. 91:15; Matt. 18:19.

LESSON 127
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: We read in the Bible of various types of vessels. II Tim. 2:20 tells of vessels of gold, silver, wood and earth. Surely, if all the vessels have a choice, they would prefer to be vessels unto honour. You have a choice. Which would you like to be: a vessel unto honour or dishonour? This series is to show you how you can be a vessel unto honour and how to remain so forever. May the Lord bless us even as we study at His feet, in Jesus, name. Amen.

1. **A VESSEL UNTO HONOUR MUST BE UNDEFILED**
A vessel unto honour must be clean at all time. It cannot afford to be defiled. And so it must know what can defile so as to be able to avoid them. Things that can defile a man come under 3 categories: (i) sins committed in the heart. Included in these list of sins are, shedding of blood, stealing, lies, immoral speaking, breach of covenant, bitterness, immoral thoughts, covetousness and all forms of idolatry.

Is. 59:3; Eze. 28:18; Is. 24:5; Mark 7:18-23; Heb. 12:15; James 3:6; Eph. 5:3-7.

2. **YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN YOUR CLEANSING**
Certainly, God has a part to play in making you a vessel unto honour. But you too have a part to play. To start with, you can wash in the blood of the Lamb. You can reject vain thoughts. You can say, "No", to those things that can defile you bodily and spiritually. You can draw near to God and ask Him to help you. He is willing and able to make you as white as snow. He has a fountain full of blood that can purify you absolutely.

Is. 1:16; Jer. 4:14; Acts 22:16; I Cor. 5:7; II Cor. 7:1; James 4:8; I John 3:3; Ps. 51:2; Ps. 79:9; Is. 1:18; Eze. 36:24-25; I John 1:7; Heb. 9:14; Zech. 13:1; Titus 3:5; Rev. 1:5; Mal. 3.3.

LESSON 128
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In part one of this series we learnt that a vessel unto honour must be undefiled. Also we classified the sins that can defile a man unto three categories as (i) sins committed with the hand (ii) those committed with the tongue and (iii) above all, those committed with the heart. Today, as we continue in this series we want to use another classification of sins into three other categories as (i) Sin Against ourselves (ii) Sin against other and (iii) sin against God. In this study, we shall look at the first two categories to discover how they can defile a vessel unto honour and cause its rejection. May the Lord speak to our hearts as we study at His feet in Jesus Name.

1. **A MAN CAN SIN AGAINST HIMSELF**
To the master of the great House, sin means the failure of a vessel to be what it can or ought to be. That is why the commonest word of sin can be translated to mean a "missing of the target" The parables of the talents, the salt that lost its savor, the fig that refused to bear fruits, etc. are illustrative examples of what the Lord considers to be sin. While men are not expected to be equal in ability or achievement, they are expected to be equal in effort. Sitting on the fence is a sin in the sight of God.

Matt. 25:14-30; Matt. 5:13; Luke 13:6-9; Mat. 7:18; 16:24-25; Rev. 3:15-16.

2. **SINS AGAINST OTHERS CAN ALSO BE IN THREE CATEGORIES**
(i) it is a sin to fail to respond and react to human need i.e. it is a sin either to see someone in need and remain unmoved or pass by on the other side; or to be so unaware of others as not even to see their need. i.e. it is sin to fail to pity others.
(ii) Secondly, it is sin to fail to fellowship with others because lack of fellowship is brought about by lack of love. A breach with man is a breach with God.
(iii) thirdly, it is a grievous sin to cause others to sin, to put a stumbling block in the way of others.

Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-27; Pr. 21:13; Matt. 18:21-35; Luke 15:25-32; 16:19-31; Matt. 5:43-48; 5:23; Luke 18:9-14: Matt. 18:6-7.

3. **ALL SIN ARE AGAINST GOD**
All sins arc actually against God. But in particular, sin is deliberately doing things our own way instead of God's way. Secondly, sin is showing off, that is putting ourselves in the center of the picture in place of God. Thirdly, since God is love, all sins are sin against love, a deliberate refusal to honour the loving invitation of God, to accept what God knows is the best for us.

Ps. 51:4: Man. 4:1-11; Matt. 15:1-9; 6:1-18: 23:1-12; 22:1-10; 11:20-22; Mark 3:22-30.

LESSON 129
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt of the various categories of sins that can defile a vessel and render it unfit for the use of the Master of the house. We have seen how the vessel can sin against himself against others and against God. In this third part, we want to discuss (i) why the vessel must be perpetually clean and (ii) how. May the Lord open our hearts to receive His words in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHY THE VESSEL UNTO HONOUR MUST BE CLEAN**
God is the King of kings, the Supreme Being. He is the best, the greatest, the Almighty. Consequently, He uses only the best vessels of the purest gold and finest silver. Vessels unto Honour are not just to be used they are to join other saints in forming a team that will be co-labourers with God. Also, Jesus is part of them. Hence any member of the team has to be pure so as not to stain the other saints and the Lord Jesus. That is why defiled vessels are not tolerated bin discarded.

Dan. 5:2; II Cor. 4:6-7; Rom. 9:21-24; Eph. 2:13; 18:22; Heb. 3:12-14; I Cor. 3:9; 16-17; I Pet. 2:5-12.

2. **THE CLEANSING PROCESS COULD BE PEACEFUL OR PAINFUL: THE CHOICE IS YOURS**
In the cleansing process, no stain, no matter how small, (be it physical, soulish or spiritual), is allowed. The purifying process might be fiery and painful, but the end justifies the means. However, if you will not allow the word to do it. the fire will.

I Cor. 5:6-8; II Cor. 7:1; I Pet. 1:22; 1 Pet. 1:2-7; I John 3:1-3; Acts 9:15-16; II Tim. 3:16-17; Is. 1:25.

3. **HOW TO STAY CLEAN**
If you wish to remain perpetually clean for the Lord and be a permanent vessel unto honour, the following are some of the steps to take (i) study the Word (ii) memorize it. (iii) do it (iv) Be separate from the world (v) stay clear of anything that is "Not too bad" (vi) do not go back to your old friends (vii) beware of the following (a) pride (b) questioning Divinely appointed authorities (c) envy (d) strife (e) railing (f) evil surmising (g) disputing (h) wrong ideas of godliness, (i) desire for quick wealth. Above all, if you are clean, watch-out; if you had fallen, get up and flee the danger zone. The refiner is ready now, if you are.

Ps. 119:9, 11, Is. 52:11, Jer. 15:19; I Tim. 6:3-11; I Cor. 10:12-14; 6:15-18; Mal. 3:3.

LESSON 130
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 4

INTRODUCTION: In part three of this series, we learnt that vessels unto honour must be perpetually clean because they are a part of a team of saints with Jesus Christ as the Captain. Consequently, defiled vessels can neither be tolerated nor indulged. They are promptly discarded. To reach the clean stage, there are two routes: the fiery route of trials and the gentle route of the Word of God. Out of these two, you are free to choose one. In this part of the study, we want to continue our study on how vessels unto honour are chosen and why, John 15:16; May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus' Name, Amen.

1. **VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE CHOSEN BY THE MASTER**
The vessels unto honour are chosen by the Master Himself and not by voting. That is why the other vessels envy them. This point about the Master choosing His own vessel of honour is clearly illustrated in the story of Jacob and Esau. We must also note that some vessels after spending some time with the Master may break or get spoilt and be discarded. May this never be our lot in Jesus Name. Amen.

John 15:19; Acts. 1:23-25; 9:10-15; Rom. 9:10-16, 21; I John 4:10, 19, John 6:70; John 13:18

2. **YOU ARE BORN TO BREED, SAVED TO SERVE**
The privileged and powerful position of the chosen ones imposes a heavy responsibility on them: that of service. They dare not fail to serve because no greater woe can befall a man than to be once chosen and then cast aside. Having served satan for so long and so much in the past, is it not only fair that we now serve Him who saved us with all our strength, time and resources?

Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:5; Rom. 15:15-16; I Cor. 9:16-18; Gal. 1:15-16; Eph. 2:8-10.

3. **VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE THE "GO-BETWEENS" BETWEEN THE MASTER AND OTHERS**

The vessels unto honour are the links between the Master and the other vessels. They are His ambassadors. He reveals Himself to them and they in turn reveal Him to the others. Consequently, just as the vessels on the Master's table are not only to serve the Master but also His guests so also are Christians expected to witness to others in addition to worshipping God.

Acts 10:40-42; Luke 6:13; Acts 22:12-15; John 20:21-23; John 21:15-17; Is. 49:1-3; Jer. 1:5-7; Matt. 28:18-19; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47-49.

LESSON 131
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 5

INTRODUCTION: The previous lesson taught us, we learnt that the vessels unto honour are chosen by the Master Himself. They arc chosen to serve both the master and his guests. They are the "go-between" between the Master and all others. And if they should fail to perform, they are promptly discarded. Now, we want to learn more of the responsibilities of these vessels and their effects on others. May God quicken our understanding as we study at His feet. Amen.

1. **THE LORD JESUS IS A GLORIOUS KING: NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF HIM**
There is no earthly reason to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of Kings and because we belong to Him. We are kings too. We are, infact, the most powerful people on earth. Consequently, we have no one to fear. Instead we should be strong and teach people what we know about Christ and encourage them to teach others also. Because we are not just to have spiritual children, our spiritual children should be encouraged to have their own too.

II Tim. 1:7-11; 2:1-3; Tit. 1:5; John 15:8; Pro. 11:30-31; Is. 27:6; Is. 55:10-13.

2. **THE LORD HAS A SPECIAL LOVE FOR CHILDREN: HE WANTS THEM SAVED TOO**
We must not forget that children can eat with the Master of the House even when adults may not be able to come near. Consequently, vessels unto honour must realize their responsibilities to children too. We can tell them that the problems facing our Nation today is caused by our fathers failure to heed the warnings of God. Consequently, we need to learn from their mistakes and follow Christ now. We must also realize that we cannot stay with our children forever, but the word of God will stay with them whether or not we are around.

Ps 78:2-8; 147:3-4; Zech. 1:2-6; Rom. 15:1-4; I Cor 10:11; II Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 11:3-5; II Pet. 1:12-15; 3:1-12.

3. **VESSELS UNTO HONOURARE ALWAYS FEW: BUT THEIR IMPACTS CAN BE TREMENDOUS**
The vessels unto honour are always few, just a remnant, but their effects are always great; like those of dew and rams. Everyone needs them and they just have to work like a team because none of them can single-handedly do all there is to do. God needs them too.

Mic. 5:7; Rom. 1:14; Acts 20:26-28; 1Cor. 3:12-18; Gen. 18:17-19; Ps. 71:17-18; John 14:12-14, 16:23-24; Matt. 21:22.

LESSON 132
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 6

INTRODUCTION: We learnt in our last lesson that we do not need to be ashamed of Jesus Christ because He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Consequently, we should boldly declare His glorious saving power to all men. Also, we learnt that He has a special love for children and He wants them saved too. Consequently, we must not limit our efforts to adults only but must actively participate in children ministries, m this study, we want to know how to identify vessels unto honour and how God treats them. May God quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE EASY TO RECOGNIZE**
Vessels unto honour are easy to know. They are zealous people with the law of God written in their hearts and with a deep sense of their own unworthiness to be used of God. Examples of men of god like Moses, Gideon, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist and Paul illustrate clearly the characteristics common to all vessels unto honour. They know that they are merely vessels and can do nothing on their own.

Titus 2:14; Heb. 8:10; Ex. 3:11; Jude 6:15; I Sam. 9:21; 18:18; I Kings 3:7; Is. 6:5; Jer. 1:6; Matt. 3:14; John 3:27; II Cor. 2:15-16; 3:5; Ps. 127:1.

2. **GOD HANDLES HIS VESSELS WITH CARE BECAUSE HE KNOWS THEY ARE FRAGILE**
Every Master of the house knows that the vessels on his table are not likely to be plastic or wood. There are likely to be china and glass, useful but fragile. God knows also that His vessels unto honour are fragile, so He handles them with care. He regarded them as peculiar treasure preferred above all others. So he treats them with special care, guiding them like flock. Whenever they need help Her is near at hand to offer assistance.

I Cor. 1:25-27; James 2:5; Ps. 103:13-18; Ex. 19:5; Deut. 26:19; I Pet. 2:5-10; Ps. 4:3; Ps. 46:1-2.

3. **GOD'S WORK CAN ONLY BE DONE BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**
No one can do the work of God successfully without the Spirit of God. By His Spirit you can obtain the ability to rebuke sin, the wisdom for judgment and the strength to deal with the enemy anytime he knocks at the gate. If you only will have faith and learn how to wait on God, the strength, power and ability, which you need to do even the impossible, will be given you.

Zech. 4:6; Mic. 3:8; Is. 28:5-6; Dan. 11:32; Heb. 11:33-34; II Cor. 12:9-10; Ps. 8:2; Is. 40:31.

LESSON 133
VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 7

INTRODUCTION: In our last study we saw that the Master chooses fragile vessels cleans them and fills them with His Spirit and turns them round to use them to confound those who think they are mighty, wise or important. Also because they are fragile. He handles His vessels with tender care. Now, we want continue our Study as we learn something about the invitation of the Master to all vessels to come forward for choice. May God make everything clear to us as we study in Jesus' name Amen.

1. **OUR GOD IS IMPARTIAL: HE INVITES ALL TO BECOME VESSELS UNTO HONOUR**
In order to be fair to all, the Master is always inviting everyone who cares to come unto His table. Since the days of Noah, he has been issuing invitations to all. He sends the invitation to all men through men. Not everyone will accept the Master's invitation but if you do, you too will soon-fce passing the invitation on to others. The whole world must of necessity be invited because many must be called before the few would be chosen that will be chosen.

Is. 45:22; Rom. 10:12; Rev. 7:4-9; II Cor. 5:20; Is. 6:8; John 7:37-38; Rev. 3:20; Rev. 22:17.

2. **ACCEPTING THE MASTER'S INVITATION IS OBTAINING FREEDOM FROM DEATH**
The master's table is a place of safety; vessels there are as secure as Noah was in the ark. They have the assurance of Divine protection. They dine with the Master free of charge and partake of His food that is already prepared by vessels that may never reach the Master's table. Moreover, accepting the Master's invitation is obtaining freedom from death.

Gen. 7:1; Num. 10:29; Is. 1:18; Matt. 22:4; Luke 14:17; Matt. 11:28; Eze. 33:11.

3. **TO REFUSE THE MASTER'S CALL IS TO REFUSE LIFE**
To reject the invitation of the Almighty is to accept an invitation to disaster and Divine rejection. If you refuse the call of God, there will be vessels for Him to use. It is you who could be the loser for it because to refuse the Master's call is simply use. It is you who could be loser for it because to refuse the Master's call is simply to refuse life.

Isa. 65:12; Is. 66:4: Jer. 7:13-16; Hos. 9:17; Matt. 22:2-10; John 5:40.

LESSON 134
THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: Whenever we use the word "Church" different people think of different things as being the one referred to. Some think that the Church is a building with pews and an altar. Some think it is a denomination. Very few realize that the Church is a "Living body" an "Organism" not an organization. Fewer still know why the church is called the Body of Christ or the bride of the Lamb and how to become a member of this Body. This series, by the grace of God, shall reveal to us in depth the mysteries of the Bride of the Lamb. May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB WAS A MYSTERY**
The BRIDE was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets. They knew there was to be something between the suffering and the glory of the Messiah but they did not know what, Jesus Himself merely gave a hint hut did not elaborate. The mystery was first revealed to Paul. That the Gentiles were to be saved was no mystery. The mystery was that God was going to form an entirely NEW THING, composed of both Jews and Gentiles.

I Pet. 1:3-5, 10-12; Luke 10:24: Mutt. 16:13-18; Matt. 13:16; Eph. 3:1-11; Rom. 5:2; 9:22-30; Deut. 29:29; Pro. 25:2; John 13:7.

2. **THE BRIDE CONSISTS OF SPECIALLY CALLED PEOPLE**
The word "Church" comes from the Greek word "Ecclesia" which means "an assembly of called-out ones "Hence we see that the Bride is made up of specially chosen people, people who are chosen in JESUS, out of the world. You join this "Body of Christ' through the Baptism of the Spirit. That is why there could not be anything called the Church until the day of Pentecost. That is why Paul emphasizes this Holy Spirit baptism. One reason why the Church can never die is because Christ, the head of this Body, is alive forever more.

Acts 15:13-18; Eph. 1:3-6; Eph. 1:19-23; I Cor. 12:12- 13; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4, Eph. 4:4-6. Rom. 12:5, Rev. 1:18, Col. 3:4.

LESSON 135
THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we saw how the Church vas a mystery to the Old Testament Saints. Also, we saw that the Church, the Body of Christ, is "an assembly of called - out ones". In this study, we want to find out why the Church is called the Body of Christ, how the Bride could be related to a Temple, and so on. May God bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHY CALL THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST?**
Some of the functions of the head are: think with the brain, supply food into the body through the mouth and keep the body alive through air supply via the nostrils. Jesus performs these functions perfectly for the Church. On the other hand, the church is expected to perform the functions of the body which include carrying the head about, executing the plans of the brain and making the head known generally.

Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:19; John 15:5; Ps. 34:8, 10; Ps. 23:1; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:17-18; Phil. 1:21; Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:11-13.

2. **THE BRIDE AS A TEMPLE**
The Bride, the Body of Christ or the Church is also called a Temple with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself being the Church Cornerstone. Next to Christ are the Apostles in the foundation of the Temple. The first layer of superstructure consists of 3,000 "living stones". A few days later, the next layer of 5,000 was built. The building is continuing till now. Only those who are saved between Pentecost day and the second coming of Christ will fit into this “living Temple”. Will you be among?

Matt. 16:13-20; Acts 4:5-12; I Pet. 2:5-8; I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Rev. 19:9.

LESSON 136
THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 2

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Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:19; John 15:5; Ps. 34:8, 10; Ps. 23:1; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:17-18; Phil. 1:21; Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:11-13.

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Matt. 16:13-20; Acts 4:5-12; I Pet. 2:5-8; I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Rev. 19:9.

LESSON 137
THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In part two, we discovered that the Church is called the Body of Christ because Christ fulfills the role of a Head to a body by supplying all the needs - Physical, mental and spiritual of the Church. The Church in return is expected to fulfill the role of a body to a head by making Jesus Christ known and executing His decisions and commandments. We also saw how the Bride of Christ could be likened to a Temple with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone while other Christians are the "living stones'' for the building of the Temple. In this part of the series, we shall continue our study of the Bride of the Lamb. May the Lord bless us as we do so. Amen.

1. **THE BRIDE IS A VIRGIN**
How the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, gets His Bride will be similar to how Adam got his own, because Jesus Christ is the second Adam. A beautiful illustration of what is going to happen can be found in the story of how Isaac got his bride. It is also interesting to note that there are 2 Brides in the scriptures: Israel is the Bride of Jehovah and the Church is the Bride of Christ. Of course the Anti-Christ claims he has a bride too.

Cor 11:12; Gen. 2:18, 21-24; John 19:33-34; Eph. 5:29- 30; Gen. 24; I Thes. 4:15-18; Is. 54:5-8.

2. **THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB**
It is essential that you note that it is going to be the marriage of the LAMB. The great event is not so much the consummation of the hopes of the Bride as it is the consummation of the plan of God for His son. arranged for before the foundation of the world. It is the greatest reward for Jesus for becoming a man. And it's a marriage that will never suffer a divorce.

Luke 17:34-36; Matt. 24:27; 24:36-39; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:11-15; Rev. 19:7-9; Eph. 1:4; I Tim. 2:5.

LESSON 138
THE SPIRITUAL MAN - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: The Bible talks of different kinds of men. There is the "Natural man" the "Regenerated man", the "Carnal Man", the "Spiritual man" etc. Now, we begin a study of the spiritual man. But in an attempt to find out who is the spiritual man, we will need to know who the other men are. May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THERE ARE TWO FINES OF HEREDITY: THE FLESH LINE AND THE SPIRIT LINE**
When Jesus was discussing with Nicodemus, He made it clear that there are those who are born of the flesh and those who are born of the Spirit. Hence, there are two lines of heredity: the flesh and the spirit line. The flesh line produces the natural man whose characteristics are (i) a darkened understanding (ii) inability to receive things of God (iii) absence of any really good thing (iv) an object of the wrath of God and (v) a deceitful and desperately wicked heart (vi) inability to please God (vii) inability to change from his sinful ways unaided.

John 3:5: I Cor. 6:10; I Pet. 1:23; I Cor. 2:14; James 1:18; John 3:6; Eph. 2:1 Eph. 4:17-19; II Chr. 4:40; Gal. 5:19; Rom. 7:8; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-22; Rom. 8:8. Eph. 2:3; Jer. 13:23; Rom. 3:23.

2. **THE SPIRITUAL MAN HAS A DIVINE PARENTAGE**
God is the Father of the spiritual man, the human heart is the womb into which the SEED of the Word of God is dropped. The seed is vitalized by the Holy Spirit and a new nature is imparted within. This new nature cannot sin but bears fruits which are the outward evidence of what is within. The spiritual man has spiritual eyes and can see what is hidden to the natural man.

I Pet 1:23; John 3:6; I John 3:9; Col. 1:27; I John 5.11-12; Col. 3:3-4; Gal. 5:22.23; I Cor. 2:9-10; II Cor. 5:17.

LESSON 139
THE SPIRITUAL MAN - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we discovered that there are two lines of heredity: (i) the flesh line which produces the natural man and (ii) the spirit line which produces the spiritual man. We also learnt the characteristics of both the natural man and the spiritual man. In this study, we want to know how to fight (he battle between the Spirit and the flesh. May the Lord Himself teach us how to be over comers in Jesus Name Amen.

1. **HOW TO FIGHT THE WAR BETWEEN THE OLD MAN AND THE NEW**
When a man has just received spiritual birth, a big battle starts between the old man (the flesh) and the new man. The battle continues till death separates the flesh from the spirit.
Consequently, if you are to win, here arc some hints, (i) be constantly vigilant (ii) do not repose your confidence in the flesh or fleshly things (iii) make no provisions for the flesh to fulfill its lusts (iv) feed the new nature regularly (v) walk constantly in the Spirit.

Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:14-23; 23-25; I Pet. 5:8; Gal. 6:2; Phil, 3:4; Rom. 13:14; I Pet. 2:2; Gal. 5:16.

2. **THREE WAYS TO OVERCOME THE FLESH**
There are 3 major ways to practically overcome the flesh. The first is by amputation. To amputate is to cut off, get rid off completely. The second is by mortification. To mortify is to cause some part of a living body to die. The third is by limitation. There fore, whatever is in your life that need to be mortified or limited, do not spare them.

Matt 18:8-9; Pr. 10:31; Matt. 5:30; Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:5-10; Rom.8:13; Gal. 5:12; Col. 2:11; Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 12:1; I Pet. 2:1 l; l Pet. 4:2.

LESSON 140
DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: All Christians know that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again. Acts 1:10-11. Most of them know that His second coming will be in two stages; (i) like a thief in the night to take the spotless Bride away before the tribulation starts and (ii) to return with the Bride seven years later to reign on earth for 1,000 years. Without doubt, some people will be here on earth during those 7 terrible years. Anyone who did not go with Him at His first appearing will pass through the tribulation. Be warned, brethren, do not be left behind.

1. **AFTER THE RAPTURE, THERE WILL BE A WORLD CHURCH**
After the rapture, Satan will endeavor to establish a worldwide kingdom with a king at its head. This satanic king has several titles among which are: (i) the Anti-Christ, (ii) the will king (iii) the lawless one (iv) the son of perdition. He will become the head of a revived form of the Roman Empire, gain control of the Western world and form an alliance with the world church. Don't be left behind if you don't want to join the world church.

II Thess. 2:6-7; I John 2:18-22; I John 4:3; 11 John 7; Dan. 11:36; II Thess. 2:3, 8 Dan.2:40-43; Dan. 7:23-25; Rev. 13:1; Rev. 17:12-13; II Thes. 2:8-12; Rev. 17.

2. **THE ANTI-CHRIST WILL HAVE SPECIAL DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL**
The anti-Christ will make a covenant with Israel who will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem and start sacrifices again. The only opposition to the anti-Christ at this moment will be Russia who will instigate Syria and Egypt to invade Israel. The anti-Christ will defeat Syria and Egypt but meanwhile Russia would have invaded Israel and be supernaturally defeated. Thus the power of the anti-christ would grow to the extent that he would declare that he is God and demand worship that everyone should worship him. Don't be left behind if you don't want to worship the anti-christ.

Dan. 9:27; Ew. 37:11, 14; Dan. 11:40-43; Ew. 38:1-16, 17-39; Dan. 11:45; Dan. 9:27; Rev. 17:16; Dan 11:36-37; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8.

LESSON 141
DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we learnt that after the rapture, Satan will endeavor to establish a world-wide kingdom headed by the anti-christ who will form an alliance with the world church. The anti-christ will also make a covenant with Israel who will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and start sacrifices again. Syria and Egypt will invade Israel at the instigation of Russia but the Anti-christ will defeat them. Russia will suffer a supernatural defeat and the power of the anti-christ will grow so that he will break his covenant with Israel declare that He is God and demand that everyone should worship him. In this study, we shall consider what follows next.

1. **INSPITE OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF SATAN, THERE WILL STILL BE WITNESS FOR CHRIST**
As soon as the anti-christ declares himself as God, another man will arise to become the high priest of the anti-Christ cult. The Bible calls him the false prophet. He will develop a highly organized religious system on behalf of the anti-christ. But inspite of all these devilish activities, there will be active witnesses for God and Christ. Many of them will be those who were lukewarm Christians now who will become red-hot for God after they have missed the rapture. They will be sorely persecuted. Israel will also rebel against the antichrist and their persecution will be so severe that the Bible calls it "the time of Jacob's trouble".

Rev. 16:13; Rev. 19:20; Rev. 13:11-18; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:7-15;
Rev. 17:6; Rev. 20:4; Matt. 25:15-20; Jer. 30:4-7; Zech. 14:1-2; Jer.30:7.

2. **THE INTENSE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PERIOD WILL CAUSE ISRAEL TO REPENT AND THEN CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.**
Knowing that his time was short, the anti-christ will gather the armies of the world to Armageddon for a final battle. Meanwhile, the intense sufferings of the time of Jacob's trouble will cause Israel to repent genuinely and God will cleanse them. Then Christ will return again riding on a white horse and the saints will return with Him to reign for a thousand years. Will you return with Him or will you be among those who are left behind?

Rev. 16:12-16; Ps. 2:1-3; Rev. 19:19; Rev. 16:1, 12,-Zeph. 3:8: Ps. 2:4-12; Rev. 19:17-18, 21; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:4-6.

LESSON 142
DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In the second part of this series, we learnt that as soon as the antichrist declares himself as God, anew man will arise to help him organize his religion. This new man is called the false prophet and through him and the world church,Christians who are left behind as well as Jew will be sorely persecuted. The sufferings of this period will be so much that Israel will finally repent and Jesus will return with His saints to wipe out the army of the antichrist at Armageddon. Then the reign of Christ for 1,000 years will start. Satan will be out of the way and Kingdom of God on earth will be wonderful, Rev. 20:1 -6.

1. **THERE ARE CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE KINGDOM AND HINDRANCES TOO**
To be part of those who will reign with Christ, the following are some of the conditions you must satisfy: (i) you must be born again (ii) you must have a child-like spirit (iii) you must have a forgiving spirit (iv) you must be holy and (v) you must witness all the time. The things that could prevent you from entering the kingdom include (a) Love of money (b) lack of clear-cut decision (c) you may refuse the invitation to enter (d) you may lose the
opportunity to enter (e) The priviledge to enter may be taken away from you (f) you may refuse to do the will of God.

John. 3:3, 5; Matt. 18:1-4, 23-25; Heb. 12:14; John 15:2,6; Luke 19:15-19; Matt. 25:15-23; Mark 10:23-25; Luke 9:61-62; Luke 14:15-24; Matt. 25:1-13; Matt. 8:11; Luke 13:28; Matt. 6:10.

2. **TO ENTER THE KINGDOM IS WORTH ANY SACRIFICE**
The Kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit and whoever wants to enter must submit to God's wisdom, power and mercy. Men are advised to seek the Kingdom desperately and be willing to pay any cost or make any sacrifice to enter. It is surely must better to be in the Kingdom than to be left behind. Please do not be left behind.

Matt. 5:3;ICor. 1:27; I Cor. 1:25, 28; Ps. 25:6-7; Ps. 73:22-24; Matt. 6:33; Matt. 13:44-46; Matt. 11:12; Mark 9:43-48.

LESSON 143
SORROW OF A BACKSLIDER- PART 1

INTRODUCTION: The African has a proverb: until a woman has tried two husbands, she would not know that one is preferable to the other. Until man has tried two lives: one without Christ and the other in Christ, he would not know the difference. But what a sorrow it would be to have lived in the glorious liberty that is Christ's and then go back into the world. May it never happen to you in Jesus Name. Amen. This series of studies is to know the sorrow'-s of such a backslider.

1. **THE LIFE OF SINNER IS A WRETCHED ONE: DON'T GO BACK TO IT**
The life of a sinner is ci wretched and terrible one. The Bible gives a graphic description of the life of a sinner and it is quite unenviable. It is a life (i) without peace, (ii) without rest (iii) full of pains (iv) full of afflictions (v) full of hardship (vi) full of tribulation (vii) full of anguish (viii) full of misery (ix) full of destructions (x) full of sorrows, etc. Besides, there is the constant dread that he will end up in hell where he will be tormented forever. If you are still a sinner, you must get out of such a life immediately. If a saved soul, do not go back to such a wretched life.

Is. 57:21; Is. 57:20; Job. 15:20; Ps. 107:17; Pi: 13:15; Rom. 2:9; Rom. 3:16; James 5:1; Ecc. 2:23; Is. 21:4; Is. 23:12; Dent. 28:67; Jude 2:15; Is. 28:15; Job. 7:3; Ps. 38:8; Rev. 14:11.

2. **THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IS A GLORIOUS ONE: PLEASE JOIN US AND STAY WITH US**
Contrary to the life of a sinner, the new life in Christ offers you (i) joy (ii) peace (iii) hope (iv) victory (v) comfort (vi) power (vii) royalty (viii) spiritual blessings (ix) glory etc. if you have not tested it, join us today. If you are already in it, stay with us. Don't go back to sorrow.

John 15:11; John 16:24; Rom. 15:13; Neh. 8:10; John 14:27; Is. 3:10; John 14:19; John 16:33; I John 4:4; Ps. 23:1; Ps. 34:10; Phil. 4:19; Phil 4:13; Matt. 16:19; John 14:18; John 14:1-3; I Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:3; Col. 1:27.

LESSON 144
SORROW OF A BACKSLIDER- PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we examined the two lives: the one without Christ and how gloriously pleasant is the life of Christ. The difference was clear. It will be a very sad thing to go from the life in Christ to the life without Christ. May it never happen to us in Jesus' name. Amen. Now we continue with series as we search the scriptures for the real meaning of backsliding and some of its basic causes. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus' Name. Amen.

1. **WHAT EXACTLY IS BACKSLIDING?**
Basically, backsliding means ceasing to follow Jesus Christ. But there are other definitions of backsliding in the scriptures. For example, the following amount to backsliding in the sight of the Lord. (i) Changing a Christian decision (ii) condoning the sins of others (iii) Remembering old glories instead of achieving new ones (iv) resting on ones achievements instead of pressing forward (v) refusal to make progress (vi) loss of enthusiasm and (v) failure to make decision who would take over from oneself.

Tim. 4:10; Luke 9:62; Heb. 10:38; Pr. 24:24-25; Pr. 28:4; Is. 43:18-19; Phil. 3;13-14; John 15:1-25; Re. 2:4; I Sam. 3:11-13.

2. **CAUSE OF BACKSLIDING**
The causes of backsliding could be many and varied. Some of which are (i) disappointment by Christian elders (ii) Satanic deceit (iii) pride of achievement (iv) evil association (v) wrong spiritual leadership and (vii) severe trial. Now, once we know our enemies, they should not be able to destroy us again if we are careful. To be fore warned is to before armed.

Jer. 9:4; .for. 17:5; Gen. 3:4-5; Gen. 25:29-33; I Pet. 5:5; Dan. 4:29-33; 1 Kings 11:4; II Sam. 11:1-5; Ex. 32:1-8; Jer. 51:30; Zech.4:6.

LESSON 145
SORROW OF A BACKSLIDER- PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In the second part of this series, we discovered that backsliding is not merely ceasing to follow Jesus Christ. Changing a Christian decision, condoning sin, remembering old glories, resting on oars, being unprogressive, loss of enthusiasm and failure to make disciples are all cases of backsliding. We also discovered that causes of backsliding include disappointment by Christian's elders, satanic deceit, pride of achievement, evil association, comfort arising from worldly success, wrong spiritual leadership and severe trials. In this study, we want to consider the sorrows of a backslider, how to cure backsliding and how to prevent it. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE SORROWS OF A BACKSLIDER ARE MANY AND VARIED**
A backslider has many problems to contend with. Some of these problems are (a) a deep feeling of emptiness (b) Severe loneliness (c) Misery (d) Anxiety (e) Poverty spiritual as well as physical (f) Sickness (g) Inability to approach God and (h) inability to witness due to guilty conscience. This is so because when a backslider loses the only genuine friend in the world, he will quickly realize that there is no substitute for Christ anywhere.

Ps. 22:1,-Is. 59:1-2; Ps. 142:4; Luke 15:16; Pr. 14:15; Rom. 2:9; Ps. 51:8, 12; Is. 59:8; Amos 8:11; Jer. 5:4:Deut. 28:15-58; Ps. 51:11; 51:12-15.

2. **PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE**
If you are a backslider and you want full restoration, you must first of all allocate where you went wrong, repent and restitute your ways. Then you can stall all over again. But surely it is better never to backslide even once. To prevent backsliding, you must be willing to lose your life in order to find it. The steps you are to take constantly include (i) Mortification of the flesh (ii) crucifixion of affections (iii) consecration of all you consider as gain (iv) separation from earthly ties and (v) living a life of absolute surrender.

Eze. 18:31; Rev. 2:5; John 3:30; Matt. 10:39; II Cor. 4:11; Gal. 2;20; John 12:24; Rom 8:13; Phil. 3:7-8, Luke 14:26; Rom. 12:1; Act. 1:8.

LESSON 146
TAKE YOUR STAND - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: Consider the traffic policeman. His most strenuous personal effort cannot stop a fast moving car. Yet, he stands firmly in the middle of the road, raises his hand and the traffic stops. In a similar manner, a Christian who takes firm stand for his Lord has authority to stop all the satanic traffic in his life, Luke 10:19. May the Lord grant us all the grace to take our stand firmly for Him as we study this series in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE POWER BEHIND US IS GREATER THAN THAT OF THE ENEMY, AND HE KNOWS IT TOO.**
All powers belong to Jesus Christ and He has delegated these powers to us. The devil knows this and he trembles each time he thinks about it. If you are truly joined to Christ, then whatever power Christ has belongs to you too. Wherever the Head is must be where the body is also and Christ is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. And that is the center of power of the whole universe. The reasons why some Christians still alive a defeated lie therefore are mainly (i) lack of comprehension of this truth and (ii) a shaky stand for God.

Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22; I John 4:4; James 2:19; Eph. 1;20-21; Phil. 2:9-11;I Cor. 12:27; I Cor. 6:17; Heb. 1:13; Eph. I;16-19; John 14:12; James 4;7; James 1:6-8.

2. **THE DEVIL CAN CONTROL ONLY THOSE WHO ARE NOT STANDING FIRMLY FOR CHRIST.**
Some people think the devil is in control of everything in this world, but they are wrong. He cannot control you if you are not of this world because he is the prince of this world and those in love with it. God has already destroyed the works of the devil in the lives of those who truly belong to Him. All we are required to do is stand firm in Christ and continue to reign in life with Christ. As for the devil, he is surely under our feet if we are truly for Christ.

John 15:19; John 14:30; John 2:15-17; Col. 1:12-13; Luke 10:19; Rom. 5:17; I Pet. 5:8; Eph. 4-.27; Heb. 1:13-14; Matt. 18:18.

LESSON 147
TAKE YOUR STAND - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the second part of this series, we learnt that we may be called upon to suffer persecution for our faith. If this happens, we must stand firm because we will not be the first or the last to suffer for our faith. And that whatever happens, we must never lose our grip on eternal life. We only need to fear the Lord and there will be nothing else to fear. In this third part, we wish to learnt what standing for Christ means both in life and in death. May the Lord open our spiritual eyes so that we could see those things that pertain to our peace in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **CHRIST IS NOT ASKING YOU TO SERVE HIM FOR FREE; HE WILL PAY EACH ACT OF SERVICE YOU RENDER TO HIM**
As far as God is concerned, He requires total submission from you. He wants your heart and not mere lip service. Infact, it is only by doing the will of God absolutely that you can claim to be truly related to Christ. Now, when you compare what Christ and other saints of old had done with what we are required to do today, you will know that we are given an easy task. Moreover, Christ is not asking us to serve Him for free, even though He has a right to do so. But He will still reward our efforts provided they are whole-heatedly done.

Pro. 23:26; Matt. 12:50; Eph. 6:6; John 4;34-38; Ps. 126:5-6; Ex. 23:25; Deut. 10:12; I Cor. 15:58; II Tim. 4:5; Phil. 2:12.

2. **MAN IS A TRINITY: BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT. HE NEEDS MORE THAN BREAD TO TRULY SURVIVE.**
Let your goal both in life and in death be how to please Christ. Do not let your search for daily bread obstruct your spiritual goal or dun your spiritual vision. Man needs more than bread to survive because he is a trinity and the one who truly survived is the one who survived after death. Death is once per person, but death is not the end of the story. It is just a new beginning. Sign a contract
of total allegiance with God now and your survival here and yonder will be settled.

Phil. 1:21; Deut. 8:3; Ecc. 8:8; Ps. 23:4; Heb. 9:27; Pr.I4.-32; Col. 1:27; Heb. 11:13; Rev. 14:13; Ps. 116:15; Dan. 1:8.

LESSON 148
TAKE YOUR STAND - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In the third part of this series, we learnt that since man is a trinity of body, soul and spirit, he needs more than ordinary bread to survive. Therefore we should not allow our search for daily bread to obstruct our spiritual vision or goal. Similarly, we learnt that if we sign a contract of total submission to God like Daniel and co did, then the lions of this world and the fires of hell will not have power over us. Now, we continue our series exhorting you to take your stand against shame, fear of death and for Christ. May God bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. **GOD PROMISES YOU BLESSINGS AND SONGS OF PRAISE, NOT SHAME**
If you take your stand absolutely for Christ, you will be a blessed person and have no cause to be ashamed. It is unbelievers who will find Christ a stumbling block. It is blessings and songs of praise that God promises His people not shame. If you suffer for Christ's sake, that is an opportunity to praise God. In any case" you are not sure of eternal life beyond doubts until you are willing to loose your life for Christ's sake. And if you abide in Him totally, you will have no cause to be ashamed before Him when He comes again.

Ps. 119:1-6; Rom. 9:33; Joel. 1:26; Is. 50:7-9; I Pet. 4:15-16; Matt. 15:25; II Tim. 2:11; I John 2:28; Acts. 5:29-41; I John 4:15-18.

2. **IF YOU SERVE CHRIST WHOLE - HEARTEDLY, GOD WILL HONOUR YOU**
If you are completely for Christ, you should be bold because through Christ you have access to God. And if you are bold enough to visit God Himself, why must you be afraid of any man? Also, you do not need men's honours because if you serve Christ, whole-heartedly God Himself will honour you if your entire love is focused on Christ, the following are part of your blessings: (i) deliverance (ii) promotion (iii) answered prayers (iv) Divine presence in the day of trouble (v) honour (vi) long life and (vii) salvation.

Eph. 3:11-12; Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 10:19-23; John 12:26; Ps. 91:14-16; Ps. 40:8; Ps. 143:10.

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?
Some people believe that tradition can or must be embedded into the true worship of God. This is wrong. Such people cling to a common saying that "this is not too bad". They fail to realize the fact that what is not too bad has an element of it being bad in it. You cannot serve God and mammon. God has a standard and his standard cannot be compromised.

Matt. 5:20; I Pet. 4:16; Is. 3:16-24; I Pet. 3:3-4; John 13:34-35; John 15:14, 23; Rom. 8:35-36; I Pet. 4:16.

LESSON 149
FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 1

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

1. **JESUS CHRIST'S LIFE IS A PATTERN OF A FRUITFUL LIFE**
A fruitful life is one that puts Jesus first in all things. A life that starts with Jesus and end with Him. A life that recognizes that Jesus never changes and His standards remain the same today as ever. A life of wisdom, gloriously lived in the fear of God. A life without a stain, without a blemish. A honest life, of hard work and soul-winning, spent in turning sinners to righteousness.

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

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

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

LESSON 150
FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 2

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

1. **A FRUITFUL LIFE IS ONE OF COMPASSION AND ACTIVE LOVE**
Compassion, particularly for the downtrodden, the sick and the unhappy captives of Satan, is an ingredient for a fruitful life. Love for our fellow men, as demonstrated by giving our best be it money, time, tracts, comfort etc. is another ingredient. A life of love is a life of obedience to God who commanded us to love our neighbours like ourselves. Hence it is a godly, fruitful life.

Matt. 9:36; Mark 1:40-41; John 3:16; Acts 3:b-o; John 15:13: John 15:12; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:7-12; Mark 16:15-16; Col. 1:5-8.

2. **FOR A LIFE TO BE FRUITFUL, IT HAS TO BE SACRIFICIAL**
A fruitful life has to be a life of sacrifice; sacrificial living, sacrificial giving and even sacrificial praising of God. That is how Christ lived His life; that is how we must live our own because He is our example.

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

LESSON 151
FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 3

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

1. **JESUS IS THE FRUIT-BEARER: NO ONE CAN BEAR FRUITS WHEN CUT OFF FROM HIM**
Our Lord Jesus Christ made the condition for fruit bearing clear; constant fellowship with Himself. For one thing, those who
fellowship with Christ always get whatever they ask for and
secondly, they have an assurance that they will not backslide.
Even through fellow-shipping with God requires satisfying some
conditions, there are always a few people in every generation
willing to pay the price of separation from the world and fellowship
with God. Are you going to be one of them in this generation?

John 15:4-6; John 15:7; Ps.J6:S; Acts 4:13; Ps. 73:8; Rev. 3:20; James 4:7; Rev. 3:4: Mill. 2:6; John 15:10; I John 2:6; Amos 3:3.

2. **THE REWARD OF A FRUITFUL LIFE IS ETERNITY WITH CHRIST.**
Continuous fellowship with Jesus in this life guarantees fellowship
with Him in eternity. The Bible is full of examples of men who
fellowshipped with God in this world and are fellowshipping with
God in Heaven. A few of such men are Enoch, Noah, Elijah, Paul
the Apostle and David. May we be counted with them after our
lives here in Jesus, name. Amen.

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

LESSON 152
POWER OF AGREEMENT

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

1. **WHEN PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER IN JESUS NAME, HE IS IN THEIR MIDST WITH ALL HIS POWER**
It is not the intention of the Lord that a Christian be a lone ranger
This is because He knows that there is great strength in unity
Now when two or more people gather together in His name Jesus Himself will be in their midst with all His power and majesty. It becomes easier to praise and worship God. It becomes easier to talk to God and about God. Faith becomes united and strengthened, prayers are more quickly heard and answered because the one to whom we are praying is not only present but intimately involved in the praying.

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

LESSON 153
I WILL REACH MY GOAL

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

1. **ONCE YOU SET A SPIRITUAL GOAL FOR YOURSELF, 3 THINGS COULD HAPPEN**
Once you set a spiritual goal for yourself, three things could happen, namely: (i) the enemy may put obstacles in your way or use diversionary tricks (ii) God may test your determination and (iii) if you pass God's test, He will intervene to help you reach your goal.

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

2. **GOD IS READY TO HELP IF YOU ARE DETERMINED**
If you pass the Divine test on how determined you are to reach your goal. God will intervene to make sure that you arrive. He did in the case of Abraham, Caleb, and Joshua, The Shunamite woman, Elisha, Peter and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. He is willing to do the same for you also.

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

LESSON 154
THE ARMY OF LORD PART 1

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

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

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

2. **THERE IS ONLY ONE PUNISHMENT FOR FAILURES IN THE ARMY OF GOD: EXPULSION**
A promotion in army of God is also at His supernatural discretion However, He uses some guideline often. These include, (i) fruit-production, (ii) faithfulness in small things etc. There is only one punishment for those who fail God: expulsion. However, for those who succeed in His army, the reward is truly royal.

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

LESSON 155
THE ARMY OF LORD - PART 2

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

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

John 10:27; John 10:14; Luke 10. Ps. 23:1-4; II Cor. 10:4; Ex.l9-.5-6; Rev. 1:4-6; James 4:7; Eph. 6: 13; I Tim. 6:12-14; I Pet. 5:8-9.

2. **THE SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS HAVE A THREE- FOLD ASSIGNMENT**
The three-fold assignment of the soldiers of the cross are (i) a ministry to God, through the sacrificing of praises to Him (ii) a ministry to one another, with the strong helping the weak and (iii) a ministry to the world, bringing them into salvation, deliverance and health.

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

LESSON 156
THE ARMY OF LORD - PART 3

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

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

Ps. 22:3; John 4:23; James 4:8; Matt. 22:37-38; Luke 10:38-42; Acts 13:l 2;Zech. 14:17.

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

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

3. **YOU CANNOT OBEY GOD FULLY EXCEPT YOU WORSHIP HIM CONSTANTLY.**
There are some commandments of God that can only be obeyed fully during worship time. These include: clapping our hands, shouting victoriously, making a joyful noise unto the Lord, lifting our hands, waving our hands to Him in praise and dancing before Him.

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

LESSON 157
THE ARMY OF LORD - PART 4

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

1. **OUR SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUST HAVE RELEVANCE**
Those who worship God genuinely always worship Him relevantly. The song they sing when they consider the mercies of God w ill be different from those they sing when considering His holiness, sovereignty or power. We can even prophesy during our worship.

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

2. **WORSHIPPING GOD IS INCOMPLETE UNLESS YOUR BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT ARE INVOLVED**
It is not only with our voices alone that we should worship God. We could lift up our hands or clap, we would dance, we could shout, etc. All these are relevant ways of worshipping God and each has its own significance if done with all our heart.

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

LESSON 158
THE ARMY OF LORD - PART - 5

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

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

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

2. **IF YOU HARDEN YOUR HEART AGAINST THE NEEDY, YOUR TURN WILL COME**
It is a dangerous thing to harden your heart against the poor. Because failure to help a wounded soldier implies your turn will soon come. Because God commands the strong to support the weak not only in the physical sense but also spiritually. If you do not know how to be merciful, learn it.

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

LESSON 159
THOU GOD SEEST ME

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

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 160
FRUITFUL LIVES & FAITHFUL ONES - 3

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

1. FAITH IS THE FERTILIZER FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

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

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

LESSON 161
THE SCAPE GOAT

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English defines the word "SCAPE GOAT" as "PERSON BLAMED OR PUNISHED FOR THE MISTAKES OR WRONGDOING OF ANOTHER OR OTHERS."
However, in this study we want to examine what led to the issue of scapegoat, its spiritual implication and what should be our attitude towards it today. May the Lord Almighty give us a deep understanding of His word as we go on, Amen.

1. **SIGNIFICANCE OF OFFERING IN ISRAEL**
Making offering or sacrifice to God was a very ancient practice Gen. 4:3,8:20; Ex. 10:25, and was known in Egypt and Babylonia long before the patriarchal times. Gen. 3:21; Gen. 4:3: Ex. 12:1 3; Lev. 1:7 Lev. 4:3-5,13-15, 22-23,27-29, Heb. 6:1-6.

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

Lev. 16:1-10; Is. 53:4-6; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb.] 0:8-10; Mal. 2:13; Gal. 4:9; I Pet. 3:18; II Cor. 5:77-20; I Pet. 2:24.

LESSON 162
KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 1

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

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

Ps. 23:1-3; Ps. 32:8 Ps. 48:14; Is. 42:16; Is. 48:17-19; John 10:4; Is. 55:8-9; Luke 1:79; Ps. 18:30; Hab. 3:6; Ps. 73:24.

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

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

LESSON 163
KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 164
KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 3

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

1. GOD ALLOWS VISIONS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

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

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

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

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

LESSON 165
GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY

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

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

a. Gen. 12:10, 2:21-24; Jer. 31:1; Gen. 18:17-19; Gen. 12:10-20; Gen. 12:3; 28:14; Gen. 20:2-6; 26:1-5; Ps. 113:9.

b. **Husband's duty:** Pro. 5:18; Eccl. 9:9; 1 Tim. 5:8; I Chr. 29:19; Col. 3:18-23; Eph. 6:4.

c. **Wife's Duty**: Eph. 5:21-25; Ex. 1:20; I Tim. 3:11; Pro. 31:26-28; 1 Pet. 3:1

2. **THE FAMILY NOT APPROVED OF GOD.**
The family who violates that age long conception of God is not a family of God. Gen. 2:24; It is one that has its root and foundation in chaos and confusion and consequently devoid of the blessing of God.

Micah 7:6; Gen. 3:6; I Tim. 2:11-13; Gen. 25:27-28; Gen. 37:3; Col. 3:18-24; James 3:2; Job 2:9; I Kings 21:1-11. 25; I Sam. 21:33; Jug. 13:19-23; II Sam. 6:20-23.

LESSON 166
KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 1

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

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

Ps. 23:1-3; Ps. 32:8 Ps. 48:14; Is. 42:16; Is. 48:17-19; John 10:4; Is. 55:8-9; Luke 1:79; Ps. 18:30; Hab. 3:6; Ps. 73:24.

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

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

LESSON 167
KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 168
KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 3

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

1. GOD ALLOWS VISIONS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

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

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

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

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

Matt. 5:7; Pro. 11:17; James I:6-7;Acts 16:16-23; Luke 5:5; John 21:3; Matt. 25:28-29.

3. HOW TO USE THE GIFTS

There are seven important things to note in administering healing to the sick. They are (i) get the patient born again because healing is the Children’s bread (ii) raise the faith of the sick (iii) get the sick to participate. Healing is a two-way traffic of giving and receiving (iv) healing is not a show business (v) Explain to the sick that healing may be gradual (vi) do not use the gifts indiscriminately. Be led by the Holy Spirit (vii) continue to seek the Lord in prayer and fasting.

Matt. 15:25-27; Mark 6:5-6; Matt. 9:6; Man. 12:38-39; Luke 23:8; Luke 17:12-14; John 5:2-3. 5; Luke 4:2 7; 6:12; I Cor. 9:27; Matt. 7:21-23.

LESSON 169
RISE OR FALL - PART 1

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 170
RISE OR FALL - PART 2

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

1. **TO RISE, YOU MUST DISCARD THINGS THAT CAN WEIGH YOU DOWN**
You surely cannot even stand if you are still indulging in sin.
Consequently, if you wish to keep rising, you must discard sinful habits, because it is only the righteous that shall flourish. Furthermore, all weight in the form of worldly allurements, worldly possessions and worldly securities must be discarded.

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

2. **THOSE WHO AIM HIGH ALWAYS RISE HIGH IF THEY ARE WILLING TO PAY THE COST**
To rise high, you must be ambitious, so don't be satisfy with past achievements, focus all your desire on Jesus Christ and be willing to pay the cost of becoming like Him. Seek Him early in the morning seek Him late at night. Be temperate in all things study His word and resist sin even into the blood.

Phil. 3:12-14; I Cor. 14:1; I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 14:12; Ps. 38:9; Ps. 63:1; Ps. 3:25; Ps. 119:20, 131; Is. 26:9; Matt. 5:6; I Cor. 9:25; II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 12:4; Is. 40:31

LESSON 171
PUTTING ON THE ARMOR

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

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

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

2. **PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD**
While God has provided this armour, the individual Christian has the responsibility of putting it on by making conscious use of the power the Lord Jesus Christ made available to him.

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

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LESSON 173
PSALM 117

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

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

Ps. 33:5; Ps. 34:8; Nah. 1:7; I Tim. 1:12; II Cor. 12:9; II Tim. 2:1; Rom. 9:16; Tit. 3:5.

2. **PRAISE THE LORD: HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED.**
We have a lot to thank God for. For our salvation, for the forgiveness of our sins, that we are still alive today, that He is a dependable Rock, perfect and true, and that His mercy endureth forever are just a few of the reasons why we should constantly praise Him.

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

LESSON 174
JOHN 11 : 35

John 11:3 5 is the shortest verse in the Bible and yet it is extremely profound. Jesus wept. The King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the word from the beginning, the very God of the very God, wept. Can God weep? Was it genuine tears? Why should the Almighty weep and openly at that? These and several other questions assail one's mind when you read. "Jesus wept". May the Lord open our understanding as we study in His word in Jesus Name. Amen.

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

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

2. **HE WEPT BECAUSE HE LOVED**
Jesus wept because He loved. He shed genuine tears because He loved genuinely. He share the agony and problems of those He loved and when He loves someone that love is forever

John 11:5, 35.--36; John 11:33; John 13:1; Heb. 13:5; Ps. 142:4; John 5:5-9; Mic. 7:5; Is. 63:9; Acts 9:3-5; Matt. 25:40; I Cor. 12:12; Eph. 5:30.

LESSON 175
SIMEON & ANNA

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

1. **DIVINE REVELATIONS ARE NOT OBTAINED BY HUMAN WISDOM**
Simeon and Anna had a lot of things in common. They Knew how to wait patiently for the Lord, unmoved by what other may be pursuing. They were under the control of the Holy Spirit by whom deep mysteries were revealed to them. Things that human wisdom cannot search out were made available to them by the Holy Spirit. They were not afraid of death because they were living a life of piety and dedication to God.

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

2. **THE PURE IN HEART SHALE SURELY SEE GOD.**
To see God, the basic prerequisite is purity of heart. One day we too shall see God if only we can keep ourselves pure. Simeon and Anna persevered till the end, we also must persevere.

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

LESSON 176
LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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

1. **THE SAINTS WILL RECEIVE LIGHT IN HIS MOMENT OF DARKNESS SINNERS MAY NOT**
To everyone there are days of darkness, saints and sinners alike.
The word of God establishes that fact. However for the saints,
there is an assurance that even in the dark hour they will receive
light. That light comes from God Himself who had promised that; He will not allow any darkness to swallow us up. But for sinners,
it is a different story altogether.

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

2. **YOU CAN BRING LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS AND YOU MUST**
Saints not only receive light from above but they themselves are
the lights of the world. Therefore, they can bring light to those in
darkness. Intact, they must or else their own light might be taken away from them.

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

LESSON 177
LITTLE SINS

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

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

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

2. **ANYTHING NOT TOO BAD IS ALREADY BAD**
Some of the little foxes arc (i) Sleeping of extra minutes (ii) taking a little extra, (iii) minor disobediences, (iv) joking about your sources of power (v) little indulgences (vi) lateness (vii) short prayers (viii) carelessness, etc.

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

LESSON 178
DEALING WITH SIN

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

1. COOPERATING WITH THE FLESH WILL SPELL DISASTER

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

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

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

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

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

DIGGING DEEP NO 201
PURE GOLD

INTRODUCTION:

When God told Moses to build Him a tabernacle, He insisted that every major vessel within it must be made of pure gold, Ex. 37: 2,6, 16,17, 23, 24. Now, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and our God has not changed and He has not lowered His standards. He wants us to be pure as gold. May the Lord teach us tonight, in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR IMPERFECTION IN GOD'S TEMPLE

Our God is perfect and we are commanded to be perfect too. Mat 5:48; Eph. 5:25-27; Jam. 1:27; 11 Pet. 3:14; Rev. 21: 27
In fact, unless we are, we can have no part in the body of
Christ because there is no room for anything that defiles in haven 1 pet. 1 L15- 16; 1John. 1:5. God is pure Light and so we must be since we are His children must be like their father. Matt. 5: 14; 1 John 3:6-9; Jam. 1: 17; John 19:4; 1 John 2:28-29.

2. IF GOD LOVES YOU, HE WILL MAKE YOU PERFECT.

If God loves you and is determined to get you to heaven, then He will make you perfect one way or the other. It could be through suffering, chastening, the rod of correction, the refining fire or if you so desire, through His word.
Heb. 2:9-10; Heb. 5;8-9; Jam. 1:2-4; 1 pet. 5: 10; Heb. 12:5-11; pro. 22:15; Mal. 3:2-4; Zec. 13:8-9; 1 pet. 1:3-7; Heb.13:20-21; 11 Tim. 3:16-17; 11 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28; 1 pet. 5:6; Deu. 8:2; 11 Cor. 12: 21; Heb. 6:1.

DIGGING DEEP NO 203
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION:

Power is the ability to do work either physical or spiritual. For example, in the spiritual realm, power is the ability to heal the sick, make the lame to walk, raise the dead, etc. there are two kinds of power. (1) Constructive and (11) Destructive God has both Deut. 32:39. In fact power belongs to God and to him only. Ps. 62: 11; Matt. 28:18.; but He can give it to whosoever He pleases, Rom. 13:1, May you receive from Him today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHY DO WE NEED THE POWER OF GOD?**

We need to have the power of God so that many people might believe and be converted when they see us demonstrating the power of God. Because it is only in the demonstration of God's power that the word of God is confirmed and the faith of people will have proper foundation. It is also in the demonstration of the power of God that the Gentiles are subdued and the works of Satan destroyed.

John 4:48; 10:37-38; Mark 16:20; 1 Cor. 2:4-5; Rom. 15: 18-19; 1 Cor. 4: 19- 20; 1 John 3:8; John 14:12; John 10:10; Mark 16: 15-18.

2. **THE POWER OF GOD IS FOR HIS PEOPLE**

God's intention is that His children would share in everything He is and Has. That is why He promised that miracles will be wrought by all believers. From Old Testament times, anyone who surrendered to the Almighty had wielded the power of the Almighty. Examples include Elisha, Stephen, and Phillip to mention just a few. You can join the list today if you will take the necessary steps of faith.

II Pet. 1: 2-4; Mark 16:17-18; 1 Kings 19:19; Act 6:1-5; Act. 6:8; 8:5-8; Luke 10:17; Act. 9:10-18; Act. 1:8; Phil. 4: 13; Exo 14: 15- 16; 21: 22.

DIGGING DEEP NO 204
THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM - PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

Of all the Old Testament born of a woman, there is no other man that could claim to be more blessed by God than Abraham. Why did God single him our for such a tremendous blessing? What did he do to earn so much blessing? Are there lessons for us today from his life? These and other questions will be answered in this series in Jesus Name. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **DIVINE BLESSINGS ARE OFTEN CONDITIONAL**
While Abraham's call was bases purely on Divine compassion,
Today, there is and open invitation to anyone who wants to follow God to do so. Initially, God gave Abraham seven promises but these were conditional on his obeying three commandments of God.

Gen. 11:26; 12:1-3; Rom. 9: 14-15; Matt. 11: 29-30. Isa. 55:1; John 3: 16; John 7:37; Isa. 52: 11; Isa. 1:19.

2. **INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE ALWAYS LEADS TO TROUBLES.**

Abraham obeyed two out of the three conditions given him by God. Instead of blessings, he walked straight into troubles. But God is faithful. He came to the rescue of the disobedient Abraham but He did not bless him until his obedience was complete.

Gen 12:4-5; 12;10; Gen. 12: 11-13; Gen. 12: 14-15; Rom 3:3-4; Gen 12:17-20; Gen. 13:1; Gen. 13:7; Gen. 13:8-9; Gen. 3:10- 13; Gen. 3: 14-17.

DIGGING DEEP NO 206
THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM - PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

In this series, we have so far learnt for the call of Abraham, God's numerous promises to him, the conditions for the promises and finally the covenant between God and Abraham. In this concluding part of the series, we want to look closely at Abraham, the man who is called "The friend of God" Jam. 2:23. May the Lord Himself teach us in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. AFRIEND OF GOD MUST BE CLEAN, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

In Gen. 18, there is a lot of intimate information about Abraham. Some of these are (i) He was observant (ii) He never allowed opportunities to slip him by (iii) He was humble (iv) he was courteous (v) he was hygienic (vi) he was hospitable, (vii) he was agile, not sluggish (viii) he was willing to serve, (ix) he was polite, well-mannered and (x) he was an intercessor.

Gen. 18; Gen 19:1; Ps. 9:12; Ps.10: 12, 17; pro. 16: 18-19; Jam. 4:6; 1 pet. 5:5-6; Matt. 18: 4; Matt. 23:12; Jam. 4:10; Ps. 24: 3-4; 19: 1-2; Gen. 35:2; Lev. 13:6; Num. 8: 7; Ruth. 3:3; Matt. 6:17; Heb. 10:22; Gen. 19: 3; 1 Pet. 4:9; Heb. 13:2; Rom. 12:10-11; pro. 13;4; pro. 18: 9; Matt. 23:11-12; Matt. 20: 28; Mark 10:45; Job. 42:10.

2. IF YOU WANT THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM, BEHAVE LIKE ABRAHAM.

In Gen. 21 and 22, we find that God began to fulfill His promises and Abraham began to keep his part of the covenant with God. Soon there was Daughter in the household of Abraham. Even when the great test came, Abraham our Lord Jesus Christ, these blessings of Abraham can be ours, provided we behave as true children of Abraham.

Gen. 21; Gen. 22; Gal. 3:13-14; John 8: 39.

DIGGING DEEP NO 207
THAT MAN ENOCH

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible does not give us too many details about the man Enoch. He is the son of Jarred, Gen. 5:18 and the father of many sons and daughters, the prominent of who was Methuselah, Gen. 5: 21- 22. But the most striking statements about Enoch were that he walked with God'' , and "God took him'. May the Lord teach us about this great saint tonight for our own benefits, Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ENOCH MUST HAVE BEEN A LONELY MAN. BUT HE WAS NEVER REALLY ALONE.**

Anyone who decides to walk with God must have decided to be out of Steps with the world and its changing fashions. Such a fellow must focus his attention on God only. He / She must believe firmly that it is possible to walk with a holy God through living a victorious, holy life. Such a person will be lonely because he cannot have many friends, but surely he will never be alone because God will keep him company.

1 John 2: 15- 17; 11 Cor. 6: 17; Mark 8: 38; Heb. 12:2; Col. 3:1-2; Matt. 5:48; 1 Pet. 1: 15-16; Heb. 13: 5.

2. **ENOCH PLEASED GOD. THAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE TESTIMONIAL**.

From the fact that Enoch pleased God, we can deduce a lot of information: (i) He must have been a man of faith (ii) He must have been full of praises of God (iii) He must have been a giver (iv) he must have served God through love for God (V) He must have witnessed for God. No wonder God took him!

Heb. 11: 5; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14: 23; 11 Cor. 57; Rom. 11: 20; 11 Cor. 1:24; Rom. 4:5, 9; 1 Thess. 5:18; Heb. 13:16; 1 John 3: 22; Deut. 10:12; Amos 3:3; Jude 14 11 Kings 2:11.

DIGGING DEEP NO 208
MOUNT ZION - THE CITY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

There are many mountain in the Bible (a) Mount Moriah, (b) Mount Herob, (c) Mount Olivet, (f) Mount Hermon etc. But today we want to talk about Mount Zion which is the city of the living God. Heb. 12:22. May the Lord Himself teach us today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. CONTRAST OF MOUNT SINAI AND MOUNT ZION:

These two mountains are revealing two dispensations, i.e Law and Grace. Mount Sinai is where people fear to come, because it is burning with fire. Even Moses the servant of God was afraid. Mount Zion is the City of the living God, where you can come by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gal. 3; 23-29; Heb. 12:18-21; Exo. 19:10-13; Exo. 31:18; Lev. 26: 46; Exo. 24: 12-18; Heb. 12:22-24; Matt. 11:28-30; Matt. 17:1-5.

2. FACTS ABOUT MOUNT ZION

(i) It is the City of God, and the heavenly Jerusalem.
(ii) It is a place where we have the general assembly of the bride i.e. the church.
(iii) The name of each member of the church must be written in heaven.
(iv) No more temptation in this city.
(v) The condition to enter this city is by the covenant of the Blood of Jesus.
(vi) The only mediator between man and God is Jesus, who is also the only way to this city.

Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 19:7-9; Rev. 20: 15; Ps. 86:4-6; Rev. 21: 4; Heb. 9:22, 1Tim. 2:5; John 14:6, Heb. 12: 15-17; Rev. 3:5; Heb. 12:24.

DIGGING DEEP 209
PRESSING FORWARD

INTRODUCTION:

To get to our goal which is heaven, we need to press forward, because going forward will always make a goal, going backward will never, but always far from it Jer. 7:23-24. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name.

1. THE BLESSING IN PRESSING FORWARD

God blessings are for those who press forward:
(i) You will discover you have not arrived.
(ii) Sooner or later you will arrive safely to your goal.
(iii) You can achieve these blessings by going forward in.
Bible study to discover that Holiness and perfection is the key to heaven and perfection is the key.
Phil. 3:12-15; 11 Tim. 4:7 -8. 11 Pet. 1:8-11; Heb. 10:25;
Heb. 12:14; Col.1:28; Eph. 4: 13.

2. **ANGERS IN BACKSLIDING**

There are dangers ahead for looking back.
(i) Enemies are at the back of every Christians.
(ii) Backsliders are not fit for the Kingdom of God.
(iii) They will become slaves again
(iv) There will be no more love for God in their lives.
(v) The devil has a free access to come to their lives,
(vi) They will be worldly - minded.

Exo. 14:8; Gen. 19:26; Luke 9:61-62; Gal. 5:1; Rev. 2:4; Luke11:24-26; 11 Tim. 4:10.

3. **EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO PRESSED FORWARD**

Joshua and Caleb among the Spies sent to Canaan
(iv) Paul fought it to finish.
(v) Zerubabel
(vi) Jesus Our Lord
Num 14:2-10; 11 Tim. 4:7-8; Acts. 20: 24; Zec. 4:6-9; John 17: 4; John 19:30.

DIGGING DEEP 210
FROM GLORY TO GLORY

INTRODUCTION:

There are three possibilities for any Christian who started the race to heaven very well. (i) He may backslide, (ii) He may stagnate and (iii) He may continue to improve daily till he becomes as perfect as his heavenly father. It is the third possibility that we wish to consider, that is how to grow from glory to glory, 11 Cor. 3:18. May the Lord teach us Himself, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **GOD EXPECTS US TO GROW CONTINUOUSLY**
Some Christians feed on milk, while others feed on solid meat.
Milk is for the new - born babes and God does not expect us
To be babes for ever. In fact He expects us to grow and become teachers of others. Even those already holy are expected to go on to higher ground steadily and continuously. We are expected daily to grow higher, broader and deeper, while our light shines brighter and brighter.

1 Cor, 3:1-2; 1 pet. 2:2; Eph. 4:14, Heb. 5:12; Job. 17: 9; Ps. 84: 7; 1 Cor. 14:20; Ps. 92:12; Prov. 4:18; 1 Tim. 4: 15; Heb.6:1.

3. **GOD HAS HIS WAYS OF LEADING PEOPLE TO PERFECTION**

By studying the life to Joseph, we can discover more of God's
Way of leading people to perfection. Joseph started by being gifted but insensitive but God puts him under various
Authorities, first as a slave and then as a prisoner to train the
Spiritual gifts in Him and turn him to a perfect ruler.
God can do the same for you today.

Is. 55:8; Gen. 37:6-8; 1 Cor. 10:23-24; 13:1-2; Gen. 37:11-20; Song. 8:6; 1 John 3:14; John 3:27; Gen. 39:1-7; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Pro. 29:2; Gen. 39: 7-20; 1 Cor. 6: 18; Gen. 39:13-20; 1 Pet. 2:20; 5:10; Act. 5:41; Rom. 8:17; Matt. 25: 23; Rom. 8:28.

DIGGING DEEP 211
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY

INTRODUCTION:

Great as God is, He still has time to watch out even for the fowls of the air and the lilies of the field Matt. 6:26-30. Consequently, it should be easy for us to believe that God has a plan for each of us even as Her had for Moses in some details, in Jesus Name.

1. GOD HAD A PLAN FOR MOSES LONG BEFORE HE WAS BORN

The story of Moses started more than 300 years before he was born. It started with an incident in the life of Abraham and continued through the lives of Jacob, Joseph and others. Satan knew what God told Abraham and planned to frustrate the plans of God. But God's plans will never fail.

Gen. 15:7-8, 13-14; Jer. 1:4-5; Gen. 37:26-28, 41: 1-6, 28-44; 46:1-7; Gen. 50: 26; Exo. 1:812; Ps. 105:24; Ex. 1:15-16; Ex. 1:17-21; Pro. 16:6; Dan. 3:16; Acts. 5:29; Pro. 11:18; Is. 3:10; Heb. 6:10; Ps. 127: 1; Ex. 1:22.

2. GOD CAN USE HIS ENEMIES TO ACHIEVE HIS PURPOSE

Moses was born into the center of a tough battle between God and devil, but God knows how to use His enemies to achieve His purpose Moses knew that He was a man of destiny but he moved before God was fully ready.

Ex. 2:1-4; 2:5-10; Acts 7: 21; Ex. 2:11-15a; Heb. 11:24-26; Heb. 11:24-26; Heb. 11:13; Ex. 2:15b-22, 23-25; Ps. 12:5; Ps. 105:8; 11 Sam. 16:2; Luke 1:25.

DIGGING DEEP 212
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY PART 2

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we saw how the story of Moses started more than 300 years before he was born. We also saw how it was that Moses was born into the center of a tough battle between God and Satan and how God used His enemies to achieve His purpose. Today, we wish to continue the study of Moses, a man of destiny by closely looking at Ex. 2. May the Lord bless us mightily as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHEN GOD HAS YOU IN HIS PLANS, HE WILL GUIDE YOU ALL THE WAY, NO MATTER WHAT.**

Moses moved before God was ready and got into trouble for it. The prince became fugitive but God did not forsake him because he was in the center of the plan of God. Though he found himself in trouble for helping the helpless and at last he was richly rewarded. In the same chapter two of Exodus, we also discover that God will always hear the prayers of the burdened and He never forgets His covenants and promises.

Ex. 2; Hab. 2:3; Zech. 4:6; Acts 1:4; Rom. 8:25; Heb. 10:4; 1 John 1: 7; Luke 15:11-20, 21-24; Ps. 37:5; Ps. 37:23-24; Gal. 6:9; Ps. 37:25-26; 11 Cor. 6:14-18; Heb. 11:8-10, 13; Ps. 34: 6; Ps. 34:17; Num. 23: 19.

DIGGING DEEP 213
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY PART 3

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how Moses moved before God was fully ready for the deliverance of Israel. As a result, Moses got into trouble and became a fugitive. But because he persisted in helpless, he was soon rewarded with a new abode, a wife and a son. By naming his son Geshom, he declared to all around that he was a stranger in a foreign land and would not be content until he was finally settled in his own home. Today, we would move on to the beginning of Ex. 3 and learn more from the life of this great man of God. May the Lord Himself teach us in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE FIRE BURNS

For 40 years, Moses had kept his father -in-law's flock. By now he thought God had forgotten him. But God never forgets. The only thing is that God has His time- tables and He is never too early or too late. When Moses left home that fateful morning, he did not know that the experience that would change his life forever was about to happen. He had no idea that the fire will burn for him that day. One day the fire will also burn for you and me.

Ex. 3:1-2; Gen. 18: 9-14; Luke 1:5-8, 11- 20; John 5:5-9; John 9:1-7; 11 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 2:1-4; Gen. 12:1-3; 1 Sam. 16:11-13; 11 Kings 5:25-27; Jude 16:20; Acts 12:20-23; Acts. 2:2-4; Heb. 12:29; Heb. 10:31.

DIGGING DEEP 214
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 4

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that in every man's life, there is a special day that marks the turning point in that man's life. A day when the fire burns for the individual as it did for Moses. Today, as we examine Ex. 3:3-12, we begin to study the great conversation between God and Moses in what is known as "The great call". May God speak to your heart tonight in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. WHO SHALL I SEND?

In the beginning of the conversation between God and Moses, we discover several things. Among them are (i) God knows us individually by name, (ii) it is still possible to hear the voice of God today, (iii) we can now draw near to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (iv) As sons of God, we can wear our shoes anywhere (v) Our God is the God of the Living (vi) God wants all His friends to prosper (vii) we shall one day see God and live (viii) God sees all, knows all and hears all (ix) He is still looking for whom to send (x) Those whom God will use will recognize their inadequacy to do the work of God without the support of God.

Exo. 3:3-12; Acts 9:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:13-15; Isa. 43: 1; Heb. 13:8; Rom. 5:1-2; Heb. 7:19; Heb. 10:19; Luke. 15:21-24; 1 Sam. 18:4; John 3:1; Matt. 22:31-32; Gen. 32:9-10; Jude 6; Jude13:22-23; 1john 3:2; Rev. 3:12; Job. 19:25-27; Isa. 6:8; Job. 19:25-27; Isa. 6:8; Jos. 1:6-7, 9; Jer. 1:6; Zec. 4:6; 1 Cor. 1:26-29.

DIGGING DEEP 215
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 5

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw the beginning of the great conversation between God and Moses as the Almighty was trying to convince the Shepherd to become a deliverer. Today, we shall continue to look at the conversation as we study two vital verses in Exodus 3. May the Lord bless us tremendously as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE I AM THAT I AM

Moses asked God to introduce Himself. The Almighty told Moses that His name is I AM. In response to an unvoiced query from Moses as to which I AM, God made it clear that He is THAT I AM. That I am that created heaven and earth, that made man from the dust of the earth, that said, "Let there be light" and there was light. Today, we know much more about that I AM than Moses did. For example, we now know that He is that I AM that made way in the red sea, that brought water out of the rock, that raised the dead, etc. the I AM THAT I AM that is our Father, Saviour, Friend and Supporter.

Exo. 3:13-14; Gen. 1:1; Gen. 1:3-4; John 1:5; Isa. 54:17; Isa. 59:19; Jos. 1:5: Exo. 15:23-25; Jer. 31:10-14; John 2:9-10; Ps. 30:5; Exo. 17:3-6; Exo. 4:20; 1Kings 17:12-16; I kings 18:38-39; Matt. 3:11; Heb. 13:8; Dan. 6:19-22, 25-27; Job5:19; Ps. 34:19; Acts 12:7-10; 11 Cor. 1:10; Acts 16:26; Rev. 1:8; Luke 1:37; Job 13:15.

DIGGING DEEP 216
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 6

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw that when Moses asked God to introduce Himself, God gave His name, as I AM THAT I AM. We discussed the great implications of such a great and mysterious Name. Today, we wish to look a bit closely at the incident of the rod that became a serpent as we study more about Moses, May the Lord Himself teach us perfectly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **SURRENDER YOUR ROD**

Moses had cause to worry about how difficult it would be for the elders of Israel to believe him. It normally takes a lot to convince people that former sinner is now a saint. When God told him to drop his rod and it became serpent and then became a rod back again, God wanted to teach Moses, and us, a lot of lessons (i) That God can do anything including changing anything or anyone to something or someone else. (ii) God will not ask us to do something bigger than our faith can handle (iii) If we surrender what we have to God. He will give us, what He has, and our failure placed in His hands can be changed to success.

Exo. 4:1-8; 11 Cor. 5:17; Matt. 3:8; Matt. 7: 1, 20; Gal. 5:22-24; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Sam. 16:11-13; 1 Sam. 16:14; Dan. 4:28-33; 1 Cor. 10:13; Exo.4;20; Exo.7:1-2; Exo. 7:10-12; Exo.7:19-21; Exo. 8:5-6; Exo. 8: 16-19; Exo. 8:20-24; Exo. 9:20-24; Exo. 9: 8-11; Exo. 9:22-23; Exo. 10:7-9; Exo. 10:12-15; Exo. 10:21-23; Exo. 10:24-26; Exo. 14:15-16, 21-22; Exo. 14:26-31; Isa. 40:31.

DIGGING DEEP 217
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 7

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we learnt from the incident of the rod that became a serpent that not only can God do anything, but also if we surrender whatever we have to him, He can transform it to something mighty to be used for His glory. In today's part, we wish to study in some details the first "Passover" feast. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE LAMB IN EGYPT FORETOLD "THE LAMB OF GOD".**

For the first Passover feast, God requested the Israelites to use a lamb for a household. And the lamb is to be without blemish. And because the Bridegroom is without blemish His bride must of necessity be without blemish too.

Exo. 12: 3-14; John 1:12; Rev. 3:20; John 1:29; John 14:30; John 19:6; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 pet. 1:13-16.

2. **THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB IN EGYPT KEPT DEATH OUT, THE BLOOD OF JESUS OPENS THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE.**

The blood of the lamb in Egypt kept death away from the Israelites first-born, and similarly, the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord opens the way to eternal life and the very throne room of God. The flesh of the Lamb stands for body of Christ which is the bread of life, while the fire it is roasted with stands for the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 9:4; John1:1-4; Lev. 17:11; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:22; Exo. 12:13;
Rom. 5;23; Rom. 5:21; HEB. 4:14-16; Heb. 10:17-22; Eph. 3:11-12;
Matt. 25:26; John 6:48; Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:3-4; Acts 1:8; Ps. 105: 36-37.

DIGGING DEEP 218
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY PART 8

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we deduce from the story of the first Passover feast, among other things that (i) the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, keeps death out and opens the ways to eternal life (ii) the fire of the Holy Spirit mixing with the Word of God in a Christian produces power: both Physical and Spiritual. In this part of the series, we want to study the crossing of the Red sea to discover a fresh that the Almighty is the true King of Kings, Dan. 4:17. may the Lord bless us richly today as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

THE GREAT TRAP.

The camping of the children of Israel by the Red Sea was a deliberate plan of God to ensnare pharaoh and his army for destruction. God knows how to lay a trap for His enemies, often using His beloved as baits. When God fights for you, you will end up being frightened yourself because (a) He always finishes His enemies totally (b) And you will realize the danger of you becoming the enemy of God. He is a wonderful Friend I need, but and extremely dangerous Enemy indeed.

Exo. 14:1-14; Pro. 21:1; Job 12:16-19; Isa. 44: 25; 11 Chr. 20: 6; 11 chro. 18:18-22; Exo. 14:13-14; Ps. 68;1-3; Exo. 14:15-16; Dan. 3;16-18; Dan. 6:6-8; Exo. 14: 17-18; Isa. 2; 1-4; Ps. 59:1-2, 8; Exo. 14:22-25; Exo. 14:28-29; pro. 11:8 Exo. 14: 30-31; Ps. 42:11.

DIGGING DEEP 219
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY- PART 9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how God Almighty turned the Red Sea into a great trap for pharaoh and his hosts. In this part, we wish to begin a study of the song of praise which the children of Israel sang as "The first Choir" led them in a victory dance to God. May the Lord bless us mightily again as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

AN ANTHEM OF PRAISE

Praising God is a matter of decision. Some praise Him occasionally; few praise Him all the time. Yet He deserves all our praises and glory because all victory, power and strength belong to Him. The Lord is a man of war. He knows how to fight. His right hand contains not only power, but also pleasure, glory and joy. It does not matter what the enemy may say at any time, God will always have His way.

Exo. 15:1-10; Ps. 119:164; Ps. 71:6;1 1 Thess. 5:18; 1 kings 5:1; Isa. 42:8; Isa. 48:11; Ps. 62:11; Matt. 28:18; Neh. 18:10; Ps. 68:35; 1 Kings 8:27; Ps. 22:3; Isa. 57:15; Jos. 5:13-14; Exo. 14:14; 1 Sam. 17:26; 11 Kings 1:9-13; 11 Kings 6:18-20; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Tim.4:7; Matt. 4:11; Acts 7:55-56; Ps. 16: 11; Ps. 73:22- 24; Matt. 25: 31-34; Gen. 2:7; John 20:21-22; 1 Sam. 17: 10; 1 Sam. 17: 42-44; Gen. 1:2-3; Dan. 3:14-15; Dan. 3:28-29.

DIGGING DEEP 220
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 10

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we began to look at an anthem of praise as rendered by the first Choir ever in Ex. 15; today, we shall continue with Ex. 15. in order to dig out more gems from this beautiful chapter. May the Lord bless us mightily as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

THERE IS ONLY ONE LIVING GOD AND NONE ELSE BESIDE HIM.

There is none holy as the Lord. Among gods, he is God. No one can deliver like Him. And by extension, there is none like the people of God, when people heard what the God of Israel had dome for them, they became afraid, not only of God, but also of His people. Three days after the people sang and danced before the only living God, they were murmuring against Him. But Moses did not join them in murmuring; he prayed instead and the miracle working God performed another miracle. He is also willing to perform another miracle for those who are willing to call on Him today.

Ex. 15:11; 1 Sam. 2:2; Dan. 2;47; 3:28-29; 1 Kings 8;22-23; Ps. 89:5-8; Is. 40:18; 28-29; Deut. 33:26-29; 11 Sam. 7:22-23; Ex. 15:13; Rom. 9:15; Ex. 15:14; Jos. 2:9-11; Deut. 2:25; Exo. 15:18; Dan. 6:25- 27; Luke 1:30-33; Ex. 15:20; 11 Sam. 6:16, 20-23; Ex. 15:22; John 16:33; Ex. 15:23-25; Jer. 17:5; Ps. 103:1-2; Pro. 13;13; Jer. 33:3; Acts 15:18; Rev. 3:20.

DIGGING DEEP 221
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY -PART 11

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of the series, we saw how no one can be compared to our God in holiness, power, strength, faithfulness and mercy. We also saw how quickly the children of Israel forgot His power to deliver when they thirsted for 3 days, and how He turned their bitter watered to sweet. In this part of this series, we want to study Chapter 16 of Exodus, the Chapter that introduces us to "Manna". May the Lord Bless us mightily as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

DISOBEDIENCE CAN TURN MANNA TO WORMS

Murmuring is a very dangerous thing: it is an invitation to destruction. If you ever have the temptation to backslide because of the pleasures of the world that you use to "enjoy" before you were born again, please remember that the pleasure of this world never satisfies. The Lord is always full of compassion on humans because He knows we are but flesh but disobedience can bring a curse from God and turn one's manna to worms. Moreover, destruction is the rewards for over coming the world.

Exo. 16:1-4; 1 Cor.10:10; Phi. 2:14; Num. 11:4; Ps. 78:17-19; Isa. 29:8; Ecc.6:7; Pro. 23:21; Phil. 3:19; Pro. 21:17; Luke 12:17; 16-21; 1 Thess. 5:6; Isa. 22:13; Ps. 78:39; Ps. 103:13; Isa. 63:7-9; Heb. 4:15; Ps. 23:5; Exo. 16:19-20; Deut. 11: 20; Eph. 5:6; 1 Sam. 12:15, Exo. 16:26-27; Pro. 29:1; Rev. 2:17; Ps. 78:24-25.

DIGGING DEEP 222
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 12

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how God began to provide food for His own in the wilderness. We also saw further that there are some of us the over comers who will one day eat of the hidden manna reserved for us in heaven. Today, we want to see who Moses handle the situation when Israel came face to face with her first battle on her way to the promise land. May God quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

A TIME TO FIGHT AND A TIME TO PRAY

When war came, Moses appointed a military while he remained the spiritual captain. Joshua wielded the physical sword, Moses wielded the spiritual sword, Both combined with the co-operation of Aaron and Hur to give victory to the children of Israel. There is no substitute for the leader's hands however, since it is clearly seen that it is the hands of Moses that ultimately determined the course of the battle. Furthermore, we see more glaringly that the Lord is a very good friend and an extremely dangerous enemy.

Exo. 17:8-11; Ecc.3:1-3; Eph. 6:10-13; Neh. 4:16-17; 1 Chro. 21:1, 9-13, 17; 1 Sam. 17: 50-52, 1 Sam. 13:7-14, Exo. 17:12; Gen. 11:5-6; Ps. 133:1, 3; Matt. 18:19; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:24-31; Exo. 17: 13-14; Heb. 10:31; Isa. 14:21-22; Exo. 20:4-6; Jos. 7:24-26; Ps. 34: 16; Ps. 109: 13; Ps. 10:6-7; 1 Sam. 15:1-3, 17-23.

DIGGING DEEP 223
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY- PART 13

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how a combination of physical swords and spiritual swords gave victory to Israel over the Amalekites. We also saw the crucial importance of Leader's hand and the needing for them to be comfortable and assisted if their followers are to enjoy continuous victories in this part of the series, we wish to examine the crucial question: has God favourites? May the Lord bless us mightily as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

GOD'S PECULIAR TREASURES

Whenever God finds a man who can really fellowship with Him, He opens wide the door to welcome them in. such people are not common however, but anyone willing to satisfy the rigorous and conditions of spotless holiness is welcome. The peculiar treasures of the Lord are not limited to the Jews only: the Gentiles are also welcome. Total strangers could be "elect of God" provided they are willing to live a life of sanctification and separation from the world.

Exo.19:1-10; Gen. 5:22-24; Gen. 6:9; Mal. 2:5-6; Rev. 3:4; Eph. 5:27; Isa. 46:4; 11 Tim. 4:18; Heb. 13:6; Deut. 5:29; Jam. 1:25; I Kings 3:14; Job 36:11-12; Rev. 22:14; Acts 15:14; Rev.7:9-10; 1 pet. 2:7-10; 11 pet. 1:1-4; Isa. 63: 16; John 1:12; Rom. 8:15; 11 Cor. 6:17-18; Gal. 4:5-6; Rom. 14:8.

DIGGING DEEP 224
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 14

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw that those who could become favourites of the Lord are not Jews only. Gentiles too are welcome, provided they are willing to live a life of entire consecration and holiness unto the Lord. Now, we want to begin a study of the ten commandments that God gave to His people through His servant, Moses, may the Lord bless us richly as we study at his feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ONE MAN ONE WIFE IMPLIES ONE GOD ONE PEOPLE**

As a prelude to giving the Ten Commandments to His people, the Almighty God stressed the need for such a code of conduct. He made it clear that He is not only their God but also their Lord and Redeemer from bondage. That He loved them and would want to be their husband. Consequently, He would not share them with any gods, whatsoever, He is still saying the same today to all of us who are the redeemer of the Lord.

Exo. 20:1-3; Ps. 33:12; Ps. 90:1-2; Ps. 91:1-7; John 13:13; Luke 6:46; Is. 29:13-14; Ex. 13:3; Gal. 3:13; Deut. 6:10-12; Ps. 34:8; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 12:15; John 8:36; Gal. 5:1; 5:13; Ex. 15:1; 11 Sam. 7:22; 1 kings 8:23; Ps. 86:8; John 1:1-3; Ps. 89:11-12; Ps. 102:25-27; 1 Sam. 5:1-5; Is. 44:6-8; Is. 43:1-4; Is. 54:5; Rev. 3:15-16.

DIGGING DEEP 225
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw God introduced the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel. He made it clear that the reason he redeemed them was because he loved them and would want to marry them. Furthermore, He stated that He would not want to share His wife with anyone. Today, as we continue our studies of the Ten Commandments. We pray that God will grant us the grace to be totally committed to Him in Jesus Name. Amen.

TWO OF THE NAMES OF GOD ARE LOVE AND JEALOUS

There are several reasons why God forbid the making of graven images and their worship. Some of which are (i) Man is the greatest of all God's creations, (ii) it is disgraceful to worship someone who is inferior to you and cannot help you in any way, (iii) it will be a disgrace to God if His wife is being tampered with by an inferior creature (iv) Because there is no true love without jealously, God, whose Names are LOVE and JEALOUS, knows how to deal with an unfaithful wife (v) He also knows how to compensate a faithful wife and (vi) Why should you look at what you are forbidden to associate with anyway?

Ex. 20: 4-6; Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 139:14, Ps. 8:3-5, Gen. 2:7; Heb. 1:13-14; Rev. 22:8-9; Ps.8:6-8; Is. 5:20; Jer. 10:5; Deut. 7:25; Is. 42:8; Luke. 16:13; 1 Sam. 7:3; Matt. 4:10; Deut. 4:23-24; Exo. 34: 13-14; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 6: 15-20; 11 Cor. 6:14-18; Jos. 24:19-21; 1 Cor. 10:21-22; Ps. 103:17; Gen. 3:6; Jos. 1:7-8; Deut. 17:18-20; 11 Sam. 11:2-5; 11 Sam. 12:7-12.

DIGGING DEEP 226
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 16

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw some of the reasons why God forbids us to worship idols, demons angles or any other of His creatures. This is primarily because we are superior to all other creatures of God and it will debase us and disgraces Him to bow down to these inferior beings. Today, we want to continue our studies as we examine the remaining commandments of God. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

GOD IS NEVER TIRED: BUT YOU NEED REST AFTER HARD WORK

As children of God, we must speak the truth and only the truth always. Also, God expects us to work hard six days in the week and rest on the seventh day, so that He, who never tired can have us to Himself for at least one day in the week. Hard work is profitable and rest is necessary too. We are to honour our Parents for several reasons. Some of these are the facts that they are representatives of God, particularly if they are born again: and also we will be parents one day and we shall reap whatever we sow. The other commandments could be summed as "Love your neighbour like yourself" or "Do unto others as you will want them to do unto you".

Ex. 20:7-17; Lev. 19:12; Jam. 5:12; John 14:1-3; Ecc. 9:10; Col. 3:22; Pro. 10:4; 12:24; 22:29; 14:23; Heb. 11:6; Pro. 27:18; Col. 3:22; Is. 40:28; Is. 40:28; Is. 40:30; Mark 2:27; Mark 30:31; 1 Cor. 11:3; Gen. 27:33; Ex. 21:17; Pro. 20:20; Rom. 13:9-10; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Matt. 7:12.

DIGGING DEEP 227
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 17

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that the basic motive of God in giving us the Ten Commandments is love. For example, if we honour our parents, we will live long, have children of our own and these children will in turn honour us. Today, we wish to move ahead to anther important milestone in the life of Moses, when he became so discouraged he asked God to kill him. May we learn useful lessons from this incident in Jesus Name. Amen.

HOW LONG YOU LIVE IS DETERMINED BY YOU

In every congregation, there are all kinds of people. There are those who are going to heaven, there are those who interested in Jesus for material gains only and there are those who want to drag others back into the world. It is the duty of every individual to ensure that he/she does not get into any closed association with the agents of the devil. One way by ' which you can identify these agents of the devil is their ingratitude to God. They are never content. They will also tend to discourage others by their actions. Whenever you feel discouraged, do not forget that God is still on your side and He is on His throne. The Bible is also specific on the fact that your relationship with God will determine your length of life.

Num. 11:4-6; 10-15; 18-23, 31-34; Ex. 12: 37-38; Matt. 12:37-38; Matt. 26:27; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 8:9-24; Job. 7:1-5, 24-25; 1 Cor. 15:33; 11 Cor. 6:14-18; John 6:26-27; Ps. 78:18; Luke 17:17-18; Gen. 40:23; Pro. 17:13; Pro. 15:16; 1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5; Isa. 41:10-13; Is. 43:1,3; Pro. 14:32; Ps. 89:13; Job 42:4; Luke 1:37; Eze. 12:25; Ecc. 7:17; Pro. 11:19;
Pro. 10:27.

DIGGING DEEP 228
FAMILY WEEK 1987 SPECIAL
BUILD YOUR HOME ON CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:
A house is a building, at times with furniture and all kinds of gadgets. A home is much more than a house. It is the people, not the building, not the furniture, not the gadgets, that make a home different from a house. There are all kinds of home too: happy homes, sad homes, broken homes, frustrated homes etc. for a happy, successful home, you need God as architect and builder. Ps. 127:1. May the Lord heal all sick homes today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. A GODLY HOME CAN NEVER BUILD ON A WORLDLY PATTERN

A Godly home had never been fashionable, for obvious reasons: Godly home last, fashionable homes don't. Godly home are designed from heaven above, fashionable homes are designed from below and built with selfish motives basically.

Exo. 23:2; Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 7:31; Heb. 11:24-25; 1 John2:15-16;
Col. 3:1-2; Pro. 19:21; Jer. 22:13.

2. **JESUS CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION, THE MEMBERS ARE THE "LIVING-STONE" OF A HAPPY FAMILY.**

In any Godly, happy home, the cornerstone is the stone of Zion, the Rock of Ages, the one and the only Jesus Christ the Lord. The children of God in that home are the "Living-Stones" for the building. Those who are crucified with Christ and alive in Him combine to form the ideal home.

1 Cor. 3:11; 1 pet. 2:6; Acts 4:11; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20; 1 pet. 2;5; Gal. 2:20; 1 Tim. 6:19.

DIGGING DEEP 229
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY - PART 18

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the trouble created for Moses and the Israelites by the mixes multitude that went with them when left Egypt, today, we wish to look at a very crucial happening in the life of Moses and his people. The People were now at the very border of the Promised Land and yet because of an incident, they could not enter in, may the Lord teach us tonight in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **MAJORITY COULD BE WRONG**
The spies brought two reports: a majority report that says "we cannot" and a minority report that says "we can". On this occasion, majority was wrong. Consequently, you must be careful that you do not let others decided for you, particularly on matters affecting where you will spend your eternity.

Num. 13:26-33; Matt. 7:13-14; Exo. 23:2; Ps. 23:1; Rom. 14:12; Ps. 23:6; Isa. 48:18.

2. **"DO NOT FOLLOW THOSE WHO ALWAYS SAY, IMPOSSIBLE"**
If you are going to make your home, never follow those who always say, "Impossible". Of course, you must not rely on your own ability or resources, but let your faith be in God and His unchangeable word. People's opinions may change, but the Lord never changes.

Matt. 19:26, Zec. 4:6; Rom. 8:31; Matt. 9:28-29; Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6; Isa. 40:8.

3. **NEVER MOVE WITHOUT GOD**
If you even sin, and God forbid, do not start anything afterward until (i) You have thoroughly repented, (ii) you are sure that you are fully restored to God (iii) and never go ahead unless God is going with you. You have a leader who is closely following God, follow him.

Num. 14:40-45; Ps. 23:3-4; 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Cor. 4:16; Num. 14:37-38.

DIGGING DEEP 230
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY – PART 19

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we studied the reports of the 12 spies and how those who said that it was impossible to posses the land failed to reach the land; whereas those who said that it could be done made it. Today, we want to study an incident in the life of Moses as recorded in Num. 16. May he Lord bless us tremendously as we study, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **DO NOT BE A REBEL: IT IS A DANGEROUS THING TO BE**

Plotting never gives birth to any good thing. Never join in any plot, particularly against man of God. It could lead to strange and sudden deaths for the plotters and their innocent children.

Num. 16:28-30; Num. 15:31-35; Est. 7:9-10.

2. **NEVER QUERY GOD: HE IS A RIGHTEOUS JUDGE**

You must never query God, particularly when He hands down judgement to sinner. Remember that He is the righteous judge. Moreover, He is the potter and we are the clay.

Num. 16:41, 44-45; Ps. 98:9; Acts 17:31; Jer. 18:3-6; Isa 45:9;
Rom. 9:21; Acts 9:3-5.

3. **ANOINTED MEN OF GOD ARE MEN OF DESTINY: THEIR FRIENDSHIP IS PREFERABLE TO THEIR ENMITY**

Spiritual leaders that are chosen by God Himself are men of destiny. Many times, they are already chosen by God even before birth to be His representatives. Because God gives them tremendous backing, if you find favours with them, you should rejoice and watch out if they are displeased with you and the anger of God or bestow a blessing and stand between you and the anger of God or pronounce a curse.

Num. 16:46-48; Jer. 1:4-5; Jude. 13:3-5; Ex. 3:7-10; I Kings 18:36; Jer. 1:9; Isa. 6:1-8; Deut. 34:9; I Kings 19:19; Jos. 1:5; II Kings 1:9-10; II Kings 2:23-24; Jer. 1:10; II King 4:8-17; I Sam. 16:4; I Sam. 16:4; I Sam. 15:10-11; Eze. 22:29-31; Matt. 10:41.

DIGGING DEEP 231
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY – PART 20

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the danger in plotting, particularly against the men of God who are in the will of God, and the greater danger of querying God when He judge sinner. Today, we want to study the incident that robbed Moses of the opportunity to enter the promise land. May the Lord teach us Himself, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **OPPORTUNITY ONCE LOST MAY NOT BE REGAINED**

When a person refuses to take a land flowing with milk and honey; he must be content with a barren land. He must not blame anyone else for his misfortune; and certainly none his spiritual leader knows what to do bring God into the sense.

Num 20:5-6; Jam. 4:2; Isa. 1:19-20; Isa. 48:17-19; Ps. 81:13-16; II Chr. 7:14; Joel 2:17-18.

2. **ONLY FOOLS ARE FREE TO BE ANGRY AT ANY TIME**

A big lesson is that if you are never angry, then do not talk. And remember, the one who is soon angry is termed a fool by God, because such a one will always make costly mistakes. That is why the only one free to be angry at any time is a fool.

Num. 20:7-11; Pro. 14:17; Pro. 16:32; Eccl. 7:9; Pro. 19:11; Jam. 1:19; Ps. 37:8; I Cor. 10:4.

3. **PRAY FOR YOUR LEADERS: THEY NEED YOUR PRAYERS SERIOUSLY**

The judgement of leaders is always more severe that that of their followers. That is why they need your prayers seriously so that they will not fall. Pray for your leaders ceaselessly.

Num. 20:12; Luke 12:47-48; Jam. 3:1; I pet. 4:17; I Thess. 5:25; II Thess. 3:1; Matt. 11:11; Heb. 6:4-6.

DIGGING DEEP 232
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY – PART 21

INTRODUCTION:
In the previous part of this series, we saw how Moses made a terrible mistake that led to his exclusion from the Promised Land. Shortly after that incident, Aaron died as God said he would, Num. 20:28-29, and Moses, deep in sorrow, was waiting for his own end. Then the children of Israel started complaining about food again. What happened next is the subject of our study tonight. May the Lord teach us Himself in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **DISCONTENT CAN BE DEADLY**

The people began to complain again that they had only manna to eat. They were not content with the provisions of God. Moses said nothing at all and God moved in. Many people died as fiery serpents went to work on them. Discontent can lead to death and when a leader stops praying, his followers are in for trouble.

Num. 21:4-5; Pr. 15:16; I Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 13:5; Matt. 5:13,

2. **THE DEVIL HAS USES IN THE HANDS OF A MERCIFUL GOD**

When a little child offends, his father cannot box him, or else he will be killed. So the fathers use a rod. God is our Father and when we sin, He has to use His rod too. It is note worthy however, that only those who sinned will be punished directly. When people repent however, God shows His mercy again.

Is. 1:18-20; Is. 54:16; Eze. 18:20; Num. 21:7-8; Is. 59:1-2; Pro. 28:14; Jer. 3:12-14; I John 1:9; Ps. 103:17.

3. **ALL YOU NEED TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS ARE REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

When the people looked in faith on the brass serpent, they got their healings. All you ever need has been provided for in the uplifted Jesus, the Burden bearer. But you will need to present all your sins and by faith look unto Jesus and claim your victory.

Num. 21:9; Is. 53:5; John 3:14-15; Acts 8:5-8; John 12:32; Is. 53:4; II Chr. 20:20; Heb. 11:6; Is. 50:10; Ps. 32:10; Ps. 125:1.

DIGGING DEEP 233
MOSES, A MAN OF DESTINY – PART 22

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw how Moses lifted up the brazen serpent to produce healing for those who were bitten by the fiery serpent. From which it follows, according to the Lord Himself; that whenever Jesus Christ is lifted up, there will be salvation, healing, deliverance and miracles. In this concluding part of our series, we examine the last days of Moses, a friend of God who failed to enter the Promised land. Many the Lords touch us today as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **SEEING AND ENTERING THE KINGDON OF GOD ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS**
Moses saw the Promised land but did not enter in. The Lord Jesus, in speaking to Nicodemus, also made a distinction between seeing the kingdom of God and entering into it. There is a lot involved between being born again and entering into the rest of the Almighty. For example, there is the need for water baptism, Holy Spirit baptism and Holy living.

Num. 27:12-23; Deut. 34:1-9; John 3:3, 5, II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15;
Jer. 1:17; I John 3:7-10; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5; Heb. 12:14; I John 3:1-3.

2. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE SICK TO DIE.**
Moses laid his hand on Joshua to transfer his spirit onto him. Beware who lays his hand on you. If you are doing the will of God, you do not need to be sick or feeble ever again. You can remain vigorous till death, like Moses.

Deut. 34:9; Gen. 49:15-19; Deut. 34:7; Jos. 14:7, 10, 11; Luke 2:36-37; Pro. 16:31; Pro. 20:29.

3. **IF YOU WANT TO REACH YOUR GOAL ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN, LOVE GOD AND BEWARE OF ANGER.**

Moses failed to reach his goal on earth because of anger, but he still end up in heaven because he loved God and His people passionately. You can reach both your goal on earth and make heaven your home as well if you love God and stay clear of anger. The only way to show that you love God is by loving His people and winning them to Christ.

Num. 27:15-17; Deut. 34:5-6; Jude verse 9; Matt. 17:1-3; John 10:11;
I Sam. 17:34-36; Ps.23; Phil. 2:8-9; I John 4:20-21; John 13:1.

DIGGING DEEP 234
GARMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

INTRODUCTION:
The garment of successful soldiers receives medal of success, so also God gives garment of righteousness to sinners who repent. In this study we want to look on the qualification to wear the garment, and what is this garment of righteousness. May the Lord teach us today, as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen

1. **WHAT IS THIS GARMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

It is a garment that can only be given by God. Better than the righteousness of man. It must be kept clean, cannot be burnt by fire. Only for the over comers, punishment is waiting for those who failed to wear the garment.

Gen. 3:7, 21; Luke 15:22; Isa. 61:10; Ecc. 9:8; Dan. 3:21-23; Rev. 3:18; Isa 64:6; Rev. 3:4-5; Rev. 7:9; Matt. 22:11-12; rev. 5:3.

2. **QUALIFICATION TO WEAR THE GARMENT**

You must repent, not the prisoners but for released captives. You must remove your own righteous garment

Luke 18:13-14; Mark 14:72; 1 Kings 22:19; Gen. 41:14; Gen. 41:39-43; Mark 10:50; 11 Kings 2:12-13; Zech. 3:4; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rev. 7:14;
Isa. 64:6.

DIGGING DEEP 235
THE LIVING SACRIFICE

INTRODUCTION:
Christ living in the soul by faith makes you to present your body, sincerely to God as living sacrifice and what are the sacrifices. May the Lord teach us Himself in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen

1. **HOW TO OFFER LIVING SACRIFICE**

You must be saved by His Grace, and transformed by His love, walk in the new and living way. Be filled with the Holy Spirit, your body, soul and spirit must be presented to God.

1 Cor. 13:1-3; Rom. 12:1; John 14:6; Heb. 10:20; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:21; John 4:23-24; Rom. 8:26-27; Rom. 6:13.

2. **WHAT ARE THE SACRIFICE**

You must know the blessing in living to God's work, by paying your tithes and offering. Take care of the poor. Minister to the need of the ministers of God, live for him, then you will be ready to die for Him. Praise Him. Examples of this sacrifice we are saved to serve.

Phil. 4:18-19; Heb. 13:16; Acts 20:35; Mal. 3:10; Mal. 3:10; Rom. 12:13; Luke 6:38; Isa. 58:7; Eccl. 11:1; Gal. 2:17-20, Gen. 4:4-5;
1 Kings 18:23-24.

DIGGING DEEP 236
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 1

INTRODUCTION:
Apart from the letters to the churches, the message of the book of revelation is basically two-fold: (i) All will well, (ii) it will get worse before it get better: The book talk about the age to come as well as the passing away of the present age. The age to come as well as the passing away of the present age must give birth to the next. Consequently, there must be a period of labour pains. May the Lord bless us richly as we study this important Book of the Bible in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ALL WILL BE WELL**

In the age to come, all will be well. Some of the blessings of age to come are (i) the world will be amazingly fertile (ii) All wars will cease, (iii) No more enmity between man and beast or beast and beast (iv) No more weariness, sorrow and pains (v) No more untimely death.

Isa. 32:15; Isa. 51:3; Isa. 35:1; Gen. 3:17-18; Isa. 2:4; Isa. 11:6-9; Isa. 65:25; Hos. 2:18; Gen. 3:14-15; Jer. 31:12; Isa. 35:10; Isa. 65:20-22; Isa. 33:24; Isa. 25:8.

2. **IT WILL BE WORSE BEFORE GETTING BETTER**

The coming of the Messianic age will be like the agony of birth. The last days of this age will be time of terror, when the world and the universe also will be in a great turmoil. It will be time of hatred among human beings and a time of judgement of God on man. But you do not have to go through the attribution. You can go in the rapture if you choose.

Matt. 24:8; Mark 13:8; Zeph. 1:14; Joel. 2:1; Isa. 13:10; Joel 2:30-31; Joel 3:15; Zech. 14:13; Mal. 3:1-3; Matt. 24:36-42

DIGGING DEEP 237
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 2

INTRODUCTION:
In the first part of this series, we saw how the Book of Revelation shows that tomorrow will be all right but for the world at large. It will get worse before it gets better. Today, we want to being our detailed study of the Book itself. May the Lord bless us richly as we study this important Book in Jesus Name Amen.

1. **IT IS A BOOK OF BLESSINGS**

The book of Revelation has 7 beatitudes (i) for those who read, hear and keep the prophecy in the book (ii) for those who are faithful unto death (iii) for those who watch out for the second coming of Christ (iv) for those who are prepared to attend the marriage of the Lamb etc.

Rev. 1:1-6; John 12:49; Rev. 22:16; 1 John 1:1-3; Matt. 13:11-16; Jam. 1:22-25; Rev. 14:13; Rev. 16:15; Matt. 25:1-13; Rev. 19:7-9; Rev. 20:6; John 5:28-29; Rev. 22:7; Rev. 22:4.

2. **IT BRINGS GREETINGS FROM THE ALMIGHTY**

The Book brings greetings to 7 churches in Asia, as well as to us, from God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In particular, it gives a detailed description of our Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ as the faithful witness, the prices of the kings of the earth, our lover, our Redeemer and our Re-creator.

1 Tim. 3:16:17; Isa. 55:4; Heb. 1:1-2; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:19-23; Ps. 2:6-12; Ps. 89:27; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9; Rom. 5:8-9; Rom. 8:37; 1 John 3:1-3; Rom. 3:25; 1 John 1:7; 11 Cor. 15:10; 11 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 11 Tim. 2:12.

DIGGING DEEP 238
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 3

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series on the Book of Revelation, we saw that this is the Book that brings greeting and blessing from the trinity to its readers, hearers and doers. It also gave us a beautiful description of our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Today, we want to continue our study of this wonderful Book as we look as Rev. 1:7-11 in some details. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHEN JESUS RETURNS, HE WILL NOT RETURN ALONE**

The Bible says that he will come with clouds, not in the cloud. The clouds will be the saints who are returning with Him in glory. All eyes shall see Him when He is returning to reign for a thousand years. He will be the same Jesus, not a different one, but a king now and not a servant, the Almighty not a weak mortal.

Rev. 1:7; Dan. 7:13-14; Heb. 12:1; Heb. 11:39-40; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 Thess. 5:1-2; Matt. 24:30; matt. 26:64; Luke 21:27; Zech. 12:10; Heb. 6:4-6; matt. 24:29-31; Zech. 14:1-5; Rev. 1:8; Heb. 13:8; Acts 1:11; Amos. 9:5; Hosea 12:5; Rev. 19:6.

2. **THROUGH PATIENT ENDURANCE, WE SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM**
John introduced himself as a companion in tribulations, kingdom and patience of Christ. This is a very significant introduction. It sums up the journey of a Christians to the kingdom of God in 3 words; trials, endurance and patience. But if we stick to God and are guided by His word, it is certain we shall make it in Jesus Name. Amen.

Rev. 1:9; 11 Cor. 1:3-4; Matt. 24:13; Acts 14:22; 11 Tim. 2:12; 11 Cor. 2:14, 17; Rev. 1:10-11; Eze. 3:12; Exo. 19:16.

DIGGING DEEP 239
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 4

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part in this series on the Book of Revelation we learnt that the cloud referred to as accompanying the Lord Jesus Christ are the saints returning with their captain. We also learnt further that those who will enter His kingdom must patiently endure trails and tribulations. Today, we wish to study the vision of the great revelation. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **CHRIST IS THE PROPHET, THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE KING OF KINGS**

The way the glorified Christ was dressed in the vision that John saw tells us 3 things about Him: (i) He is the divine messenger (ii) He is the High priest of God and (iii) He is the King of Kings. These imply that not only does He bring the truth of God to man, He also makes available to man an access to God and an opportunity to reign with Him forever.

Rev. 1:12-13; Exo. 20:18; Dam. 10:5; Exo. 28:4; Exo. 29:5; Lev. 16:4; John 14:6 1 Sam. 24:5-11; 1 Sam. 18:4; Eze. 26: 16; Rev. 19:16; Rev. 3:21; Rev. 5:9-10.

2. **WHEN THE GLORY OF GOD COMES DOWN, MEN PASTORATE**

The description of the glorifies Christ confirm three major things: (i) He is the same God the father (ii) He is a wonderful friends to have and (iii) he can be a terrible Enemy too. Also, when God appears in His full glory, no man can stand upright before Him.

Rev. 1:14-17; Dan. 7:9; John 14:8-9; John 10:30; Isa. 1:18; Dan. 10:6; Mark 3:1-5; Mark 10:23; Mark 11:11; Heb 1:7-8, 13; Eph. 1:17-23; Eze. 43:2; 1 Kings 19:12; Job 38:31; Isa. 44:24-25; Isa. 11:4; 11 Thess. 2:8; Heb. 4:12; Ps. 107: 20; Jud. 5:31; Matt. 17:2; Eze. 3:23; Eze. 1:28; Eze. 43:3; Acts 9:1-4.

DIGGING DEEP 240
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 5

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the glorified Christ in full splendour with white hair and head, flaming eyes, strong feet, etc. Today, we wish to continue from what the Lord said to John as he fainted at the terrifying sight of His former friend and confident. May the Lord speak to us tonight in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **"FEAR NOT" IS THE LANGUAGE OF CHRIST WHO LIVES ETERNALLY:**

"Fear not" is the language of Christ as well as the language of love, since Christ has abolished death and because He lives, we shall live also. Meanwhile, we are expected top shine for Him in this world of Darkness.

Rev. 1:17-20; Matt. 14:26-17; Matt. 17:4-17; 1 john 4:18; Ps. 9:13; Ps. 107:18; Isa. 38:10; 11 Tim. 1:9-10; John 14:19; Dan. 10:12, 20, 21; Dan. 12:1. Matt. 5:14; ph. 2:15.

2. **BEPHESUS WAS A NOTORIOUS TOWN, YET THE CHURCH THERE WAS VERY STRONG**
Ephesus was an important city, financially, politically, and religiously. The temple of Diana, the patron goddess of prostitutes was there. Black magic and all sorts of crime and immorality thrived there. Yet the church there was strong having been taught or pastured by Paul, Timothy, Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos and John the Beloved. The 1st letter was to this church.

Rev. 2:1-7; Acts 19:13-14; Acts 20:31; 1 Tim 1:3; Acts 18:19, 24, 26; Acts 20:17-38; John 10:28.

3. **THE CHURCH WAS HARD WORKING AND DOCTRINALLY SOUND, BUT.**
The Lord approves of hard work and he respects every Christians to be toilers for Him. He also expects to try every spirit, every prophet and every doctrine to see, that which is good which we are to told on to. The church at Ephesus passed in these regards. But.

1 Cor. 15:10, 15; Gal. 4:11; matt. 7:15; Acts 20:29; 1 John 4:1-3; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1Cor. 14:29; matt. 7:15-20; jer. 2:2-5.

4. **THE JOURNEY BACK TO GOD OFTEN STARTS WITH REMEMBERING**
Memory is the first step back to God for a backslider. Remembering how things used to be can lead to repentance and a rich reward indeed.

Luke 15:17; Luke 15:18; Luke 15:20; Gen. 2:9, 16:17; Gen. 3:22-24; Pro. 3:18; Pro. 11:30; Pro. 13:12.

5. **THE KEY TO THE LETTERS**
The letters to seven Churches were written to sample churches. Each letter was written to each church as unit, to the Church (Body of Christ) as a whole, to individuals in the churches and that implies to you and me. This is because God normally deals with individual except where he finds birds if the same feather teaming up as a group.

II Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 14:10; Eze. 22:30; Pro. 22:29; Rev. 2:29; Rev. 2:7; Rev. 3:20; Mark 13:37; 11 kings 2:3, 5,7; Num. 14:37-38; Dan. 3:12.

DIGGING DEEP 241
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 6

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw how it is possible to serve the Lord mechanically while one's love for Him has waxed cold. We also saw that the solution to the problem is to repent and start all over again. Today, we wish to consider the letter to the second church, the one at Smyrna, one of the two churches that Christ gad nothing against. May the Lord continue to bless us mightily as we study in Jesus Name. Amen

1. DIVINE DEFINITION OF WEALTH IS DIFFERENT FROM HUMAN'S

Smyrna was the loveliest of all the cities of Asia. It was built, destroyed and then rebuilt which was probably why the Risen Christ introduced Himself to them as he who "was dead and is alive". It was not easy to be a Christian in Smyrna. Tribulations, poverty and serious persecution from Jews and Gentle alike were the orders of the day. Yet the Lord considered the Christians here as very rich people.

Rev. 2:8-11; Luke 6:20:21; 11 Cor. 6:10; Jam. 2:5; Acts 13:50; Acts 14:2,5; Acts 14:19; Acts 17:5; Num. 16:3; Num. 20:4;

2. THE CROWN OF LIFE IS THE REWARD FOR MARTYRS

The risen Christ had experienced the worst and triumphed over death and pain. He demands loyalty unto death because He had been loyal to the death on the cross. He was rewarded for His loyalty to His Father, and so will He reward those who are loyal to Him unto death with crowns of life.

Heb. 4:14-16; Rom. 8:35-37; Luke 22:41-42; Phil. 2:8; 1 Pet. 2:21; Phil. 2:9-11; Jam. 1:12; 1 Cor. 9:25; Rev. 20:14; Rev. 21:8; Rev. 20:6,
Rom. 8:38-39.

DIGGING DEEP 242
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 7

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw that the Devine definitions of wealth is different from man's. We also saw that faithfulness to the death is the condition for obtaining the crown of life from the glorified Christ. Today, we shall study the letter to the third Church, the one at Pergamos. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT ESCAPED BUT CONQUEST.**

Pergamos was rightly described as the seat of Satan. Yet Christians dwelt there because light is not supposed to run from darkness. We are to conquer, not to flee from the enemy. There was a time when people were prepared to die for Christ; today some are even afraid of ordinary ridicule. The warning to all Christians had always been "Be ye separated".

Rev. 2:12-17; John 1:5; Eph. 6:13; Eph. 6:13; Eph. 6:14-17; Jam. 4:7; Matt. 10:32-33; Num. 23:8; Num. 23:19-21; Num. 25:1-3; Num. 25:5-9; 11 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Pet. 2:9; John 15:18-19.

2. **WHITE IS THE COLOUR OF HEAVEN, NEW IS ITS OPERATIVE WORD**

Whenever God decides to punish offenders in a congregation, He knows how to separate sinners from saints. He can convict or kill with His word, which is the sword of the Spirit. Overcomers will eat manna, "the Angels' Food" and will be given a white stone and a new name befitting his/her new status in the heavenly kingdom.

Jude. 5; 11 Pet. 2:4-9; Heb. 4:12; Acts 5:3-5; Acts 5:8-10; Eph. 6:17; Exo. 16:11-15; Exo. 16:33-34; Heb. 9:4; Ps. 78:24-25; Rev. 3:5;
Rev. 7:9; Rev. 19:8, 14; Rev. 3:12; Rev. 5:9; Rev. 21:5; Isa. 62:2.

DIGGING DEEP 243
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 8

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw how Christians could dwell in the very Headquarters of Satan and still be victorious. We also learnt more of the rewards awaiting the overcomers. Today, we wish to study the letter to the church at Thyatira, the compromising church. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE CLAIM OF CHRISTIANITY IS THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOUR**

Thyatira was a great commercial town famous for dying wool red and purple. It had a fortune-telling shrine and many trade guilds. Within the church there was a "Jezebel" adverting compromise with world standard in the interest of business and prosperity. But God forbids compromise. Jesus is not one of the saviours. He is the only one.

Rev. 2:18-29; Acts 15:29; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; Dan. 10:6; 1 Kings 16:31; 1 Kings 18:13, 19; 11 Kings 9:22; Exo. 34:15-16; Deut. 31:16; Hos. 9:1; Matt. 12:39; Matt. 16:4; Mark 8:38; Acts 4:12; Matt. 6:24; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15.

2. **PUNISHMENTS FOR SINS ARE ALWAYS RELATED AND PROPORTIONAL TO THE SINS**

The 3 weapons of "Jezebel" were food, sex and wealth. God has His warnings to us these things. Whenever God decides to punish, the punishment is always related and proportional to the sins. For the overcomers, the rewards get better and bigger.

Pro. 23:20-21; 11 Tim. 2:22; 1 Tim. 6:6-11; 11 kings 5:20,23,25-27; 1 kings 21:17-23; Ps. 2:8-9; Isa. 14:12; Dan. 12:3; 1 Cor. 15:40-42; Rev. 22:16.

DIGGING DEEP 244
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 9

INTRODUCTION:
In the last of this series, we saw the danger of compromise in the Christian life. We also discovered more of the blessings awaiting the overcomers. Today, we want to study the letter to the Church at Sardis, the dead church. May the Lord speak to our hearts today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ETERNAL WATCHFULNESS IS THE PRICE OF SALVATION.**

Sardis was a wealthy city but its inhabitants were spiritless, soft and lazy after 2 defeats in battle and one great earthquake. The Church there had also lost its vitality and became a corpse instead of a living church. God told them to watch out or else they will be totally dead. Watchfulness should be the constant attitude of the Christian because eternal watchfulness is the price of Salvation.

Rev. 3:1-6; Isa. 11:1-2; 1 Tim. 5:6; Luke 15:24; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 2:1, 5, Rom. 13:11; 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Pet. 5:8; Matt. 26:41; Acts 20:29-31; Rev. 3:2; Matt. 24:42-43; Mark 13:37; 1 Thess. 5:6.

2. **THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A FEW WHO ARE TOTALLY DEVOTED TO GOD**

There were a few Christians, even in Sardis, who remained totally loyal to God. In ant Church and in any situation, there will always be the faithful few, may God grant you the grace to be one of them so that you too can walk with God in white with your name permanently in the Book of life.

Gen. 18:25; 1 Kings 14:13; Jam. 1:27; Gen. 5:24; Eccl. 9:8; Matt. 13:43; Ps. 104:2; Matt. 5:8; Rev. 20:15; Ps. 69:28; Dan. 12:1; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27; Matt. 10:32-33; Luke 12:8-9.

DIGGING DEEP 245
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 10

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw how a church could be full of activities and yet be dead. We also saw the need to be watchful all the time if we are to go with Christ at His return. Today, we want to study the letter to the church in Philadelphia. May the Lord bless us again tremendously in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **JESUS IS THE DOOR TO THIS FATHER'S KINGDOM**

When all the churches in Asia Minor fell to the invading Mohammedans, the church in Philadelphia stood firm and up till now there is a Church with thousands of member in Philadephia. The secret of the Church is its love for evangelism and missions, which is why the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Door, set before them an open door of opportunities till this day.

Rev. 3:7-13; Isa. 6:3; Is. 40:25; John 14:6; Isa. 22:20-22; 11 Kings 18:18; John 10:7-9; 1 Cor. 16:9; 11 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3; Acts. 14:27; John 15:1-2; Ps. 34:6; John 14:13-14.

2. **THE FAITHFUL CHURCH WILL INHERIT ALL THE PROMISES THAT GOD PREVIOUSLY MADE TO**

The Church is now the Israel of God, the proper childrens of Abraham. Consequently, all the precious promises formerly made unto Abraham now belong to the true and faithful Christian. But we must hold on fast to Christ and His principles if we are not to be losers in the end.

Gal. 6:16; 3:39; Is. 60:14; 45:14; 49:23; Zec. 8:22-23; Den. 25:34; Gen. 27:36; Gen. 49:4, 8; 1 Sam. 16:1,13, Rom. 11:11

DIGGING DEEP 246
THE DOOR OF GOD'S KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION:
Today, we want to see how holiness through Jesus Christ is the door to God's Kingdom, and that the door would not be opened to sinners. May the Lord continue to bless us mightily as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE DOOR – HOLINESS**

To make the door open, you must be pure in your heart, and without spot and blessing, you can even live in the kingdom of God on earth without any hazard, if you live a holy life demons only respect those who live a holy life, the door himself is holy.

Matt. 5:8; 11 Tim. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:22; 11 Pet. 3:14; Job 11:15-16; Dan. 6:22; Acts 19:13-16; Mark 1:24; John 10:8-9; Rom. 5:2.

2. **THE DOOR IS CLOSED AGAINST SINNER**

God closed the garden of Eden that Adam and Eve had no access to get in, the door is also closed to deceivers, liars, white or black, fornications, and whatsoever is not faith.

Gen. 3:22-24; Ps. 24:3-4; Isa. 26:2; 11 Cor. 11:13-14; Titus 1:10-11; Jer. 9:5; Micah 6:12; 1 Thess. 4:3-4; Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:3; Rom. 14:23;
Jam. 4:17.

DIGGING DEEP 247
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 11

INTRODUCTION:
We had studies the letters of sin of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Today, we wish to study the seventh letter, which is the one to the church at Laodicea, the lukewarm church. May the Lord teach us Himself through the Holy Spirit in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE INDIFERENT TO CHRIST**

The Church at Laodicea had the grim distinction of being the only Church had absolutely nothing good to say. This is because the only attitude which Christ cannot stomach is indifference to him. No one can truly be neutral as far as Christ or Christian is concerned. The man who will not submit to Christ has necessarily rejected Him

Rev. 3; 14:22; Col. 4:16-17, Isa. 65:16, 11 Cor. 1:19-20, Phil. 4:19, John 14;1-2; John 14:8-9; John. 3:12-13, John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15, 18; Mark 9:40; John 14:6; Rom. 12:11; Heb. 12:29.

2. **THERE IS NO TRUE LOVE WITHOUT DISCIPLINE**

The church at Laodicea, was rich materially but spiritual it was wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. And the risen Christ, out of Love, told them so. In promising to discipline if they fail to repent, the Lord was making known to them that He still loved them because God's final punishment is to totally ignore a man.

Luke 12:16-20; 1Pet. 1:7; 11 Sam. 10:4; Isa. 20:4; Eze. 16:37-39; Nahum 3:5; Gen. 41:42; Dan. 5:29; Est. 6:6-11; Luke. 15:22; John 9:40-41; 11 Sam. 12:1-4; Job. 5:17; Hosea 4:17; Luke 12:36; Mark 13:29; Matt. 24:33; Jam. 5:9; Songs 5:2-6; Luke 24:28; Rev. 3:21.

DIGGING DEEP 248
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 12

INTRODUCTION:
In first three chapter's of the Book of Revelation, we were introduced to the glorified Christ as well as the letters to seven typical churches. Now in the forth chapter, we go into an entirely different realm of revelation. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study at his feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHEN A MAN'S SOUL SEEKS UPWARDS, THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDS TO MEET HIM**

There are three doors in the early chapters of the Book of Revelation: (i) the door of opportunity, (ii) the door of choice and (iii) the door of heavenly revelation. Whenever a man's soul seeks upwards, the spirit of God descends to meet him to reveal to him supernatural sights and sounds.

Rev. 4; Rev. 3:8; Eze. 1:1; Mark 1:10; Pro. 8:17; John 1:51, 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; Rev. 3:10; Rev. 13:8-9; 1 Kings 22:19; Ps. 47:8; Is. 61:1; 1 Tim. 6:16; Ps. 104:2; Is. 24:23; Gen 3:22; Gen. 11:6-7; Eze. 1:13; Ps. 77:18; Job 37:4; Ex. 19:16.

2. **THERE CAN BE NO CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT TOTAL SUBMISSION**

While on earth could be storms in our sea of life but once we arrive in the presence of our Maker, there will be no more storms. Which is only one of the reasons why, in total submission we should be praising our Saviour continually.

Eze. 1:6, 10, 18, 22,26; 11 Kings 19:15; Ps. 80:1; Ps. 99:1; Is. 37:16; Ps. 18:10; Is. 6:3; Gen. 17:1; Is. 40:28; Hab. 1:12; Ps. 146:10.

DIGGING DEEP 249
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 13

INTRODUCTION:
Last week we saw that as from Rev. 4, the scene had shifted to heaven. Today, as we study Rev. 5, the scene is still in heaven and the one who is the focus of all History, Jesus Christ, steps on the scene. May the Lord bless us tremendously as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THERE IS A LAMB THAT IS ALSO THE LION**

Jesus Christ is the Judah, the Root of David as well as the Lamb of God, He is meek and yet strong, gentle yet mighty, humiliated in death but glorified in resurrection. He is the only one qualified to know God's secrets, with the priviledge to reveal such secrets and the absolute control over the things that shall be.

Rev. 5:1-14; Dan. 12:8-10; 11 Kings 19:35; Rev. 4:1; Amos. 3:7; Ps. 30:5; Ps. 32:10; Gen. 49:9; John 1; Is. 1;1, 10; John 12:49-50; Matt. 28:18; John 5:26-17; John 1:29, 36, 1 Pet. 1:19; Is. 53:7; Deut. 33:17; Ps. 112:9; Ps. 148:14; Zec. 4:10.

2. **THE PRAYERS OF SAINTS ARE TURNED TO INCENSE IN HEAVEN.**

While the elders, the living beings and all creatures in entire universe will one day sing a mighty anthem to the Lamb that was slain, meanwhile the prayers of saints are being stored as incense in golden vials in heaven, How much of this supernatural incense in golden vials in heaven, how much of this supernatural incense is yours?

Rev. 5:7-8; Ps. 33:2; Ps. 98:5; Ps. 147:7; Ps. 141:2 Ps. 33:3; 40:3; Ps. 98:1; Ps. 149:1; Ps. 144:9; Is. 42:9-10; Mark 7:23; 1 Tim. 2:6; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:19; 11 Pet. 2:1; 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Cor. 7:23; John 16:33; 1 Cor. 1:24; Eph. 3:8; Luke 11:22; Phil. 2:10-11; John 1:14.

DIGGING DEEP 250
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 14

INTRODUCTION:

The church has been ruptured at the beginning of Rev. 4 and John had described what was going on in heaven up till the end of Rev. 5. Now the scene shifts back to the earth where John begins to relate to us in details the horrors that will befall those who are left behind. May the Lord Himself teach us today as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ISRAEL'S MISSING WEEK**

Centuries ago, God had revealed to Daniel, that there is a special period of "70 weeks" in the history of the Jews. During this period, six things are to be achieved: (i) to finish the transgression of Israel (ii) to make an end of sins of Israel (iii) to make reconciliation of the iniquity of Israel (iv) to bring everlasting righteousness (v) to seal up the vision and prophecy and (vi) to anoint the Most Holy. Only one "week" of the 70 is yet to be fulfilled and the details of that one week is given in Rev. 6 to Rev. 19.

Jer. 25:11; Dan. 9:1-3; Dan. 9:20-23; Dan. 9:24-27; Rom. 11:26-27; Rev. 20:1-3; Zech. 12:10; Zech. 13:1; Isa. 66:8; Hab. 2:14; Jer. 2:14; Jer. 3:16; Zech. 6:12-13.

2. **THE FOUR HORSEMEN**

After the Church has been raptured, the beginning of sorrows on earth start with the four notorious horsemen. The first is that Antichrist himself riding on a white horse. A rider of a red horse bringing in wars closely follows him. Then comes the rider of the black horse bringing with him famine and finally the rider of a pale horse of pestilence and death brings up the rear. Thank God we will be gone before these horrors being.

Rev. 6:1-8; Zech. 6:1-8; Jer. 51:56; Hos. 1:5; Ps. 46:9; Dan. 11:21; Dan. 8:23-25; Isa. 19:2; Matt. 24:6-7; Zech. 14:13; 1 Thess. 5:3; Eze. 14:16; Lev. 26:26; Eze. 14:21; Lev. 26:21-2

DIGGING DEEP 251
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 15

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we have seen what happened as the first four seals were broken, leading to (i) the appearance of the Antichrist on a white horse, (ii) war on a horse, (iii) famine on a back horse and (iv) death and pestilence on a pale horse. Now the Lamb continues to break the seals and the action hots up. May the Lord Himself teach us tonight, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE TRIBULATION SAINTS**

After the rapture, those Christians who are left behind and those who will then become believers will be easy to identify because they will refuse to worship the antichrist. Their persecution will be easy carried out and terrible in its intensity. Many of them will make it to heaven but "as if by fire".

Rev. 6:9-11; Matt. 24:9; John 16:2; Phil. 2:17; 11 Tim. 4:6; Lev. 4:7;
Ps. 79:5-10; Rev. 12:19-20

2. **THE REIGN OF TERROR**

At the opening of the 6th seal, the greatest earthquake ever will occur turning the sun of darkness and moon to blood the atmosphere will become totally disorganized and terror will reign supreme on the earth.

Rev. 6:12-14; Amos. 8:8; Eze. 38:9; Joel. 2:10; Hag. 2:6; Amos. 8:9; Isa 13:10; Isa 50:3; Joel 2:31; Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24; Luke 23:45; Isa. 34:4; Ps. 102:25-26; Jer. 4:24; Nah 1:5; Rev. 6:15-17; Isa. 13:6, 8; Zeph. 1:14; Joel. 2:1, 11; Mal. 3:13; Hosea 10:8; Gen 3:8.

DIGGING DEEP 252
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 16

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw what happened as the fifth and sixth seals were opened by the Lamb. We saw the terrible persecution that the tribulations saints must encounter and the earthquake brought about either by oil drying up in the earth or the star wars of the super-powers. Now as we continue our studies tonight. May the Lord Himself minister to our spirits, in Jesus so that we can rescue the perishing in our Nation Amen.

1. **GOD IS THE CONTROLLER OF THE WEATHER**

Before the opening of the seventh seal, God gave a respite so that as He preserved 7,000 prophets in the days of Ahab, he could mark out for preservation 144,000 Jews in the time of Jacob's trouble. And since he is the controller of the angels that control the weather. He kept the destructive winds at bay until He had achieved His purpose

Rev. 7:1-3; 1 Kings 19:18; Rom. 11:4-6; Rev. 14:18; Rev. 16:5; Nuham 1:3; Zech. 9:14; Jer. 4:13; Isa. 66:15; 1 Kings 19:11; Jer. 49:36.

2. **THOSE WHO THINK THEY STAND TAKE HEED**

Those who are to be brought safely through the great tribulations are sealed upon their forehead with the seal of the living God. But a close look at the name of the tribes shows that Rueben had been replace by Judah as number one, Dan. Was completely omitted and Manasseh had replaced Ephraim: it is a great warning to those who think they stand.

Rev. 7:4-8; Matt. 2:2; Mal.4:2; Isa. 44:9-17, Jos. 3:10; II Kings 18:17-37; Ps. 42:1-2; Hosea 1:10; Eze. 9:1-7, Gen. 41:42; Est. 3:10; est. 8:2; Dan. 6:17; Matt. 27:66; Rom. 4:11; Gen. 17:8-13; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Col. 2:10-12; Rom. 2:28-29; Rom. 9:6-7; Gal. 3:29; Gal. 6:16; Phil. 3:3; Gen. 49:3-4; Gen. 49:8; Gen. 49:17; Jer. 8:16; Gen. 49:17-20; Hos. 4:17; Deut. 29:18-21; 1 Kings 12:25-30.

DIGGING DEEP 253
CONSEQUENCE OF ABIDING IN SHITTIM

INTRODUCTION:
The children of Israel were encamped at Shittim looking forward to crossing over Jordan to passess the Lord of Canaan. Instead of being steadfast in their relationship with God, they backslide and paid a terrible price. For destroying God and engaging in immoral acts and religious pollution, a raged in their midst which killed 24,000 people. God ordered Moses to execute other transgressors. Phinehas, son of Eleazer was promised everlasting priesthood for publicly avenging against the law of God.

1. **THE SIGNIFICANT OF SHITTIM**

Shittim is a wilderness tree which reflects the earthly qualities of Jesus Christ. More important, it was an encampment which was locationally, spiritually, strategically and symbolically significant for the children of Israel.

Isa. 41:19-20; Isa. 53:2; Exo. 25:5; 10,13,26:15,26, 32; 27:1, 6; 30:1, 5; Num. 22:24; Num. 26; Exo. 33:33-35, 34; Num. 31; Num 27:1-11; Num. 28:30.

2. **CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCE OF ABIDING IN SHITTIM**

Country to God's will, the children of Israel yielded to temptation on the plains of Moab. They committed fornication, ate food to idols, worshipped Moabites idols especially Baal-power. The consequences were grave as God visited his righteous indignation and judgement on them.

Num. 25:1; Gen. 19:37; Num. 25:2,4,5,9; Exo. 6:25; Exo. 25:7,8.

3. **WHAT IS YOUR SHITTIM?**

Like the children of Israel, many believers today nurse their Shittim which delay them from reaching the promised land and even Despair, sadness, envy, prayerlessness, yielding, worry, anger, pride, etc. we should understand their nature and know how to deal with them at source, may god grant us the grace to do so.

Ex. 6:6-9; Job. 7:6; 3:21; Jer. 8:3; Jona. 4:3; Acts 13:44-45; Isa. 64:7; Gen. 3:6; 13:10-13; 25:29, 30,33, I Kings 3:11-14, Mark 10:35, 37; Matt. 6:31-32; Luke 10:40; Luke 17:14, 15, 17.

DIGGING DEEP 254
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 17

INTRODUCTION:
In our last study, we learnt about the angels of service in charge of air, water and fire and that Christ controls them all. And we saw that even in the time of His anger, God will seal His own so that they will not be mistakenly hurt. We also saw that God can promote, demote or replace depending on the relationship of the individual to God. We now continue with our study of the Revelation and we pray that God will bless again mightily tonight in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **TRUE BLESSINGS COME FROM GOD ONLY**

The Jehovah witnesses believer that only 144,000 people will even go to heaven but they are mistaken. There will be multitudes from all tribes and tongues who will be in heaven to sing, "Salvation to our God". Also in heaven are great circles of angels agreeing with the song of the multitudes and adding their own. Part of the song of the angels is that true blessings are of God.

Rev. 7:9-1o; Gen. 12:3; 22:17-18; Gen. 49:10; Ps. 3:8; Acts 4:12; Eze. 44:30; Jer. 3:23; Hos. 13:4; Rev. 7:11-12; Gen. 39:1-5; Eze. 34:24, 26; Eph. 1:3; Heb. 6:7-8,10.

2. **GLORY, WISDOM, THANKSGIVING, HONOUR, POWER AND MIGHT ALSO BELONG TO GOD.**

The song of the angels is very revealing in its content. They declare that glory, true wisdom, thanksgiving, honour real power and total might belong to God and to Him only. The angels should know: they live up there. We should know and declare it too: we are His children.

Ps. 8:1; Ps. 19:1; Ps. 24:9-10; John 17:1, Is. 40:6-8; Matt. 6:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:25; 1 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25; John 11:41-42; 1 Thess. 5:18; Ps. 50:23; Luke 18:11; 1 Kings 3:11-13; mark 6:33; II Kings 5:1; matt. 19:20; Acts 1:8; Gen. 17:1; Is. 40:29; Phil. 4:13.

3. **THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS AS POWERFUL A GOD HIMSELF**

The deeds of human beings are symbolized in the scriptures as robes of garments. Sinful deeds are represented by dirty rags, which could be make white by being washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. The power in that blood is the power in the life of God Himself. Those who wash in that blood are guaranteed perfect bliss in heaven.

Rev. 13:14; Is. 64:6; Zec. 3:1-5; Rev. 19:7-8; Lev. 17:11; John 1:1, 14;
1 John 1:7; Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:19; Col. 1:20; Matt. 5:8; 1 John 3:2; matt. 5:6; John 6:35; John 4:14; Is. 49:10; Ps. 23:1, 80:1; Is. 40:11; John 10:11, 14; I pet. 2:25; Heb. 13:20.

DIGGING DEEP 255
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 18

INTRODUCTION:
In our last study, we saw the perfect bliss of those in heaven where they neither hunger nor thirst because of the Lamb constantly feeds and refreshes them at the living fountain of waters, while all tears are wiped away from their eyes. Now in our next study, our attention is shifted back to what will be happening then to those on earth. It is frightening. May we not be left behind when Jesus comes again in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE JUDGEMENT OF THE TRUMPETS**

When a man hands over a case to God for judgement, his enemies are in for big trouble. There are some angels that can stand in the presence of God but now, but now, by the special grace of Jesus; we can now enter into the holiest. The judgments of the trumpets are horrible ones and it is frightening to know that worse judgement than these will still befall the unrepentant ones.

Rev. 8:1-5; Rom. 12:19-20; Heb. 10:31; Heb. 12:29; Rev. 8:2,6; Luke 1:18-20; 1 Kings 18:15; 11 Kings 3:14; 11 Kings 5:16; Heb. 10:19, 22; Rev. 8:7-12; Exo. 19:16,19; Isa. 27:13; Joel 2:1; Zeph. 1:16; Zeph. 9:14; 1 Cor. 15:52-43; 1 Thess. 4:16; Matt. 24:31; Exo. 9:24; Exo. 7:20-21; Zeph. 1:3; Joel 2:10; Exo. 10:21-23; Rev. 8:13; Pro. 29:1.

2. **IT IS VERY PAINFUL TO WISH TO DIE AND BE UNABLE TO DO SO.**

The judgement of the fifth trumpet is so terrible that people will be seeking death and yet will be unable to die. It will be the time foretold when death are more blessed than the living, may we not be around at that time.

Rev. 9:1-2; Job. 38:4, 7; Isa. 24:21-22; Rev. 9:3-12; Joel 1:7-18; Joel 2:1-11; Jer. 8:3; Job. 3:20-21.

3. **THE JUDGEMENT OF THE 6TH TRUMPET**

River Euphrates is a significant river: the former headquarters of Satan is believed to be there. The four fallen angels imprisoned there are very wicked and on their release will mobilize 200 million oriental soldiers to wipe out one third of all living beings on earth. In spite of this, the remainders will not repent and the judgement of God on the unrepentant wicked ones will just have to continue.

Rev. 9:13-21; Jude 6; Acts 15:18; Rom. 1:25-32; Exo. 20:13; Exo. 22:18; Exo. 20:14; Exo. 20:15.

DIGGING DEEP 256
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 19

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we examined in detail, Rev. 19 and discovered that despite the tortures of the stranger locusts of the bottomless pit, the people of the world refuse to repent. Now we move on to Rev. 10 to see what happens next. May the Almighty teach us Himself in Jesus Name Amen.

1. **THE JOY AND SORROW OF A PROPHET**

Before the 7th angel sounded his trumpet, there is again an interlude and a scene was acted in the spiritual realm. A mighty "angel" believed to be Christ Himself came and took possession of the earth, declaring that the time of the final show-down had come. John found himself in a situation where he saw joy at the end of long tunnel of great tribulations. He was happy but sad, like the lot of any prophet would normally be.

Rev. 10:1-4; Ps. 104:3; Eze. 1:28; Matt. 17:2; Joel 3:16; Hos. 11:10; Amos 3:8; Ps. 29:3-5, 7:9; 11 Cor. 12:4; Rev. 10:5-7; Heb. 10:36-37; Thess. 2:3; Rev. 10:8-11; Eze. 3:1-3; Ps. 19:10; Ps. 119:103.

2. **THE ANTICHRIST**

The ideal of a force of evil opposed to the god of all goodness is not the personification of evil. Even in the days of Paul, the spirit of the antichrist had been at work. But soon, the masterpieces of Satan will put on the flesh and hold away on the earth for horrible years.

Isa. 27:1; Isa. 51:9; Ps. 89:10; 1 Sam. 2:12; 1 Sam. 1:16; 1 Sam. 25:17, 25; 1 kings 21:10, 13; 11 Cor. 6:15; matt. 24:24-44; Mark 13:6, 22; Luke 21:8; john 5:43; 11 Thess. 2:1-11; 1 John 2:18; 1 john 4:3; 11 John 7.

DIGGING DEEP 257
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 20

INTRODUCTION:
In Rev. 10, we saw John the revelator eating a strange little book. As from Rev. 11, we can see him unfolding some of the things in the book even as the 7th trumpet below. May God bless us as study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WE ARE THE TRUE TEMPLE OF CHRIST**

The temple of Christ's time had been leveled by the Romans 25 years before the book of revelation was written. Therefore the temple that john saw must be one in future. But today, we Christians are the true temple of Christ on earth. During the tribulation, the Jews will build a new temple with assistance of the Antichrist.

Rev. 11:1-2; Dan. 9:27; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-21; 1 Cor. 3:16; 11 Cor. 6:16; Eze. 40; Zech. 2; Luke 21:24;

2. **THE TWO WITNESSES**

Two special witnesses of Christ, believe to be Elijah and Moses will prophesy for 31/2 years during the tribulation before the Antichrist kills them. They will remain unburied for 31/2 days before resurrecting and ascending to heaven. Their case will be classical example of the truth that the devil may win a battle but God will always win the war.

Rev. 11:3-6; Mal. 3:1; Mal. 4:5-6; 1 kings 17:1; 11 kings 1:9, 10; Mark 9:4; Eze. 7:14-18; Num. 20:12; 1 Kings 19:16; 11 Kings 2:11; Rev. 11:7-14; 1 Sam. 1:9-10; Rev. 11:15-19; Ps. 2:2; Heb. 8:5.

DIGGING DEEP 258
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 21

INTRODUCTION:
In Rev. 11, we learnt among other things, about the 2 tribulations witnesses believed to be Moses and Elijah. We saw, through their death resurrection and ascension, that the devil may win a battle but God will always win the war. Today we shall look at Rev. 12 in detail. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE WOMAN AND THE MALE CHILD**

John saw a wonder in heaven, a woman heavy with child and a dragon waiting to swallow the child as soon as it was born the child is believed to be Christ and the woman the Jewish nation. The plan of the dragon was frustrated by God as a further proof that God will always take care of His own.

Rev. 12:1-6; Ps. 2:9; Rev. 19:15; Jer. 3:6-10; Hos. 2:19-20; Gen. 3:14-15; 1 Thess. 4:17-18; mark 13:14.

2. **THE VICTORY SONG OF THE MARTYRS**

Satan made a second attempt to take over heaven but was defeated and cast down to the earth. The martyrs then Sang a song of victory. As usually, those who choose to suffer rather than be disloyal to Christ always win the greatest victory over Satan.

Rev. 12:7-9; Job 1:6-9; Job 2:1-6; Zech. 3:1-2; Rev. 12:10-12; Gen. 39:7-22; Gen. 41:14-44; John 12:25; 1 john 1:7; Rom. 8:1-2; Rev. 2;10; Rev. 12:13-17; Exo. 19:4; Deut. 32:11-12.

DIGGING DEEP 259
EXCEPT THE CORN DIE

INTRODUCTION:
We want to look at the number one of our divine liberty and how effectively it can be overcome. May the Lord Almighty teach us in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE NEED TO PLACE THE ADAMIC NATURE**

A Christian can only be fruitful in the degree that he dies to self, what Christ requires of is not only yielding our soul to Him for salvation, but the yielding of our complete ego that he may give us abundant life. As Christians we have two natures, the carnal man is against the things of the spirit of God.

John 12:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:36; Gal. 5:19-21; Phil. 3:7-8; Rom. 6:11; Col. 3:3; 1 Kings 13:4-6; Rom. 7:5-6; Rom. 7:23; 1 Cor. 2:13-14; Matt. 16:23.

2. **THE SECRET OF VICTORY OVER ADAMIC NATURE**

It is getting rid of the flesh and putting on the new man, i.e. To be crucified daily, there are three crucifixions, the body of sin must be destroyed, spiritual circumcision must be done, by these the fruits of the spirit will manifest.

Eph. 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 9:27; Gal. 6:14; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:6; Col. 2:11; Rom. 6:18; Rom. 8:13-14; Phil. 3:3; Gal. 5:22-23.

DIGGING DEEP 260
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 22

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we examined the case of the wonder woman and her child in Chapter 12. We saw how the woman is the nation of Israel and the child is Christ. Today, we wish to examine Chapter 13. of the Book of Revelation even as we come face to face with the unholy trinity of the devil, the antichrist and the false prophet. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **THE ANTICHRIST IS THE BEAST.**

The Antichrist, who is also revealed here as the Beast, is a composition of the 4 terrible beasts of the Book of Daniel. That alone is enough to show us how evil he will be. That he comes "out of the sea" implies his emergence will be out of a would in chaos economically, politically and socially.

Rev. 13:1-5; Dan. 7:3-7; Rev. 17:15; Isa. 57:20; rev. 13:6-10; 1 pet. 1:19-20; john 10:27-29; Rom. 8:31; Songs 8:6; Rom. 8:37.

2. **THE MARK 666**

A second beast came from the land to complete the unholy trinity of the devil, his "Son" the antichrist and the false prophet the antichrist the spirit. The implications of receiving the mark of the antichrist are many and terrible. These include the facts that whosoever bears the mark is sold out to devil and cannot be met. Consequently they will suffer forever.

Rev. 13:11-17; John 16:13; Exo. 13:1-10; Exo. 13:11-16; Deut. 6:4-6; Deut. 11:13-21; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 14:9-11.

DIGGING DEEP 261
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 23

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we studied Rev. 13 and were introduced to the unholy trinity of Satan, Antichrist and the Antispirit. We also learnt about the mark of the Antichrist, the number 600. Today, we wish to proceed to Rev. 14. May the Lord Himself explain this important chapter to us, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **A CHRISTIAN IS THE ONE WHO FOLLOWS CHRIST**

The simplest definition of a Christian is one who follows Christ. "Follow me," is the first order of Christ to all He called. Those who would follow Christ, therefore, must be willing to make their lives a living sacrifice, be completely devoid of deceit (since their leader is the truth) and be completely without blemish.

Rev. 14:1-5; Rev. 7:2-3; Phil. 4:8; 1 Cor. 7:2-5; 1 Cor. 7:25, 29, 32-35; Heb. 13:4; John 1:43; Mark 2:14; Mark 10:21; John 21:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:21; Rom. 12:1-2; Ps. 32:2; Isa. 53:9; Zep. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:22; Eph. 1:4; Col. 1:22; Eph. 5: 27; 1 Pet 1:19.

2. **HARVEST IS ANOTHER WORD FOR DIVINE JUDGEMENT**

Two scripture terms for Divine judgments are "harvest" and "treading the winepress". Just before the worst part of the tribulation period, there will be two harvesting: one for the believers left earth and the other for the unbelievers just like in story of the wheat and tears.

Rev. 14:6-12; Matt. 24:14; Acts 10:1-6; Isa. 21:9; Jer. 51:8 Job. 21:17, 20; Ps. 75:8; Jer. 25:15; Gen. 19:28; Isa. 34:8-10; Rev. 14:14-20; Matt. 13:24-30, 37:43; Joel 3:13; Lam. 3:13; Lam.1:15; Isa 63:3; Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 14:1-4.

DIGGING DEEP 262
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 24: REV. 15

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we learnt among others things, about the final harvesting of this world. We saw how the wheat is separated from the tares before the final horrors begin. Today, we shall go into a detailed study of Rev. 15; and see what happens as the scene shifts to heaven once again. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE SONGS OF MOSES AND THE LAMB**

After the wheat was harvested and tears left, the final horrors were about to begin. But before then, both the martyrs of the tribulations and the saints that had gone before them sang two anthems in heaven. The first is the song composed by Moses after the children of Israel came out from the red sea and the second is the song of the Lamb.

Rev. 15:1-4; Gen. 7:12-16; Gen. 19:15-22; Rev. 4:6; Heb. 12:29; Matt. 16:25; Exo. 15:1-19; Ps. 92:5; Ps. 112:2; Ps. 98:1; Ps. 139:14;
Ps. 145:17; Ps. 86:9; 1 Sam 2:2; Ps. 9:9; Ps. 111:9; Phil. 2:10-11;
Ps. 98:2.

2. **THE GLORY OF GOD**

As the anthems end, the tabernacle of testimony was revealed in heaven and glory of God filled the tabernacle. The glory of God is such that no man can approach unto it, yet we shall share in that glory one day.

Rev. 15:5-8; Num. 17:7; Num. 9:15; Num. 18:2; Isa. 6:1-5;
Exo. 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11; 1 John 3:2-3.

DIGGING DEEP 263
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 25: REV. 16

INTRODUCTION:
In Rev. 15, we saw the saints in heaven praising God with the songs of Moses and the Lamb. But now in Rev. 16. the scene shifts back to the earth as the final horrors of the tribulation period follow fast one after the others. May the Lord teach us tonight in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE DAY IS COMING WHEN THE SUN WILL BURN LIKE OVEN**

The sixteenth chapter of the book of revelation shows clearly that a day is coming when the inhabitants of the earth will be covered with painful and incurable sores. Soon after, there will be no water to drink at all and yet the sun's heart will burn like an oven. It will be like a man lost in a waterless desert.

Rev. 16:8-9; Exo. 9:8-12; Rev. 14:9-11; Rev. 8:8-9; Exo. 7:19-24; Dan. 1:8-16; Dan. 3:13-26; Dam. 6:16-23; Rev. 8:12; Mal. 4:1-2.

2. **THE DAY IS COMING WHEN MEN WILL BITE THEIR TONGUES FOR PAIN.**

After the period of intense heart, there will be a period of total darkness, such as was in the time of Moses. Men will be in such an agony they will bite their tongue for pain. But despite of all these suffering, those who will not repent will not.

Rev. 16:10-21; Exo. 10:21-23; Joel 2:1-2; Mark 13:24; Exo. 14:21; Jos. 3:17; Isa. 11:15-16; Jer. 51:36; Zech. 10:10; Rev. 9:16; 1 Kings 22:20; Joel 3:12, 14; Zech. 14:4-5; Eze. 47:1-12; Jos. 12:11; Lev. 24:16.

DIGGING DEEP 264
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 26: REV. 17

INTRODUCTION:
In Rev. 16, we saw the 7 angels pouring out the contents of their vials upon the earth. We saw that a day is coming soon when men covered with incurable sores, with no water to drink, will be scorched with heart from the sun that burns like oven. Today, we want to look at one of the most serious chapters in the book, may God teach us Himself in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE ANTICHRIST WILL HAVE A BRIDE**

That Christ was to have a Bride was a mystery until it was revealed to Paul. That the Antichrist is to have a bride was first revealed to john. The Bride of Christ, the Church, is also called "Holy Jerusalem". The bride of the antichrist is Babylon the great.

Rev. 17; Eph. 5:23-32; Eph. 3:1-21; Rev. 21:9-10; Gen. 10:8-10; Gen. 9:1; Gen. 11:2-4; Rev. 2:12-13; matt. 4:10; Jer. 44:25-27.

2. **THE CITY THAT IS ALSO A HARLOT**

In the Bible terms, "whore", "harlot" and adultery are frequently used to symbolize a spiritual department from God by an individual city or nation. In the destruction of Babylon the whore, we see the evil proper for a while but it will never last.

Isa. 1:21; Nahum 3:4, Is. 23:16-17; Eze. 16:8. 15, 17; Jam. 4; 11 Cor. 11:2; Lev. 20:14, Lev. 21:9; Rev. 21:7-8.

DIGGING DEEP . 265
THE BOOK OF REVELATION-PART 27: REV. 18

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we learnt about the bride of the Antichrist, Babylon then great, mother of harlots, consisting of all religious people who do not believe in the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw how the Babylon Cult invaded the Church of Rome and took it over and saw the prophecy about its ultimate destr1uction by the Antichrist himself. Now we go on to study Rev. 18 and we pray that God will quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **COME OUT OR PERISH: IT IS HOLINESS OR HELL**

There is a religious system called Babylon and there is a city called Babylon. Both are evil. The antichrist will destroy the former, God will destroy the latter. But before God does, He gave an invitation as usual to as many as will listen to flee and escape for their lives. God's invitation is simple: accept holiness and miss hell.

Rev. 18, Isa. 13:19-22; Jer. 50:39; Jer. 51:37; Gen. 19:12-14; Num. 16:23-26; Isa. 48:20; Jer. 50:8; Jer. 51:45; II Cor. 6:14-15; I Tim. 5:22: Rom. 12:2; Pro. 16:18; Is. 3:16-17.

2. **WEALTH IS USELESS ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT**

Bible Scholars are divided on whether or not the Ancient Babylon is going to bee rebuilt before it is finally destroyed. Some believe it will be, some believe that Rome is the New Babylon. Whichever is the case, the ultimate destruction of the wealthy Babylon is going to cause a lot of anguish to kings, merchants, importers and exporters of the whole world.

Isa. 13:6-7; I Tim. 6:7; Pr. 14:32; Ps. 23:4

DIGGING DEEP . 266
THE BOOK OF REVELATION-PART 28: REV. 19:1-10

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the destruction of Babylon the city that is the headquarters of the antichrist. We saw the kings of the worlds, the merchants, the importer and exporters mourned because of the loss they sustained as a result of the destruction of Babylon not because they loved her. Today, as we begin a study of Rev. 19, we shall look in details at the marriage of the lamb, may God bless us as study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THAT CHRIST MARRIAGE HAD BEEN DETERMINED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.**

While the people of the world were mourning the destruction of Babylon, the host of heaven were roaring "halleluyah choruses" to God. One of the reasons for these shouts of joy was that the marriage of the Lamb, foreordained before the world began, long awaited and much expected, had finally come to pass.

Rev. 19:1-9; Rev. 18:20; Ps. 106:1; Ps. 111:1; Ps. 112:1; Ps. 113:1; Ps. 117:1; Ps 150:1; Is. 34:9-10; Ps. 135:1; Ps. 146:1; Ps. 147:1; 148:1; Ps. 149:1; Rev. 10:7; 11:18; 22:6; 7:3; 19:2; Ps. 97:1; 1 Hos. 2:19-20; Is. 54:5; Matt. 22:2; 10; Mark 2:19; Matt. 25:1; John 3:29; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:21-23.

2. **SOME THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THIS UNIQUE WEDDING**

There are several ways in which the marriage of the Lamb is unique. Apart from being the wedding of the ages, the courtship that led to it is the longest the world had ever known.

Eph. 1:3-4; I Tim. 2:5; Matt. 25:1,5; Rom. 8:16-17; I Cor. 6:20; I Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 3:21; Eph. 5:25-17; John 3:29; Matt. 1:1,5-6; I Thess. 4;16-17; Matt. 23:6, 10-12; Eph. 5:27; I Pet. 1:13-16; I Cor. 15:58; Phil. 2:12-15.

DIGGING DEEP . 267
DOERS OF THE WORD

INTRODUCTION:
Many are ready to hear, discuss and argue the great doctrine of the Bible, but this is mere religion. In this study we want to look on how important it is to be doers of the word and not hearers only, may the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **LIVING THE LIFE THAT COUNTS – BE A DOERS OF THE WORD.**

The word of God is seed of truth, which requires clean soil, if it is to be productive the Holy spirit must be allowed to purify our lives to clean the debris of malice and lust to weed out besetting sins. The word will take firm root and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

John 8:32; James 1:22-24; John 8:30-31; John 14:21; I Pet. 1:15-16; Acts 2:2-4; Heb. 12:1; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9; John 15:2.

2. **CHRISTIANS ARE SINNERS' BIBLE**

It is good to be saved and know it but it is better to be saved and showed it for the sinners to read and be converted because we are the image of Jesus Christ.

II Cor. 3:2-3; I Cor. 9:2; I Cor. 3:5; Titus 2:12; Matt. 5:16, Luke 1:75; I Pet. 4:2-3; Titus 3:3-5.

DIGGING DEEP . 268
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 29: REV. 19:7-21

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we studies in some details the marriage of the Lamb, nothing in particular that His wife had made herself ready. Today, we wish to continue from where we left off and see some details what happens after the wedding, may God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE WINNERS.**
The good works done by Christians while in the flesh are closely monitor by God for the purpose of rewards in the last day. Moreover, true Christians are winners all the time because the real conqueror is constantly by their sides and leads them as their royal captain.

Rev. 19:7-19; Acts 1:11-12; Gal.6:6-10; Matt. 4:10; Heb. 1:13-14; I Cor. 14:3; Zech. 14:4-8; Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:4-22; II Kings 1:11; II Kings 6:13-17; Jude 14; John 16:38; Rev. 1:18; Rom. 8:37; Rom. 8:31; Isa. 11:4; Gen. 32:29: Jude 13, 18; Phil. 2:9-11; John 1:1-3; Jer.24-29.

2. **THE SUPPER OF THE GREAT GOD**
When the Lord returns to the earth toward the end of the tribulations period, He will return in vengeance. As the controller of all kingdoms, He will return to fight the combined armies of the Antichrist, the false prophet and the great Oriental army and give their flesh to the fowls of the air. The birds will be the guests at the supper of the Great God.

Rev. 19:14-16; Matt. 26:53; Isa. 11:4; Ps. 2:9; Dan. 4:17; Ps. 66:7; Eze. 39:1-22; Matt. 24:27-28.

DIGGING DEEP . 269
THE BOOK OF REVELATION-PART 30: REV. 1-4

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw some of the things that will happen after the wedding of the Lamb. Today, as we begin a study of chapter 20, we shall see how the Bridegroom and the Bride began their honeymoon on the earth. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **NOT EVEN SATAN IS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF GOD**

Nothing is beyond the control of God. When He is ready to deal with Satan, it takes only one angel to bind the devil and imprison him for one thousand year. Also, the Bible teachers that there will be two resurrections the first for believers, the second for the wicked dead.

Rev. 20:1-4; Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:11-12; Ph. 2:9-11; II Pet. 4; Jude 6; I Cor. 15:22-25; Matt. 27:52-53; I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thess. 4: 16-18; Rev. 7:14; Rev. 20:4; Matt. 13:28-30; Rev. 1:5.

2. **THE HONEYMOON THAT LASTS 1000 YEARS**

The honeymoon of Christ and His Bride will last 1000 years. This is the period known as the Millennium, the period that even animals look forward to. The individual share of authority at that time will be strictly determined by the amount of souls that each individual converts to Christ.

Rev. 20:4; Matt. 6:10; Dan. 2:31-45; Matt. 25:31-34; Luke 1:30-33; Dan. 7:13-14; Hos. 3:5; Jer. 30:9; Eze. 37: 24; Eze. 34:24; Eze. 37:25; Isa. 24:23; Luke 19:11-26; Mal. 1:11; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13; Isa. 35:1; Isa. 55:13; Joel 2:24-26; Isa. 11:6-9; Rom. 8:23; Isa. 65:20; Zech. 8:4; Isa. 30:26; Isa. 60:19-20; Rev. 21:23-24.

DIGGING DEEP . 270
THE BOOK OF REVELATION-PART 31:
REV. 20:7-15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discussed the binding and imprisonment of Satan for a thousand years. We also discussed the first and second resurrection and the millenniums. Now we wish to look at what happens when the devil is loose for a while from his prison, may the Lord bless us abundantly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

Rev. 20:7-10; Matt. 15:29; Mark 7:21; Jer. 13:23; Jer. 17:9; Eze. 36:26; John 15:1-2; Heb. 6:4-8; Rom. 8:31, 37; Ps 34:19; John 1:5; Pro. 11:8.

1. **THE DEVIL CAN NEVER REPENT**
As soon as the devil was released from prison, he started another revolt against God. This shows that the devil can never repent. Unfortunately, there are always human beings who would voluntarily and zealous cooperate with Satan against God. But God always wins.

Rev. 20:7-10; Matt. 15:29; Mark 7:21; Jer. 13:23; Jer. 17:9; Eze. 36:26; John 15:1-2; Heb. 6:4-8; Rom. 8:31, 37; Ps. 34:19; John 1:5; Pro. 11:8.

2. **THE GREAT WHITE THONE JUDGEMENT**

The great white throne judgement is the last Divine judgement in human history. All who appeared before this throne are condemned already, they only gather so that the degree of their individual punishments might be determined and made known to them. The last to be judged would be death and hell.

Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 20:5; John 5:29; John 3:18; Rev. 20:12, 15; Ecc. 12:14; I John 1:7; Col. 2:13-15; John 5:22; Acts 17:31; I Tim. 4:1; II Cor. 5:10; Ps. 102:25-27; Isa. 51:6; Mark 13:31; II Pet. 3:10; Exo. 32:32; Ps. 69:28; Rev. 3:5.

DIGGING DEEP . 271
THE BOOK OF REVELATION – PART 32:
REV. 21:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discussed the imprisonment of Satan, the 1000 years of peaceful reign of Christ, the release of Satan, the last world war and the Great white thorn judgement. Now we wish to begin a study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **GOD CAN AND IS WILLING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW FOR YOU**
It has always been in God's plan to make everything new again since sin spoilt the original ones. He can and is willing to make new heavens, new earth, New Jerusalem and a new you. Because it has always been His desire to have continuous fellowship with man.

Rev. 21:1; Isa. 65:17; Isa. 66:22-23; Rev. 21:2; Gal. 4:22-26; Heb. 11:22-24; Isa. 54:11-12; Isa. 60:10-14; Rev. 21:3-4; Lev. 26:11-12; Jer. 31:33; Eze. 37:27; Songs. 6:3; Isa. 35:10; Isa. 65:19; Isa. 25:8; Matt. 5:4; Rev. 21:5; II Cor. 5:17.

2. **THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**
God is the Beginning, the source, the Origin of all things. At the same time, He is the End, the Ultimate goal of all things. He owns all things but He is willing to share everything freely with the overcomers only. The failure have no part in Him.

Rev. 21:6; Isa. 44:6; Rom. 11:36; Eph. 4:6; Isa. 55:1; John 7:37-38; Rev. 21:7; Rom. 8:16-17; Gen. 17:7; I Sam. 7:14; Ps. 89:27; Rev. 21:8.

DIGGING DEEP . 272
THE BOOK OF REVELATION-PART 33: REV. 21:9-27

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we began to study about the heavenly Jerusalem, the City of God, the City of Alpha and Omega and the City of the Church of the First-born. Today we shall continue our study, may God bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen

1. **THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE GOD OF THE NEW**

The New Jerusalem is called the Bride of the Lamb. It is a city where the Old Testament Saints are honoured as well as the 12 Apostles of the New Testament. The city itself is the Holy of Holies of God, the dwelling place of God. It is a city so large that there is room for anyone who likes to be there.

Rev. 21:9-17; Rev. 17:1; Phil. 2:15; I Tim. 6:14-16; II Pet. 1:19; I John 1:5; Heb. 13:8; Exo. 27:1; Exo. 30:2; Exo. 28:16; I Kings 6:20; John 14:1-2.

2. **THERE IS NO NIGHT THERE**

There is no Temple in the City. It is not necessary because God Himself dwells there. There is no night there because there is no Sun to set or moon to rise. God is the Light of the City. You too are welcome in the City.

Rev. 21:18-27; Matt. 13:46; II Cor. 6:16; Isa. 60:19-20; Ps. 36:9; Isa. 2:2-4; Isa. 11:12; Isa. 49:6; Isa. 55:5; Isa. 56:6-8; Isa. 45:22; Dan. 7:14; Zeph. 2:11; Zech. 14:9; Ps. 139:12.

DIGGING DEEP . 273
THE BOOK OF REVELATION-PART 34: REV. 22

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw how God brought the Old Testament and New together in His City, the Heavenly, a city beautiful beyond words. In this part, we now want to look at the last chapter in the Book. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WE SHALL ONE DAY EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE**

In the City of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, there is a river of the water of life. By its sides grow the trees of life producing different fruits each month. Not only are we going to eat of these fruits and drinks of the water of life, but day we shall see the face of God Himself.

2. **THE GREAT INVITATION**

Christ, through His spirit and His Bride, the Church is still inviting all those who will listen to come and join Him in His beautiful City. But some will never heed. We pray that you will not be one of those.

Rev. 22:14-15; John 1:11-12; I John 1:7; John 3:18; Deut. 23:18; Ps. 101:7; I Sam. 11:1; Matt. 1:1; Num. 24:17; John 3:14-16; John 15:16; Gal. 1:8-9; Pro. 30:5-6; II Cor. 12:9.

DIGGING DEEP . 274
GIDEON: A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE – PART 1

INTRODUCTION:
The life story of Gideon is full of many beautiful lessons for the Christian soldiers. He was the case of an ordinary man who became a supernatural figure; a fearful man who became a spiritual giant. We also see in him how the Lord of hosts fight His own battles and of course the dangers facing every successful Christian and how to overcome them, may the Lord bless us tremendously as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH: SPIRITUAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE**

The story of Gideon begins with Israel in serious trouble. Their austerity was perennial and fear clothed at every heart. Things were not so before. Israel was once upon a time on the side of the Lord but they forsook God and trouble came As it was in the beginning, is now…

2. **GOD CALLS THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE**

However, God is a merciful God. He never totally forsakes His people. In every Nation and situation, God always finds someone after His own heart that He could turn to a deliverer. Once He has found such a one, He makes him what He wanted and backs him up to the full, may be you are such a one.

Judg. 6:11-12; Acts 10:34-35; Gen. 6:5-9; Gen. 19:12-15, Rom. 4:17; Acts15:18; Isa. 55:10-11; Judge 6:13-14; Exo. 3:10-11; Jer. 1:4-7; Judg. 6:15-16; I Cor. 1:26-29; Ps. 8:2; I Sam. 17:42-44, 50-51; Rom. 8:31; Heb. 13:5-6.

DIGGING DEEP . 275
GIDEON: A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE – PART 2

INTRODUCTION:
We began the study of the life history of Gideon by nothing that the wages of sin is death: spiritual, financial and otherwise. And that God calls the things that are not as though they were, calling a fearful young man a "mighty man of valour". Today, we shall continue to study the life of that "mighty man of Valour" may the Lord bless richly as we do so in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. OBEDIENCE PLUS A WORTHY OFFERING EQUALS AN ACCEPTABLE OFFERING.

Gideon requested a sign from the Divine visitor: that he be allowed to offer his hospitality. All great men and women of the Bible are hospitable people. However, it is not only their worthy offerings that make them acceptable to God, it is their obedience to God in all-things that is mixed with their offerings. If God has to choose, He will prefer obedience to any offering at any time.

Judg. 6:17-27; Gen. 18:1-5; Gen. 19:1-3; I Kings 17:8-16; II Kings 4:8-17; Acts 9:36-41; Heb. 13:2; Gal. 6:9-10; Gen. 4:3-7; Gen. 18:6-8; I Sam. 15:22.

2. OUR GOD IS A GOD OF PEACE WHO TURNS WEAK PEOPLE TO STRONG ONES.

Gideon was scared that he would die because he had seen God but our God of peace assured him that all would be well. Then Gideon demonstrated another trait common to all spiritual giants: he built an altar and worshipped God. When God told him pull down the altar of Baal, he obeyed; though he did it at night out of fear.

I John 3:2-3; Matt. 5:8; Mark 4:37-39; Matt. 14:22; John 14:1; Gen. 8:20; Gen. 13:14-18; Acts 2:37-38; Ps. 33:16; II Cor. 12:9; Ps. 18:1; Ps. 46:1; Ps. 81:1; Ps. 27:1; 28:8; Rev. 3:8.

DIGGING DEEP .276
GIDEON: A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE – PART 3

INTRODUCTION:
We began the study of the life history of Gideon by nothing that the wages of sin is death: spiritual, financial and otherwise. And that God calls the things that are not as though they were, calling a fearful young man a "mighty man of valour". Today, we shall continue to study the life of that "mighty man of Valour" may the Lord bless richly as we do so in Jesus Name. Amen.

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Judg. 6:17-27; Gen. 18:1-5; Gen. 19:1-3; I Kings 17:8-16; II Kings 4:8-17; Acts 9:36-41; Heb. 13:2; Gal. 6:9-10; Gen. 4:3-7; Gen. 18:6-8; I Sam. 15:22.

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I John 3:2-3; Matt. 5:8; Mark 4:37-39; Matt. 14:22; John 14:1; Gen. 8:20; Gen. 13:14-18; Acts 2:37-38; Ps. 33:16; II Cor. 12:9; Ps. 18:1; Ps. 46:1; Ps. 81:1; Ps. 27:1; 28:8; Rev. 3:8.

DIGGING DEEP 278
GIDEON: A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE – PART 5

INTRODUCTION:
We began the study of the life history of Gideon by nothing that the wages of sin is death: spiritual, financial and otherwise. And that God calls the things that are not as though they were, calling a fearful young man a "mighty man of valour". Today, we shall continue to study the life of that "mighty man of Valour" may the Lord bless richly as we do so in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. OBEDIENCE PLUS A WORTHY OFFERING EQUALS AN ACCEPTABLE OFFERING.

Gideon requested a sign from the Divine visitor: that he be allowed to offer his hospitality. All great men and women of the Bible are hospitable people. However, it is not only their worthy offerings that make them acceptable to God, it is their obedience to God in all-things that is mixed with their offerings. If God has to choose, He will prefer obedience to any offering at any time.

Judg. 6:17-27; Gen. 18:1-5; Gen. 19:1-3; I Kings 17:8-16; II Kings 4:8-17; Acts 9:36-41; Heb. 13:2; Gal. 6:9-10; Gen. 4:3-7; Gen. 18:6-8; I Sam. 15:22.

2. OUR GOD IS A GOD OF PEACE WHO TURNS WEAK PEOPLE TO STRONG ONES.

Gideon was scared that he would die because he had seen God but our God of peace assured him that all would be well. Then Gideon demonstrated another trait common to all spiritual giants: he built an altar and worshipped God. When God told him pull down the altar of Baal, he obeyed; though he did it at night out of fear.

I John 3:2-3; Matt. 5:8; Mark 4:37-39; Matt. 14:22; John 14:1; Gen. 8:20; Gen. 13:14-18; Acts 2:37-38; Ps. 33:16; II Cor. 12:9; Ps. 18:1; Ps. 46:1; Ps. 81:1; Ps. 27:1; 28:8; Rev. 3:8.

DIGGING DEEP 278
GIDEON: A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE – PART 5

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the dangers of asking God for sign and the wisdom of simply trusting in Him. We also saw that many are called but few are chosen and that the few chosen must be fearless, watchful, prepared strong, perfect vessels unto honour. May the Lord bless us richly as we continue with our study of Gideon today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **OUR GOD IS THE FATHER OF MERCIES**

When the Almighty saw the state of mind of Gideon, He arranged an encouragement for him by way of a dream and its interpretation. This again shows how merciful God is. Surely, He will never allow us to be tempted beyond our ability.

Judg. 7:9-15; II Cor. 1:3-4; I Cor. 10:13; Matt. 1:18-24; I Kings 19:4-8; II Kings 6:15-17.

2. **GOD USES STRANGE WEAPONS TO FIGHT HIS BATTLES**

Whenever God engages in spiritual warfare, He uses the most unlikely weapons. In this case, He used a broken pot, a flaming touch and a blaring trumpet in the hands of each of 300 men to rout 300,000 of His enemies. He is still the same today and will give you victory in a manner you least expect.

Judg. 7:16-25; Gal. 2:20; I Cor. 9:25-27; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 5:14; I Thess. 5:22-23; Rom. 12:9; II Cor. 6:17-18; I Pet. 1:14-16; John 14:30; Isa. 52:7; John 15:16; James 4:7; Matt. 8:5-10; I Sam. 15:17-23.

DIGGING DEEP 279
THE FLOOD SURVIVORS A TYPE OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:
Noah and those who were saved with him in the ark are remarkably typical of Christian believers and of the church as a whole in seven outstanding ways, may the Lord teach us today and bless us tremendously as we study at His feet in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **BELIEVERS SEVEN OUTSTANDING WAYS**

The conversation in which they were chosen to salvation was made before the flood; the ark was entered in response to a divine call. Noah believed God with his family, the ark that effected, salvation also involved separation, and the Lord shut him in. The higher the flood prevailed the more the ark rose above it, when the guilty world was beneath the flood of judgement and death, those in the ark were risen above it and were alive, they not only survived the flood, they became the possessors of a new world.

Gen. 6:18; II Thess. 2:13; Eph. 1:4; Gen. 7:1; Rom. 3:30; I Cor. 1:9; Rom. 5:1; John 17:16; I Thess. 5:24; Gen. 7:4,5,7; Heb. 10:39; I Pet. 1:21-22; Rom. 16:26; Heb. 1:7; I Pet. 2:9; II Cor. 6:17; Gen. 7:16; Eph. 4:30; II Cor. 1:22; Gen. 7:17-19; Gen. 7:16; Col. 3:1; I Pet. 3:21; Gen. 3:15-19; II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 22:1-4; Rev. 7:15-17; Rev. 22:3-5.

DIGGING DEEP 280
GIDEON: A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE – PART 6

INTRODUCTION:
We saw in the last part of this series that our merciful God will never allow us to be tempted beyond our ability. We also saw the God uses strange weapons to fight His battles. In this concluding chapter, we want to see how to win continuously in our warfare against the devil, may the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE DEVIL IS A BOXING CHAMPION: WATCH AND PRAY**

After the victory, the "grateful" people of Israel offered Gideon a throne, but he was too wise to accept to be king over Israel. However, he had weakness for gold and this was cleverly used by the devil to defeat him. The devil is a good boxer; he knows how to use the opponent's weakness to destroy him.

Judg. 8:22-27; II Cor. 10:4; Ex. 14:11-12; Ex. 15:23-24; Ex. 16:2-3; Ex.17:1-2; Ex. 32:19-20; Num. 11:4-6, 11-15; Num. 20:1-4, 7-12.

2. **IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE HOLY IN BIG THINGS; WE MUST BE HOLY IN SMALL THINGS**

It is important to be holy in big things. But that is not enough: we must be holy in all things, small things inclusive. It is good to protect our weak points from the attack of enemy, but it is far better to be get rid of them completely.

I Cor. 9:27; Matt. 5:27-30; I Thess. 5:2; Heb. 12:4; Jam. 4:7.

DIGGING DEEP 281
SAMSON; A STUDY IN "THE ANOINTING" – PART 1

INTRODUCTION:
What is the anointing? What can it do? When is it needed? Who can have it? What can hinder or prevent it from functioning? These and similar questions will be answered in this series as we use Samson as a case study, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name.

1. **THE ANOINTING BREAKS THE YOKE**

The closest way to describe the anointing is "Divine electricity". Like physical electricity, it can produce heat, light, sound etc. Handled wrongly it can kill. But principally it is to enable humans to do supernatural things. It can break any yoke of the enemy.

Judg. 13:1-14; Is. 10:27; Is 61:1-3; Matt. 9:12; Rom. 5:20.

2. **ANOINTING FUNCTIONS BEST IMPURE VESSELS**

Just like electricity, anointing flows best when the conductor is purest. The one through whom anointing must flow is a privileged person. And special privileged implies by special responsibilities.

Rom. 9:20-21; Ps. 127:3; Deut. 28:1-2; Ex. 19:5-6; Eph. 5:18; Pro. 20:1; Pr. 31:6; Acts 2:4-15, 13-18; Jer. 1:4-5; Eph. 1:3-5; Ps. 62:11; Num. 22:7-35; Jos. 1:6,7,9, Heb. 1:9.

DIGGING DEEP 282
SAMSON: A STUDY IN "THE ANOINTING" – PART 2

INTRODUCTION:
In the first part of this series, we saw that the main purpose of the anointing is to break the yokes of the enemy. We also learnt that holiness and purity are essential characteristics of those vessels through which the anointing must flow. Today, as we continue our studies, may the Lord bless us richly with His anointing in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE ANOINTING ATTRACTS BLESSING TO THE ANOINTED**

One of the conditions for receiving Divine visitors is hospitality. Also, those who receive Divine visitors always receive miracles, not death. Just as the anointed grows physically, so also can the anointing grow in intensity. Moreover, the anointing brings to the anointed blessings because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Judg. 13:15-21; Gen. 18:1-15; Gen. 19:1-3; Judg. 6:17-19; Judg. 13:22-23; Gen. 19:21; Judg. 6:22-23; I Kings 17:17-24; II Kings 4:17-37; Judg. 13:24; Ps. 119:89; Is. 40:8; I Sam. 3:19; Luke 1:80; Luke 2:40; II Sam. 5:11-12; II Kings 6:21; I Sam. 3:1-10.

2. **THE ANOINTING ALSO ATTRACTS FROM THE ENEMY: BUT THE ANOINTED ALWAYS LAUGHS LAST**

The anointing precipitate attacks from the enemy. Infact, the greater the anointing, the greater the attacks. But the Divine purpose is so that the enemy might be put to shame openly.

Judg. 14:1-6; I Sam. 17:34-35; II Kings 1:7-12; II Kings 6:8-14; II Kings 1:13-17; I Sam. 17:45-50; I Kings 18:25-40; II Kings 6:15:23.

DIGGING DEEP . 283
SAMSON; A STUDY IN "THE ANOINTING" – PART 3
JUDGES 14:7 – JUDGES 15:20

INTRODUCTION:
We learnt in the last part of this series that anointing attracts blessing to the anointed. Also, anointing attacks from the enemy, though the Divine purpose is so that enemy might be disgraced. Today, we pray that the Almighty will bless us richly as we continue our studies in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ANOINTING GOES HAND IN HAND WITH FIRE**

Whenever the enemy tries to cheat the anointed, the enemy ends up being the cheated. This is because anointing goes hand in hand with fire, our God being himself a consuming Fire. The fire purifies the anointed as it burns the planting of the enemy.

II Sam. 15:31; II Sam. 17:4-11, 51-54; II Sam. 15:13-14; II Sam. 18:9-15; Judge 14:7-20; II Sam. 17:23; Judge 15:1-8; Heb. 12:29; Acts 18:9-15; Acts 2:1-4; II Kings 2:9-12; Ex. 3:2-3; Is. 6:1-7; Is. 43:2; Dan. 3:26-27.

2. **EVERYTHING PROSPERS IN THE HANDS OF THE ANOINTED**

The anointed is a live wire and must be handled with care. Everything prospers in his hands either for the destruction of the enemy or for the meeting of the needs of himself or others.

Judge. 15:9-10; I Sam. 25:9-39; Acts 5:15; Ps. 105:15; I Kings 13:4; Num. 12:1-2, 9-10; Dan. 5:1-31; Judg. 15:14; II Kings 2:23-24; Acts 13:6-12; Acts 16:16-18; Is. 54:17; Acts 12:5-7; Acts. 16:25-26; Judge. 15:15-20; II Kings 4:38-41; II Kings 4:42-44; II Kings 6:1-7.

DIGGING DEEP . 284
SAMSON; A STUDY IN "THE ANOINTING" – PART 4

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we learnt that anointing goes hand in hand with fire and you must be careful how you handle the anointed of God. We also learnt that everything prospers in the hands of the anointed. Today, we pray that the Almighty will bless us deeply as we continue our study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **DIVINE PATIENCE IS NOT THE SAME AS DIVINE APPROVAL**

Anointing is no excuse for a sinful life and anyone who goes to the enemy's territory to play will surely be attacked by the enemy's soldiers. Whenever God decides to be patient with the anointed, he should be careful to note that God never approved of sin, never.

Judge 16:1-3; Rom. 6:1-2; Matt. 4:5-7; Gen. 13:10-13; 14:1-2, 12; 19:1-9, 26; II Thess. 2:9; Ex. 7:11, 22; II Pet. 3:9-14; Rom. 9:22; Isa. 16:14.

2. **THE ANOINTED MINUS GOD EQUAL DUST**

Samson did not fall suddenly in one day. He took 7 gradual steps from the mountain top of power to the pit of powerlessness. He broke all the rules of a Nazarite only to discover that without God the anointed is nothing but dust.

Judge 16:4-20; I Cor. 10:21; Eph. 5:18; Hab. 2:15; I Cor. 6:18; 6:19-20; I Cor. 6:15-16; 12:27; Lev. 21:14; II Cor. 6:14-18; I Cor. 10-12; John 15:5.

DIGGING DEEP . 285
SAMSON; A STUDY IN "THE ANOINTING" – PART 5 JUDG 16:21-31

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw that Divine patience is no the same as Divine approval and we saw how Samson took 7 gradual steps into powerlessness. Today, as we conclude this series on Samson, may the Lord bless us mightily in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHEN THE BACKSLIDDEN, ANOINTED ONE REPENTS, GOD WILL RESTORE HIM.**

When the anointed backslides, the enemies revenge, rejoice and laugh at God. But when the Backslidden anointed repents, though he may suffer a while, God will restore him.

Judge 16:21-27; I Sam. 31:1, 6; 31:8-19; II Sam. 1:19-20; 12:13-14; I Sam. 28:7-10; II Sam. 12:15-24; Mark 10:46-47; II Tim. 4:6-7.

2. **THE PRAYER OF THE ANOINTED MAY BE AN SWERED TO THE LETTER: WATCH YOURS**

What happened after Samson prayed his only prayer shows clearly that an anointed one should watch his prayer carefully. The prayer of an anointed one may be answered to the letter be careful how you pray.

Judge 16:28-31; Jud. 15:18; II Pet. 2:4-9; Luke 1:7; Hag. 2:9.

DIGGING DEEP . 286
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE PORTION OF ANOINTING –
PART 1 I KINGS 19:19-21.

INTRODUCTION:
The reason why God releases His anointing on man is always because (i) there is an assignment that is superhuman (ii) God wants the assignment achieved by a human being (iii) therefore the man chosen by God to do the assignment needs to be supernaturally equipped to do what ordinary human frame cannot do. We pray that God will bless us mightily as we begin this series of study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **A DOUBLE PORTION OF ANOINTING CAN DO BREATH - TAKING THINGS**

A singly portion of anointing can do fantastic things as is evident in the life of Elijah and Samson. Consequently, a double portion of the anointing can do breath-taking thing: things that could be called "special miracles" even through "ordinary" miracles are special intervention of God in the affairs of men.

I Kings 17:19-22; 18:36-38; Judge 14:5-6; 15:11-15; 16:1-3, II Kings 13:20-21; Acts 5:12, 15-16; Acts 19:11-12.

2. **THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS OBTAINING A DOUBLE PORTION IS A CALL**

The first step towards obtaining a double portion of anointing is a call into Divine Service. Now there are various types of call e.g. into the ministry of helps. But each call is a call to salvation and rest, to a life of meaning, fulfillment, true prosperity, higher service and power. And of course a life of separation.

I Kings 19:19-21; Luke 8:1-3; Matt. 11:28-30; I Kings 2:38-41; Pr. 2:44; II Kings 5:15-16; II Kings 4:8; 4:32-35; I Sam. 16:4; II Kings 6:21; 5:9-12; II Cor. 6:14-18.

DIGGING DEEP .287
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE PORTION OF ANOINTING –
PART 2 II KINGS 2:1-15.

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the reason why God normally pours His anointing on someone; we also saw that the first step to obtaining a double portion of anointing is a call from God. Today as we continue our study, may the Almighty God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THOSE WHO CAN HAVE THE DOUBLE PORTION**

The double portion is normally for the first born of the family. But there could be "First born" by adoption. Those who can have the double portion must in addition to being called and adopted also be hard working, humble, compassionate and bold.

Deut. 21:17; Ex. 13:2; Rom. 8:28-29; Rom. 8:14-17; I Kings 19:19-21; Acts.. Pro. 22:29; II Cor. 6:17-18; Matt. 4:3-4; I Kings 5:26-27; II Kings 3:11; Matt. 14:14; II Kings 5:1,9-12.

2. **HOW TO OBTAIN THE DOUBLE PORTION**

A rugged determination, a desire that shuts out all else except God, spiritual alertness, an expanded horizon and of course faith are parts of what must be present in an individual who would obtain a double portion of anointing.

II Kings 2:1-15; Luke 9:62; Jam. 1:5-7; Deut. 4:29; Gen 13:14-15, 17; Eph. 1:15-19; Isa. 29:18; Ps. 84:2; Luke 11:9-40; Mark 11:23-24.

DIGGING DEEP .288
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE PORTION OF ANOINTING –
PART 3, II KINGS 2:13-25

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw the qualifications of those who can receive the double anointing and how to receive it. As we know continue with our study of Elisha, we begin to see how to use the double anointing, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE DOUBLE ANOINTING CAN WORK FOR THE ONE WHO HAS IT AS WELL AS OTHERS**

The first miracle that Elisha performed with his double anointing was to cross-river Jordan. By so doing, he removed the major obstacle to his progress and ministry; next he went on to help the people of Jericho to remove the curse that had been placed on their city long ago. Next, he silenced forever those who dared to mock him. From these three miracles, it is clear that the double anointing can work for the one who has it as well as for others in deed.

II Kings 2:13-35; Mark 11:23; III John 2; Ps. 23:5; John. 10:10; I Sam. 17:34-37; Phil. 2:10; II Sam. 22:45-46; Jos. 6:26; I Kings 16:34; Isa. 54:17.

DIGGING DEEP .289
INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:
To know God is often synonymous with gladness and the true knowledge of god is that we are brought to His favour and likeness and enjoyment, may the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **GOD'S NATURE AND PERFECTION**

He is a Spirit, the Almighty and all wise, Eternal without a beginnings, He is holy without sport and absolutely unchangeable, the creator of all, His will is furnish in the scripture.

Col. 1:10; John 4:24; I Sam. 2:2: Lev. 11:45; Isa. 11:45; Isa. 9:6; James 1:5; Heb. 13:8; Ps. 111:2; Gen. 1:1; John 1:3; Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4-6; II Tim. 3:16-17; Phil. 3:10; Eph. 1:17-23.

2. **THE INCREASE TO BE DESIRE**

We do not know all at the first stage of Christian experience. The increase is most desirable because it adds to our strength, happiness and comfort. This may be attained by reading and hearing of God word.

I Pet. 2:2; Hosea 4:6; Ps. 29:11; II Tim. 2:5; Jos. 1:8; Ps. 1:1-3; Ps. 1:1-3; Pr. 2:1-6; I Cor. 6:3-6, 9-10.

DIGGING DEEP .290
COMPROMISE OR SEPARATION (FROM THE WORLD) WHICH WAY?

INTRODUCTION:
What does separation mean? It does not necessarily mean the life of an ascetic, i.e. (one who practices rigorous self denial) or shut oneself up in a monastery, a secluded place even in the Christian, it means the power to live "in the world, but not of the world", i.e. the desire for worldly things and pleasures is replaced and overcome by the new nature of Christ, which fills the heart. Compromise with evil in any form hinders blessing for a Christian, may God bless us as we go on in study of His word.

1. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

This is well illustrated by the story of the Israelites coming out of Egypt. Pharaoh represents the Adversary. On their (Israelite) trying to leave Egypt Pharaoh offered his compromises.

THE COMPROMISES

First Compromise
Ex. 2:10-11; Ex. 6:6; Ex. 7:14; Ex. 8:25; II Cor. 6:14-17; John 2:15-17.

Second Compromise
Ex. 8:28; Eph. 5:11.

Third Compromise
Ex. 10:24; I Sam. 15:9; 13-14; I Sam. 15:22-23; Ex. 10:26; Ex. 10:27-29; Ex. 33:16; John 15:18-19; Ezra 6:21; Neh. 9:2; I Tim. 6:5.

DIGGING DEEP .291
SELF EXAMINATION

INTRODUCTION:
Self-examination is the ascending of our true state and character before God. It is seeing whether the tree has been made good, whether we are converted or not, may the Lord bless us richly as we study as His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **REASONS FOR SELF EXAMINATION**

The lamb of profession may be taken and like others we may be waiting for the bridegroom, there are some who received the word with gladness, who after all were but story ground hearers e.g. Felix and Agrippa.

II Cor. 13:5; Rom. 8:10-11; Gal. 4:19; Matt. 25:10-13; 13:20-22; Jer. 4:3-4; Luke 18:22-25; Acts 24:24-25; Acts 26:28-29.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEANS TO BE IN FAITH

Having the true faith of a disciple of Christ, Living in the Kingdom, the fruit of the Spirit will be manifested and obedient to His word.

3. **HOW TO EXAMINE OURSELVES**

The standard of spiritual examination is the word of God, the true mirror the only standard of true holiness, it should be a daily exercise and not others examination.

Luke 6:47-49; James 1:22-25; 2:12; Heb. 3:12-15; I Cor 10:12; John 21:20-22.

DIGGING DEEP . 292
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING – PART 4

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw how the anointing can destroy a curse and replace it with a blessing. We also saw how the anointing can put to shame those forces trying to ridicule our God or ask us, "where is your God". Today, as we study II Kings 3 we want to see the role of the anointing in producing miracles, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ONE WAY OF KNOWING THAT ANOINTING IS FLOWING IS WHEN MIRACLES HAPPEN**

In the story recorded for us in II Kings 3, there are several points of interest. Some of these are (i) the flow of anointing can be interrupted by anger (ii) the flow can be restored by worship (iii) when anointing flows, prophecy flows too (iv) Miracle will reveal the presence of the anointing.

II Kings 3, I Sam. 16:14-23; Ps. 22:3; I Kings 18:45-46; Eze. 3:14; Joel 2:28: I Cor. 12:4-10; Ecc. 11:5; John 3:8; II Cor. 5:7; John 11:40; John 11:39-40, 44; Acts 12:5-11; Acts 19:11-12; I Kings 17:8-16.

DIGGING DEEP . 293
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING – PART 5

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw that anger can low the fuse of the anointed, that preparations must precede blessings and that anointing works silently to produce miracles. Today, as we continue with the series, may the Lord reveal more to us for our blessings in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHEN ANOINTING SOLVES A PROBLEM IT IS PER MANENTLY SOLVED**

In the story under consideration today, there are many points of interest. Some of which are: (i) the anointing breaks the yoke of poverty and the debt (ii) the anointing delivers from bondage generally (iii) most of the times the anointed requires material things to produce material miracles. (iv) anointing can be limited by the extent obedience of the one being helped and (v) when anointing solves a problem it is permanently solved.

II Kings 4:1-7; II John 2; John 10:10; Phil. 4:19; Acts 16:16-18; II Kings 6:8-16; Luke 13:10-17; Acts 10:38; John 15:5; Phil. 4:13; Mark 8:18; II Kings 2:19-20; I Kings 17:8-16; John 2:-11; John 2:6.

2. **THOSE WHO NEED THE HELP OF THE ANOINTING MUST PLAY THEIR PARTS TOO.**

Before the physician can be of much use to the patient, the patient must cooperate with the physician. Those who need the help of the anointed must play their parts too through (i) a distinct request for help (ii) obedience and (iii) willingness to use what they have to obtain what they need.

Ps. 34:6; Ps. 34:17; Is. 1:8; Deut. 28:1-14.

DIGGING DEEP . 294
WHAT CHRIT IS MADE TO BELIEVERS

INTRODUCTION:
Our Lord Jesus Christ is made unto us Wisdom, (righteousness) i.e. Justification, Sanctification and Redemption, may the Lord open our understanding and bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus most precious. Amen.

1. **WISDOM OF GOD**

Christ is the Wisdom of God He is able to remove the earthly wisdom. We are not wise unit we have this wisdom.

I Cor. 1:30; I Cor. 1:24; Col. 2:3; Luke 2:40; Col. 3:16; James 3:17-18; Matt. 12:42.

2. **JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION**

Justification affects our state as sinner, sanctification affects our character as defiled, Justification is effected at once, sanctification is progressive work, which begins with our regenerated and only ends in glory. The anointing blood which he shed is not only the ground of our pardon but is the medium of our purification.

Acts. 13:38-39; Rom.5:17-19; 5:1; Isa.64:6; John 17:17; Titu 2:14; Titu 3:4-5; Cor. 2:9-10; I John 1:7; Heb. 9:13-14; Rev. 7:14; Ex. 29: 43-44; Acts 26:1-8.

3. **REDEMPTION**

This obviously relates to the resurrection of the body and glorification of body and soul in heaven.

Rom. 8:22-23 Eph. 4:30; Phil. 3:20-21; I Cor. 15:51; I Thess 5:23 I Thess. 4:16-17.

DIGGING DEEP . 295
THE FRUIT OF REVIVAL

INTRODUCTION:
Revivals have not maintained their peak of favour over any length span of years. In this study, we shall know, the undeniable fruits of revival, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **REVIVAL BRINGS A NEW SENSITIVITY TO SIN**

Revival is accompanied by a deepened conviction of sin, men will be constrained to cry for their sins, men who though themselves to be good religious people have been led to search into the foundation upon which they were resting.

Isa. 44:3-5; Num. 23:23; Mark 7:20, 17; Job 42:6; Ps. 73:22; Jer. 31:10; Luke 18:13; II Cor. 7:10; Matt. 7:24-27.

2. **REVIVAL BRINGS A NEW CONSECRATION TO GOD**

Holiness becomes the goal of God's children; men and women are so renewed in the spirit. The hypocrites will face the challenge, by this, people will know, what is require of them.

Eph. 4:23-24; Matt. 23:25-26; Eph. 5:96; Mic. 6:6-8; Heb. 12:14.

3. **REVIVAL BRINGS A NEW LOYALTY TO THE CHURCH**

The goings of God is seen in His sanctuary, members will be concerned for the souls of their neighbour. The appetite for God's word is immeasurably sharpened.

Ps. 68:24; Eph. 2:21-22; Acts 2:47; Ps. 119:105; Heb. 4:12;

4. **REVIVAL BRINGS A NEW**
It is gloriously impossible for those who are reconciled to God to be permanently unreconciled to one another.

Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 4:32; John 17:20; Acts 2:46-47.

5. **REVIVAL BRINGS A NEW CONCERN FOR THE LOST**
It rekindles the passion for souls and stimulates the zeal to win other for Christ; the message of salvation is taken to the people where they are.

Act. 5:22-23; Num. 10:29; Matt. 22:10; Isa. 58:6; Jer. 20:9.

DIGGING DEEP . 296
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING
PART 6, II KINGS 4:8-37

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we saw that anointing can break the yoke of poverty and that those who need the help of the anointed must play their parts too. Today, as we continue our study, we pray that the source of all anointing will bless us mightily in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **HE WHO ACCEPTS A PROPHET WILL RECEIVE PROPHET'S REWARD**

In the story under considerations, we have a lot of lessons to learn. Some of which are:
(i) Those who know the value of the anointed treat them with reverence
(ii) He who accepts a prophet will receive a prophet's reward and
(iii) The word of the anointed is creative because it is backed by the creator Himself.

II Kings 4:8-37; Ex. 17:11-13; I Kings 17:8-16; Matt. 10:41-42' Phil. 4:15-19; II Kings 2:22; I Kings 17:1; I Sam. 17:43-51.

2. **FAITH IS A SWITCH THAT CAN TURN ON THE ANOINTING**

Other lessons in the story including (iv) the devil may fight but he cannot overcome the anointed, (v) sin is an insulator to the flow to anointing (vi) anointing can conquer death too and (v) faith is a switch that turns on anointing.

Rom. 8:31, 37; Heb. 1:9; Acts 8:5-8; I Kings 17:17-24; Acts 9:39-42; Matt. 8:5-13; Matt. 15:21-28; Matt. 9:22-29; Luke 8:43-48; I John 4:8; Gal. 5:6.

DIGGING DEEP .299
JOURNEY INTO GOD'S POWER

INTRODUCTION:
Many Christian look for short cuts to the power of God, there is power in Godliness. Jesus was holy and He was powerful, there is tremendous power for us in God, but not without holiness, may the Lord bless us mightily as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. **HOLINESS PRECEDES POWER**

God will empower what He first makes holy, humility precedes holiness, holiness is the product of grace and God gives grace to the humble by this you will be confronted with the truth about yourself. Hypocrites love to judge, it makes them feel superior, every season of significant spiritual growth always happen by a time of deep repentance.

II Tim. 3:5; Ps. 62:11; II Sam. 22:23; Ps. 101:6; Acts:13-14; Phil. 2:5-9; Matt. 11:29; I Pet. 5:5-6; Luke 18:9; John 8:1-10; Rom. 2:1; I Cor. 4:5; Luke 13:3-5; Matt. 3:8; I John 8:9.

DIGGING DEEP 300
ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING – PART 8

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we learnt that anointing could conquer both austerity and poison too. Today, as we study the well-known story of Naaman. We wish to see the role of anointing in other areas of life, may the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. WHAT NO HUMAN KING CAN DO, THE KING OF CAN DO THROUGH HIS ANOINTED ONES.

The circle of influence of anointing can be widened through witnessing. Also, what kings of the world cannot do the King of Kings can do it easily through His anointed ones. Moreover, anointing can be carried by the word of the anointed to remove the "but" in any man's life.

I Kings 5; John 4:29-30, 39-42; Mark 5: 18-20; I Sam. 17:33-37; I Sam. 17:45-51, 1-14; Acts 3:1-8; Luke 13:10-16; Luke 8:43-48; Acts 8:5-8.

2. ANOINTING IS A TWO-EDGED SWORD

The Holy Spirit guides His anointed on when to receive or reject gifts. Anointing is also a two edged sword which can be used for executing judgments too.

II Kings. 4; Tit. 1:7; Matt. 10:8; Acts 5:1-11; Acts. 13:6-12.

Digging Deep

301-400

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II Kings 6:1-23

ELISHA A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING PART 9

LESSON 301

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how anointing can be carried by words of the anointed to remove the "buts" in any life or to inflict punishment on sinners. We shall now continue our study by examine two different life situations in II Kings 6. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. ANOINTING IS THE GREATEST INSURANCE AGAINST DISASTER

Anointing has its' own problems, but they are good problems Luke.1:37; II Kings 6:1-7. Those who solve the problems of the anointed are solving their own problems too I Kings 17:8-16; II Kings 4:8-17. Moreover, those who know the value of anointing never stay afar from the anointed because anointing is the greatest insurance against disaster Ps. 34:5; II Kings 2:2-6.

2. THE ANOINTING HAS AN UNSEEN BODYGUARD

The anointed is endowed with supernatural audio-visual powers, which frustrate the plans of the enemy II Kings 6:8-13; II Kings 5:26. This is one of the reasons why the devil respects the anointed Judges 15:11-16; Heb. 13:5-6. Moreover, anointing can make the blind see and the seeing blind II Kings 1:9-14; John 9:40-41; Acts 13:8-12; also the anointing has an unseen body guard John 1:45-50; John 14:16.

Further Readings: Matt. 8:41-45; I Sam. 22:1-2.

II Kings 6:24-30

ELISHA A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING PART 10

4

LESSON 302

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw that the anointing can make iron swim i.e. make the impossible. We also saw that the reason why the anointed is always cool is because he can see what others cannot see; his fiery bodyguards. Today as we continue our study may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **IF YOUR WAYS PLEASE GOD YOUR ENEMIES WILL BE AT PEACE WITH YOU.**
   It is unusual for the devil to try to turn every situation against the anointed, II Kings 6:24-27, 30 but God always frustrates the devil's plans in fact II Kings 18:17-18, if a man's ways please the Lord Prov. 16:7; Heb. 11:6. He will cause his enemies to be at peace with him Luke 7:50; Matt. 9:22; Matt. 9:29; Rom. 3:3-4. Moreover what you receive by faith is what you get while your doubts cannot make God a liar.

2. **THE WORD OF GOD WRITTEN OR SPOKEN BY HIS ANOINTED IS SETTLED**
   God can use anybody to achieve his purpose and to bring his word to pass II Kings 5:1-4; II Sam. 17:1-4. He controls both the seen and unseen forces to bless one and curse another with them I Sam. 24:24-42; II Sam. 17:27-29, He will not let his Word written or spoken by his anointed fall to the ground I Kings 17:8-16; II Chro. 20:22-25; Isa. 55:10-11.

Further Readings: Exo. 3:5; Matt. 21:21; Heb. 3:18-19; Isa. 55:12-13.

II Kings 13:14-21

ELISHA A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING PART 11

5

LESSON 303

INTRODUCTION:

For weeks past we had been looking at the life and ministry of Elisha as a case study in double anointing. In this concluding part of the series, we wish to look at the death of Elisha and the lessons we can learn from it. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE SECURITY OF A NATION IS ACTUALLY IN THE HANDS OF THE ANOINTED WITHIN THAT NATION**

   Any child of God, anointed or not, can go home to heaven in either of two ways; by rapture or sleeping in the Lord II Kings 13:14-21; I Thess. 4:13-17; II Kings 2:11; Deut. 34:1-8. But as long as the anointed lives, his personal bodyguard will ensure the security of his nation II Cor. 4:7; Psalm 34:7; Psalm 68:17. And any ruler who cooperates fully with the anointed in his domain will have a successful reign II Chro. 20:1-24; I Sam. 13:8-14; I Sam. 15:22-28.

2. **THE MINISTRY OF THE ANOINTED NEVER ENDS.**

   The usefulness of the anointed does not end with his earthly life. Infact once anointed, they remain useful for all eternity. Matt. 17:1-3; Rev. 11:1-2; II Kings 2:13-15; II Kings 2:9-12; Acts 10:38; John 14:12.

Further Readings: Gen. 5:24; II Tim. 4:6; II Chr. 32:7; Ps. 55:18.

A HEART WITH IDOL - PART 1

LESSON 304

INTRODUCTION:

An Idolatry is not an occasional sin. It is something that rules us, and makes us its slave. Christ doesn't personally destroy the sin of idolatry and self within us. Rather, He points to them. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.

1. **THE IDOL OF LUST**

   Sin committed in the sanctuary and outside it will be punished. Exodus 25:1-13, Exo. 34:12-14; II Thess. 2:3-4; 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 any one who would destroy the idol II Cor. 6:16-17 James. 1:15; Isaiah 52:11; Pro. 29:1, I Cor. 5:11-13; II Chr. 36:15-16; Mal. 2:4-5.

Further Reading: Psalm. 106:30

A HEART WITH IDOL - PART 2

LESSON 305

INTRODUCTION:

When God shows us an idol within us, we must demolish it completely. We can not secretly harbor the slightest intention of ever using the idol again. Today we want to sturdy about the idol of rebellion and pride. May the Lord bless us, as we study at His feet in Jesus most powerful name. Amen.

1. THE IDOL OF REBELLION AND PRIDE.

Rebellion goes hand in hand with witchcraft. It makes you to disobey God and also doubt Him Deut. 9:7; Numbers 16:28-33; 11Sam. 18:9-14; Exodus 15:24; 1 Cor. 10:10. It involves disrespect for leaders and the death penalty is different from the common death, murmuring is the danger sign Gal. 3:1; Numbers 14:9-12; It will turn God to be your enemy.

Further Reading: 1 Sam. 15:23; Gal. 5:7-8

ESTHER: CASE STUDY IN VESSELS UNTO HONOUR PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible teaches that there are kinds of people or "Vessels" in any great house. Some of these vessels are unto honour and some unto dishonour. II Tim. 2:20. To be a vessel unto honour is a costly endeavour, but a very worthwhile one. As we study the life of Esther, may we find grace to become vessels unto honour for God in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **THERE IS A QUEEN ONLY BECAUSE THERE IS A KING: THERE ARE CHRISTIANS ONLY BECAUSE THERE IS CHRIST**

   Ahasuerus reigned over a large kingdom and was very wealth Est. 1, Ps. 24:1. But there is a king above all kings, who reigns over all and owns all Ps. 19:1-3; Hag. 2:8; Isa. 55:1. His name is Jesus Christ. Queen Vashti was free to enjoy as much as she wanted provided she remembered that she was queen because she belonged to a king Rev. 19:7-9; Ps. 34:10; John 10:10; Ph. 4:13, 19. Every Christian is free to alive life more abundant provided he/she puts Christ first John 15:5; Dan. 4:28-33.

2. **WATCH AND PRAY**

   We must realize that all gifts are from God and are to be used for Him James. 1:17; John 3:27; Rom. 13:7. Consequently, we must always have time for God because honour must be given to Him unto whom honour is due Ph. 2:9-10; Isa. 15:22-28; I Sam. 16:14; Luke 14:11; John 15:2; Mk. 13:35-37; Thess. 5:6. The enemy is also constantly looking for an opportunity to strike and displace a vessel unto honour II Tim. 4:5. Watch and pray.

Further Reading: Rom. 12:10; John 10;10.

Esther 2:1-18

ESTHER: CASE STUDY IN VESSELS UNTO HONOUR PART 2

9

LESSON 307

INTRODUCTION:

In the 1st part of this series, as we studied what happened to Vashti the former queen of king Ahaseurus, we saw how God wants the Christian to enjoy life to the full provided he puts God first all the time. We also saw the need to watch and pray constantly. In this second part, we are introduced to Esther proper. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A VACUUM IN NATURE PHYSICAL OR SPIRITUAL**
   When one queen fell, there was soon a suggestion for a replacement. This is because there is no room for a vacuum in nature Est. 2:1-18; Matt. 12:43-45, I Sam. 16:14; Ps. 51:11; John 1:11-12; Rom. 11:11-21; Eph. 2:5; Rom. 9:15; I Pet. 5:5; I Sam. 15:22; John 15:16; Jere. 1:4-5; Isa. 49:1; Ps. 75:5-7; Matt. 23:12; Acts 15:18. Esther found grace and favour with everyone because she was humble, Obedient and submissive Heb. 13:5-6. Consequently, God who always respects the humble and is a help of the helpless promoted her Ps. 46:1-3.

2. **MANY ARE CALLED, FEW ARE CHOSEN**
   Many virgins were invited, but only one was chosen and the chosen one was the excellent one Matt. 20:16. However, God can turn a slave to a queen and give victory to whomsoever, pleases Him I Pet. 2:9; I Cor. 9:24. that is why those who remained vessels unto honour forever are those who remained obedient to God forever I Cor. 9:24; Ps. 113:7-8; Ecc. 9:11; Deut. 8:10-14; 17-20.

Further Readings: Rom. 9:16; James 4:6

Esther 3,4

ESTHER: CASE STUDY IN VESSELS UNTO HONOUR PART 3

10

LESSON 308

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that there is no room for a vacuum in nature, when one queen fall another one rose to take her place. We also saw that the statement of our Lord that many are called but few are chosen had always been true. Today as we study chapter 3, and 4 of the book of Esther, we begin to see some crucial characteristic of a vessel unto honour. May you be a vessel unto honour in Jesus name.

1. GOD MUST COME FIRST ALL THE TIME

There are occasions when children of God may have to disobey the orders of the Government i.e. when those orders contravene the higher orders of the King of Kings Acts 3:4; Acts 5:27-32; Exo. 1:15-21; Dan. 3:13-18. While we must give honour to whom honour is due, the one who knows the end from the beginning must have pre-eminence in all things at all times Dan. 6:7-10; Acts 15:18; Eph. 5:18; John 14:1.

2. VESSELS ARE MADE TO BE USED: TO LEAD US TO SERVE

Vessels, whether unto honours or not, are made to be used I Sam. 16:11-16; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:39; John 12:24-25; Mark 2:18-20. He who would lead must be willing to serve and to lay down his life if need be I Sam. 15:1-3. If a chosen vessel fails to perform, God, who has a thousand ways to solve a problem, will arrange for a substitute I Sam. 17:45-47; Jude 6:11-16; Exo. 3:7-12; John 15:16; I Kings 17:8-16; II Kings 4:11; Matt. 3:9; Matt. 19:37-40; I Sam. 2:27-31.

Further Readings: Act. 4:18-20; Jos. 1:1-6.

Esther 7

ESTHER: CASE STUDY IN VESSELS UNTO HONOUR PART 4(B)

11

LESSON 309

INTRODUCTION:

THE COUNSEL OF THE WICKED SHALL NOT STAND After Esther had proved her submission to the king beyond all doubts, she rose up boldly against the enemy and the enemy was on his kneels begging for mercy.

Est. 7, James 4:7; Isa. 54:17; Ps. 68:1; Ph. 2:10; Ps. 5:7; Pro. 11:8; Isa. 43:3-4; Ps. 7:15; Ps. 9:15-16. Within a short time, the enemy had fallen into his own pit Dan. 6:24; Ps. 37:35-36.

Further Readings: Psalm 20:7-8; Pro. 11:17.

Esther 8

ESTHER: CASE STUDY IN VESSELS UNTO HONOUR PART 5

12

LESSON 310

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw the counsel of the wicked against the righteous cannot stand and how instead the enemy will end up in the pit he dug for the righteous ones. As we continue our study, we find Esther and Modecai trying to undo what Human had done. May the Lord use us to undo what satan had done to our people in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **THE WEALTH OF THE WICKED SHALL BE SPENT BY THE RIGHTEOUS**

   The house of late Haman was transferred to Esther who put Modecai in charge Esther 8, Pro, 13:22; Pro. 12:7; in the hands of Haman now rested securely in the hands of someone who would use it for beneficial purposes Pro. 11:28; Pro. 13:21; Ps. 49:10; John 1:11-12. Jesus is the RING of the Almighty God and is the secret of the Power of the Christian Rom. 8:32; John 14:14.

2. **THE VESSEL UNTO HONOUR DOES NOT LIVE FOR HIMSELF: HE LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS.**

   The principal concern of every vessel unto honour is the well being of his people Mark 16:17-18; Acts. 3:60B; Acts 8:5-8. That is why every believer, armed with the name of Jesus must spend his live undoing what Satan had done to his people, thereby restoring their joy Jer. 8:21-22, Rom. 8:31; I John 3:8.

Further Reading: Isa. 3:10-11; Pro. 11:31.

Esther 9,10

ESTHER: CASE STUDY IN VESSELS UNTO HONOUR PART 6

13

LESSON 311

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how wealth of the wicked is stored up for the use of the righteous. We also discovered that JESUS is the Ring (i.e.) Power of God and we can use his Name to undo whatever Satan had done to our people and us. As we go part of this series, may the Lord confirm us as vessels unto hoinour into the concluding in his hands in Jesus name. Amen.

1. A VESSEL UNTO HONOUR IS A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS

The Jews led by Esther and Mordecai went about destroying their enemies ruthlessly. A vessel unto honour is not a civilian, he is called to be a soldier of the cross Est. 9:10, II Tim. 2:3-4; James 4:7. He must fight ruthlessly against Satan and his hosts I Pet. 5:8-9; Exo. 3:7-10; Matt. 28:18-20; Jos. 14:6-12; Judg. 14:5-15; Judge. 15:9-13; Judge 15:9-13; Judges 15:14-15; I Sam. 17:44-49.

2. **NEVER GIVE THE DEVIL A BREATHING SPACE**

The Jews did not strike at their enemies only once Isa. 54:17; II Kings 13:15-19; Judges 2:1-3; I Sam. 17:4; Jos. 11:21-22; Eph. 6:11-13. They kept striking until all the enemies were either dead or they become Jews; the vessel unto honour must never give Satan a breathing space. Keep firing I Thess. 5:16-18; Ph. 3:12-14.

Further Reading: John 16:24; I Tim. 6:12

Esther 2:1-18

THE WRONG SWORD

LESSON 312

INTRODUCTION:

To overcome the battle of life we should not use the wrong sword instead, we are to use the weapons that are not carnal II Cor. 10:3-5. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

1. **WE NEED GOD'S HELP IN TIMES OF BATTLE AND WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER.**

   Many a times we fight the world battle with great inspiration, power and spiritual victory only to become carnal fleshly and defeated, when another battle arises I Sam. 21:1-15; Joshua 7:3-4; Matt. 26:40-43; John 18:10-11; Luke 18:1; Isaiah 40:31; Zech. 4:6; John 15:5; Acts. 12:5; II Cor. 1:11; Eph. 6:18. Therefore we should take heed I Thess. 5:17; I Cor. 10:11-12; Rom. 10:21; II Cor. 10:5.

2. **THE END RESULT OF BACKSLIDING**

   When a child of God backslide's fear enters the heart and is quickly followed by confussion and depression Prov. 29:25; Psalm 27:1-3; II Sam. 1:27; Rev. 21:27. We are tempted to twist the truth and tell lies. Our testimony, may then become so blemished, that the worldly people laugh at our folly, and madness John 8:44; John 8:32; Judges 16:24-25.

Further Reading: Rom. 8:15; I Sam. 17:47.

SANCTIFICATION

LESSON 313

INTRODUCTION:

Sanctification, holiness and consecration are synonymous terms, justification, deals with the quiet and condemnation of sin. Sanctification deals with power of indwelling sin.

In sanctification there is both (i) Instantaneous and (ii) Practical and progressive experience. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus most powerful Name. Amen.

1. **POSITIONAL AND INSTANTANEOUS EXPERIENCE**

   There is a sense in which the believer is sanctified instantaneously, set aprt for God and clothed in the righteousness of Christ I Cor. 1:2; II Thess. 2:1-3; John 17:17; Heb. 13:12; I Cor. 1:30; I Pet. 1:2; Acts 15:9; Rom. 4:20-24; Acts 10:15-28.

2. **PRACTICAL AND PROGRESS EXPERIENCE**

   The believer walks with God, he becomes more and more conformed with the likeness of Christ Heb. 12:14; Gen. 39:9; Luke 23:42-43; Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5; II Cor. 7:1; Rom. 1:7; Matt. 5:8; Lev. 11:44. He dedicates himself to the services and worship of God Rom. 12:1-2; II Tim. 2:21; Rom. 6:22; I Cor. 6:19-20.

Further Reading: I Pet. 1:15-16; I Thess. 5:23.

THE LAW OF HARVEST

LESSON 314

INTRODUCTION:

Life time is 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 feet in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.

1. RULES OF SOWING AND REAPING

Though the seed may be sown secret, the harvest can not be concealed but will be open for all to see Gal. 6:7-8; Judges 1:6-7; James 2:13; I Sam. 15:33; Rom. 2:16; 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 Ecc. 12:14; II Cor. 5:10; II Cor. 9:6; Jere. 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 Jere. 32:19.

Further Reading: Psalm 62:12; II Kings 5:26:27.

JOEL 2:15-29

PREPARATION FOR ANOINTING

LESSON 315

INTRODUCTION:

Every precious thing costs money, time, energy, effort, etc. and the more precious a thing is, the more costly it is to obtain it. Without doubt the anointing that comes from God is very precious indeed. We pray that as we study tonight. God will give us the grace to pay the cost of obtaining His anointing in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **ANOINTING CANNOT BE BOUGHT WITH MONEY, YET IT COSTS.**
   Divine anointing only comes after genuine repentance, Godly sorrow over sin and fervent prayers Joel 2:15-29; Acts 8:18-23; Ps. 34:18; Isa. 57:15; Isa. 66:2; Joel 2:13; II Cor. 7:10; I Chr. 16:11; Ps. 65:2; Pro. 8:17; Isa. 8:8; II Chr. 20:13; Deut. 24:5; I Cor. 7:5. These rule does not have any exceptions: it included both children and the newly wed. if you want the anointing, you must pay the price Acts. 2:1-4.

2. **WHEN YOU MEET GOD'S CONDITIONS, HIS ANOINTING WILL FLOW**
   God is merciful and he will gladly release his anointing on anyone who is genuinely repentant. Any genuine seeker who is sold out to God and a life of holiness will receive from God joy, divine compassion, prosperity deliverance, preservation and anointing. Ps. 126:5-6; Ps. 103:13; Isa. 63:9; Exo. 23:25; Matt. 6:33; Ps. 9:1-3; I Cor. 10:13; II Tim. 4:18; Heb. 1:9.

Further Readings: I Pet. 2:9; Ps. 51:17

ANOINTING IS FOR CONQUEST

LESSON 316

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we discussed the preparations necessary for anointing to flow freely. This week we wish to discuss the purpose of anointing and how to guard spiritual power-failure. May the Lord bless us tremendously as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. ANOINTING IS FOR CONQUEST

One of the primary purposes of anointing is for conquest I Sam. 17:34-37; Ps. 18:16-17; Ps. 63:7; Ps. 77:11; I Kings 17:17-22; I King 18:40; II Kings 2:19-22; II Cor. 1:10; II Tim. 4:17-18; II Kings 4:1-7. Anointing is given to deal with lions, physical and spiritual; to clear giant obstacles out of the way; to conquer even death and to execute deliverance from demonic influences, curse and poverty Judg. 14:5-6; John 10:10; I Pet. 5:8-9; Judge 15:14-15; Lev. 26:8; Jos. 23:10.

2. HOW TO AVOID SPIRITUAL POWER FAILURE

Like electricity, anointing can be interrupted by fuse blowing, short-circuiting, Wrong connection and disconnection II Kings 3:13-14; Jos. 7:1-5; I Sam. 16:14; Judge 16:16-20. Fortunately, each one could be prevented or rectified II Kings 3:15; Jos. 7:10-12; Jos. 7:24-25; Jos. 8:18-21; I Sam. 16:23; Judge 16:22; 28-30.

Further Readings: Eccl. 7:9; John 10:10.

THE POWER OF THE ANOINTING

LESSON 317

INTRODUCTION:

The church is to be a vehicle, the body through which a flow of life and anointing can be manifested. The anointing is the secret of deliverance the breaking down of barriers and the eliminating of sin in lives. May the Lord teach us as we study at his feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. **ANOINTING IN THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT**

   The anointing is always associated with the spirit, the word is quickened and made powerful because of an anointing or unction Psalm 107:20; II Cor. 3:6-8; II Cor. 10:3-5; Matt. 8:8; Rom. 8:2; Hosea 4:6. The anointing can be felt spiritually, mentally, physically through one or all of these channels. Heb. 4:12; Jere. 23:29; Matt. 4:3-4; Acts 8:5-8; Acts 14:8-10; Ps. 119:33-34.

2. **ANOINTING DESTROY'S THE YOKE**

   Christians are to rejoice in the midst of all their troubles for the yokes, that Satan will put upon them are already broken through the anointing, they should calm their possessions, because whatever the bondage may be, the anointing of Jesus is different Gen. 13:15; Isa. 10:27; Matt. 11:28-30; I Cor. 2:12; Isa. 14:25-26; Isa. 37:35-38.

Further Readings: John 6:63; Isa. 54:17.

OUR THOUGHTS AND THE GOD OF PEACE

20

LESSON 318

INTRODUCTION:

The thoughts lay the wires, which presently convey the message, as you think so you are almost without it. In this study we are going to talk on two aspects: (i) The importance of thoughts and (ii) The secret of the indwelling presence of God of peace. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR THOUGHTS

To bring the blessed dove to brood in the nest of our souls, our thoughts must be right. Thought is important because it has a reflex effect upon the whole character and because we naturally pursue our ideals. Phil. 4:7-8; Act. 8:19-21; Pro. 15:26; Isa. 55:6; Matt. 15:19-20; I Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 1:28-30.

2. THE SECRET OF THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE GOD OF PEACE

Allow the six angels (i.e.) True, Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely, Good report to come into your soul, give the entire control of your nature up their scene, God abides where the heart is kept free from evil thoughts Phil. 4:8; Pro. 12:19; Mal. 2:6; Deut. 25:15; Rom. 12:17; Col. 4:1; Deut. 16:20; Psalm 24:3-4; Matt. 5:8; Heb. 13:1-3.

Further Reading: Rom. 12:10; Heb. 11:1.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 1

LESSON 319

INTRODUCTION:

Within 2 years, the first century church covered the world with the Gospel. How did they do it? Can we use the same methods or weapons today? That is the purpose of this new series. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE GOSPEL REACHED THE FIRST CENTURY WORLD IN SIX STAGES

The human author of the Book of Acts is Dr. Luke and the correct title is "Acts of Apostolic men Acts 1:1-3; Luke 1:3; Acts 6:7. The name of the recipient, Theophilus, means, a lover of God. The Book of Acts shows us how the Church spread from (i) Jerusalem, to (ii) Palestine, to (iii) Antioch, to (iv) Asia Minor to (v) Europe, and finally to (iv) Rome, the headquarters of the world. So that the world was reached in six stages Acts 9:31; Acts 12:24; Acts. 16:5; Acts 28:31.

2. THERE IS A POWER SUPERIOR TO POLITICAL POWER

Whenever God promises anything, it will surely come to pass Acts. 1:4-5; Ps. 119:89; Num. 23:19; I Sam. 15:29; Acts 1:6-7. And He has promised every believer something superior to any political power; that is spiritual power, the power that the Holy Spirit alone can give Zech. 4:6; I Sam. 16:4-5; I Kings 17:1; II Kings 6:21-23; II Kings 13:14-17. You can receive that power today Acts 1:8; John 14:6; Matt. 24:35; John 14:14.

Further Readings: Acts 19:20; Ps. 119:89.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 2

LESSON 320

INTRODUCTION:

In the 1st part of this series, we saw how the Gospel reached the then world in 6 stages and that there is a power superior to political power. In this 2nd part we wish to examine that power more closely and take a look at another important promise of the Bible. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **MIRACLES ARE ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM.**
   The reason why we need power from on high to witness effectively is that unbelievers must see signs and wonders to convince them of the reality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For example, each time a miracle occurred in the early Church a lot of conversion followed.

2. **THE KING IS COMING AGAIN.**
   The ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ was a crucial necessity for us Christians. He had to go far for several reasons Acts. 1:9-11; John 16:7; John 16:12-14; John 14:15-18; Heb. 7:22-27; I John 2:1; I Tim. 2:5; John 14:1-2. However, far more important still is the fact and certainty that He will surely come again Rev. 19:5-9; John 14:3; Acts 1:11. May we be ready when He shall come. Amen. Eph. 5:25-27; Matt. 24:40-41; Heb. 10:38-39.

THE TRUE WORSHIP

LESSON 321

INTRODUCTION:

We should understand what it is to live in the temple of worship, performing every duty as to the Lord, most of our worship is mechanical in outward posture and routine, whereas we ought to worship the Father in the Spirit & Truth John 4:24 May the Lord bless us as we study at his feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. **THE ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP**

   True and acceptable worship can only be done in the heart and mind of a regenerated believer; God cannot accept the worship of an unsaved person Phi. 3:3; John 4:21-23; Acts. 10:4-6; I Cor. 2:14-16; I Cor. 1:18; II Cor. 3:14; Eph.4:18; Heb. 5:14; Rev. 14:7; Psalm 96:9; Matt. 4:10.

2. **THE MODE OF TRUE WORSHIP**

   Jesus Christ should be our heart's love and praises in our worship. Believers should be conscious of what Christ did, remembrance of his atoning sacrifice, resurrection, ascension, and his priestly intercession should fill believers heart, the flesh should not be allowed to mar the sacred moments of spiritual worship. I Cor. 1:29-31, I Pet. 2:9, Ps. 9:11, Isa. 42:12, Romans 8:1-2, 5-6, I Cor. 6:15, I John 2:16.

Further Readings: Heb. 13:15, I Chr. 16:29

ACTS OF THE APOSTLE
PART 3

LESSON 322

INTRODUCTION:
In the last part of this series, we learnt that one of the reasons why we need the of the Holy Spirit is because miracle are essential to effective evangelism. Furthermore, we also learnt that probably the most important fact for all Christians is that Christ is coming again. Today, as we look at the rest of the 1st chapter of Acts, may the Lord quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THERE ARE CONDITIONS TO BE SATISFIED IF YOU WANT DIVINE GUIDANCE

The Apostles wanted to fill the vacancy created by Judas Iscariot. But they sought guidance the wrong way and chose the wrong man. Amen Acts 1:12-26; Ps. 25:9; Isa. 30;21; Isa. 42:16; Mic. 7:8; Luke 1:78-79; Ps. 48:14; John 16:13. Anyone who wants Divine guidance must satisfy certain conditions according to the Scripture Job. 22:21-28; Prov. 4:18.

2. THERE ARE CRUCIAL LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM THE FALL OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

There are some crucial lessons to be learnt from the fall of Judas Iscariot. Several things led to this fall, principal among which are avarice, hypocrisy and treachery. Every Christian must flee these things in order not to end up as Judas did Matt. 26:14-15; Amos. 2:6; John 12:4-6; Ecc. 12:14; Luke 22:47-48; Pro. 26:27; Ps. 50:17-22; Ps. 49:16-20.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD BEEN ACTIVE ON EARTH BEFORE THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Holy Spirit is God and as such He is eternal, that is He has no beginning and not ending of days. On several occasions in the Old Testament, we can see the Holy Spirit in operation. However, something very special happened on the day of Pentecost; the dispensation of the Holy Spirit began. Gen. 1:1-2; Gen. 6:1-3; Judge 13:24-15; Acts 16; Acts 7:51; Acts 28:25; John 14:15-16; I Cor. 3:16.

Further Readings: II Cor. 5:20; John 14:15-16.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 4

LESSON 323

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw the folly of choosing first and then asking the Holy Spirit to bless your choice. We also learnt a lot of lessons from the fall of Judas Iscariot. Today, as we move to the next chapter of the Book of Acts, we pray that God will bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN FOR THE HARVESTING OF SOULS

The feast of Pentecost is held form 6th to 13th of June after the harvesting of wheat Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:41. This shows clearly that the Holy Spirit choose this day of Pentecost to come because the principal purpose of the Holy Spirit is to harvest souls and to separate the wheat from the tares John 16:7-13; Exo. 32:26-28.

2. THERE WAS A PURPOSE BEHIND THE TARRYING OF THE APOSTLES TOO

Some of the reasons why the Apostles had to tarry long in the upper room before the Holy Spirit descended on them are to have time to (i) pray (ii) repent thoroughly (iii) meditate (iv) surrender and (v) obey. II Chr. 7:14; I John 1:9; Rom. 13:8; Ps. 66:18; I Cor. 1:20; I Cor. 1:25; Ps. 73:21-24; I Sam. 2:3-4; Ps. 73:26; I Cor. 1:27; Ps. 73:27-28; Rom. 6:13; John 4:34; Acts 5:32; Matt. 18:19; Jer. 29:13.

Further Readings: Acts 1:8; Eccl. 9:16-17.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 5

LESSON 324

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we learnt that Holy Spirit was present in the Pentecost because power giving to us is to reap some soul and to separate tears from wheat. Today, as we study in the book of Acts 2:1-4 may the Lord bless mightily in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. BODY OF CHRIST IS ONE

Jesus the head of the Church is one so also your bodies, if it is some parts belonging to the body Acts 2:1-4; Rom. 12:4-5; I Cor. 10:17; Gal. 3:28; I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3; I John 4:17; Psalm 119:63. Still those who will be worthy to be part one body must be separated from some certain things because just as head is like wise is the body I Pet. 1:15-16; I Pet. 2:26; I Pet. 3:8; Phil. 1:27; Matt. 18:19.

2. DIVINE FIRE IS A SIGN REVEALING FROM ABOVE

A lot of special Divine Happening comes suddenly, because of this lesson every Christian must be prepared fully every time. When the Holy Spirit is Eternal, He came like a fire. In other to realize kind of power that is supernatural or superceded any kind which person have known or person which we have seen before. Mal. 3:1; Matt. 24:27; Act. 9:1-3; Mich. 3:8; Zech. 4:6; Psalm 50:3; Isa. 66:15; Num. 11:25; Num. 24:1-9; John 6:34; I Sam. 10;10; I Sam. 19:20; Act. 2:38.

Further Readings: Psalm 91:3; I John 1:7.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 6

LESSON 325

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that there should be no division in the true body of Christ, that the great happening of God are always sudden and that Divine fire is always a sign of Divine presence and power. Today as we look at Acts 2:5-13, we pray that the Almighty will bless us more than ever before, in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **WHEN HEAVEN CAME DOWN, NOISE FILLED THE CITY**
   On the day of Pentecost, heaven came and brought its joyful noise with it. Like those in heaven, those of us who have tasted or seen the miracles of God, those who are expecting His wonders and even those who think they had lost a miracle should still shout for joy. Acts 2:5-13; Rev. 19:5-6; Rev. 19:7; Isa. 6:1-4; Rom. 8:37; Ps. 66:1-4; Jos. 6:16-20; Rom. 8:28.

2. **THERE IS AN EARTHLY WINE AND A HEAVENLY WINE ALSO**
   Children of God are for signs and wonders to the world, especially when they are filled with the new wine of the Holy Spirit. Because just as there is an earthly wine, so also there is a heavenly wine. Ps. 71:7; Acts 3:6-10; Ps. 78:32; Dan. 6:25-27; Rev. 22:11-12; John 4:13-14; John 7:37-39; Isa. 55:1; Isa. 35:4-7.

Further Readings: Ps. 47:1; Eph. 5:18.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 7

LESSON 326

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that when Holy Spirit came down, the joyful noise of heaven came down too. Some were amazed and some mocked. Today, as we continue our study, may the Holy Spirit fill us to overflowing in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS THE FUTURE AND CAN REVEAL IT THROUGH PROPHECY.**

   Paul exhorts believers to covet the gift of prophecy because he knows that is one way they could know about the future Acts 14:18; I Cor. 14:39; Jer. 1:9; II Sam. 23:2; Acts 19:6; Acts 21:11. Also, it is also one way by which they could detect false prophecies, since prophecies could come from various sources, even from evil and lying spirits I Kings 22:20-22; Isa. 8:19-20; Matt. 8:29; Acts. 16:17; Jer. 23:31-32; II Chr. 7:14; Rev. 19:10; Matt. 23:37-39. Every believer should be able to detect false prophecies promptly, particularly in the last days.

2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN ALSO REVEAL THE FUTURE THROUGH VISIONS AND DREAMS.**

   A vision is a direct illumination from God, at times given to those who are too busy to hear the small still voice of God Exo. 3:1-4; Acts 9:1-4; Jos. 5:13-65; Jud. 6:11-21; Acts. 16:22-24; Luke 1:26-38;Act. 10:9-20; Exo. 3:1-10; Acts 10:1-8; Acts 9:10-16; Isa. 6:1-5; Dan. 5:1-5; 25-30; Gen. 20:3; Gen. 11:25-32. Dreams are more gentle and subtle means of learning about the future. As in the case of prophecies, both visions and dream must be properly checked against the settled word of God. Dan. 7:1, 9-11; II Cor. 11:14; Gal. 1:9; John 15:12.

Further Reading: Jer. 23:16; Acts 16:9-20.

THE DANGER AND CURE OF BACKSLIDING

30

LESSON 327

INTRODUCTION:

There is always a danger when a believer is no more interested in his Lord, because God is not happy with those who left their first love and zeal for him Rev. 2:4-5. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. DETERIORATION OF BACKSLIDING

It is possible for a saint to backslide if he is not watchful and prayerful. Sinners are better than backslider, because a backslider is like an animal and a fool. II Pet. 2:20-22; Matt. 26:40-41; II Tim. 4:10; II Tim. 2:17-19; Heb. 10:37-39; Matt. 12:43-45; Luke 11:26; Luke 12:47; Matt. 26:23-24; John 17:12; John 6:70-71; John 13:27; Pro. 26:11; Exodus 8:15.

2. HOPE OF REAL RESTORATION

God promises to heal backsliders on condition that they repent and their heart are washed. You need a contrite and humble spirit before you can restored. Jere. 3:22; 4:14; Isaiah 57:12-21; Ezekiel 18:30-32; Isa. 66:2; Isa. 57:15; John 1:9; Luke 22:31-34; James 4:7-11.

THE UPPER ROOM EXPERIENCE

LESSON 328

INTRODUCTION:

We are well aware that what we need today is not power of this world, but the power of God i.e. the Upper Room experience which is the Holy Spirit. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. STEPS TO THE UPPER ROOM EXPERIENCE

The lentical worship of God, in the Old Testament shows the step (i) the trespass offerings for committed sin (ii) the sin offering for sanctification, heart purity (iii) and the glory of God upon the high priest typifying the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Lev. 8:10-14; Lev. 6:4-7; Acts 1:4-8; Matt. 3:11-12; John 14:17; Acts 2:1; John 17:17; Acts 1:12-14; Luke 24:49.

2. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Your faith should stand in the power of God. You need the comforter to protect you from error.

I Cor. 2:5; John 14:26; John 16:7; John 16:13; Acts 2:4-6; Acts 46:47; James 3:13-18.

Further Readings: Zech 4:6; Acts 2:39.

THE SOUL IS ETERNAL

LESSON 329

INTRODUCTION:

The soul is eternal and shall never, never die. The real us is our soul (i.e.). Man is an eternal being, that will live forever either in hell or in God's presence for ever and ever. May the Lord teach us today as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

1. BODY OR THE OUTWARD MAN MORTAL

The outward-man is mortal. It was made out of the dust, given natural food to sustain it, and natural work to perform, also matrimony was instituted Rom. 8:11; Gen. 2:7; Gen. 3:19; Gen. 1:29; Gen. 2:15; Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; The body is our earthly house.

I Cor. 6:16-18; Mark 10:7; II Pet. 1:13-14; II Cor. 5:1.

2. SOUL OR THE INWARD IMMORTAL

We shall be like angels after the resurrection. No marriage, no death; our inward man is renewed day by day, no body can kill the soul. The soul of the ancient prophetess are still living I Cor. 15:53; Luke 20:35-36; II Cor. 4:16; Rom. 12:2; Matt. 10:28; James 4:12; Matt. 22:32; Deut. 34:5-16; Matt. 17:1-3; Acts 7:59; II Cor. 5:8; John 17:24. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. There is punishment from the souls that sinneth. Ezekiel 18:4; Luke 16:23-31; Eccl. 12:7; John 5:24-29.

Further Readings: Rev. 20;15; Gen. 1:27-28.

SELF EXAMINATION

LESSON 330

INTRODUCTION:

We ought not to stay till day of temptation. Before the time, we ought to prepare and examine it by ourselves. What is the reason for examining ourselves? Area to examine we will expose in this topic, may the Lord bless us as we study under His feet in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

1. WHAT ARE THE REASON OF EXAMINATIONS GOD

In assurance, To know whether we measure to God's standard. If not so, for us to judge ourselves and bring back to married what is not normal and also have assurance of being in faith. II Cor. 11:28:32; I Cor. 13:5; II Cor. 4:10-11; Gal. 2:20; Jere. 3:40; Ps. 1:19-50; Jere. 24:7; Hosea 6:1.

2. SOME AREAS TO EXAMINE

Is Holiness life living. Is prayer a problem or blessing. Did you have companion or condolence for sinner who is going to hell? Heb. 12:14; Acts 17:28-31; Acts 20:31: Matt. 26:41; Gen. 32:26-28; Mark 16:15; Act. 13:7-12; Jer. 7:23; Rom. 2:3; Deut. 11:8-9; Luke 16:10-12; I Sam. 3:9-10; Acts 27:23-25. Did you obey the Lord in all area of your lives? How faithful are you, did you hear a voice from the Lord? Do you normally give thanks? Rom. 1:21; Acts 12:23.

Further Readings: Matt. 5:8; Gal. 6:4.

ELISHA: A STUDY IN DOUBLE ANOINTING

LESSON 331

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that the anointing can make iron swim i.e. Make the impossible possible. We also saw that the reason why the anointed is always cool is because he can see what others cannot see his fiery bodyguards. Today as we continue our study may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. IF YOUR WAYS PLEASES GOD, YOUR ENEMIES WILL BE AT PEACE WITH YOU.

It is usual for the devil to try turn every situation against the anointed but God always frustrates the devil's plans and make the enemies to be at peace with him. Moreover, what you receive by faith is what you get while your doubts cannot make God a liar. II Kings 6:24-27:30; I Kings 12:17-18; Ex 2:5-10; Pro.16:17; Luke 7:50; Matt 9:22; Matt 21:21; Heb 10:35-39; Heb 11:6; Heb 3:19-19.

2. THE SWORD OF GOD WRITTEN OR SPOKEN BY HIS ANOINTED IS SETTLED.

God can use anybody to achieve His purpose and to bring His word to pass II Kings 5:1-4; I Kings 17:8-16; I Sam 21:24-42; II Sam 17:10-14, He controls both the seen and unseen forces to bless one curse another with them II Sam 17:27-29; II Chr.20:22-25; Isa55:12-13. He will not let His word written or spoken by His anointed fall to the ground.

Further Readings: Rom 3:3-4; Isa.55:10-11

THE DANGER OF FALLING INTO SIN

LESSON 332

INTRODUCTION:

It is far worse to sin after receiving Christ's Salvation, that to sin before knowing the power of God to deliver us from sin. In this study we shall talk on: (i) the cause of sin, (ii) The inevitable punishment of sin. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

1. THE CAUSE OF FALLING INTO SIN

Through the tempter i.e. The devil, pride leads to disobedience, Satan is standing against you , lack of knowledge about what is called sin. IChr.21:1-4; IIChr. 11:3; Gen.3:4; Matt.4:3; Pro. 13:10; Pro. 11:2, Isaiah 50:8; Rom. 10:3; Eph. 4:18.

2. THE INEVITABLE PUNISHMENT OF SIN

God punishes sinners whether it is the king, his most anointed, the poorest servant, because God uses you does not mean God will permit you to sin. When one backslides He often has to pay very dearly for his sin, even though he repents. Rom. 623; James 1:15; Acts 10:34-35; Ezek. 33:13-16; Matt. 7:21; Joshua 7:24-25; II Kings 5:26-27; II Sam. 12:7-10.

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

LESSON 333

INTRODUCTION:

To achieve the crown of righteousness, you must abide with certain conditions, i.e. (i) Fighting a good fight, (ii) Course must be completed and (iii) Keeping the faith. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. HOW TO WIN THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Christian should contend for his faith in Christ, the weapons for the faith is made available, the course must be completed, i.e. preaching the gospel and living to please Jesus II Tim. 4:7-8, Jude 3, Daniel 3:16-18; Eph. 6:10-13; I Thess. 5:17; Rev. 12:11. The battle continues, therefore, faith must be kept in order to overcome, and there should be no compromise. I Sam. 17:37; Acts 1:8; 16:17-18; Ps. 40:9-10; Matt. 5:14; Rom. 2:1; Rom. 8:37-39; Rom. 6:1-2; Matt. 24:12.

Further Readings: II Cor. 6:14-17; Rev. 2:11.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 8

LESSON 334

INTRODUCTION:

We have discussed about visions, dreams and prophesies inspired by the Holy Spirit. Today we wish to continue our study of the Book of Acts by looking at Acts 2:17-21. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THERE ARE SOME DAYS THAT ARE GOOD WHILE OTHERS ARE BAD:

A notable day is unforgettable. It is either one of great joy or sorrow. There had been many such days in the scriptures beginning from the time of Adam till the New Testament days. Acts 2:17-21; Gen. 3:22-24; Gen. 27:30-34; Gen. 7:13-16; Exo. 15:1-11; I Sam. 16:10-13; II Kings 2:9-15; II Kings 5:20-27; Dan. 4:31-34; Luke 2:d25-32

2. THE NOTABLE DAY OF THE LORD WILL SURPASS THEM ALL

The notable day of the Lord will surpass the other previous notable days because (i) it will affect the whole world (ii) it will be a day of final revelation and separation (iii) it will be a way of eternal joy for some and eternal sorrow for others (iv) it is the day when night will meet day, etc. Rev. 1:7; Isa. 21:11-12; Matt. 27:22; Acts 1:10-12; Dan. 7:9-10; 13-14; Zec. 14:4.

Further Readings: Mal. 4:1-3; Matt. 25:31-32.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 9

LESSON 335

INTRODUCTION:

Joy and sorrow. Particularly we explain that the day of recording of the Lord will be a day of eternal joy likewise it be a day of eternal sorrow for other people. Today we pray that God will bless us as we continue in this lesson in Jesus Name.

WHO IS JESUS

God will establish a kingdom in the world Gen. 3:15; Gen. 9:1-3; Gen. 15:1-4. Who will be the king? God announced or informed us in the Garden of Eden through Shem, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob Gen. 17:18-21; Gen. 22:15-18; Gen. 26:19-24; Gen. 28:10-15. After that Jacob bare twelve children. Which of them among the twelve that will take up the throne? And what is the reason?

Further Readings: Gen. 12:1-3; Acts 2:22-36.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 10

LESSON 336

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we traced the history of our Lord Jesus Christ from Adam to Joseph and Mary. We saw clearly why He is properly, "the son of David". Today, we wish to look at the effect of Peter's first sermon after Pentecost on the hearer and what followed. May the Lord Jesus bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. CHRISTIANITY IS A MATTER OF THE HEART NOT OF THE INTELLECT.

It was the hearts of the hearers, not their brains, that were pricked by the sermon of Peter Acts 2:37-47. The word of God, which is a two-edged sword, cuts at the hearts of men causing pain and Godly sorrow leading to repentance and salvation. Then there will be the joy of salvation. Then there will be the joy of salvation on earth and in heaven. Heb. 4:12; II Cor. 7:14; Isa. 55:7; Eze. 18:21; Matt. 5:4; Luke 15:7; Matt. 5:14-16.

2. GENUINE CHRISTIAN HAVE CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS.

Genuine Christians are always steadfast in doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. They normally share everything, visit one another and are happy people. Gal. 5:1; John 14:6; Eph. 4:14; John 15:18-19; Matt. 18:18-20; Acts 20:35; Pro. 11:25; Isa. 58:10; Luke 6:38; Neh. 8:10.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 11

LESSON 337

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that Christianity is a religion of the heart and not of the intellect. We also saw that genuine Christians have certain peculiar characteristics. Today we want to see the Holy Spirit begin actions in a new dimension in the lives of the Apostles. May He begin actions in our own lives too in Jesus name. Amen.

1. ALL THE BEAUTIES OF GOD ARE REVEALED IN HIS HOUSE

No matter how poor a church building may be, if God's presence is there, it will be beautiful. The lame man, sitting outside the beautiful gate of the church is a type of the miseries of a sinner and the goodness of the Almighty Saviour. Acts 3:1-6; Luke 4:16; Ps. 122:1; Col. 1:16-17; Rev. 21:21-22; James 2:;14-18; Ps. 51:5; Eccl. 2:26; Isa. 59:1-2; Isa. 57:20-21.

2. IF YOU HAVE JESUS, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING

Peter told the beggar that he had neither silver nor gold. But surely he had something far more precious than gold. If you have Jesus, what else can you ever need? Matt. 6:31-34; Ps. 23:1; Isa. 45:22; John 3:14-15; Ph. 4:19.

Further Readings: Matt. 11:28; Phil. 4:13.

ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

LESSON 338

INTRODUCTION:

God demands an account of the past which we must render hereafter, he demands an improvement of the present and this we must render now. In this study, we shall talk on (i) God's judgement in History (ii) Judgement of the wicked. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. GOD'S JUDGEMENT IN HISTORY

The sin of one caused the curse of God to come upon many thousands of their descendants, later God warns them that, He will hold historical judgement. Exo. 20:4-6; Jer. 32:18; Ezek. 18:1-4,20,24; Eccl. 11:3; Gen. 19:24-25; II Pet. 2:6; Ezek. 16:49; Acts 5:1-10.

2. JUDGEMENT OF THE WICKED

Every work and idle words will be judged, the sheep will be separated from the goats, the place where the wicked will be slaved. Heb. 9:27; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 12:36-37; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 14:11; II Pet. 2:9; 3:7-10; Jude 14-15; Luke 19:27; Eccl. 8:11.

Further Readings: Heb. 9:27; Eze. 18:1-4.

AWAKE THOU THAT SLEEPEST

LESSON 339

INTRODUCTION:

By sleep we mean the natural state of man, the deep sleep of the soul that insensibility of his real condition. In this study we shall look into (i) The type of sleep (ii) The blessings for those who are awakened. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE TYPES OF SLEEP

It is a state of utter darkness, full of disease, but he fancies himself in perfect health. An enemy of God who is satisfied in his sin, he is dead unto God. Eph. 5:14; Isa. 5:20-21; Matt. 6:23; Acts 26:18; Jere. 6:14; Eze. 13:9-10; II Kings 9:22; Rev. 3:15-17; Luke 13:4-5; Rom. 6:1-2; Luke 18:11-12; Matt. 23:25-28; Gen. 2:16-17; Pro. 8:36; Deut. 30:15; Matt. 26:41-43; Matt. 25:5-7; I Cor. 6:19; Amos. 6:1.

2. THE BLESSING FOR THOSE WHO ARE AWAKENED

God hath bound Himself to give thee light, you will receive the crown that fadeth not away and there shall be no more death, continuously you will be shinning for your Lord. Isa. 60;1-3; John 1:5; Matt. 6:16; I Pet. 5:4; I Thess. 2:19; II Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:11; Rev. 20;14-15; Rev. 21:8; Dan. 12:3; II Cor. 4:4

Further Readings: I Cor. 9:25.

CHRISTIAN IDENTIFICATION

LESSON 340

INTRODUCTION:

Christian identification was sealed with Holy Spirit in the Kingdom of darkness and also to be the candidate of heaven. In this lesson we will know the reason why we are sealed. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet today in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

1. REASON WHY WE ARE SEALED.

God want Christian to be without spot that everyone will be worthy of the Kingdom of God. He sealed them in order to show that they are His own. Sealed also talk about authority that was given to Christian. Eph. 1:13; I Pet. 1:5; Eph. 4:30; Eph. 1:14; John 18:6-9; II Cor. 1:22; II Tim. 2:19; John 10:14; Nah. 1:7; Gen. 41:42:44; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 28:3-6; Luke 10:19; Acts 3:4-8; Matt. 27:66; Rev. 20:3.

Further Readings: Nah. 1:7.

BLESSING OF OBEDIENCE

LESSON 341

INTRODUCTION:

As we all know obedience is holiness, and to receive anything from the Holy God, we must be obedient. In this study we are going to look at (i) Keeping all the Commandments (ii) The result of obedience. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. KEEPING ALL THE COMMANDMENTS

God demands perfection not almost, there is no small sin, we should be hearers and doers of the word; even in a strange country we should not defile ourselves. Deut. 11:8-9; Matt. 5:8; James 2:10-12; I John 3:4; II Cor. 10:4-5; James 1:23-25; Daniel 1:8, 11, 13, 15.

2. THE RESULT OF OBEDIENCE

Your strength will be redeemed and all the blessing of God shall come on thee. You will live long, because there will be no sickness for you and above all you will not miss heaven. Deut. 11:8-9; Ps. 27:1-3; Zech. 4:5; Is. 40:31; Is. 1:19; Deut. 28:1-4; Ps. 91:15; Eph. 5:2-3; Ex. 15:25; I Thess. 4:1-3; John 17:17; Ps. 24:3.

Further Readings: Matt. 5:48, Heb. 12:14

SELF EXAMINATION

LESSON 342

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series; we saw that all the Glory of God is revealed in His house and that if you have Jesus. You have all things. Today as we study in the second sermon on Peter after the Pentecost, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THERE ARE TWO SIDES, GOD SIDES & MAN SIDES

The man that was healed enters the temple and praising the congregation divided into two groups Acts 3:6-26; Ps. 100:3-5; Acts 3:6-26; Ps. 100:3-5; Matt. 5:1-6. The Apostles on one sides, and the other at the other sides. You must be one among the sides available, either you belong to God sides or man sides Mark. 16:17-20; Eph. 4:22-24; I John 2:15. There is no room for Lukewarmness. James 1:5; John 15:5; John 15:2; John 15:8; John 15:4; Col. 3:4.

Further Readings: Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:27.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 12

LESSON 343

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that there are only two sides to be on: either God's or people. There is no neutral ground. Also, while the sinner has to repent, the important thing for the Christian is to yield. As we continue with our studies, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WHENEVER THERE IS A GREAT MOVE OF GOD, THE DEVIL ALWAYS TRIES TO RESIST, BUT SATAN IS ALWAYS A LOSER.

Act 3 closed with the Church triumphantly winning souls by the thousands, healing the sick and performing miracles Acts 4:1-12; Eph. 5:12; Jere. 17:9; Ps. 57:4; Heb. 13:5; Heb. 2:10; I Pet. 3:18; Matt. 5:11-12; Deut. 20:1; Exo. 14:14; Rev. 3:4. And if there is anything the devil hates, it is to see the Church prosper. So he began a swift counter-attack. Soon, Peter and John found themselves among “lions” But the devil lost again.

2. SALVATION IS IN JESUS NAME.

The greatest Name in the whole universe is the Name JESUS. It is the name that is sufficient for all needs: physical, material and spiritual II Tim. 2:4; Rom. 13:12; Acts 4:12; I Sam. 17: 45. Moreover, there is salvation in none other than in Jesus alone.

Further Readings: Phil. 2:9-11

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 13

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw the reaction of the Church Leaders to the second sermon of Peter and his wonderful statement that only Jesus can save. In this part, we wish to examine their remarkable observations about the persons of Peter and John. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY TRUE CHILD OF GOD NOT TO WITNESS

When Peter finished his sermon, his accusers noted 3 things: (a) His boldness (b) His lack of formal education and (c) That he had been with Jesus Acts 4:13-22; Deut. 31:6; Isa. 12:2; I Cor. 1:25-27; Phil. 4:13; Job. 5:8-15; Jer. 20:9; Amos. 3:8. Reluctantly, they admitted that Jesus is unique. Still they asked the disciples not to preach in His name anymore. But it is impossible to silence any true, spirit-filled child of God.

Further Readings: John 7:37-38.

LIFE AFTER FREEDOM

LESSON 345

INTRODUCTION:

God wants us to keep our freedom or else the freedom will not continue. In this study we are going to look at how to keep our freedom. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

HOW TO KEEP OUR FREEDOM.

Remember the day of your freedom and how you became free, there shall no leavened bread be eaten i.e. Sin will put poison into your system. Exo. 13:3; Deut. 5:15; Exo. 20:8; I Sam. 17:37; II Peter 1:12-15; 3:1; Gal. 5:1; John 5:14; Rom. 6:1; I John 3:8; Matt. 16:6; Luke 12:1-3; I Cor. 5:7-8; and Lev. 2:11.

Further Readings: Psalm 103:1-4.

STUDIES IN ACTS
PART 14

LESSON 346

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how to pray house-shaking prayers. Today, we wish to discover the secret of the power of the early church and learn a lesson from their consecration. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

LOVE AND UNITY: UNBEATABLE PARTNERS

The disciples were of one heart and one soul. They were united Acts 4:32:37; Acts 2:1-4; Matt. 18:19; Deut. 32:30; Gen. 22:1-3; Gen. 22:15-18; I Kings 17:8-16; Phil. 3:76-11; II Tim. 4:7-8; John 15:13; John 15:12; I John 4:19-21. This is the secret of their power. They willingly surrendered all to God and shared all they had. This is because of the love they had, first to their common Lord and through Him, to one another. No wonder they were unstoppable.

First Readings: John 3:16.

Acts. 1:1-8

THE MARKS OF THE CHURCH

LESSON 347

INTRODUCTION:

The characteristics or marks of the Church are five in numbers i.e. Joy, Holiness, Truth, Mission and Unity. These should manifest in the life of every member of the church of Christ. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. MARKS OF THE CHURCH

Joy is the first thing we notice in the life of those who come to faith in Christ John 17:13-22; Matt. 11:28; Phil. 4:4; Rom. 14:17; John 15:11; Col. 1:13; II Cor. 7:1; Acts 15:9; Gen. 17:1; Acts 15:9; John 8:32; Hosea 4:6; Ps. 119:142, 151; Acts 1:8; Luke 10:1-2; I John 2:15-17; I Cor. 7:31; Acts 4:32:33; Acts 5:12; Rom. 15:6; II Cor. 13:11; I Pet. 3:8; I Cor. 13:1-2. They should be sanctified by the Truth, and carry out he great commission with Unity and Love.

Further Readings: I Pet. 1:15.

THE CHRISTIAN LAW OF LIBERTY

LESSON 348

INTRODUCTION:

To live a victorious Christian life, a believer must know the strategies of the enemy concerning our divine liberty. In this study we shall spell out the enemy strategy. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

ENEMY STRATEGY

Satan is not only a roaring lion, he is also a subtle snake, and every victory that the Christian won in his personal life in an invitation for a full-scale attack by the enemy Joshua 9:3-15; I Pet. 5:8; Gen. 3:15; II Cor. 11:3; Gal. 1:8; Eph. 6:13-14; Matt. 4:10-11; Gen. 3:15; I John 4:1; Jer. 29:8-9; II Tim. 3:6-7; Titus 1:10-11; John 8:44; Eph. 4:27; I Thess. 5:17; Luke 11:9-10; Isa. 40:31; Matt. 19:5; I Cor. 7:12-13, 16; II Cor. 5:14-15; John 15:5. A really committed Christian is not going to be trapped by an open front attack, the Gibsonites have crept into church life, Christian life, business and home, neglect of prayer always lead to trouble. You cannot break the alliance of marriage.

Further Readings: Eph. 6:13-14.

Acts. 5: 1-11

STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS OF APOSTLES - PART 15

52

LESSON 349

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how to pray house-shaking prayers. Today, we wish to discover the secret of the power of the early church and learn a lesson from their consecration. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

LOVE AND UNITY: UNBEATABLE PARTNERS

The disciples were of one heart and one soul. They were united Acts 4:32:37; Acts 2:1-4; Matt. 18:19; Deut. 32:30; Gen. 22:1-3; Gen. 22:15-18; I Kings 17:8-16; Phil. 3:76-11; II Tim. 4:7-8; John 15:13; John 15:12; I John 4:19-21. This is the secret of their power. They willingly surrendered all to God and shared all they had. This is because of the love they had, first to their common Lord and through Him, to one another. No wonder they were unstoppable.

First Readings: John 3:16

Acts. 5:1-11

STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS OF APOSTLES - PART 16

LESSON 350

INTRODUCTION:

To live a victorious Christian life, a believer must know the strategies of the enemy concerning our divine liberty. In this study we shall spell out the enemy strategy. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

ENEMY STRATEGY

Satan is not only a roaring lion, he is also a subtle snake, and every victory that the Christian won in his personal life in an invitation for a full-scale attack by the enemy Joshua 9:3-15; I Pet. 5:8; Gen. 3:15; II Cor. 11:3; Gal. 1:8; Eph. 6:13-14; Matt. 4:10-11; Gen. 3:15; I John 4:1; Jer. 29:8-9; II Tim. 3:6-7; Titus 1:10-11; John 8:44; Eph. 4:27; I Thess. 5:17; Luke 11:9-10; Isa. 40:31; Matt. 19:5; I Cor. 7:12-13, 16; II Cor. 5:14-15; John 15:5. A really committed Christian is not going to be trapped by an open front attack, the Gibsonites have crept into church life, Christian life, business and home, neglect of prayer always lead to trouble. You cannot break the alliance of marriage.

Further Readings: Eph. 6:13-14.

Acts. 5: 1-11

STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS OF APOSTLES - PART 17

LESSON 351

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study in this series, we discover the secret of the early church: love and unity. Likewise we saw the joy of total separation, Today we want to notice the danger that is the something that is smaller to total separation as we continue in act of Apostle (Act. 5:1-11) may God bless us tremendously as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. IT IS VERY DANGEROUS TO SERVE GOD N HALF-HEARTED.

The story of Anania and Saphirah teach us three special lessons. Acts. 1:11; Rom. 6:12. 10:31; Joshua 11:21-22; Judges 2:1-3; I Sam. 17:4-14; II Kings 13:14-19; Heb. 10:38-39; II Tim. 4:10; Acts 12:25; Acts 13:13; Acts 15:30-40; II Tim. 4:11; Col. 4:10; I Kings 19:19-21; II Kings 2:1-15; II Kings 13:20-21.

a. Grace is next to the privilege to commit sin.

b. It is very dangerous to be hypocrite nor lie against the Holy Spirit.

c. It is very dangerous to serve God half hearted. In the way that make someone prosper, through His grace that make us do something, it is impossible to serve Him with all our heart till the end.

Further Readings: Heb. 10:31.

Acts. 5:1-11

A DECADE OF GLORY TO GOD

LESSON 352

INTRODUCTION:

Members of this church should look back and see what the Almighty God has done in the last decade; when our father in the Lord resumes office. Today we are going to praise and worship Him. May the Lord bless us, as we give Him the glory He deserves. Amen.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

God has given us victory over our Philistines, therefore we should give Him the glory with the fruits of our lips: I Samuel 7:10-12; Heb. 13:1; Matt. 15:18; Joshua 7:22-24; Acts 2:21-23; Isaiah 48:11; I Cor. 10:31; Ps. 95:6, kneeling down before our maker.

Further Readings: Psalm 48:1-2; Exo. 15:2

Gen. 37:5-13

JOSEPH: STUDY ABOUT DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 1

56

LESSON 353

INTRODUCTION:

Can we rely on God? Is it true that He is righteous? He is faithful today as before? These are the little questions that we hope to answer as we study about the life of Joseph. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. GOD IS FAITHFUL AT ALL TIMES

The story of Joseph resembles the story of our Lord Jesus Christ Gen. 37:1-18; Gen. 44:14; Deut. 7:9; Rev. 19:11; I Kings 8:56; Ps. 89:1; Ps. 105:8; II Tes. 3:3; I Pet. 4:19; I Cor. 1:9; Heb. 6:18; Heb. 6;11-12; II Tim. 2:13; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 10:23.

In so many ways, he is the beloved of his father, he was hated and forsaken by his brothers, they lied against him and so on. But more than everything his story shows that God is faithful to everyone that is faithful to him till the end.

Further Readings: Rev. 19:11.

Gen. 47: 1-12

JOSEPH: STUDY ABOUT DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 2

LESSON 354

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the promises of God will come to pass even it stay long and also that His promises have two meaning. Today, as we proceed in our study, may the Lord Bless us tremendously in Jesus name. Amen.

1. UNBELIEVER WORKS ARE KEPT FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

When the Israelites got to the land of Egypt God gave them the best land there Phil. 4:19. This is because, it is God who has everything, and it looks like it is in charge of sinners now. It shall be return to the righteous one day. What was true in Israel of those days is still true in Israel of nowadays in God. Gen. 47:1-12; Gen. 24:1; Prov. 13:22; Isa. 61:6; Isa. 45:3; Pro. 10:3; Pro. 11:28; Prov. 11:31; Isa. 49:23; Psalm 2:8.

2. THERE SHOULD NOT BE A CURSE WITHOUT REASON LIKEWISE THE OTHER SIDE

Jacob blessed Pharaoh, as we shall see in our coming lecture Gen. 14:18-20. The blessing comes to pass but Pharaoh has done something in order to bring the blessing to come pass. Pro. 26:2; Prov. 11:24; Pro. 11:25.

Further Readings: Gen. 27:1-4; Isa. 1:19.

Gen. 37:5-13

JOSEPH: STUDY ABOUT DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS - 2(B)

58

LESSON 355

INTRODUCTION:

The dreams of Joseph showed that the blessings that his father Jacob received from Isaac are being transferred to him Gen. 37:5-11; Gen. 27:22-29; I Cor. 10:23-24; Rom. 15:1-3; Rom. 14:19; I Cor. 3:9; I Cor. 13:12. Joseph was definitely in touch with God but he was insensitive to his family.

SHARE TO BLESS NOT TO BOAST

He was self-centered. We must be careful in our sharing: we must share to bless and not to boast. Even sharing must be done in love.

Further Readings: Phil. 2:4-5.

Acts. 1:1-8

THE PILGRIM'S ROAD SIGN

LESSON 356

INTRODUCTION:

We must always remember that we are just pilgrims on this land, we are only passing through as we move towards home. In this study we want to study the Spiritual High-Way Code, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

SPIRITUAL HIGH-WAY CODE

Worldliness should be avoided because everything in the world is designed to side track us from our ultimate goal. Always stay in direct communication with your guide the Holy Spirit. Heb. 12:2; Ps. 119:11; Ps. 107:20; Exodus 33:14, refuel only at His "rest stops". I Pet. 2:11-17; Ps. 39:12; I John 2:15-17; Matt. 4:8; Acts 4:31; I Kings 13:8.14; I Cor. 10:12; Matt. 14:30 Keep looking unto Jesus and study your spiritual high-way code.

Further Readings: II Tim. 3:16.

WALK IN THE PERFECT WAY OF GOD

LESSON 357

INTRODUCTION:

When God did not walk according to our way, our decision is that it will be very good if there is quick solution, but the result of this will be problems and calamity. In this lesson, we are going to the time of God. May the Lord bless us Mightily as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

PROBLEMS OF PATIENCE TO GOD'S TIME

Those types of children will be slaves. Children of illegal wife will do contrary to the will of God. God will choose another person very soon they will forsake God. God will choose another person very soon they will forsake God. Gen. 15:13-14; Gen. 21:10-12; I Sam. 13:12; I Sam. 13:8-13; I Sam. 8:5-7; Eccl. 3:1-8; Isa. 48:8; II Cor. 5:2; Rom. 13:11; Eph. 5:14-16.

Further Readings: Isa. 40:31; Ps. 37:5.

Gen. 37:29-36

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS - PART 4

LESSON 358

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how the plans of the enemy against a child of God can only push the child of God along the road to the fulfillment of God's promise. Today, we want to see how what happened to Joseph fulfilled the law of harvest in the life of Jacob. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. PART OF THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE LAW OF HARVEST

The history of Jacob is full of deception, fraud and causing others sorrows Hos. 10;12. How the deceiver is deceived and he who caused others sorrow now had sorrow caused him, this is because the Lord who made the law of harvest is a faithful Lord. Gen. 37:29-36; Gen. 27:18-38; Gen. 30:25-43; Gal. 6:7; Job. 4:8; Hos. 8:7.

2. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE LAW OF HARVEST THAT RESTITUTON IS SO CRUCIAL

Salvation brings forgiveness of all previous sins Acts 7:57-59. However, it is restitution that uproots the evil trees planted in the time of sinful living thus preventing them from bringing forth evil fruits for harvesting. Paul's case is a classical example that the law of harvest still holds true even after conversion. Acts 26:20; Acts 8:3; Acts 9:1-2; II Cor. 11:23-27; II Cor. 12:7-9.

Further Readings: I John 1:7; II Cor. 9:6.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS - PART 5

INTRODUCTION:

PROMOTION IS OF THE LORD: MEET HIS CONDITIONS AND HE WILL PROMOTE YOU. The Lord was with Joseph in Egypt because He led him there in the first place Ps. 1:1-3. Potiphar was blessed because the presence of a righteous man in his house focused the attention of God on his estate. Meanwhile, Joseph obtained favour and rapid promotion because he satisfied certain conditions. If you too satisfy the conditions of the Lord, He will surely promote you because He is the promoter.

Ps. 37:24-25; Pro. 3:33; Ps. 5:12; Pro. 10:6; Pro. 28:20; Pro. 12:2; Ps. 75:6-7; Job. 17:9; II Chr. 26:3-5; II Chr. 31:20-21.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS - PART 6

INTRODUCTION:

The Lord was with Joseph in Egypt because He led him there in the first place Ps. 1:1-3. Potiphar was blessed because the presence of a righteous man in his house focused the attention of God on his estate. Meanwhile, Joseph obtained favour and rapid promotion because he satisfied certain conditions. If you too satisfy the conditions of the Lord, He will surely promote you because He is the promoter. Ps. 37:24-25; Pro. 3:33; Ps. 5:12; Pro. 10:6; Pro. 28:20; Pro. 12:2; Ps. 75:6-7; Job. 17:9; II Chr. 26:3-5; II Chr. 31:20-21.

Further Readings: Ps. 37: 25-34.

Genesis 39:7-12

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS - PART 7

LESSON 361

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that everything that God allows is for a purpose, that sufferings always bring out the best in every person and that promotion is of the Lord. Today, as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. ADULTERY AND FORNICATION: THE DEVIL'S NO. 1 WEAPON

Joseph was tempted sexually, as it was then, so it is now Heb. 13:4. Satan know how much God hates adultery and fornication, that is why he uses them as his number one weapon against growing Christians. Today, he has many "brothers" and "sisters" who are nothing but agents of the devil himself around. Gen. 39:7-12; Exo. 20:14; I Thess. 4:3-7; Pro. 5:15-21; Pro. 5:3-5; Pro. 6:27-29; Pro. 6:32; Eph. 5:3; I Cor. 6:9, 15-20

2. KEEP YOURSELF PURE

Joseph refused to yield to the temptress Eph. 5:27. He refused to take the sugarcoated poison. Adultery and fornication are very potent poisons. Don't take them. Keep yourself pure and unspotted. James 1:15; I Pet. 2:11; Matt. 5:22; Ps. 24:3-4; James 1:27

Further Readings: I Tim. 5:22; Matt. 5:48.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

LESSON 362

INTRODUCTION:

To the successful Spiritually and secularly, we should learn how to be alone with God in prayer, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

PRAYING-ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD

We are what we are by His grace. The only thing men can do without God is to commit sin. Human beings are difficult to control. Discerning Spirit is one of the gift of the Holy Spirit Matt. 7:7. Praying to be used by God gives us greater things than our request.

I Kings 3:7-14; I Sam. 15:17; I Chr. 10:13-14; I Pet. 5:5-6; I Kings 19:14-18; Philip 4:13; Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1-3; Num. 20:8-12; Psalm 32:33; Deut. 1:37; I Cor. 12:10; I John 4:1-3; James 4:2-3; Jere. 33:3; John 14:14.

Further Readings: Psalm 51:5; Rom. 8:26-27

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS - PART 8

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that adultery and fornication are the devil's number one weapons against growing Christians. We also saw the need to keep yourself pure as the Lord commands. Today as we continue our study of Joseph, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. ADULTERY IS A SIN AGAINST AT LEAST (3) THREE PARTIES: GOD, YOURSELF AND YOUR NEIGHBOUR.

Joseph realized that adultery is primarily a sin against God I Cor. 6:19-20. That is, why he said "No" to it. But adultery is more than that: it is also a sin against yourself apart from being a sin against your neighbour. No one ever benefits from adultery and fornication.

Gen. 39:7-12; I Cor. 3:16; I Cor. 6:15; I Cor. 6:18; Pro. 11:29; Luke 17:1-2; Matt. 19:19; II Cor. 11:2.

2. THERE IS A WAY OUT OF EVERY PROBLEM

God always provides a way out of every trial and temptation James 1:12. In the case of Joseph, the only way out was to flee when he was cornered by the enemy. There is a time for prayers and there is a time for action, too. I Cor. 10:13; I Cor. 6:18; II Tim. 2:22; Gen. 19:15-22; I Cor. 3:16-17; Pro. 22:14; Heb. 2:18

Further Readings: I Cor. 10:13; I Cor. 6:18.

Genesis 39:13-23

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS - PART 9

LESSON 364

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that adultery is a sin against at least three parties: God, yourself and your neighbour. We also saw that there is a way out of every trial and temptation. Today as we continue our study. May God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. ADULTERERS AND FORNICATOR ARE DOUBLE KILLERS.

The devilish woman, like all adulterers, when she discovered that she had failed to get the soul of Joseph, she tried to get his body destroyed Pro. 6:23-26. Adulterers are automatic liars and double-killers. Stay away from them. And never you lie against your neighbour. Gen. 39:13-23; Pro. 23:26-28; Pro. 30:20; Pro. 26:28; I John 4:20-21; I John 4:8; John 17:3.

2. THERE IS A WAY OUT OF EVERY PROBLEM

God always provides a way out of every trial and temptation. I Cor. 10:13; I Cor. 6:18; II Tim. 2:22; Gen. 19:15-22; I Cor. 3:16-17; Pro. 22:14; Heb. 2:18. In the case of Joseph, the only way out was to flee when he was cornered by the enemy Jan. 1:12. There is a time for prayers and there is a time for action, too.

Further Readings: Rev. 22:15.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 10

LESSON 365

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we discovered why adulterers are doubly dangerous. We also saw that if we wish to reach our goal, we must control our tongues. Today, as we continue our study on Joseph, may the Almighty bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. GOD'S TRAINING PROCESS CAN BE UNUSUAL AT TIMES

If you find yourself falsely accused or the motive of your actions is misunderstood, do not let that weigh you down Gen. 39:13-23; Pro. 18:13; Acts 5:41; Matt. 5:10-12; II Cor. 1:3-4. It is one of ways through which God prepares His vessels unto Honour.

2. IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OF GOD YOU MAY WEAR A FANCIFUL COAT; NOT SO IN HIS UNIVERSITY.

Joseph was once wearing a coat of many colours. But that was in his "primary" days. I Sam. 22:1-2. by now he was in the "university" of God and his dress was prison uniform that is God's pattern. Ask Moses, David, Elijah and Others. Joseph stuck it out with God and prospered. You be like Joseph and you will prosper too. Exo. 2:10; Exo. 3:1; I Sam. 16:22-23; I Kings 17;1; I Kings 17:2-6; Acts 8:26-29; Pro. 16:7; Ps. 106:46.

Further Readings: II Cor. 1:3-4.

Genesis 40

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 11

LESSON 366

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that God's training process can be unusual with radical changes from the "Primary" to the "University" Level. Today, as we continue with our studies, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE BEST TRAINING IN CONFINEMENTS

The best place to train in spiritual gifts is in a place of confinement, away from earthly distractions and among a congregation of two or three Matt. 25:23. if we are not prepared to start small, we will never amount to anything for God. Gen. 40; Zech. 4:8-10; Luke 16:12; II Kings 3: 11-12; II Kings 2:15; I Sam. 22:1-2; I Sam. 3:1-20.

2. TWO DREAMS, TWO INTERPRETATIONS

Two men had two dreams Rom. 14:12. The result of one's dream was restoration, that of the other was death. To God every man is unique and is dealt with accordingly. Eze. 18:4; Luke 17:34-36; John 3:20; John 7:37-38.

Further Readings: Gen. 40:23; Luke 16:12.

Genesis 40:23, 41:14

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 12

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LESSON 367

INTRODUCTION:

In the last series, we saw that spiritual gifts are best trained in confinement and that to God every man is unique, and is dealt with accordingly. Today as we continue our study of Joseph, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. TWO EXTRA YEARS OF WAITING

Many a times, we think that God is too slow for our liking Gen. 40:23; Acts. 2:1-4; Ps. 90:4; Luke 2:42-52; Luke 3:21-23; Gal. 1:15-19; Gal. 2:1; Acts 2:1-4; Luke 24:49; Exo. 3:1-10; Isa. 49:14-15; Heb. 13:5; Luke 1:5-18; Gen. 16:1-4; Gen. 21:5-7. We forget that His timing is different from ours. The chief butler forget Joseph for two full years, but God did not forget him. God will not forget you too. Just be patient.

2. JOSEPH, DREAMS AND DREAMERS

It was dreams that brought Joseph to Egypt and to prison. It looks as if it is dreams that will get him out now Gen. 18:1-14; Luke 1:26-38; I Kings 17:8-16; II Kings 4:8-17; John 5:2-9; Mark 10:46-52; Acts 3:1-8; Acts 10:1-8. One by one God brought Joseph in contact with dreamers who were to play major roles in his life. God will brings your miracles to you where you are; just be sure catch them as they come.

LIFE AFTER CONVERSION

LESSON 368

INTRODUCTION:

The character of a Christian is known by the way he lives in agreement with the standard of the Bible. May the Lord reveal Himself to us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

BELIEVER'S MOVE OF LIFE

Good conscience is the fruit of genuine conversion. Matt. 5:16. Testimony is to show what God can do; days after conversion should be lived for Christ. Gospel presentation should be done wisely.

Acts 23:1; I Tim. 3:9; John 4:16-18; Gen. 3:9-11; I Tim. 4:2; II Cor. 1:12; Acts 26:16; John 14:27; Joshua 1:5; Phil. 4:19; I Tim. 4:12; Phil 1:21; Acts 11:26; Matt. 10:16; Acts 2:36-38; Rom. 16:19.

Further Readings: Rom. 8:31.

HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

LESSON 369

INTRODUCTION:

Marriage is an institute ordained by God and He is not the author of confusion. In this study we want to know the causes of division in the home. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

THE CAUSES OF DIVISION IN THE HOME

Arguments and fights make marriage unbearable Eph. 5:22-24. The sex of the baby if female, lack of courtesy in the home, the problem of in-laws, failure to many according to God's will. Mark 3:25; Pro. 27:15-16; Pro. 26:21; Matt. 19:3-4; Gen. 1:27; Mal. 2:15; I Pet. 3:5-7; Pro. 14:1; II Cor. 10;4; Jer. 1:10, Gal. 3:20; Phi. 2:5-7, Matt. 19:5; Ps. 37:5; Judg. 14:2-3; Matt. 6:26-27; Gen. 28:1-3.

Further Readings: Eph. 5:31-33.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

LESSON 370

INTRODUCTION:

We can overcome because the devil has been overcome. It is for us to enter into the already won victory of Calvary. In this study we shall know, how to be more than conquerors. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

HOW TO BE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Establish a good defense. Leave no room for the devil. Remain on constant watch, you cannot be too careful, take up the cross daily I Thess. 5:22. Always use the authority of the Holy Spirit to pull down strong hold built by satan.

I John 4:17; John 19:30; Eph. 4:31-32; I Pet. 5:8-9; James 4:7; Luke 9:23-24; Gal. 2:20; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; II Cor. 10:3-5.

Further Readings: Rom. 8:37.

THE TWO TREES

LESSON 371

INTRODUCTION:

The two trees in the Garden of Eden typify two deep principles, the divine and human, you are free to choose either the tree of life or tree of the knowledge of good and evil. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

THE MEANING OF THE TWO TREES

The tree of life is God and the fruit is Jesus Christ which is life in the Spirit and absolute dependence of God. John 15:5. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is a natural lines apart from God showing self sufficient being. Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:2; I Cor. 15:45; John 6:57; John 6:33-35; Rom. 8:1-2; I John 3:9; I Cor. 2:13-14; II Cor. 3:5; Rom. 7:22-23; Matt. 26:56; Acts 17:28; Jos. 24:15; John 11:25.

Further Readings: Rev. 20:15

Genesis 41:14-57

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 13

LESSON 372

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how Joseph had to wait two extra years in prison because God has His timetable for everything. We also saw how dreams and dreamers were gradually pushing Joseph on to his goal. Today, as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. FROM PRISON TO PALACE: FROM BONDAGE TO DOMINION

God sent two dreams to Pharaoh but concealed the meaning Gen. 1:26-28. Because Joseph was now ready to be ruler of the world. He had learn that God is All in All at last. He had discovered that he who would have dominion must conquer himself first. Gen. 41:14-57; Rom. 8:28; Pro. 17:2; Pro. 16:32; Pro. 25:28; Gen. 3:17-19; Gen. 25:29-34; Gen. 27:30-40; II Sam. 11:2-27; II Sam. 12:1-19; II Sam. 24:1-17; II Kings 5:20-27; Acts 1:15-20.

2. THE SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL DOMINION: THE HOLY SPIRIT

The role of the Holy Spirit was clearly discerned, in the life of Joseph, by even a heathen King Rom. 8:13-14. The only way to conquer yourself is to let Holy Spirit do it for you. Gen. 41:38; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:1-6; II Kings 2:11.

Further Readings: Rom. 8:7-10.

Genesis 42

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 14

LESSON 373

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw Joseph moving from prison to palace. We also learn that the secret of a successful life of dominion is the Holy Spirit. Today as we continue with our study may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

The brothers of Joseph came bowing to him in Egypt Matt. 5:7. Joseph remembered his dreams and his brothers soon remembered that what a man sows he would reap. Sow mercy reap mercy and vice-versa.

Gen. 42; Pro. 21:13; Jam. 2:13; Ps. 109:14-16; Pro. 11:17; Lam. 3:22-23; Rom. 9:16; Eph. 2:4; Ps. 34:6; Ps. 34:17.

2. BLESSINGS BECOME A CURSE IN THE HANDS OF A SINNER

The brothers of Joseph got food and their money back too Pro. 13:21; Isa. 48:22; Ps. 73:12-19; Gen. 12:10-15. And the sight of the unexpected “fortune” filled them with fear. Even blessings become a curse in the hands of a sinner.

Further Readings: Ps. 34:16.

Genesis 43

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 15

LESSON 374

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw how the dream of Joseph are gradually moving him toward fulfillment with his brothers coming to bow down to him. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TROUBLE, CONTROL YOUR TONGUE

It was the talkativeness of Joseph's brother that led them deeper into trouble Prov. 21:23. It is age-old law: if you do not want trouble in life, keep your words few: control your tongue always. A wholesome tongues is a tree of life! Gen. 43; Luke 19:22; Pro. 15:4; James 1:26.

2. NOT ALL HUNGER IS BAD: THERE IS A GOOD HUNGER

It was a bad hunger that caused Jacob to release his favourite son to an uncertain future matt. 5:6; Jere. 29:13; Ps. 42:1; Amos 8:11; I Cor. 14:39; John 14:12. But not all hunger is bad. To hunger after God and thing of God is a good thing indeed.

Further Readings: Ps. 34:13; I Cor. 12:31.

BLESSEDNESS OF MILLENNIUM

LESSON 375

INTRODUCTION:

The thousand years to be the duration of a personal reign of Christ from Jerusalem over the Nations of the world, immediately following His second coming. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

NATURE OF THIS MESSIANIC KINGDOM

A universal theocracy Isa. 9:6-7 i.e. God's ruling through Jesus Christ, world peace, crimeless society, Christianity will be universal religion, enjoyment of divine health, life's span increased, changes in animal creation. Isa. 2:2-4; Isa. 45:22-25; Zech. 13:2; Jer. 31:33-34; Hab. 2:14; Isa. 35:6; Jer. 30:17; Isa. 33:24; Isa. 65:20; Isa. 11:6-9.

Further Readings: Matt. 25:31-46

Gen. 44

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 16

LESSON 376

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw that not all hunger is bad and that those who hunger for righteousness will be satisfied. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE LION OF JUDAH HAS GIVEN HIMSELF IN YOUR PLACE

When Joseph insisted on retaining Benjamin, Judah offered himself in his place I Pet. 2:24. His great Grandson, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lion of Judah, has given Himself for you too. May His sacrifice not be in vain over you.

2. THE ONLY VALUABLE LIFE IS THE ONE LIVED FOR CHRIST AND HUMANITY

Our Lord, the true Lion of Judah, lived and died for others. Today, His Name is not only above every other name, it is still bringing blessings to others Ph. 2:5-11; I Pet. 2:21; Rom. 15:1-4; Rom. 12:5-10. He is our example. We must follow His footsteps and live for Him and humanity.

Further Readings: Gal. 2:20; II Cor. 8:9.

ETERNAL SECURITY

LESSON 377

INTRODUCTION:

A saved man does not belong to God if he rebels and lives in sin, then if he dies in his sin, he will certainly be lost. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

MAN'S PART IN HIS OWN DESTINY

God is no respecter of persons; the wages of committing and living in sin is death Eze. 18:4. A saved man has the same power of choice as he had before he was saved. I Sam. 2:27-35; Eze. 18:24-32; 33:13, 18, 20, 31, Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 6:23; James 1:14-16; Rom. 6:1-2; 12-13; Gal. 6:7-8; James 5:19-20; II Tim. 4:10; Ps. 51:12; Heb. 6:4; Exo. 3:6.

Further Readings: Joshua 24:15

Gen. 45

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 17

LESSON 378

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that our God is a God of purpose and that everything He does is for a purpose. Today we continue on the same theme and pray that God will bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE PURPOSE OF GOD SHALL STAND

To fulfil His purpose, God usually chooses someone Gen. 45:4-8; Gen. 37:3-4; Gen. 37:23-27; Gen. 39:1-4; Gen. 39:20-21; Rom. 8:37; Gen. 41:39-40; Gen. 39:7-9; I Sam. 2:30; I Sam. 13:13-14. The chosen one may have problems, but God will not forsake him. He will over-come in each and every trial provided he does not offend God, he will reach the goal that God had set for him.

2. GOD CAN CHOOSE ANYONE, EVEN YOU

The chosen one does not have to be the eldest or youngest I Pet. 2:9. It could be anyone. It could be you. And if it is you, His purpose for you is clear. I Sam. 2:26; I Sam. 16:11-12; Exo. 2:1-4; John 15:16; Exo. 19:5-6.

Further Readings: Rev. 5:8-10; I John 4:4.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 18

LESSON 379

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that our God is a God of purpose and that everything He does is for a purpose. Today we continue on the same theme and pray that God will bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE PURPOSE OF GO SHALL STAND

To fulfil His purpose, God usually chooses someone Gen. 45:4-8; Gen. 37:3-4; Gen. 37:23-27; Gen. 39:1-4; Gen 39:20-21; Rom. 8:37; Gen. 41:39-40; Gen 39:7-9; I Sam 2:30; I Sam. 13:13-14.The chosen one may have problems, but God will not forsake him. He will over-come in each and every trial provided he does not offend God, he will reach the goal that God had set for him.

2. GOD CAN CHOOSE ANYONE, EVEN YOU

The chosen one does not have to be eldest or youngest I Peter 2:9. It could be anyone. It could be you. And if it is you, His purpose for you is clear.

I Sam. 2:26; I Sam. 16:11-12; Exo. 2:1-4; John 15:16; Exo. 19:5-6.

Further Readings: Rev. 5:8-10; I John 4:4.

Gen. 46

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 19

LESSON 380

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that the chosen one may have problems but God will see him through provided be does not sin against God. Also that God can choose anyone. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. GOD'S PROMISES SHALL BE FULFILLED EVEN IF IT SEEMED DELAYED.

God promised Israel that He would bring Him up again from Egypt Gen. 50:12-13. It took some 400 years for that promise to be fully fulfilled, but it was fulfilled. Only lack of faith can rob someone of the fulfillment of God's promise. Gen. 46; Gen. 49:29-33; Gen. 48:21; Exo.13:19; Psalm 90:4; Isa. 40:8; 1 Pet. 1:24; Heb 4:1-2.

2. SOME PROMISES OF GOD HAVE DOUBLE MEANINGS

God promised Jacob (Israel), He was speaking to him as an individual as well as a nation Matt. 16:27-28; Matt. 17:1-8; John 14:16-18; John 14:1-3; Matt. 19:30, At times some promises of God have double meanings. Both shall of course be fulfilled in their times.

Further Readings: Rev. 1:12-18

Gen. 47:1-12

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 20

LESSON 381

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the promises of God will come to pass even if it stay long and also little of the promises have two meaning. Today, as we proceed in our study, may the Lord Bless us tremendously in Jesus Name Amen.

1. UNBELIEVER WORDS ARE KEPT FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

When the Israelities got to the land of Egypt God gave them the best land there Psalm 2:8. This is because, it is God who has everything, and it looks like it is in charge of sinners for now. It shall be return to the righteous one day. What is truth in Israel of those days is still truth in Israel of nowadays in God. Gen. 47:1-12; Gen. 24:1; Prov. 13:22; Isa. 61:6; Isa. 45:3; Pro. 10:3; Pro. 11:28; Prov. 11:31; Isa. 49:23; Isa. 1:19.

2. THERE SHOULD NOT BE A CURSE WITHOUT A REASON LIKEWISE THE OTHER SIDE

Jacob blesses Pharaoh, as we shall see in our coming lecture Gen. 27:1-4.The blessing comes to pass but Pharaoh has done something in order to bring the blessing to pass. Pro. 26:2; Gen. 14:18-20; Prov. 11:24; Pro. 11:25.

Further Readings: Phil. 4:19

Gen. 47:10-31

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 21

LESSON 382

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discover that Gentiles word is kept down for the faithful ones and also curse will never come without a reason. Today, as we continue in our study in Joseph may the Lord bless us Mightily in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THOSE GOD BLESS OR HIS REPRESENTATION IS BLESSED RIGHTLY.

Jacob blesses Pharaoh, mightily and thing around happen in the live of Pharaoh suddenly. In the same way, when the Lord bless Abraham, things change for him rapidly Gen. 24:34-35. Some ancient truth is still truth till date that those that God Bless or His representative will have some experience of change to good that great mightily in their times. But there are some undoing that certain.

Gen. 47:10-13; Gen. 12:1-3; Deut. 23:5; Ps. 24:4-5; II Sam. 6:11; Exo. 23:25; Pro. 28:20; Mal. 3:10.

2. NOT ALL BLESSING DID THE BODY NEED.

There are some little blessing from God which the body needs by mere seeing them Pro. 10-:22. Victory over enemies, Mercy, successful children, joy, and so on. Take little out of this blessing.

Ps. 121:8; Isa. 1:19; Deut. 15:10; Deut. 15:6; Ps. 36:8; II Cor. 9:8; Eph. 3:20.

Further Readings: Ps. 128:1-2; Deut. 28:1-13.

RESISTING THE HOLY GHOST

LESSON 383

INTRODUCTION:

We are in the sixth dispensation; this is the time of grace and the Holy Ghost. God communicates to us through the Holy Spirit. It will be wrong of us to disobey our Teacher. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

CAUSES FOR RESISTING THE HOLY GHOST

Refusing to yield to corrections and reprove, uncircumcised in heart and ears I Pet. 5:6. Pride is the demon responsible for resisting the Holy Ghost. Selfishness is another open door for the devil.

Acts 7:51; Exo. 32:7-10; Pro. 29:1; Lev. 26:41-42; II Chr. 12:6-7; Pro. 16:18; Obadia. 3 Deut. 10: 16-17; Phillip. 3:3; Jer. 4:4; Act. 5:3-5; Luke 22:2-4.

Further Readings: Eph. 4:30.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 22

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that those who are blessed by God or His representative are blessed indeed. And that not all blessings are material. Today, as we continue with our studies. May God bless us richly in Jesus Name, amen.

1. SOMETHING CALLED ANOINTING: IT IS SPIRITUAL ELECTRICITY

There is something called anointing: it is spiritual electricity Acts 2:1-4. It can make hot things cold and cold things hot. It can produce light and sound. It can cause a fire out-break. It can kill and make alive. The principal source is the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 48 Mk.1:30-31; Matt. 8:1-3; Matt. 9:27; Mk. 7:32-35; II Kings 1:7-12.

2. INSIDE EVERY BELIEVER IS A DIVNE GENERATOR

Inside every believer is a portable divine generator that produces this spiritual electricity Mk. 16:17-18. Faith is the starter and the hands are the principal conductors Col. 1:27; I John 5:4; Acts 3:1-8.

Further Readings: I John 4:4.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 22

LESSON 385

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we learnt something called Anointing types of fighting Spirit and also in every believer there are trace of shrine lighting also be. Today as we proceeding in our study, may the Lord bless us Mightily in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THERE IS ACTING OF THING THAT WE CAN CHANGE AS A RESULT OF LAYING OF HANDS.

We are receiving some healing through laying of hands to the sick from the right person Mark 16:17-18. This can be so when the faith of the victim is very weak Luke 13:11-13. Some other things that we can derive from issue of laying of hands is that a command of laying hand also by anointing someone for the mission work, wealth, wisdom and other gift of God and so on. Luke 4:40; Mark 6:1-5; Num. 8:9-11; Num. 27:18-20; Deut. 34:9; Acts 6:1-6; I Tim. 4:14; II Tim. 1:6; I Tim. 5:22.

2. WHEN GOD LAID HIS HAND ON YOU SOME MIGHTY THINGS HAPPEN

When God roughly lay His hand on anybody, all needs will be met in a miraculous way that is greater than human wisdom Ps. 37:23-24. Wealth or good fortune will be in truth as it look like and in all attitudes in a live living. Ezra. 8:18-20; Ezra 7:5-10; II Cor. 30;12; Ps. 104:27-28; John 10:27-28.

Further Readings: Mark 7:32-35; Neh. 2:18.

PLEASURE FOR SOME TIME

LESSON 386

INTRODUCTION:

Pleasure of sin is for sometime and does not last forever. In this study we want to know what is eternal pleasure. May the Lord bless us as we study under His feet in the mighty Name of Jesus Christ (Amen).

HOW WE CAN GET ETERNAL PLEASURE

Reject what the world can give. Your choice should be how to live with the people of God Rom. 12:2. You should know that the world of Christ is higher than the pleasure of the world, because the judgement of the Lord is certain on sin.

Heb. 11:24-26; I Tim. 5;6; I John 2:15-17; Matt. 6:24; Dan. 1:8-15; Gen. 39:7-9; Heb. 13:12-12; Gen. 19:17; Mic. 2:10, II Pet. 3:10-12.

Further Readings: Rub. 15:18; Ps. 16:11

THERE IS JOY BEFORE US

LESSON 387

INTRODUCTION:

The only expected goal that is most important for individual is the kingdom of God, which is eternal joy that is prepared before us. For us to get where our joy is, we need to do certain things. May the Lord bless us abundantly as we learn at His feet in Jesus name.

APPROACHING OUR GOAL

For us to get our goal as a believer I Cor.9:24-27, we need to lift the load and sin to one side, we should run the race with humility, by looking unto Jesus who is the author and the finisher of our faith for restoration and rebuke. Heb. 12:1-10; Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:22; Col.3:2-4; Acts 24:26; Acts 23:1; Luke 21:19; Rev.1:9; Rom.2:7 Luke 24:26; I Peter 1:11; Psalm 1:11; Psalm 23:4; Job 5:17; Psalm 94:12; Deut.8:5.

Further Readings: Heb. 6:12; Ps. 37:7

CHRISTIAN DRESSING

LESSON 388

INTRODUCTION:

God was the first Tailor who clothed Adam and Eve and the purpose of clothing them is to cover their nakedness. In this study we shall know how God wants us to dress. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name.

HOW GOD WANTS US TO DRESS

The purpose of dressing should not be for pride and lust for the opposite sex and with inward adorning but according to God's will I Pet. 3:3-5; Isa. 3:16-24; Gen. 3:7;21; Deut. 22:5; I Tim. 2:9; Titus 2:10; Acts. 12:21-23; Ps. 132:8, 16; Isaiah 64:6.

Further Readings: II Tim. 4:13.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 23

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part lesson that we treated in this series, we discover that many things can be transferred through laying of hands, especially the hands of God Himself. As we continue in this lesson today, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. UNSTEADINESS WILL NOT EXCEL

Those that are unsteady cannot excel because of inestablished or unsteadiness annoy God James 1:5-8. Therefore He didn't answered their prayers. Truly He didn't want His children to do anything with such a people i.e. unsteady people

Heb. 10:38-39; Pro. 24:21; II Kings 17:33; Luke 16:13; I Cor. 10:21, Luke 9:61-62; Phil. 3:13-14; II Kings 2:1-15.

2. SINNERS CANNOT HIDE FOREVER

Reuben sin against His father many years back Gen. 35:22. He thought that since His father did not do anything concerning it at that time, His sin was hidden nor kept Isa. 1:18-19. But some sin have ways to find out sinners, except those sins that have been washed away through the blood of the lamb.

Num. 32:33; Jos. 7:1 16-26; II King 5:20-27; II Sam. 12:1-10; Matt. 10:26; Mark 4:22; Pro. 26:26; Eccl. 12:13-14.

Further Readings: Heb. 4:13; Heb. 13:9.

THE BELIEVER ARE CALL TO WORSHIP

LESSON 390

INTRODUCTION:

No one should be unuseful in the kingdom of light. God always call His own children to minister to others. In this lesson we shall examine the call of God for Moses. May the Lord bless us tremendously as we study at His feet in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR EXCUSES

When God prepared us for special duties, it is something that will not make us to fall back to excuses, because the plan of God is that where He point as way, His hands will supply all our needs Num. 23:19. Don't forget that our duties is not up the power behind us.

Matt. 16:15; Exo. 3:11-13; Ex. 4:1-10; Ex. 4:13; Rom. 11:29; Jos. 1:5; Jer. 1:5-8; John 1:42; Matt. 11:25; Rom. 4:17; Matt. 28:19-20; John 21:15-17; Matt. 20:1-16.

Further Readings: I Cor. 1:25-29

Gen. 49: 5-7

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 23

LESSON 391

INTRODUCTION

1. DO NOT BEFRIEND AN ANGRY MAN

Simeon and Levi did not receive any special blessings from their father Jacob because of their fierce anger and cruelty Pro. 14:17. Cruelty pays but in very bad coins and anger is very dangerous to both the angry one and to the victim of the angry Ps. 37:8. Infact an angry man is also dangerous to his friends Eccl. 7:9. Gen. 49:5-7; Pro. 11:17; Pro. 19:11; Pro. 22:24-25.

2. YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR DESTINY

Jacob said, "I will scatter Levi in Israel" Num. 1:50. Later on, God said, "I have taken Levi for the first born of the children of Israel". What happened in between? What changed the destiny of Levi? His children. You too can change your destiny. Num. 18:3; Exo. 32:26; Ezek. 18:20-24.

Further Readings: Pro. 16:32; Num. 8:17-18.

LIVING SACRIFICE

LESSON 392

INTRODUCTION:

God will only accept a living sacrifice. This means the sacrifice without blemish because he is a living and Holy God. In this study we are going to examine the instrument/tools for a living sacrifice. May the Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Name Amen.

INSTRUMENTS FOR A LIVING SACRIFICE

The lifestyle and the thought of Christian must be in you and you must live a righteous and Holy life Rom. 12:1; Gen. 4:1-4; Phil. 2:5; Lev. 22:19-21; I Tim. 5:6; I John 3:8; Rom. 8:6; Gen. 17:1-2; Amos. 3:3; I Sam. 15:22-23; Gen. 22:15-18. His sacrifice must deal with the obedience and faith in God. Heb. 11:6; Rom. 4:17-21; Ps. 11:3.

Further Readings: Ps. 4:5; Isa. 1:19.

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULNESS PART 24

LESSON 393

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how anger is such a dangerous thing that we must not only avoid it like a plague but we must not even befriend an angry man. We also saw how the sons of Levi changed their destiny by declaring for the Lord. Today, as we continue with our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE LION OF JUDAH

Judah was blessed because he was the one who rescued Joseph from his brethren and thus preserved the entire Nation of Israel II Chr. 5:2; Heb. 7:14; Rev. 5:1-6; John 1:29; Luke 1:30-33; Rev. 19:16; John 12:32; Ph. 2:9-11. And all the blessings pronounced on him find their ultimate fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Lion of Judah. Gen. 49:8-12; Gen. 37:26-27.

2. THE LION OF JUDAH IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED

There are five principal categories of people that men normally praise. There are: -

i God John 1:1-14

ii A friend I John 1:7

iii A benefactor Ps. 103:1-3

iv A relation who had done the family proud and Ps. 103:4-5

v Someone who is undoubtedly, undeniably great Ps. 107:1-2. Jesus Christ fits into each and every category, surely the great Lion of Judah is worthy to be praised. Gen. 49:8; John 13:1; Psalm 107:8-16; Rev. 5:9-14; Ps. 104:1-5.

Further Readings: John 15:13-15; I Pet. 2:24.

BACKWARDNESS OF THE SPIRIT

LESSON 394

INTRODUCTION:

Few people jump into backwardness of the spirit and they to go downward with a step once in a while. What are these steps? They are:- selfishness, proudness, using power in a clumsy ways, enjoying and self love. Saul walk in this ways and end up a failure. In this lesson we are gong to talk about the results of backsliding. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus name. Amen.

RESULTS OF BACKSLIDING

The punishment of Sin will let you fear, the electric power of God will be no vision, dream and prophecy James 1:14-16. in as much that it will not be convenient for him to be in darkness, he will join the evil gang (evil spirit) I Sam. 28:5-19. The results of this will bring great tribulation, and he will die as a failure.

Rom. 6:23; Pro. 28:1; Jere. 6:25; Pro. 1:27-28; Pro. 1:5; Mic. 3:4; Lam. 2:9; Exo. 28:30; Deut. 18:9-12; Lev. 20:27; Isa. 48:22.

Further Readings: Job. 18:11; Pro. 5:11-13.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

LESSON 395

INTRODUCTION:

Christian shall be expected from the wrath of God because the rapture of the Church is to be before the opening of the first seal. In this study we shall talk about Hell on earth for unbelievers and the Jews alike. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

HELL ON EARTH FOR UNBELIVERS AND THE JEWS ALIKE

It is a visitation of the wrath of God upon those who missed the rapture Rev. 3:10. Locust shall be given power as scorpion to torment people without the seal of God Rev. 9:1-12. The shapes of the locust were like unto houses and their teeth were of the teeth of Lions. Rev. 9:6; II Pet. 2:9; Jer. 30:6-7; Luke 21:36; Rev. 6:16-17; Luke 23:30; Isaiah 13:6-7; Job. 3:21-22; Isaiah 2:19; Jer. 8:3; Joel 2:3-4; Joel 1:6; II Pet. 2:4-7; Gen. 5:24.

Further Readings: Num. 23:19; Hosea 10:8.

A SECOND CHOSEN PEOPLE

LESSON 396

INTRODUCTION:

The understanding of a Church a new holy nation" was not in the prophecies. So the old patriarchs of the Old Testament had no idea that there would be a new and living way where God would in dwell the spirits of mankind. In this we shall talk on the church a chosen generation knows her Lord.

May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

THE CHURCH – A CHOSEN GENERATION KNOWS HER LORD

Not all followers of Jesus know His personality, because flesh and blood cannot reveal the truth about Him Acts 10:44-46. He is the Chief Corner Stone, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church built on this stone Isa. 54:17; Matt. 16:15-18; Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Eph. 2:8; I Cor. 2:14; II Tim. 1:9; Acts 8:5-8; Matt. 7:24; Eph. 2:20; I Pet 2:5-7; Ps. 118:17; Ps. 9:13; Deut. 10:15; Isa. 62:12; Deut. 4:20

Further Readings: 1 Peter 2:9-10

RENEWAL IN THE SPIRIT

LESSON 397

INTRODUCTION:

The Christian church should continue to witness a movement of renewal in the Spirit because when we rely on the Holy Spirit we get what God can do. In this study we shall talk on keeping the fire burning.

KEEPING THE FIRE BURNING

(a) Obedience brings Spiritual renewal and there will be no Lukewarmness. II Chr. 7:1

(b) Few of us are big enough to become little enough to be used of God. Matt. 25:7-10.

(c) A new sense of sinfulness of sin leads to repentance James 4:10

(d) Prayerlessness is the key to spiritual death Luke 18:1; Exo. 27:20; Isa. 55:2-3; Matt. 18:3-4; I Pet. 5:6; I Cor. 1:26; II Cor. 7:10; Acts 17:30; Matt. 3:7-10; Luke 15:7; Isa. 40:31; Ps. 103:5.

Further Readings: Heb. 12:29; I Sam. 3:3.

HOME THAT HAS BEEN BROKEN

LESSON 398

INTRODUCTION:

Christian home supposed to be a place that is very near to heaven because we are living in God, and He Himself is dwelling in us. In this lesson we want to know the reason why we have broken home, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

CAUSES OF BROKEN HOME

Home is a place whereby we must be shinning for the Lord, but the indirect is what is happening Gen. 3:16. Because we are unfaithful to our marriage vow, anger is something that is contrary Heb. 13:4, taking family altar for granted, and to be noticing disadvantages or mistake of his partner at all times.

I Tim. 5: 4-8; Pro. 6:26; Gen. 39:7-9; Pro. 6:27-29; 32; Pro. 5:15-18; Mal. 2:4; Pro. 21:19; Pro. 26:21; I John 2:15; Pro. 7:10-11,18,19; I Tim. 5:13; Titus 2:4; Matt. 26:41; Luke 18;1; I Cor. 13:5; Eph. 5:25; I Pet. 3:1.

Further Readings: I Thess. 5:17; Amos 3:3.

PERPETUAL JUBILEE

LESSON 399

INTRODUCTION:

Jubilee is a periodical time of blessings for the Israelites, but for every child of God, it is now permanent blessings and victory over the devil through Jesus Christ our Lord. In this study we shall look into the blessings of Jubilee. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

Believers are to resemble their father by resting, unlike the devil that is always to and fro Gen. 2:2. it is a time of jubilating for divine release from bondages and a time to possess your possession and also a time of new beginning Lev. 25:13; Job. 1:7; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 57:20; Ecc. 2:1; John 14:27; Isa. 30:15; Exo. 9:1; Acts 12:7; Isa. 61:10; John 8:3; John 8:32,36; Isa. 35:3-6; Eph. 1:14; Ps. 23; III John 2; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:19; Exo. 12:2; John 10:10; I John 1:3; Prov. 22:7; John 7:37-39.

Further Readings: Ps. 127:1; Lev. 25:11-22.

NUMBERING THE ANGEL

LESSON 400

INTRODUCTION:

If the devil has some evil Spirit that is in charge of some big cities, universities, likewise our God has some Angels that is in charge of these Angels and they helps us to stand in victory. May the Lord bless us tremendously as we stand at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE ANGELS

They are the ministers who minister to the children of God. They are more than thousands in hundred folds Heb. 1:14. We should not serve nor worship them Matt. 25:31, They give warning to peoples in the Old Testament, and they destroy evil people – Jesus is coming back with His Angels. Acts 27:23-24; Acts 12:7-10; Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:42; Dan. 6:22; IIKings 6:15-17; Ps. 34:7; Dan. 7:10; Zech. 3:7.

Further Readings: Rev. 5:11

Gen. 49: 22-26

JOSEPH: A STUDY IN DIVINE FAITHFULSNESS PART 27

LESSON 401

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the blessings of Israel on some of his children. In this concluding part of the series, we wish to look at the blessings he pronounced on Joseph and the implications. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. JOSEPH GOT THE GREATEST BLESSINGS OF ALL: THE BLESSINGS OF THE BREASTS

Of all the blessings pronounced by Jacob on his children, he reserved the greatest for his favourite son, Joseph Gen. 49:22-26. Not only did he heap on him the blessings of heaven above and blessings of the deep beneath, he also included the blessings of the breasts, which of course Ps. 23:1-2, means the blessing of Mummy's breasts with its deep implications. Jer. 1:4-5; I Cor. 3:21-23; Matt. 6:11; John 14:14; Rom. 8:32; John 16:24; Ps. 103:1-5.

2. MUMMY'S MILK IS INEXHAUSTIBLE

The blessings of Mummy's breasts are inexhaustible Gen. 17:1. included are growth from almost nothing to a big strong man, from a baby on a bloody soaked floor to the throne, from a nobody to a channel of blessing Ph. 4:19, Everything a child needs is in the Mummy's milk. Luke 5:1-7; I Sam 2:8; II Sam. 7:18-20; John 6:5-14; Matt. 1:21; I Pet. 2:24; Ph. 4:13; John 1:4-5; I Pet. 2:2; Isa. 46:4.

Further Readings: I Peters 2:24; Psalm 103:1-5.

Digging Deep

401-500

Pastor
E. A. ADEBOYE

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF GOD

Digging Deep Outlines

401-500

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INTRODUCTION:

We are in the second part of the mark of the Holy Spirit, which is oil. In this study, we would talk about key elements of the oil of the spirit. May the Lord bless you as you study at His feet in Jesus Name, Amen.

KEY ELEMENTS OF OIL OF THE SPIRIT

Oil is sometimes used for a setting apart. Believers are meant to set themselves apart for the Lord. They are to be set apart for the work of the Lord. A wise believer will constantly have oil in his lamp to shine for the Lord.

Ex.32;29, Rom.12:1, Judges 5:2, II Cor.8:5, II Tim. 2:21, II Cor.15:12-15, Is.10:27, Jam. 5:14-15, Is.61:1-3, Heb.1:9, Jam.5:14-16, Ps.45:7, Mt. 25:3-4, Dan.12:3, Mt.5:14-16, Mt. 13:43, Mt. 25:3, Ps. 23:6, Ex. 35:8.

LESSON 402

DIVINE HEALING (Ps. 103:1-3) Part 1

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE 401-500

INTRODUCTION:

Today we are starting this series step by step about divine healing. The Bible says the soul that sinneth shall die Ezek.18:20. Now sickness is not the other thing but a representative of death. Therefore in the first part we want to examine how we can obtain healing, through the forgiveness of sin. May the Lord bless us mightily and heal us as we study in Jesus name Amen.

1. SIN IS A POISON: IT CAN KILL A PERSON

Sin brings curses. This curses can be divided into three categories: Poverty, Sickness, and death. Therefore if sin is being conquered in the life of someone, not only that the person will be healed, but also he will be enjoying divine healing forever.

Ps.103: 1-3, Deut.28: 15, Deut.28: 29-31, Deut.28: 22, Rom. 6:23, Mat.9: 1-2, 5-6 John5: 5-9,13-14; Mat.15: 22-26, Is.59: 1-2,1 Jn.3: 8.

2. NO SIN MEANS NO SICKNESS, NO INFIRMITY

Immediately your sin is no more, the Spirit of Christ will be living in you without fear. Now sickness can be added to infirmity of the Body, Soul and Spirit, but I will overcome all of them.

Rom.8: 10-11, Isa.40: 31,James1: 5, II Tim.1: 7, Isa.3: 10; Isa.3: 11, Jn 9:40-41, Jn 6:37, Ezek.18: 31-32, Prov.28: 13.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discuss about the fact that divine healing can come through the forgiveness of sin, because sin is a poison, no sin means no sickness. Today as we continue with our study, May God bless us and heals all the sick persons in our midst in Jesus name.

1. THE POWER OF HEALING IS IN THE WORD OF GOD

The word of man has power, but the word of God has more power than that of human being because the word of God is not another thing but Jesus Christ Himself. Therefore if we said that healing come from our Lord Jesus, it means that healing is from the WORD.

2. IF YOU ACCEPT THAT WORD OF GOD, YOU CAN RECEIVE HIS HEALING

When our Lord Jesus was on earth, He never speaks a word unto sickness but unto man. Therefore it doesn't matter how your own weakness or sickness may be, if you accept His word and you do not do contrary to it, you can be made whole

Prov. 4:20-22, James 5:13-16, Prov. 18:7, II Kings 4:21-26, 36-37;Gen. 22:7-8,13;Ps. 107:17-20, Ps. 147:15, Mat. 8:8,13.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last series of our study about sign of the Holy Spirit, we have gotten to part three that is, water. In this study we will be examining the importance of water in the light of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless us as we continue to study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. ADVANTAGES OF WATER IN THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is a life given to us by the blood through the word of God, and it comfort those who thirst for God. To be worthy of heaven, ye must be born of Water and Spirit.

Jn. 7:37-39, Isa. 12:3, Juds. 15:18-19, Ex.17:3-6, Num. 20:4-5, Gen. 2:10-14, Ezek. 36:25, Rev. 22:1, Rev. 22:17, Ps. 23:2, Ps. 42:1-2, Joel 1:20, Jn. 4:14, Ps. 36:8-9, Ps. 1:1-3, Jn. 3:5-7, Eph. 5:26-27, James 1:18-19, I Pet. 1:23.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that healing can come through the faith of the sick in the healing power of the Almighty God. Today, as we look at healing by His stripes, may God heal all the sick tonight in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. YOUR HEALING HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR 2,000 YEARS AGO.

God is unlimited as to what methods to use to achieve His purpose. He could use a child's fist to kill a Lion and a pebble to kill a Goliath; He has chosen the stripes of His only begotten Son to heal the world.

Jn. 1:29 Is. 53:4-5; Gal. 3:13; I Pet. 2:24; I Sam. 17:34-37; I Sam. 17:48-49; II King 5; John 9; Ezek. 37.

2. YOU ARE FREE TO DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH THE STRIPES OF JESUS

Even though your healing had been provided for in the stripes of Jesus, you are still free to refuse it, doubt it, delay it or receive it. May you receive your healing today in Jesus Name.

Mt.20: 28; I Tim2: 6; John15: 13; II Cor.8: 9; Lk.3: 8; Is.61: 1-3.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that healing can be obtained through the stripes of Jesus Christ, which He took 2,000 years ago. Today, we want to examine healing through prayers. We pray that our prayers will be answered today in Jesus Name. Amen.

(1) PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Prayer can change doubts to trust, weakness to strength, hopelessness to hope and surely sickness to health. And we are sure that Jesus will answer your cry for healing because He is merciful and powerful enough to do so.

Jn. 14:14; Jam. 5:15; Jam. 1:6-7; Mk. 11:23-24; Is. 40:31; Ex. 14:15-18; Ps. 86:5; Ps. 62:11; Ps. 34:19 Matt. 8:1-3; Matt. 7:7-11.

2) HOW TO PRAY CORRECTLY

For your prayers to be answered, you must pray correctly. That means (i) there must be no sin in your life,(ii) your request must be in accordance with His will,(iii) the prayer must be a heart-cry and (iv) it must be persistent.

Isa. 59:1-2; Jam. 4:3; III Jn. 2; I Kings 17:17-20; II Thess. 5 :17.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that; healing could be obtained simply by asking for it in prayers from the One who said that He would do whatever we ask for in His name. Today, as we look at healing through the laying of hands, may every sickness and disease in our lives vanish in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **A LOT ARE TRANSFERRED BY CONTACT**

   A lot of things can be transferred through contact including both blessings and healing. Healing virtue for instance, can flow like a current from one person to another.

   Mk. 16:17-18, Gen. 48:8-10,13-14,17-20, Mk. 9:30, Matt. 8:1-3, II Kings 5:11.

2. **WHY LAY HANDS?**

   God is able to do all things but at times, He needs men to do certain things so that He could demonstrate His powers through them. Also, the weak faith of a sick believer may need to be aided by the laying on of hands of a stronger believer.

   Acts. 3:6-7, Mk. 8:22-25, Matt. 10:1, Jn. 14:12, Mk. 16:17-, Acts 1:8, Heb. 1:9.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that healing could come through the laying of hands. Today, as we conclude this series on Divine Healing, may any sickness or disease left in our system vanish in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. THERE ARE SOME SPECIAL CASES OF SICKNESSES AND DISEASES

All sicknesses and diseases come from the devil. However, there are some special cases, which are as a result of demonic oppression and bondage. And there are signs by which these may be recognized.

John 10:10, Luke 13:16; Luke 11:14; Matt. 12:22, Matt. 9:17-27; Job 1:14-17; Lev. 19:28; Ezek. 8:7-12.

2. HOW JESUS DELIVERS

Satan is the thief, Jesus Christ is the Restorer. Infact He came specifically to destroy the works of the devil by His special anointing.

John 10:10; 1 Jn 3:8, Mt. 28:18, Luke 11:21-22, Acts 10:38, Matt. 8:16, Mk. 16:17, 1 Jn. 1:9-10, Jam. 4:7.

INTRODUCTION:

God chose the Dove as a symbol of His Spirit because of its characteristics that has to do with Holiness. In this study, we shall look into each of them. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty Name, Amen.

1. **CHARACTERISTICS OF A DOVE**

A Dove is pure and purity is required of every Christian because our Lord was without spot or wrinkle. It is also very meek and meekness is one of the factors in dealing with others. A Dove is also harmless.

Luke 3:22; Jn. 1:32-33; Songs. 6: 7; Gen. 17:1; Heb. 12:14, Eph. 5:27, 2 Pet. 3:14; James 3:17-18; Luke 9:53-56; Matt. 11: 29; Gal. 5:22-23; II Tim. 2: 24-25; Titus 3: 2-3; I Pet. 3:4-5; Numbers 12:3, Gal. 6:1, 1 Cor. 4:20-21; John 14: 26; Isa. 40:1-2; I Thess. 5:11.

INTRODUCTION:

We know what fire stands for and the role it plays in our day to day life. In this study, we shall consider the works of fire as regards the Holy Spirit. May the Lord teach and bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. (Amen)

1. **WORKS OF FIRE AS REGARD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

   To burn every blemish, sin, inability, fear, set back and everything that is not of God. It stands for judgement, protection and refines a believer. We can consider Peter as an example on the three types of fire.

   Acts 2:3-4, Is. 4:3-4, Matt. 3:7-9, Ex. 3:2, Heb. 12:29, Gen. 19:24, Ps. 11:6, Is. 10:17, Lk. 3:17, Lev. 10:1-2, Zech. 2:5, II Kings 1:10, Is. 43:2, Jer. 23:29; Mal. 3:2-4, Matt. 26:69-75, Acts 2:41.

INTRODUCTION:

All the time, Pentecost will be having connection with the wind of God and the Mighty work of the Holy Spirit. In this study, we will talk about wind in the light of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord teach us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

WIND IN THE LIGHT OF HOLY SPIRIT

Wind rises up. This means we need revival for sanctification, in order to keep us from time to time. Revival is a visitation of God unto His people. It restores and deliver them into abundance of His blessings. These are not for those who confess failure that is in their life.

Acts 2:2, Ezek. 37:6-10, Jer. 10:13, Eph. 4:14, Matt. 7; Jn. 3:8, Joel. 2:28, II Chron. 7:14, Luke 18:1, Ps. 138:3,7,8; Ps. 93:5, I Pet. 1:16, I Thess. 4:7, Rev. 3:15-16,19-20, Acts. 4: 31, Acts. 3: 19.

INTRODUCTION:

God has a business on earth and His children should be actively involved in it- To pull down the kingdom of the devil. In this study, we shall talk on our reactions to God's business. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

OUR REACTIONS TO GOD'S BUSINESS

Believers are to spend and be spent for the course of the gospel including the ministers of God. The devil will strike against anything that is Godly, if care is not taken the tools for evangelism would be lost, but there is always room for restoration.

2 Kings 6:1-7; Ps. 69: 9; 2 Cor. 12:15; Acts 4:18-20; Acts 8:1; Acts 13:7-12; James 4:7; Matt. 18:20; Ps. 51:11-12; Eph. 4:30; Rev. 2:4-5; Matt. 21:43; Matt. 8:11-12; Ps. 126:1-2; John 21: 17.

INTRODUCTION:

Believers in other words are referred to as stewards. They are given a great commission; to preach the Gospel to the perishing world. The Lord expects all to be actively involved. In this study we want to talk on the requirements needed to make us worthy partakers of this great assignment. May the Lord teach us Himself and bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty name, Amen.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR STEWARDSHIP

Before we can be what our Father "Lord God" wants us to be, we must try to be like Him in all things. In humility, holiness, love, mercy, compassion, power and zeal to do His father's job. Satan is actively alive and his kingdom is highly organized to stop God's children from doing their father's job. But victory is sure if we know who our father is and endures to the end.

Isa. 6:1-9; 1 John 1:9; Ps. 103:3; Isa. 6:1-5; Phil. 2:1-8; II Chron. 7:14; John 15:16;10-15; 1 John 3:24; Rom. 11:1-end; John 1:12-13; John 16:15; Jer. 29:11-12; Phil. 4:13; Rev. 22:12-15.

INTRODUCTION:

Cancer is a deadly disease, which if not removed will later destroy the victim. But spiritual cancer is sin. In this study we want to look into the causes of sin. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.

CAUSES OF SI N

Relaxation instead of preparation is an open door to the enemy. Before committing sin, you must have conceived it. The more you cover up your sin, the more you add to it. The soldiers of God are always on the winning side; believers enjoy working for God than earthly enjoyment. The Omniscient God knows your secret.

2 Sam. 11:1-11; Judges 4:19-21; Matt. 26:41; Eph. 5:19; 1 Chron. 21:1-2; 2 Sam. 21:1; Acts 5:4; James 1:15; Gen. 4:8-9; Job 31: 33; 2 Kings 5:26-27; Rom. 8:31; Ex. 32:26; Judges 7: 3-5; John 9:4; 2 Sam. 12:12; Ps. 44:21.

INTRODUCTION:

The Christian is a soldier of the cross. Like all soldiers, he has his weapons of warfare: the whole armour of God. As we study this Armour of God, may we be better equipped as soldiers of the cross in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. **THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD HAS JUST ONE NAME**

   The whole Armour of God consists of the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of Gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of Salvation and the sword of the Spirit. But individually as well as collectively, they spell JESUS.

   Eph. 6: 10-18, John 14: 6; I Cor. 1: 30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 9:6; Eph. 6:11-14; Heb. 12 2; Matt. 1:21; Acts 4:10-12; Acts. 4:10-12; John 1:1, 14.

2. **JESUS IS OUR ALL IN ALL**

   Not only must all knees bow at the name of Jesus, without Him we can do nothing. However with Him on our side, we can do all things and win all battles.

   Phil. 2:10-11; John 15:5; Phi. 4: 13; Mark 16:11-18; Rom. 8:1; Rev. 13:1-8; John 15:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:4-5.

INTRODUCTION:

The Word of God is likened to many things in the Bible. One of these things is the Mirror or looking glass. As we examine the Word as a mirror today, we pray that a permanent change for the better will come into our lives in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE MIRROR CANNOT CHANGE, BUT YOU CAN

The Word of God is like a mirror. If the mirror is to benefit you, you have to look into it. When you do, the mirror will show you your exact image, whether you like it or not. If you do not like what you see, since the mirror cannot change, then you must change.

Jam. 23-25; Jam. 1:22, Ps. 119:89, John 1:1,14; Heb. 13:8, Is. 40:5-8, Ps. 119:9, 2 Cor. 6:2, Is. 1:16, Acts. 22:16

2. THE BLOOD, YOURSELF AND THE FIRE

We are to cleanse ourselves if (i) God's promises are to be fulfilled in our lives (ii) we are to be vessels unto honour (iii) we want fellowship with God (iv) we hope to see Jesus and (v) we hope to be like Him one day. God does cleanse us initially with His blood but if we then refuse to adjust as we should, the only option left is the fire.

2 Cor. 7:1, 2 Tim. 2: 21, Jam. 4:8, I Jn. 3:1-3, Is. 1:18-19, Mal. 3.3, Is. 6:5-7, Ps. 119.67, 71.

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we saw the Word of God as a mirror with all its implications. Today, we want to study the Word as a sharp two-edged sword. May the Lord perform any necessary operations in our lives today in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. **THE TWO-EDGED SWORD CAN BE FOR OFFENCE AND DEFENSE**

   The Word of God is a very powerful sword. It is the sword of the Holy Spirit Himself. It can be used to break the grip of an enemy on the child of God. It could also be used to defend a child of God from the invasion of the enemy.

   Heb. 4:12, Lk. 4:32, Eph. 6:17, Ps. 107:20, Lk. 4:33-36, Rev. 12:11, Ps. 119:11, Ps. 66:18, Ps. 119:33, 2 Cor. 6: 4-7

2. **THE SWORD COULD ALSO BE FOR CUTTING, OPENING AND REVEALING HIDDEN THINGS:**

   The sword could also be for Divine operations to bring to light hidden secrets of the heart and to expose secret sins. There is no hiding place from God.

   I Chron. 28:9, Jer. 17:10, Amos 9:3, Jer. 23:29, Job 20:27, Prov. 26:26, Eccl. 12:14, Lk. 12:2, Gen. 4:8-10, Jos. 7:21, I Kings 21:7,20, Gen. 42:21, Acts. 17:30; Heb. 10:25-27.

INTRODUCTION:

A backslider is one who lost hope because of a particular incident that has hinder him from reaching a desired goal. In our study today, we want to consider the position of a backslider. May the Lord bless you as you study in Jesus Name.

POSITION OF A BACKSLIDER

A backslider will miss everything that is of God. His Spirit does not possess things of God, since God does not abide in him again. As a result of this; seven evil Spirits will fill the vacuum, his life will be worse than the time he had not known God.

Matt. 12:43-45, Hos. 10:1, Is. 34:11, Ex. 23:15, Deut. 16:16-17, I Jn. 2:15, I Sam. 15:11, I Sam. 16:14, Judges 16:20, Matt. 6:24, I Kings 17:41, Luke 16:13, I Kings 18: 21, Heb. 6:4-6, 10:26, II Pet. 2:20-22, Prov. 26:1, Luke. 17:32.

INTRODUCTION:

We have considered the Word of God as a mirror that has the power to reveal to us how we are. We have equally seen it as a double edged sword for healing, deliverance and the one that reveals hidden sins. Today, as we look at the study as fire, I pray you will be richly blessed in Jesus Name.

1. **WORD, AS FIRE, IT IS NOT ONLY PERFECT, IT MAKES PERFECT**

   The word of God is perfect. Every part of it is perfect; nothing unholy comes out from God. This accounts for why it is powerful to make perfect. It cleanses and it makes holy. Everyone desiring to serve God needs to be made perfect in His fire.

   Jer. 20:9, Ps. 119:140, Prov. 30:5, Is. 45:19, Ps. 119:9, John 15:3, John 17:17, Eph. 5:25-26, I Pet. 1:22, Num. 31:23, Zech. 8-9, Mal. 3:1-3.

2. **FIRE CONSUMES**

   The word of God as fire has the power to consume. It should not be taken lightly likewise it can turn kerosene into fire so that anyone who stays long in the fire of the word will be like the word itself.

   Heb. 12:29, Deut. 12: 32, Prov. 30:6, Rev. 22:18-19, Prov. 22:6 Phil. 2:5-8, I Cor. 9:1-2, I Cor. 15:9, II Cor. 11:5, II Cor. 12:11.

INTRODUCTION:

It is a good thing to know the goodness and blessings of the Lord in our lives. There and then, you will know how to appreciate God from the depth of our heart. In this study, we want to look at the heart that appreciates God. May the Lord bless you richly as you study in Jesus name, Amen

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THANKING GOD - HIS DESIRE FOR US

It is God's desire that we thank Him always in every situation. A careful study shows that all things worketh together for good for all those who trust the Lord.

It is only those who will think deep that will appreciate God better.

I Cor. 29:9-15, Ps. 103:1-5, 72:18-19 Neh. 9:5-7, I Cor. 29:11-12, Deut. 32:39-40, I Sam. 2:7-9, I Tim. 1:15-17, Ps. 146:5, Jer. 17:7-8, I Cor. 29:14, Gen. 32:10, II Sam. 7:18, Heb. 13:14, I Pet. 2:11, Rev. 5:11-12.

INTRODUCTION:

We have considered the word of God as a mirror, a two-edged sword and as fire. Today we want to consider it as "Good News" May we be richly blessed in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE WORD OF GOD IS GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY

In a world that seems to abound, evil thrive, on bad news, It is refreshing that there is a Book that is completely filled with good news: The Bible. It contains good news for today for our bodies, souls and spirits.

Isa. 52: 7; Phil. 4: 19; 1 Pet. 2:24; Ex. 15:26 ; III John 2; John 8:32,36; Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:20-23; 1John 1: 7; Ps. 103: 12; Rom. 6:12-14; Ezek. 36: 26; John 14:14; Acts. 1:8; John 14: 12; Mk. 11: 23.

2. THE WORD OF GOD IS GOOD NEWS FOR TOMORROW

The Bible contains good news, not only for today but also for tomorrow. It contains good news, not only for this world but also for the world to come.

Is. 3:10; Rev. 20: 1-6; Is. 35:8, Rev. 21: 23; Rev. 22:5; I John 3:1-3; Rev. 2:17; Rev. 2:7; Is. 41:10-13.

INTRODUCTION:

Our lives will bring glory to God and draw others to Christ, only when they are transformed to the image of Christ - Gal. 4:19.

1. **WHAT IS THE TRANSFORMED LIFE?**

The transformed life is a new type of life. A new nature or a changed nature Rom.6:4. It is also an act of coming into right relationship with God, forsaken ones old way of life. Living in conformity to Christ. **Rom.8:20-30; Lk.18:28.**

2. **EVIDENCES OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE**

1. No more struggle with sin and satan Rom.6:14.
2. It affects those people around. People roared, who are these that turned the world upside down. Acts 17:6.
3. There will be total commitment to Christ and His work **John.6:29,30;Jn.9:4;Acts2:42;Mark16:15-17; Mat.28:18-20.**
4. It preaches to others **Gal.1:15, 16.**
5. There would be unity and love in the church. **Acts 2:44-46.**
6. Heart is drawn to God in true praises, prayer and fellowship **Acts 2:47.**
7. It gives willingly without compelling to do so. **Acts 2:45.**

The evidences will tell others whether or not your life is transformed and not by sense or knowledge.

INTRODUCTION:

Christians have no superstitious believe like the Gentiles. Their faith is built on the Word of God. In this study, we shall talk on Superstition as a taboo. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty Name, Amen.

SUPERSTITION: A TABOO FOR BELIEVERS

Superstitious people are not members of the body of Christ. It is ignorance to worship an unknown God. God is a Spirit and He dwelt not in temples made with hands. He is the Source of our lives. Repentance should be done now.

Acts. 17:22-30, Rom. 14:23, Rom. 1:17,' Heb. 10:38, Rom. 1:21-25; Isa. 45:20, Hosea 4:6, Jere. 10:5, John 4:24, Acts. 7:48, 2 Chro. 2:6, Acts. 17:28, John. 15:5, Heb. 1:3, Deut. 33:27, Isa. 41:10, Isa. 46:4, Luke 13:3, Ezekiel 18:31, Joel 2:12, Acts. 26:20.

INTRODUCTION:

God's Promises to His Children will not Change. He has the Power to bring these promises to fulfillment and these are established in Jesus. His Promises are sure and refreshing. God is a God of covenant, He visits His own, meet them at the point of their needs, He will cause all things to come to pass and make it work for good unto them.

These Promises are meant for those who trust in Him and keep His commandments. In this study, we want to talk about Gods Promises, May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name Amen.

GOD IS FAITHFUL CONCERNING HIS PROMISES

His Promises are yea and amen. Everything He says will surely come to pass even if the Heaven and Earth pass away.

Gen. 17:19, 21:3,12, I Kings 8:56-58, Gen. 21:1-3, Jer. 29:11-13, Rom. 4:20-21, II Chro. 1:20 Isa. 43:12, Jer. 31:33,32:38-42, Ps. 119:33-39, Is. 54:17, 43:2, Mark 9:23, 11:24, Rom. 8:28, Is. 3:10-11.

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this lecture, we discussed on God's promise that cannot change because He has the ability to fulfill all His promises. Today, we want to go further on the Promises of God for His own.

GOD'S MERCY CONCERNING HIS PROMISES

God cannot change, and His word cannot change. In His mercy and love, He will fulfill His Promises. Both to the just and the unjust.

Is. 54:10-17, Jn. 13:1, Jn. 3:16-19, Is. 55:5-7, Jer. 32:41-42, Jer. 32:26-27, Ps. 30:5, Mk. 9:23, Lk. 17:6, Ps. 37:3, 9,20,22; Rev. 21:4.

INTRODUCTION:

The kingdom of God is compared to so many things in the Bible. For example: The Sower, Mustard Seed, and Treasure hidden in the forest. As we continue the study into God's kingdom today. I pray God will give you understanding in Jesus name Amen. This study is divided into two -the meaning and the benefits.

1. The Meaning.

A Look from within. The kingdom of God is to be viewed from within. When a thing is viewed from within, you will be able to give a better description of it. Example: House, it is inside a house that we have things used for decoration such as window, toilets etc.

(b) That Kingdom

(c) Abode of that Kingdom

(d) Where the King operates in authority and dominion

(e) Where the spoken word of the King become the law.

(f) Where people must be in love and joy of the King.

(g) God, the living God, creator of heaven and earth.

The Holy one of Israel, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, God of all Flesh, the one that nothing is impossible for, God of battle, Glorious King.

Finally, it is a place where the living God reigns. We can talk about it because we are there as a born again Christian. We know what

it is.

(I) The Messenger - The Angels will minister unto God's children.

Mt. 6:13, Ps. 22:28, 103:19, Dan. 4:3, Mt. 8:12, 13:38, 25:34, Ps. 34:7, Dan. 7:10, Mk. 4:11, Mk. l:13

2. BENEFITS OF HIS KINGDOM

The benefits of His kingdom could be compared to the glory of the kingdom or half it's size. We can determine the glory of a king by the size of his kingdom. We can explain the size of His kingdom in three ways.

a. Inheritance: Cannot be explained, for instance; trees in the forest, fishes in the ocean, the animals and so on cannot be counted.

b. Peace of mind: How much can you pay for Joy, peace, rest and eternal life? No wonder the Bible asked what thing does it profit a man if he gains the whole earth and suffers the loss of his soul.

c. Spiritual things: How much money can you pay for answered prayers, fellowship with God, deliverance from powers of darkness, Mansion in Heaven, the blood that cleanses from all sins, the stripe that brought healing into the world, baptism of the Holy Spirit, All these are priceless.

INTRODUCTION:

The new birth is an experience one could get when he is born again and this is not changes in body or any physical changes. Our Lectures will be in only one part and as we study along, we pray the Lord will minister to us in Jesus Name. Amen.

FACTS ABOUT NEW BIRTH

God is more interested in the Spiritual than in any thing physical that is, Why He wants our basic foundation to be solid.

Gal. 4: 19; John 3:1-8; II Cor. 5: 17-18; Rom. 6: 11-23; 8:1-4; Gal. 4: 5; Eph. 1: 5, Col. 3: 5-10; Gal. 5: 16-26; Col. 3: 5-10; Ps. 51: 10; II Cor. 5: 17; Titus 3: 5; Rom. 5: 1-2; Eph. 2: 1-9; Tit. 2:11-14; II Pet. 3:18; Gal. 5:21-22; I Cor. 13.

INTRODUCTION:

Whenever God wants to perform a miracle, there is always impossibility first. So that if conditions are right every problem could be solved by a testimony. May you be the producer of testimonies in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. **BEFORE LIGHT, THERE WAS DARKNESS.**

   In the beginning, darkness came before light. And even today death comes before life, sorrows before joy, and loss before gain.

   Isa. 60:1-3; Gen. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:18; Gal. 2:20; Ps. 30:5; Matt. 10:39; Ezek. 36:26; I Sam. 17: 4-11; 1 Sam. 17: 32-37; I Sam. 17: 45-51; Est. 3: 8-11; Est. 4:13-14; Est. 9:24-25.

2. **YOU CAN CHANGE DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

   You can change darkness to Light if: -

   (i) You cannot stand the Name of the Lord being blasphemed.

   (ii) You do not value your physical life above your spiritual life and

   (iii) You will not allow sin to put out your light. **Matt. 5:14-16; I Sam. 17: 26, 45; Rev. 12: 11; Est. 4:15-16; Jud. 16:18-21; I Sam. 15:22-23.**

INTRODUCTION:

Every Christian should know that death is not the end of everything. Infact it is just a new beginning. When time ends eternity begins. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. **THERE IS A PART OF MAN THAT NEVER DIES**

   Man is a Trinity: body, soul and spirit. The body may die, but the soul and spirit part of man lives on forever. When the Christian dies or "Sleeps" as the Bible calls it, he goes to Paradise.

   Luke 16: 19-31; I Thess. 5: 23; Gen. 2: 7; Eccl. 12: 7; Luke 23: 39-43; 2 Cor. 12: 1-4.

2. **THERE IS A RESURRECTION COMING**

   One day, at the return of the King of Kings, the dead in Christ shall rise again. All those who died in the Sea or are buried in the earth shall rise again. But to what?

   Rev. 1:7; I Thess. 4:14-17, Dan. 12:1-3; Rev. 20:11-15; Matt. 25:31-46; Matt. 27:50-53; John 14:1-3; Ps. 73:22-24.

INTRODUCTION:

In our last series we learnt about the transformed life and it evidences. Today we shall look at how can obtain it. May the Lord teach as we study under His feet in Jesus mighty name Amen

HOW CAN IT BE OBTAINED?

There are steps to victorious holy life, so also there are steps to be followed in having a transformed life.

1. Recognizing the need or thirst for a Christ-like life. Isa.55:1; Pray for it Mat.7:7-11. .
2. Get converted. Jn.3:1-3; II Cor.5:17.
3. Resist sin unto Blood. Heb.12:4.
4. Receive the Holy Spirit to help in mortifying the deeds of the flesh Gal.5:16; Rom.8:26, 27.
5. Be saturated with the scripture. Col.3:16; Jos. 1:8; Isa. 34:16; II Tim. 2:15. The world keeps from sin. It guides in living peaceably with others I John.3:3-10; 4:7-11; 2:15-17.
6. Live by faith. “I can do all things" Phil.4:13.
7. Reckon yourself dead to sin Rom.6:11.

   This experience can be yours through obedience to Christ and His words.

INTRODUCTION:

As black clouds precede bountiful rain, so do problems. Even impossibilities, precede miracles and showers of blessings. The greater and darker the clouds the more plentiful the rain. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. ALL WILL BE WELL BECAUSE GOD SAID SO

The reason why we are so sure that all will be well with us is simply because God said so. Instead of looking at circumstances, we concentrate on the word of God, it will be evident that all cannot be anything other than well.

II Kings 4: 18-27, 32-35; Is. 3: 10, Ps. 34: 8-10, Ps. 37: 25, Ps. 37: 32-33, Ps. 37: 37, Ps. 112: 1-2, Ps. 34:17-19, Is. 43:2, Heb. 13:5, Ps. 23:4

2. WHATEVER GOD SAYS CAN BE TRUSTED

Every child of God knows that God can be trusted. Because whatever He says shall be done not only has He more than enough power to back what He promises, He also has the eternal life necessary to see to it that his decrees are not changed by someone else.

Ps. 119: 89, Matt. 24:35, Ps. 33: 8-9, Is. 40: 6-8, Ps. 62: 11, Rev. 1: 18, Ps. 33: 10-11 Lk. 1: 37-38

INTRODUCTION:

Some are made worthy, even though they see themselves unworthy; but they are divinely chosen for good works to go and do God's business. The Almighty who does the choosing can reject if care is not taken. It is my prayer that we shall not be rejected and may the Almighty bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **YOU ARE CALLED TO OCCUPY**

   The Lord, The All knowing God, Who knows the end from the beginning has a purpose for our lives even before birth to make us a success and glorify His Name in the world. He will equip us for the Task.

   Jer. 1: 4-5; Rom. 8: 8-30; Luke 19: 13; II Thess. 2: 13-14; I Cor. 4: 2; I Cor. 6:20; John 15: 2-3; Acts. 1: 8; John 15:5; Jer. 1:6; Exo. 4: 10-13; Jos. 1: 6,9; Judg. 6: 13-16; I Cor. 1: 26-29.

2. **THE MASTER WILL SOON COME, REWARD IS SURE**

   The coming of the Master is near; He will surely reward the faithful servant and the unfaithful. The careless ones also can be rejected and sinners punished.

   Heb. 10: 37; Jam. 5: 8; Heb. 10: 35-36; I Cor. 15: 58; Jer. 9: 11-15; Hos. 4: 6; Heb. 12: 15-17; Luke 13: 25-27; I Pet. 4: 17-19.

INTRODUCTION:

Knowledge comes through Education and Learning; learning brings understanding, enlightenment, encouragement, skill, development, hope, faith, satisfaction and power of enablements. May the Lord increase our knowledge of Him as we study at His Feet in Jesus Precious Name.

POWER IS KNOWLEDGE AND WE KNOW

Knowledge could be in two folds either negative, that is knowledge of the things of the world which brings destruction and vanity or Divine which is Godly which brings Life, Joy, Hope, Prosperity and Eternal Life.

Rom. 8:28; Rom. 10:17; Gen. 3:5-6; Eccl. 1:18; 12:12; John 8:31-32; I Cor. 8:1; Jer. 9:24; Jer. 31:35; Neh. 9:6; Job 19:25; Job 26:6-14; Acts. 14:13-15; Nah. 1:7; Jer. 17:10; 23:24; II Cor. 5:1.

INTRODUCTION:

There is no Christian that can excel if he does not know how to be alone with God. May the Lord teach us how to be alone with Him in Jesus Name (Amen).

1. **ALONE WITH GOD**

   As God's children, we have the right to go into the Throne room of God to discuss with Him and demand for our rights from Him. Nobody can disturb us from doing this.

   Heb. 4:16, I Chron. 16:11 Matt. 7:7, Matt. 26:41, Lk. 21: 36, Jos. 16:24, I Thess. 5:17, I Tim. 2:8.

2. **EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE THAT WERE ALONE WITH GOD**

   It is not a difficult thing to be alone with God especially that we have seen example of people that were alone with God and did excel.

   Dan. 6:20-22, Dan. 3:1-end, I Chron. 4:9-10, I Chron. 19:-20, Matt. 26:38-39,40.

INTRODUCTION:

In our past studies in this series we considered the branch that was fruitful and the other that was not fruitful. Today we would continue on fruit bearing, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. FROM GLORY TO GLORY

As a branch can increase in bearing fruits so also can our faith increase as we grow in the Lord. It is in God's plan for believers to go from grace to grace.

John 15:1,2,3, Acts. 2:41, Acts. 4:4, Gen. 26:12-13, Mark 4:40, Matt. 6:30, Matt. 17:20, Matt. 15:28, Matt. 8:10, 1 Cor. 3:18.

2. LIVING IN CHRIST COULD MAKE US LIVE BEYOND EXPECTATION

Condition for bearing much fruit will be living in Christ, and Christ living in us. If we live in Him, we can live beyond expectation.

INTRODUCTION:

It is very important to know who you are. It makes all the difference in your life; it enables you to know what is available to you, what you can do and what you must not do. May God bless us richly today as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. I KNOW THAT I AM A CHILD OF GOD

First and foremost, I know that I am a child of God. This means that I am specially loved of the Almighty. I have access to all the things that the great provider has, I should not be in bondage and I have an ability to live holy.

John1: 10, I John 3:1, Rom. 8:16-17, Rom. 15, Rom. 8 :14, I John 3:9.

2. I KNOW THAT I AM B0RN AGAIN

I know that i am born again. Consequently former sins are gone. I belong to the greatest family in the universe and the devil does not matter to me as long as I remain saved.

I Jn. 1: 7, II Cor.5: 17, Rev. 1: 5-7, Rev. 12: 9-11, Eph. 6: 13-18, Ph. 2:9-10, Acts. 19:14-15, Ps. 91 :I

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw the implications of the fact that we are children of God, that we are born again today, as We continued the series, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. I AM A BRANCH OF THE VINE

The Lord Jesus Christ is the vine and I am a branch in that Vine. Because of this, all my needs are met. I can do all things including producing abiding fruits.

John 15:1-2, Ph. 4:19, Ph. 4.13, John 15:16, Ps. 105: 15

2. I AM FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST

Because I am filled by the Holy Spirit, I have someone to guide me, comfort me and take care of me in sickness. Also I can worship God appropriately.

Rom. 8:9, John 11:15-17, Rom. 8:11; John 16:14, Rom. 8 :26.

INTRODUCTION:

In our past studies in this series, we have discovered our fellowship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are children of God the Father, joint heirs with God the Son and filled with God the Holy Spirit. Today as we study more on who we are, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. **MY FATHER- "THE I AM THAT AM"**

   Who I am shows who my father is. My Father is the AM that I AM, the one that changeth not. His kingdom is everlasting. He is the creator of Heaven and Earth and all that is therein. Without any gainsaying, no fire can burn and no enemy can overcome me.

   Ex. 3:11-14, Gen. 1:1, Is.43:2, Is. 46:4, Gen. 1:3-4, John 1:5, Is. 54:17, Is. 59:19.

2. **HE IS THE CONTROLLER OF THE UNIVERSE**

   He is the creator of the earth and He controls it. He can make way in the red sea, turn water to wine. There is nothing impossible for me his child.

   Ex. 14, Jos. 1:5, Ex. 1.1:23-25, Jer. 3:10-14, John 2:1-10, Ps. 30:5, Ex. 17:3-6, Ex. 4:20, I Kings 7:12-16, I Kings 18:37-39, Matt. 3:11, Heb. 13:8.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we started discovering who we are by discovering who our Father is. Today, as we continue on this journey of discovery, May the Lord Bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. MY DAD IS THE EVER-PRESENT GOD

There is no place where my Dad is not. That is why I can walk through fire, on higher waters and come out unhurt.

Ps. 46:1, Is. 43:2; Dan. 3, Dan. 6:19-22, Dan. 6:25-27, Job 5: 19; Ps. 34: 19; Acts. 12:7-10; Ps. 62:11, II Cor. 1:10; Acts. 16: 26; Rev. 1: 8, Job 13:15.

2. MY DAD IS ALWAYS WITH ME

The very names of my Dad bring comfort. For example, He is Emmanuel, which is God with us. He is also called Wonderful. What a name.?

Is. 7:14; Rom. 8:31-33, Is. 42:6-7, Is. 53:4; 1s. 9:6; Is. 12:1-2.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw how a person can be determined by who his father is. Today, we want to see how a father possession can also influence who his child is? May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. THE SON OF A WEALTHY MAN SHOULD NOT BE POOR

My father is wealthy. He is the wealthiest in money, mineral resources, cattle etc that is why I cannot lack anything good because my father will supply abundantly.

Ps. 24:1; Matt. 17:27; Ph. 4: 19; 2 Kg. 17:8-16; Matt. 6:26:38.

2. **THE VERY NAME OF MY FATHER IS A FORTRESS, THEREFORE I AM SECURE**.

My father has wisdom therefore I should not lack wisdom, His name is a fortress, hence I am secure. He has eyes and ears, so He can and will hear my prayers.

Dan. 2:20; 1 Cor. 1:25; 1 Cor. 1:24; Col. 2:3; Prov. 18:10; Is. 25:4; Ps. 20:7-8; Ps. 34:15; Ps. 34:17; Ps. 33:18-19.

INTRODUCTION:

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. God through the ages, as revealed by the Bible, has always abided by this divine law as shown through his dealing with many Nations/Empires of the Bible days like Israel, Babylon, Egypt, Assyria etc. May God open our spiritual eyes as we study His words in Jesus name, Amen.

1. **ISRAEL- A TYPE OF AN UNRIGHTEOUS NATION**

   The Israelites felt it did not matter how they lived, as long as they brought God lots of burnt offerings. God was angry and sent His prophets to warn them, but they did not listen. They were carried away into Assyria as slaves.

   Amos 5:21-24; 8:4-6; Ezek. 7:23; 13:19; 14:4; Jere. 8:10; 2 Kings 17: 16-17; Ezek. 8:16; Jere. 2:34-35; 8:8.

2. **THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IN A NATION**

   The consequence of sin showed God's righteous and just nature. These includes: (1) Bondage or captivity, (2) fall of the nation, (3) famine, (4) war, (5) Epidemic of diseases (6) sorrow and (7) poverty

   Josh. 8:33-34; Lam. 2:21; Judges 5:8; Lam. 2:11-12; 2 Kings 6:28-30; Deut. 28:53,59; Lam. 1:12.

BIBLE
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OUTLINE
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INTRODUCTION:

Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to a nation. Based upon the word of God, from ages the Lord stands upon His divine laws, in dealing with nations and kingdom. Such nations as: Israel, Babylon, Egypt, Assyria, and so on. May the Lord open our inner eyes as we study in Jesus Name.

1. ISRAEL: EXAMPLE OF AN UNRIGHTEOUS NATION

The children of Israel thought there was nothing unusual in the way they lived their lives, in as much as they could make sacrifice unto God, He was displeased, He sent his. Prophet to warn them but they did not yield. They were into the land of Assyria as slaves.

Amos 5:21-24,8:4-6, Ezek. 7:23, 13:19;14:4; Jer. 8;10, 1 Kings 17:16-17, Ezek. 8:16, Jer. 34-35, 8:8

2. RESULT OF UNFAITHFULNESS IN A NATION

The results of sin against a Holy and Righteous God will include (1) Bondage or Slave (2) Fall of a Nation (3) Famine (4) War (5) Pestilence (6) Sorrow and (7) Poverty.

Josh. 8:33-3,4, Lam. 2:41, Judges. 5:8, Lam. 7:1-12, 2 Kings 6:28-30, Deut. 28:53,59, Lam. 1 :12.

3. **THE WAY OUT - A RIGHTEOUS PERSON FOR THE SIN OF A NATION**

True repentance and faith in God through Jesus Christ is the only way that can turn the wrath of God away from a Nation.

Acts 3:19, Joel. 12,:2, Matt. 27:3-5, Joel 1:13, Ezek. 18:31.

4. **CHILDREN IN A RIGHTEOUS NATION**

Combination of families make a nation and for a nation to be righteous, we must consider the following steps.

1. A Holy Family, flee from demonic works
2. We must fight against household enemies
3. We must fight against every inability of Parents
4. We must excel in our duties as Parents
5. Be good examples as Parents

Acts 19:18-19, Mal. 2:14-16, I Chr. 26;.10, Gen. 3.7:3, Esther 5:11,9:10, Deut. 6:7, Gen. 18:18-19, 2 Tim. 1:5.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we have seen the fact that what my Dad has, goes a long way in determining who I am. As we continue our discovery journey today, may the Holy Spirit guide us in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **MY DAD HAS THE ABILITY TO DO ANYTHING**

   My dad has the ability to heal, to make the barren fruitful, fulfill all His promises, keep you from falling and do more than you can even dare to ask for

   Job 42:2; John 1:1-3; Lk. 3:8; Rom. 4: 19-21; Eph. 3:20; Judges 24: 11 Tim. 4:18.

2. **MY DAD ALSO HAS A SENSE OF HONOUR**

   Powerful as He is, yet my Dad has a keen sense of honour. He really knows how to laugh at His enemies.

   Ps. 62:11; Lk. 1:37; Isa. 41:10-13; Ps. 37:12-13; Acts 12 :18-19; 2 Kings 6:18:-20; Dan. 6:24; Est. 7:9- 10; Ex. 14:13; 23-28; Ps. 37:14-15.

INTRODUCTION:

There are various ways in the world known unto men. But we have only one way that lead to joy, blessings, health, peace, victory, safety and likewise to Glory. That way is JESUS -John14: 6. The way cannot, will not, shall not, could not be and has not been able to be erased through persecution; (**Acts 9:2, 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14,22**) therefore the way can supply all needs. Let us talk about Jesus, the way to Joy.

1. **THE WAY TO JOY**
   Jesus is the only way to true joy. John.15:11. Materialism, riches, wealth cannot give true joy. They do not last. They are not things of eternal value; thus the joy of a sinner is short. **Job 20:5; Ps.37: 35, 36,38.**

Steps to True Joy:

(a). Be saved i.e. confess all inward and outward sins repent and forsake them **John.3:1-3; Gal..5:19-21; Prov.28,:13; Isa.55:6-7,61.**

(b). Stay in the salvation of the Lord. How? Stay with the word of God. **Jos.1: 8; Jn.5: 39;** Stay with the body of believers **Heb.10: 25.**

(c). Sing spiritual song unto yourself- **Eph.5: 19, 20; I Cor. 14: 15; Col.3: 16; Jam.5:13.**

(d). Stay with the Giver of Joy and constantly trust him. **Ps.37: 39, 40; Jam.4:7, 8; Rom.12:1-2; In.15:5; Job 13:1.5.**

(e). Ask **John16: 24; Mat.7:7-11.** The way cannot fail you, trust him **- Ps.4:5.**

INTRODUCTION:

Eggs are the same, but there are spoilt eggs. There are children that don't recognize their father as father. When the storm of life comes, such father is seen as true Father.

1. **OUR FATHER**

   Isaiah. 64:8, 1Cor. 29, Mt. 6:9, Mt. 7:11.

2. **LOVE OF GOD**

   Ps. 40:8, Ps. 143:10, Mt. 12:50, Mt. 26:42, Eph. 6:6, James 4:15.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that our Father has the ability to do anything. And that as powerful as He is, He still has a keen sense of honour. Today, we shall see that parts of His wealth are mercy, joy and peace. May God bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. MY DAD IS SO RICH IN MERCY THAT HE IS CALLED THE FATHER OF MERCIES

One thing my Dad has in abundance is mercy, great and tender. And every morning, He renews His treasury with mercies. Infact, He is so rich in mercy that He is called "The Father of mercies".

2 Sam. 24: 14; Ps. 119:156; Ps. 145:9; Ps. 25:10; Ps. 86:5; Eph. 2:4; Lam. 3:22-23; Ps. I06:1; 2 Cor. 1:3; Rom. 9:15; Gen. 17:15-19; II Cor. 7:2, Ps. 103:17; Lk. 1:50.

2. MY DAD IS ALSO RICH IN JOY AND PEACE.

If you ever visit my Daddy you will experience fullness of joy. infact one of the major Characteristics of His kingdom is Joy and peace too. Peace so great so profound that the world cannot understand it.

Ps. 16:11; Neh. 8:10; Rom. 14:17, Heb. 3:17-18; Ps. 30:4-5; Jn. 14:27, Jn. 16:33, Phil. 1:4:7.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discovered that my Daddy is rich in mercy, peace and joy so that I can enjoy these things liberally. As we conclude this series today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **MY DAD CAN DO ANYTHING**

   My Dad can freeze or unfreeze a sea. He can fight and win anywhere and He can heal with anything. Infact He can do anything.

   Exo. 15:8, Exo. 15:9-10, Exo. 15:23-25, Jos. 6:20; Jud. 5:21, Jos. 10:8-11, Jos. 10:12-13, Jud. 5:20; Jn. 9:1-7, II Kgs. 5:1-14, Ezek. 37:1-10, Isa. 6:5-7.

2. **MY DAD CAN BLESS**

   Even though He can use anything to achieve His purposes; even though He can wound, and heal; build and pull down, open and shut, He can also bless.

   1 Cor. 1:27-29. 1 Sam. 17:34-37; 1 Sam. 17:48-49; Deut. 32:39.

INTRODUCTION:

To become a Christian is as simple as anything; but to practice Christianity is the most important aspect of which we are called upon to be. We pray today as we go along in this study that the Holy Spirit will reveal Himself to us in Jesus name.

1. **WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?**

   Acts. 11:26; 26:28; I Pet. 4:16; Matt. 5: 9; Rom. 8: 16; Lk. 20: 36; I John 3: 10.

2. **CHRIST'S EXAMPLES**

   Matt. 11:29; Matt. 16:24; John 13:15; Rom. 15:5; II Cor. 10:1; Phil. 2: 5; Col. 3:13; Heb. 3:1; Heb. 12:2; 1 Pet. 2:21.

INTRODUCTION:

Many a time, God has made Great promises for His children. These promises were fulfilled for some, while it was not so for others. The purpose of the study is to find out how we can all bring these promises into fulfillment in our lives. May the Lord bless us as we study in Jesus Name.

WHEN GOD SPEAKS; IT'S LEFT UNTO US

God the father speaks to God the Son, God the Son speaks to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will then reveal this secret to us. After the revelation, the fulfillment or otherwise of this promise lies in our hand.

John 16:13-15, Ex. 3:11-12, Num. 14:1-11, Num. 14:6-9, Num. 14:26-31, Heb. 3:14-19, Heb.4:1, I Kings 18:41-45.

INTRODUCTION:

Can God be found? Why should I seek Him? When should I seek Him? These and other questions will be answered in this study. May God bless us as we study at His Feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **THERE IS A LIVING GOD, AND HE CAN BE FOUND**

   There is a true living God. And any genuine seeker can find this God. Infact, He can be your friend. And you will need Him when you least expected.

   Is. 55: 6-7; Ps. 14: 1; Jn. 1:1;14; Ps. 62:11; Jere. 32:26-27; Lk. 1:37; Matt. 28:18; 2 Chr. 15:1-2, Prov. 8:17; Jn. 15:5; Jere. 9: 23-24; Prov. 23:5; Ps. 46:1.

2. **HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM**

   There are rewards for those who diligently seek God because He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. And the best time to seek Him is now.

   Heb. 11: 6, Ps. 34: 10, Ps. 23:1; Matt. 1:21; Matt. 8:1-3; Is. 3: 10; Jn. 14; 6, Ph. 2:10; 2 Cor. 6 : 2.

INTRODUCTION:

There is difference between the prosperity that the word of God approves and the one that the world runs after. Today our study will be divided into two parts.

1. **The 'Word'**
2. **Prosperity**

1a. **THE 'WORD' AS FOOD**

Deut. 8:3; Job 23:12; Ps. 119:103; Jer. 15:16.

1b. **FOR CLEANSING**

Ps. 119: 9; Ps. 119: 11; John 17: 17; John 15: 3.

2. **PROSPERITY**

Prosperity of the wicked:

Job. 12: 6; Ps.37: 35; Ps: 73:3,12.

3. Prosperity of the Righteous:

Gen. 39:3; Deut. 29:9,1 Chro. 22:13; II Chron. 26:5

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible teaches that the adage Like Father like son is most appropriate to Christians. In fact we are required to be carbon copies of our heavenly Father. But how? this series will show us. May God enrich us as we study in Jesus name. Amen

1. **GOD I S LOVE: YOU TOO MUST LOVE**

   We are expected like our Father in heaven to love, He is love. We cannot be perfect until we progress from being loved to being loving

   Eph. 5:1-2; Matt. 5:48; I John 4:7-8; 1 Thess. 4:9; John 3:16; John 15:13; 1John 3:16; Matt. 22:37-39; 1 John 3:18

2. **GOD I S MERCI FUL: YOU MUST BE TOO**

   The- Bible teaches' that God is rich in mercy. That His mercy endureth for ever. All the time He heals or performed a miracle, it was because He was moved with compassion. He expects no less from His children.

   Eph. 2:4; I Chron. 16:34; Matt. 9:36; Matt. 18:27; Matt. 20:34; Lk. 6:36; Matt. 13:23-33; 1 Pet. 3:3; 1 John 3:17; Mk. 10:46:52; Matt. 5:14-16.

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we saw how we are directed to follow God in Holiness, Love and Mercy. Today, as we continue in our study, may God help us to be like Him in Jesus Name Amen.

1. **LIKE HIM IN HUMILITY**

Our God is humble in a way that is beyond human understanding, it takes humility before the Spirit of God can be in love with ordinary dust. We pray that we saint will have humility that will be able to save wretched sinner from hell.

Eph. 5:1-2, Jn. 4:24, Gen. 2:7, Gen. 3:9, Isa. 9:6, Gen. 6:3, Ps. 90:10, Jn. 1:1-3, Gen. 1:26, Acts. 10:9-20, Acts. 10:34, Acts. 11:1-2.

2. **LIKE HIM IN MINISTRY**

It is a very difficult thing to believe that you can make the creator of heaven and earth to be a servant for His creature without forcing him to do so. Still the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords also become a slave to man. We pray that we will follow this example no matter what it will cost us to do so Amen.

Isa. 42:11, Matt. 20:27-28, Jn. 13:14, Matt. 23:11, Luke 22:27, I Cor. 4:9, Eph. 3:8, Matt. 10:24-25, Acts. 28:3.

INTRODUCTION:

What is faith? Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. May the Almighty Father bless us richly as we study this important subject at His Feet in Jesus name.

1. **COMMON FAITH**

   Titus.1:4;Heb.11:6;Romans.12:6;Matt.17;20; Romans.10:17.

2. **ASSURANCE OF BLESSINGS AND SUCCESS**

   II Chron. 20:20; Mk.11:22; Lk.8:48.

3. **A DEFENSIVE WEAPON**

   Eph.6:16; 1Thess.. 5:8;I Tim.1:19;6:12; Heb.l0:22

INTRODUCTION:

Often and often men say they have faith. But when faith is not put into action it is just like having money and refusing to spend it. may the Lord teaches us today in Jesus Name , Amen.

FAITH IN ACTION.

Gen. 1.3. Gen; 12-1. 1 Chron. 4:9-.10; John 9-71 Dan.ll:24; Dan.3:16-.17.; Dan. 6:13-23.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we studied the steps to true Joy. We shall continue this study when we would be examining the steps to true Blessing. God blesses with spiritual blessings in high places especially to the saved. His own children Eph.1: 3. Money, riches, cattle, wealth were the experiences of Solomon, but he concluded all to be vanity without God. Eccl: 2:1-15. We pray that God would bless us as we study under His feet in Jesus name, Amen.

Steps to True Blessings:

a). Know the Lord **-Matt.6:33-34; Ps.73:1:-17, 25.**

b). Obey God in all ways like Abraham **Gen.22:3.** Do your work in Godly way.

c). Seek the greatest blessing -the Kingdom of God. **John14:1-3; Mat.6:33, 34.**

God has abundance of joy and blessings if only we recognize the WAY to Him, who is JESUS.

INTRODUCTION:

No matter how you cover you sins, your sin will be exposed. We pray that any hidden sin in our lives be exposed today in Jesus Name.

1. SECRET OF SINS

2 Kings 17: 9; Job 24: 16; Psalm 19:12; Gen. 3: 8; Jos. 7:21; Isa. 29: 15; Isa. 30:1.

2. SIN EXPOSED

Number 32:23; Job 20:27; Pro.26: 26 Eccl. 12:14; Luke 12:12; I Cor. 4: 5; Jere. 16:17

Examples:

(1). Cain - **Gen.4:8-10**

(2) Esau - **Gen. 25:32-33**

(3) Joseph's brothers, it may be years before its discovery - **Gen. 42:21.**

INTRODUCTION:

Someone once said that opportunity knocks but once. After that, it may not wait long. So that If you do not open the door to it immediately, it Will go elsewhere. And once it is gone, it may be forever. Please watch out. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. **THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SALVATION AND VICTORY: SOME SEIZED IT, SOME LOST IT**

   The Ethiopian Eunuch and the Jailer are good examples of those who seized the opportunity for Salvation. Felix and Jerusalem lost it. Some also seized the opportunity for victory and some lost it.

   Acts. 8: 34-38, Acts. 16: 27-33. Acts. 24: 24-25. Acts. 26: 28 Matt. 23: 37-39. II Sam. 5: 22-25, II Kg. 13: 14-19, II Sam. 15: 31, II Sam. 17: 1-14.

2. **THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GLORY TOO: MAY YOU NOT MISS IT.**

   Several people had missed opportunity for eternal glory in the past. Eli, King Saul, Demas Just to mention a few. But Paul did not miss it. May you too not miss it in Jesus name Amen.

   I Sam. 2: 30. I Sam. 13: 13-14, Col. 4: 14, Philemon 24, Ps. 3: 14-15, 2 Tim. 4: 7, Matt. 11: 12.,

INTRODUCTION

The Bible says "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh Matt.11 : 34 also a man's heart deviseth his ways" Prov. 16:9 these and several other passages point to the fact that whatever is in you shapes your life. As we begin this series today. May the Lord prospers us all round in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

There is none as Christ. None as holy, None as powerful, none as self-sufficient, non as authoritative as He. And none has a name as His. Surely no one else has his access to the Father.

1 Col. 1:21, Ex. 15:11, I Sam 2:2, Ex 3:14, John. 14:6, John. 10:14, John 15:13, Mat 28;8; Luke 1 ;26-3, John 14:1-3, John 14:14

3. WITH HIM IN YOU ONLY HEAVEN IS THE LIMIT

With this incomparable Christ dwelling in you, you can do things and your needs will be met not only physically and materially but also emotionally and spiritually.

Gal. 2:20, Ph. 4:13, Ph. 4:19, Rom. 10:8-11, 8:11; Ep. 6:10, Is. 9:6, I Jn. 3:1-2.

INTRODUCTION:

The only way a Christian can have a full joy is by winning souls for the Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray that Holy Spirit will teach us today as we learn at the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Essential ingredient to a successful Christian work.

Ps. 51:12-13; Ps. 126:6; Luke 15:6-7; John 4:36; Acts 15:3; 1 Thes. 2:19-20

INTRODUCTION:

Light is sweet and welcome because God is the father of light. Since darkness is the symbol of sin, by contrast, light is the symbol of holiness and purity. In this message we shall talk on three aspects: (1) Need to let your light shine (2). How our light must shine (3) Rewards for letting our light shine.

1. NEED TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

It is a command from the lips of our Lord in order to rescue those who are lost in darkness.

Matt. 5: 14-16; Mark. 16: 15. Matt. 28: 19; Isa. 60: 1-3; 1 Cor. 9: 16; John 15:16; Ex. 10:22-23; Col. 1 :13.

2. HOW OUR LIGHT MUST SHINE

Refuse to put your light under a bushel, you must be spirit filled. Generate more light by prayers and fasting. Live a dedicated and holy life. You need to humble yourself and study the word of God .

Matt. 5:16; Lk. 4:18; Acts 10:38; Matt. 17:21; Lk. 18:1; Job 22:28; Phi!. 2:15; Lk. 1:21; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 5:6; 2Cor. 4:6-7; Rev. 12:7; Lk. 1:26; Ps. 31:23; Ezk. 28:13; 26:13; 2Tim. 2:15; Ps. 107:20; Gen. 1:2-3.

3. REWARDS FOR LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

Men will through you glorify God. You will be stars for ever and your reward is not only in heaven but is also in this world

Matt. 5:16; Dan. 12:3; Phil. 4:1; Matt. 19:27-29; 1Tim. 5:18; Heb. 11:6.

INTRODUCTION:

The Lord Jesus Christ compared Himself to the Vine and we His Children to the branches. God the Father is the Owner of the Vineyard, looking after both the Vine and the branches. The fruitless branches are removed, the fruitful, ones are purged. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name. Amen

1. **THE BRANCH HAS NO EXCUSE FOR BEING FRUITLESS**

   There are many resources available to the branch through the Vine, to enable it bear fruits. Infact all that the branches need to be fruitful are available in the Vine. All that is required of the branch therefore is to cooperate with the Vine

   John 15:1-2, Ph. 4:19, John 1:7, Rev. 12:11, Eph. 6:10, Ph. 2:9-11, Jn. 14: 4, Ph. 4:13, I Cor. 3:6- 7, I Cor. 3;9, Matt. 11 :28-30

2. **THE HUSBANDMAN THEREFORE HAS GOOD CAUSE TO BE VIOLENT WITH THE FRUITLESS BRANCH**

   Not only is a lot of resources wasted on the fruitless branch, it is equally guilty of frustrating the aspirations and purposes of the husbandman.

   John 1:12, Act. 10: 38, Jn. 15: 16, Mk. 16: 15-20.

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we saw that fruit-bearing should be easy for the branch because of the tremendous resources and care supplied by the Vine and the Husbandman which explain why the fruitless branch is torn off because it is not fulfilling its purpose hence it is frustrating to the Husbandman. Today, we shall look at the fruitful branch. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **EVERY GOOD STUDENT IS EXAMINED SO AS TO BE PROMOTED**

   The fruitful branch is purged, so that it can produce more fruits. This is because every good student goes in for exams so that he could be promoted. We must therefore know the difference between tests from God and temptations from the devil. The tests must be welcomed.

   John 15:1-2,5; Jam. 1:2-4; Gen. 18:17-19; Gen. 22:l-2; Jam. 1:13,Gen. 22:15-18; Dan. 1 :3-16; Dan. 2:1-19; Dan. 2:46-49; Dan. 3:l3-23 Dan. 3:24-30; Dan. 6:1-5; Dan. 6: 15-l7; Dan. 6: 24-28

2. **WE ALL NEED PURGING TO GO TO HIGHER GROUNDS**

   Purging may not be pleasant initially, but it is necessary if we are to go to higher grounds. We need to keep in shape, and to reach perfection.

   Heb. 12: 4-11; Heb. 12:1; 2Pet. 1:3-4; 1Cor. 9:27; Mal. 3:3; Heb. 5:8-9; Heb. 2:9-10.

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous part of this series we have looked at the fruitless branch and the fruitful branch. Today want to look at the progression in fruit bearing. May God bless us as we study at His Feet in Jesus name, Amen

I. FROM GLORY TO GLORY

A branch can move from bearing more fruit to much fruit. Just as our faith can move from zero faith to exceeding great faith. In fact the plan of God for our lives is for us to move from glory to glory

John 15:1, Matt. 15: 28, Matt. 8: 10, 2 Cor. 3: l8; 11:1.3

2. ABIDING IN CHRIST CAN LEAD TO SOMETHING BETTER THAN BEST

The conditions for bearing much fruit are for us to abide in Christ and Christ to abide in us. If we abide in Him, our best can even be better

Matt. 5: 6; Jos. I: 8, Ps. 1:1-3: I Thess. 5:l6-l8 Jude 20; Ps. 23:6; Ps. 9l:l;14-l5; Matt. 5:48, :John 17:l7, Ph. 3:l3-l4

INTRODUCTION:

So far we have considered the fruitless branch and the fruitful branch. We have also considered progression in fruit bearing. Today, we will consider Christ's statement.- ”Without me ye can do nothing.” May the Lord bless us richly as the study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. A MAN WHO HAS CHRIST HAS EVERYTHING

Anyone who has Christ has life, light, Salvation Joy strength, power, wisdom, righteousness sanctification etc. In short anyone who has Christ has everything. and can do anything.

John 15: 1,2,5; John 3:36; John 1:4; Ps. 27:1; Neh. 8:10, 1Cor. 1:22-24; 1 Cor.1:30; Ph. 4:19; Ph .4:13.

2. MAN WITHOUT CHRIST IS GRASS

Man is made from the dust of the earth. At the very best he is like grass and the flowers of grass. He may blossom in the morning and wither before the sun has set. When Christ leaves a man, all that is left is nothing

Gen. 3:17-19; Isa. 40:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:24-25; Ps. 90:5-6; Dan. 4:30-37; Judges 16:18-20;Jos. 7:10-12; 1Sam. 4:3-11; 1 Sam. 4:19-22.

INTRODUCTION:

If and when we get to heaven, we shall not be treated as ordinary people but as Kings. And as Kings, we shall wear crowns. These crowns and the conditions for qualifying for them are the subject matter of our study today. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. GLORIOUS CROWNS, SERIOUS CONDITIONS

There are five glorious crowns mentioned in the Bible waiting for the overcomers in heaven; The conditions for getting them are however rather serious. Which is understandable because precious things do not come cheap.

Rev. 1:4-6; II Tim. 4:8; I Tim. 2:19-20; Phil. 4:1; I Pet. 5:2-4. I Cor.9:25-27; John 2:28; Jam. 1:12, Rev. 2:10; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 4:5; I Thess 4:17.

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we discussed the various Crowns available to us as Kings of the Most High. Today we want to look at the thrones from which we shall reign. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name Amen

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1. THE THRONE OF CHRIST

The throne of our Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven and will be forever. It is a throne of holiness established of old in righteousness and upheld by mercy. He received it from the Ancient of days and shares it with His joint-heirs.

Is. 66:1; Ps. 11:14; Ps. 45:6; Ps. 47:8; Ps. 93:2, Pro. 16:l3; Pro. 20:28: Dan. 7:13-14, Rom. 8:16-l7; Dan. 7:9,22,27.

2. WE SHALL SHARE HIS THRONE

Who are those who shall share His throne? Those who have followed Him, continued with Him and overcame with Him.

Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:28-29; Rev. 20:4, Rev. 2:26-27 1Cor. 6:2-3; Rev. 19:11-16; Rev. 3:2l.

INTRODUCTION:

God is light and the father of it. He dwells in the light unapproachable. In this message we shall talk on (1) The symbol of light and its contrast (2) How to shine as light (3) Reward for letting your light shine. May the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen.

1. THE SYMBOL OF LIGHT AND ITS CONTRAST

Light is the symbol of holiness by contrast while darkness is the symbol of sin, light is glorious and sweet but the victim of darkness is fearful and spiritually dead and blind.

Matt. 5:14- 16; 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 5:8; I Pet. 1: 1; Heb.12: 14; 2 Cor. 16-18; Matt. 6:24; Jere. 6:16; Ps. 27;1, Exo. 10: 22- 23; Acts 17:28; 2Cor. 4: 4.

2. HOW TO SHINE AS LIGHT

You must have the nature of the father of light, be committed, to evangelize the gospel, and be a practicing Christian. You can generate more light for power through prayers and constantly be in tune with the Holy Spirit. Encourage your children to shine as light.

2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:3; Col. 1:13; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 9:16; Eph. 5:16; Acts 11:26; Zech. 4:6; 1 Cor. 11:1; Prov. 22:6; Joel 2:28.

3. REWARDS FOR LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Mansion in Heaven, Purpose for your life shall be achieved, and you will be a blessing.

John 14:3; 2Cor. 5:1; 1 Pet. 1:4; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; Gen. 12:2-3.

INTRODUCTION:

So far we have looked at the King and his Crowns, his throne and His Kingdom. Today, we want to look at something very crucial to the king; the sceptre. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. THE SCEPTRE IS EQUIVALENT TO THE KING

The Sceptre is equivalent to the king. When you hear of the Sceptre, you are hearing of the King. Because the Sceptre is the quiet but powerful symbol of authority of the King. For us as Christian kings, ours sceptre is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Gen. 49:10; Num.24:17; Est. 4:10-11; Ph. 2:9-11; Ps.20:5,7,8 1Sam.17:45; Rev. 12:10-11; Lev. 17:11, 1John 1:7; Isa. 59:1-2; John.1:1; 14; Ps. 119:89, Isa. 40:8; Matt. 4:1-11

2. HOLINESS: THE BACKBONE OF THE SCEPTRE

Holiness is the backbone of the Christian's sceptre because you cannot enthrone a King with fault or weakness whereas the sceptre is no effect in the hand of a backslider.

Heb. 1:8, John 14:30; Dan. 6:3-4; 20-22; Eccl.7:9; Pro.6:25-29; 1Sam. 15:10-24; Pro. 29:25; Heb. 10:29-31.

INTRODUCTION:

There are kings and there are kings. And of course there is the Kings of Kings. In this concluding study in our series on Kings, may the Lord bless us richly. In Jesus name. Amen.

1. **THERE ARE CATEGORIES OF KINGS**

Every Kings has domain. But even in the same Kingdom one King may be above another, so that a superior king can get a lower King to do the will of him the superior King.

Dan. 6:1-2; Gen. 41:39-43; Ps. 105:17-22; Job. 12:13-19; Pro. 21:1; 1Kings 18:17-20; 11 King 6:21-23

2. **HOW TO BE THE HIGHEST**

Promotion only comes from God. But He does not act arbitrarily. He sees what others cannot see, even the hidden thoughts and motives of every man and decides accordingly.

Ps. 75:6- 7; 2Tim. 4:8; 1 Sam. 16:6- 7; Acts. 10: 34-35; 1 Sam. 2;7-8; 1 Sam. 13:13-14; 1Sam. 16:1; Dan. 6:3; Dan. 2:20-21

INTRODUCTION:

Trees are conspicuous in the Scriptures. They are referred to in parables, and used as analogies. As we begin this new series, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name, Amen.

1. **TREES ARE RICH IN SYMBOLISM.**

   Several trees are mentioned in the Scriptures. Prominent among them are the Trees of life, of the knowledge of good and evil, olive, vine, fig, palm and cedar. Many of these are used as symbols to teach us great truths

   Ps. 1: 1-3, Gen. 2:9, Pro. 3:13, 18; Prov. 11: 30; Pro. 15:4; Ps. 112:15; 65:22, Hos. 14:5-.6; Matt. 24:32-33.

2. **A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT**

   A tree is known, not by its sizes, colour or even leaves. A tree that bears fruit is fulfilling its purpose on earth and will find favour with God.

   Luke 6.44, Jam. 3:I2, Matt. 13:31-32, Matt. 7:17, Matt. 7:18-19; Judges. 9:8-15, Matt. 12:33, Isaiah 56:3-5

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we studied the steps to true Blessing. As we continue this study, we would be examining the Way to Health. Christ came to this earth to bring more than a religion, more than code of teachings, more than a system of Christian living. We pray that God would bless us as we study under His feet in Jesus name, Amen

1. **THE WORD**
   Before ever the world was, the Word was; for the Word is God. **John 1:1 John 17: 5; 1 John 1:1;5,7; Rev .19: 13.**The Word is the Creator of all that is, Visible and Invisible - **John 1, 3; Col. 16; Rom. 1, 20.**Therefore perfectly fit to be our way to health and peace.

2. **The Way to Health:**
   Those who believed in Him were born again and made the sons of God and thereby, enjoy the perfect health. **John1:12-13; Phil.2:15.** Disobedience from the Garden of Eden took away perfect health and peace **-Gen.3:17-19.** Since then humanity had been under curse and live almost all the time on tablets, injections and doctors**. Deut.28:22, 27-28; 30, 60, 66-67.**

   Doctors are good, but the life in Christ and his word is a medicine for our body. **Pro. 4:20-22; Ps. 107:20, Matt. 8:8, 13; John 6:63; Acts 14:7-10.**

3. How Does the Healing Come? Through the stripes
   I Pet. 2:24, Isaiah 53:5;

4. How to Receive: By accepting Jesus the way -**Ex. 15:26; Ps. 103:3.**

INTRODUCTION:

No Christian can accomplish any great thing for God, if he has not learnt the art of been alone with God. May the Lord teach us how to be alone with Him in Jesus name, Amen.

1. Alone With God

As children of God, we have the privilege of going into His Room to discuss our plans, our ministry, etc with Him and no one can disturb us.

Heb. 4: 16; I Chron. 16: 11; Matt. 7:7; Matt. 26:41; Luke 21: 36; John 16: 24;1Thess. 5:17, 1Tim. 2:8

2. Examples of Those Who Were Alone With God

It is not impossible to be alone with God more so when there had been people who have tried it and succeeded in doing so and have also achieved great results.

Dan. 6:20-22; Dan. 3;1-end, I Chor. 4;9-10; Kings 19:19-20 Matt. 26:38:39, 40

INTRODUCTION:

In the second part of this series, we saw the importance of roots to trees. Of much importance than this is the fact that, the source by which trees draw water to satisfy thirst is the root. May the Lord satisfy all our thirst today in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. **EVERY MAN THIRSTY DESIRES TO DRINK WATER**

   Thirst can kill. It can kill trees, animals and Man. As water satisfies the physical thirst so also God satisfies the Spiritual thirst of those who are ready to drink from Him.

   Is. 29:9, Ex. 17:3, Judges 15:18, Is. 5:13, Amos 8:11-12, Matt. 5:6 ; Jn. 4:13-14, Jn. 7:37-38, Is. 48:20-21, Ps. 42:1-2.

2. **YOU CAN DRINK AS MUCH AS YOU DESIRE FROM THE RIVERS OF GOD**

   Drinking water from the rivers of God makes one happy and it equally satisfies. You can drink as much as you desire since His rivers are filled with water that gives eternal life.

   Ps. 46:4, Ps. 36:7-8, Ps. 65:9, Jer. 17:7-8, Ezek. 4:7-12, Rev. 22:1-2, Is. 43:19-20.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that the tree uses its roots to drink and quench its thirst. We saw also that any man who wants can drink to the full from the river of God. Today as we continue with our study, May God satisfy us in Jesus name, Amen.

1. **YOUR SPIRITUAL STANDING GREATLY AFFECTS YOUR PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL WELL-BEING.**

   The tree by the riverside prospers; its leaves never wither. Similarly, the man by the rivers of God, learning and doing the will of God, will prosper physically, materially and spiritually.

   3 Jn. 2, Prov. 4:20-22, Ex. 15:26, Mt. 6:28-33, 2Chron. 9:27, Ps. 112:1-3, Deut.28:1-8; Prov. 3:5-10.

2. **IF YOU HAD MOVED AWAY FROM THE RIVERSIDE, RETURN SOONEST**

   Prosperity is for a purpose. If the purpose is abused; prosperity can become a curse. Fortunately, our God is merciful and is willing to heal backsliders.

   Deut. 8:18, Eph. 4:28, Math. 5:26, Lk. 13:6-9, Lk. 12:16-21, Prov.1:32, Jer. 3:21-23, Hos. 14:4-6, Is. 43:1-5.

INTRODUCTION

In our past studies, we saw that life in the Spirit has a lotto do than life in the physical. As we continue in this study, may the Lord bless us in Jesus Name Amen.

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1. TREE DON'T VISIT

A tree by the riverside will always blossom because it's by the riverside. Trees could be said to be landlords, they are not strangers. For us to enjoy what they enjoy, we need to be established as they are established.

Ps. 92:14, Acts 2:41-42, Jn. 6:66-68, II Kings 2:2,15.

3. BEWARE OF WHERE YOU LIVE AND THOSE YOU LIVE WITH

Trees by the riverside don't live just anywhere, they live only by the riverside, and they don't live in the desert or by the river that dries. You therefore need to beware of where you live and those you live with.

Ruth 1:11-18, Jos. 24:15, Job 13-15, Acts 2;41-42, Prov. 21:16, Prov. 11:23, Rom. 1:28-32, Prov. 29:27, Ps. 84:10-11, Ps. 26:8-9.

INTRODUCTION:

One of the most beautiful chapters of the entire Bible is Ps.121which is rich and full of assurances to the pilgrim. As we begin its study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. **GOD DEALS WITH INDIVIDUALS: DEAL WITH HIM ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS**

   Most of the times, God deals with individuals, any man anyone etc. It is therefore wise to relate to Him on your own individual basis. If you enlarge the circle at all. Just include your own immediate family.

   Rev. 3: 20. John 7: 31. Ps. 23: 1 6. Jos. 24: 15; Ps. 57:7, Ps. 27:4; Ph. 3:13-14; Matt. 11:12, Gen. 19:26; Matt. 14:25-30. Mk. 2:1-11; Ps. 90; 1.-2; I Sam. 17: 34-37

2. **THE ONE WHO MADE ALL CAN TAKE CARE OF ALL**

   It is the Lord who made all things, including you. Since He has enough power to make all, surely He has enough power to take care of all, including you.

   Ps. 46:1, Isa. 43:2; Is. 46: 4; Heb. 13: 5, John I: 1-3. Is. 54: 16-17; Ps. 24: 1; Jer. 32: 26-27; Gen. 18: 13-14; Ps. 95; 6-7; Mt. 2: 1-2,11; Rev. 4:9-11.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we studied the way to Health. As we continue this study, we would be examining the Way to Peace. We pray that God would bless us as we study under His feet in Jesus name. Amen.

THE WAY TO PEACE

Jesus is the only way to true Peace -**Isa.9:6;**

He is the giver of peace. His peace passes all understanding - **Phil.4:7, Jn.14:27.**

Sinners knew nothing about the true peace

Isa.48:22, 59, 8.

Are you worried about situations in your family, finance, working place, call the man called Emmanuel and Peace shall come.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that it takes an individual strong determination to rely on the Maker of heaven and earth alone for help, Today as we continue our study. May the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

I. HE MADE YOU THEREFORE HE OWNS YOU

Because He made you therefore you are God's prosperity. Now Divine possession guarantees Divine presence which in turn guarantees Divine victory for you.

Ps. 121:1-2; I Cor. 6:19, Ps. 95;6-7, Ps. 23; Is. 43:1-2, Is. 42:5-6, Rom. 8:31,1 Sam. 17:37 Num. 14:6-9.

2. DIVINE POSSESSION GUARANTEES DIVINE PROTECTION

God knows how to protect His own. After all, He made not only the devil and his demons, but also the angels too. And what angels cannot do, He will do Himself.

Is. 54:16-17;16; Ps. 27:1-5; Ps. 91:9-13; Dan. 6:21-22; Acts 12:5-11; Ps. 34;7-8; Dan. 3:24-25, Is. 59:1-2; Ex. 39:30.

INTRODUCTION:

The Word of God is the tool that makes church growth possible .we are to preach the word in season and out of season Today we want to study this important topic. May the Holy Spirit teach us as we examine His word closely in Jesus name Amen.

1. **THE WORD OF GOD IS THE SOLUTION TO THE WORLD PROBLEM**

   The present. chaotic problem in the world as well as the present day church need no less an admonition to be able to experience PEACE, HARMONY, LOVE, all round prosperity and growth that God intends for His people.

   Rom. 10;17. Isa. 40:8.- Ps. 119.89; I Pet. 1:25; Ipet. 2:21; Job. 23:12; Jer. 15:16, Eph. 6.17,Ps. 126;6; Joel 3:13

2. **WHAT THE WORD OF GOD DOES.**

   The word of God can do so many things It brings supernatural conversion of sinners to all-big, small educated etc .The word of God heal the sick, delivers and fight our battles. It also gives the assurance of heaven.

   Acts 8:4-13. Acts 10:1-2, 34-48; Acts 1:15-16; Acts. 2:41; Acts. 4:4&32, Acts. 16:27-34; Ps. L07:20; Acts. 2:41 & 47 Acts. 8:14; Dan. 12: 3 Ps. 119:9; John 15:1-7; Josh. 1:8

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series we studied the way to peace. As we continue this study, we would be examining the way to victory. We pray that God would bless us as we study under his feet in Jesus name, Amen.

Satan has polluted and contaminated the human race through our sins, and sickness comes while death follow soon, James 1:13-15. But Jesus is the way to victory over sin and sickness; over Satan and all his hosts, His victory is Supreme.

1. THE WAY TO VICTORY

Sinner is continuously at war with self, sin, sickness, Satan, demons and all other powers of darkness, thus they are in bondage to Satan and fear. Heb. 2: 15; Job 15:20-21. But Jesus comforts and gives victory in the problems and storms of life for His own - **John 16:33; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 17:41; I John 5:4-5; Eph.1 :19-22 Eph. 2:6; Luke 1.0:19.** The Lord reigns and His children are reigning over all contrary spirits - Luke 9: 1.

2. REWARD FOR VICTORY

To be called victors, we have a battle to fight against sin, sickness, self, and suggestions of the devil, selfishness, laziness, satan and hell. Thank God, we have the whole armour with us - **Eph. 6:13-20; II Cor. 10:4;** when the battle is over then we shall receive these rewards - **Rev. 2:7, 11,17 26-28; 3:5; 12,21.**

No matter the troubles and trials today let us endure till the end since the "quitters never succeed and the victors never quit".

INTRODUCTION:

There is an assurance that God answers prayer. We only need to stand firm in His word.

DIRECTION:

Ps. 91:15, Is. 58:9, Is. 65:24, Jer. 33:3, Luke. 11:9, Jn. 15:7, Jn. 14:14, I Jn. 3:22.

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we saw that because God created us, He is in control of us and we become a treasurer to Him, this gives us the confidence that He is with us all the time. As we continue in this study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. **A CHANGE IN POSITION COMES FROM INDIVIDUAL OR FROM HIS ENEMY**

   An individual could bring a change in position or down fall to himself through drawing back, partial obedience, or showing a non-challant attitude. The enemies could be the bedrock to the fall of a believer.

   Ps. 121:3, I Tim. 4:10, Phil. 1:23-24, Acts 1:15-17, 20, I Sam. 15:22-23, I Sam. 2:27-30, Ps. 69:4, Prov. 29:5, Ps. 57:4-6.

2. **GOD WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR FEET TO BE MOVED**

   God will not only deliver you from the traits of the enemy alone. He has the Power to deliver you from yourself equally.

   II Tim. 1:12, Jude 1:24, Heb. 7:22-25, Ps. 25: 15, Rom. 16: 25-27, II Thess. 3:3, Ps. 125:1-2, Zech. 2:4-5, Job 1:8-10, Is. 41:10-16.

INTRODUCTION

There are so many things happening in tile homes nowadays particularly Christian Homes. The Church cannot afford to keep quiet. We pray that the Lord will make our Homes to be a Christian Home as we study his word in Jesus Name. Amen

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN

Not all that goes to the Church or carry the Bible is a Christian. Some come to the Church, listen to the word of God but never benefit from It; But some will come, hear the word and be doers. **Acts 11:26, John 15:14, Rom. 12-5; Eph. 4:11-15, John 8:31, Luke 6:45-49**

HOME: Home is not a house, not building. It is a place where everyone knows his or her functions and acts accordingly. If the home is not O.K the city or country is like wilderness.

Husband's Function:

Eph. 5:151 Tim. 3:7-11, I Pet. 3:7; Eccl. 9:9; I Tim. 5:8; Matt. 18:19-20; I Tim.3:4.

Wive's Function:

Eph. 5:22.1 Tim. 3:7-11; I Pet. 3:1, I Cor. 7:11; Deut. 6:6; Pro. 22:6; Eph.6:4.

Husband / Wife/ Children/ Servant: Col. 3:16-25

Children: Ps. 34;11-15; Pro. 22:25. Eccl. 12; Eph. 6:1-3; Levt. 20:9

ENEMIES OF THE HOME:

Lev. 20: 1 0; I Cor. 6:9; I King 11: 1-4; Gen. 16:3

Examples of Good Christian Homes

Josh. 24:15; Gen. 18:19; I kings2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

Today's section of the Bible is the one that prove the existence of man on the love of God for the Salvation of families from destruction. As we begin to study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen. ;

INVITATION INTO TWit ARK IS SALVATION FROM DESTRUCTION

"And the lord said unto Noah, come thou and thy house into the ark" **Gen. 17: 1a**

A. The reason for a season - **Gen. 6:3-6, 11 :12** - God saw the earth was corrupt as of today.
B. God in His fury can provide a way out -**John 3:16**
C. Grace is the foundation to our Salvation, **Eph. 2;5, Acts 15:11**
D. God has the option to chose who He will saxe spiritually or physically **Rom. 9:7**
E. The invitation is open to all- **Matt. 28:30**
F. The ark of our time is the Lord Jesus. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the lord shall be saved. **Ps. 18:3; Acts 2:2**
G. Make a determination that your family will enter ego Joshua
H. A great destruction is coming - **Matt. 24:37-42**

2. GOD WANTS TO SEE YOUR FAMILY RIGHTEOUS IN THIS GENERATION

"For thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation" **Gen. 7:1 b.**

A. The eyes of the Lord can still see the righteous" **II Pet. 2:4-9**
B. He Knows us intimately even to the thoughts of our heart **Gen. 6:5**
C. The whole earth is not too big for Him to judge at a glance, you cannot hide **Gen. 6:9.**

D. What is righteousness - obeying God's commandment
E. Things to do before God can call your family to enter into His Ark of this last day:

1. Let everybody in your family repent: **Matt.** 3:2, **Isa. 30:15**
2. Let them move closer to God. **James 4;7**
3. Let them Keep God's commandments
4. Let roles be played in the family **Eph. 6:1-5; 5:21-2**

Conclusion:
God is making the last call into the ark of Salvation of eternity. Now are you ready to enter with your family. Try and make it and ask for God's favour and grace. You will make it in Jesus name.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that though displacement may come through an individual or his enemy, God will not suffer your foot to be moved. Today, as we continue in our study, we pray for God's mighty blessings in Jesus name. Amen.

1. GOD IS THE ONLY CERTAIN SECURITY

Valiant bodyguards may fall asleep on duty. Particularly if they are either guarding the enemy of God or if they themselves are enemies of God. But thorough security is yours if God Himself is your guard.

Ps. 121:3-4;1 Sam. 26;7-16; Acts 12:5-11; Acts 16:27; Ps. 76: 56; Ps. 90:3-6; Ps. 4:8; Prov. 3:21-26.

2. THERE ARE MANY SIDES TO SLEEP

While the sleep of the labouring man is sweet, so that God gives sleep to his beloved. There is physical sleep and there is sleep of the spirit.

Eccl. 5:12; Ps. 127:1-2; Pro. 6:9-11; Pro. 20:13; Pro. 20:24; 33:34; Ps.132:1-5; Songs 5:2; Rom.11 :8; Jer. 51:54-57, Ps.13:3.

INTRODUCTION:

In our past study, we were taught that only God is the sure refuge. We also learnt that we could sleep on all sides. As we continue in our study, may the Lord bless us in Jesus name.

1. **GOD IS THE ONLY SURE GUIDE**

When God guides you, He will Surround you with wall of fire, which will destroy all the weapons of your enemies. He will also lock the door against such enemies. Which implies that you don't need to fear anything.

Ps. 121:5a, Ps. 125:2-3; Zech. 2:5; Is. 54:17; Rev. 3:7; Is. 26:4, Ps. 102:25-27, Heb. 13:8, Is. 26:3, Ps. 56:4.

2. **OTHER GUIDES ARE IN VAIN**

Some trust in chariot, some in Horses, while others might put their trust in charms or evil covenants. But all these are vain; God is the only true guide.

Prov. 21:13, Jer. 17:5-8; Ps. 20:6-8, Is. 31:1-3, II Kings 6:15-17, Ps. 127:1, Ps. 125:1, Is. 28:14-18, I Sam. 2:2, Ps. 31:1-3.

INTRODUCTION:

Walking with God demands for a lot of things, like knowing who He is, Knowing His attributes, separation from some things, agreement with Him and His blessings will follow. May the Almighty God bless us richly as we study His word in Jesus, name

Gen. 17:1. Amos 3:3 Dan. 11: 32, Lev. 26: 23-24. Ps. 24:8 Ps. 23:4; Job 13:15; Ps. 27:3, Ps. 37: 3-7, Ps. 139:14-18; Matt. 18:1-3; Rom. 11:33-38; Ps. 126:1; Jer. 20:11-14.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw that the Lord is a capable keeper and that other keepers are needless. As we continue with our studies, May the Lord bless us richly In Jesus name. Amen

1. **THE LORD CAN BE A PERMANENT KEEPER**

   Just as a man cannot be separated from his shadow so can the Lord be permanently be by your side to keep you from harm, protect you from evil and fight your battles for you.

   Heb. 13.5, Isa. 43:2; Dan. 3:24-25; Ps. 21:10, Dan. 6:16-2; Isa. 46:4; Ex. 33:15; Ps. 23:4; Jos. 1:5.

2. **WHEN THE SUN REFUSES TO SHINE, THERE WILL BE NO SHADOW.**

   There can be no shadow without the sun. if a man behaves in such a way as to shut off God from his life then problems will follow.

   Isa. 59:1-2; Jos. 7:10-12; Judg. 16:14-20; Ps. 57:1; Ps. 91:4; Ps. 23:6; James 4:8.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the Lord can be as permanent a keeper as your shadow. However, when the sun refuses to shine, there will be no shadow. Today as we continue our study, May the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name Amen.

YOUR BLESSINGS WILL NOT BECOME A CURSE

The sun is a blessing supplying light by day, giving warmth and helping plants to grow so that there will be food for man and beasts. The moon is also a blessing Supplying light at night, but when the sun does not rise it means blessings had become curses. But if the Lord be your help, your blessings will remain blessings.

Ps. 121:6; Gen. 1:16-18; Gen. 12:1-4; Gen. 11:10-16; Gen. 13:1, 2,5-7, Gen. 13: 14- 18, II Sam. 11: 1-17; Ps. 51: 1-15,2, Chro. Jo13, 25- 27; I Kings 11:7-11, Est.1:14; Est. 1:9-12, Est. 1:15,9-21;11. I King. 5:22-21, Lk. 10:17; Acts. 1:15-20, Eze. 28:12-17; Isa. 14:12- 17; Job 17:9

INTRODUCTION:

In our past studies, we have learnt that for sun to scorch one in the noon and moon by night could be another way of saying that blessings are turned to curses. As we continue tonight may the Lord bless us in Jesus Name.

1. **TO KEEP IS TO TAKE AWAY CORRUPTIBLE THINGS**

   When the Lord keeps, He will take away corruptible things that can destroy. These things that are taken away will never come back again. For instance, to keep in perfect peace from God, He will heal and keep infirmity and sickness far away.

   Ps. 121:7, I Pet. 2:24, Ps. 107: 20, Ex. 15:26, II Kings 4:1-7, Ps. 91:1-4, Ps. 27:5, Prov. 11: 8.

2. **THE RIGHTEOUS WILL NOT TASTE SUFFERING**

   Of a truth, the Lord will keep the righteous from severe suffering. As He did for Noah, Lot, Israel and Jesus; He will do likewise for those separated unto Him.

   Luke 17:26-27, Luke 17:28-30, Matt. 2:13-16, Ex. 12:21-23, Rev. 7:1-3, Luke 16:19-26.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that to preserve is to eliminate elements of corruption permanently and that true saints will not taste the tribulation. Today as we conclude this series, may the Lord preserve us all in Jesus Name.

1. **GOD GUARANTEES ALL ROUND PROTECTION IN THIS WORLD**

   As you go out on daily business and even as you return home each day, God's protection over you is assured though lions walk about seeking preys, the eyes of the Lord runs about to protect you. He will be there whenever you need him.

   Ps. 121:8; I Pet. 5:8, II Chr. 16:9; P5. 139:1-10, Ps. 46:1; Is. 43:2, 15; 54:17; Is. 8:10; Rom. 8:31.

2. **HE IS ALSO ABLE TO' CARRY US THROUGH TO HIS OWN KINGDOM**

   He will not only protect us till old age, keeping us from falling, but He is able to carry us through into His own Kingdom at last

   Isa. 46:4; Judges 24; John 10:27-29; Heb. 7:25; John 14:1-3; Ps. 23:4; Is. 73:22-23 .

INTRODUCTION:

Our great and good Shepherd is in all things to Provide, supply our needs Spiritually, Materially, in every area of our life. The. Only thing He requires from us is the heart of thanks giving though the enemy may grumble but His Promises remain and His Presence abides. May God bless us as we study at His Feet in Jesus Name, Amen.

HIS OWN WILL ALWAYS PRAISE HIM

Ps. 23:1-6; Ps. 27: 1-3; Ps. 31:19-20; Jer. 33:10-11; Neh. 4:1-3; 14-15; Ps. 34:1, Ps. 50:23; Ps. 71:14-15; Ps. 119: 4-6; Ps. 26:6-8.

INTRODUCTION:

Any action carried out outside the word of God that puts man in the place of God needs to be carefully considered or examined.

1. **REJECTION OF GOD'S WORD**

   Deut. 1:43; Isa. 28:12; Isa. 30:15; Lk. 19:14

2. **STUBBORNNESS**

   Ps. 32:9; Ps. 78:8; Isa. 46:12; 48:4. Mal. 2:2

3. **REBELLION**

   Deut. 9:1-4; I Sam. 15:23; Ps. 68:6; Isaiah 30:1 Isaiah 65:2; Jer.5:5 Ezek.12:2

INTRODUCTION:

The word of God admonishes us to always give thanks in all circumstances of life, which means that the will of God for our lives is to thank Him every time and in all situation. May the Lord bless us richly as we study to know how to thank- Him in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THANKSGIVING: WHY SHOULD WE THANK GOD

I Pet. 2.9, Deut. 8.10, Ps. 100:4, Ps. 107:22, Col. 1: 12; I Chron. 16: 8; 1 Thess. 5:18; 1 Tim. 4:4.

2. GOD'S WILL

Ps. 40: 8; 143:10; Matt. 6: 10; Matt. 12: 50; Matt. 26: 42; John 5:30; John 7:17; Acts. 21:14; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 6:6; Heb. 13:21; Jam. 4:15.

INTRODUCTION:

Before a man could determine to walk before God and be perfect, he must have a reason behind his determination.

WALK BEFORE GOD

II Kings 3:4; II Kings 20:3; Ps. 56:13; Ps. 116:9; Lev. 26: 14:28; Ps. 84:11.

Anyone who wants to walk before the Lord must have a goal. 1 Cor. 9:24-26; Phil. 3: 14; Heb. 12:1.

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we studied the Way to Peace. As we continue this study, we would be examining the Way to Escape. We pray that God would bless us as we study under His feet in Jesus name, Amen.

1. The Way to Escape

Jesus is the way to escape the wrath, indignation, anger or terror of God and then go to glory - Matt. 3:7-10, Amos 5:18-19. Our God is Omnipresent. He is everywhere. His eyes runs to and fro. II Chro. 16:9. No man can hide from Him Ps. 139:1-12, Prov.11:21Amos 9.2. -

2. Escape From what to what?

1). Escape from death unto life -Deut.30:15, 19, John 5:24

2) Escape from God's wrath to God's favour -Neh.1:2, Isa.13:9 Rom.1:18, 2:8, Heb.10:27, John 3:36

3) Escape from the shame or ridicule of sinners to God royal welcome Mat.25:34.

4) Escape from the tribulation below to the marriage supper of the Lamb above Rev.19:7-9; 3:10.

5) Escape from the everlasting punishment to God's presence above -Rev.3: 21; II Thess.1:9

6) Escape from hell fire (Rev. 20:15) to Heaven Rev. 3:4.

7) Escape from the famine coming upon the earth to the eating of the hidden manner above -Rev.2: 17

8) Escape from mortal, corruptible body to an immortal, incorruptible body above - Cor. 16: 57)

INTRODUCTION:

Of all the Old Testament saints there is hardly any one that can be related to the New Testament Christian better than David. He was almost everything a Christian is expected to be. That is why we believe that a close study of his life will be of tremendous blessings to us. May the Lord teach us Himself In Jesus name.

1. DAVID WAS MUCH MORE THAN A KING

David was not just a king. He was several other things, for example; he was a musician, warrior, priest, prophet, shepherd and dancer among others. We are suppose to be all these too.

2 Sam. 2:4; 1 Sam. 16:17-18; 1 Sam. 17;32; 1 Sam. 30:7-8, Ps. 22:1; I sam1. 16:11 I Sam.16:13;2; 1Sam. 6:14- 16; 1Sam. 12:13; Rev. 1;5-6; Eph. 6:10-12; Eph. 5:19; 1 Pet. 2:9; Acts. 2:16-17; Eph.2:4-8.

2. BEWARE: GOD ALWAYS HAS A SUBSTITUTE

David probably would not have come to the limelight but for the sins of king Saul. We need to be aware that God always has a substitute for anyone who fails Him.

I Sam. 16: 1, 13-14; I Sam. 2: 27-30, Acts 1:16-20; Ps. 75:6-7; Acts 10:34-35; Rev. 3:11.

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we saw that David was much more that a king and that we should never forget that God always has a substitute. As we continue today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name Amen.

1. FOR WORSHIP TO BE ACCEPTABLE, THE WORSHIPERS MUST BE HOLY

Holy Ghost carriers can be dangerous people. This is because their word are decrees and so can your words be if you are filled with the Holy Spirit. However, for your worship to be acceptable to God, you must be sanctified because He is a holy God

1 Sam. 6:1-l0; 1 Sam.3;19; II King 9:12; 1 King 2:19-24; John 6:26; I king 16.34; Jos. 10:12-13; Mk 11:12-14; Mk. 11:20-23; Acts 13:6-12; Acts 13:6-12; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:15:16; John 4:23-24

2. GOD DOES NOT SEE AS MAN SEES

Man often judges by appearance but God Judges by thoughts and motives. A close study of those rejected by God is very illuminating.

Isaiah 55:8; I Sam. 2:3; Pro. 31:30; Gen. 4:3-7; Heb. 12:15-17; Hos. 4;17; 13:1 Est. 1:10-19; Ps. 138:6, Jam. 4;6; Matt. 23:10.-12.

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Digging Deep

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Digging Deep

Outlines

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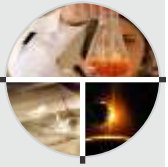

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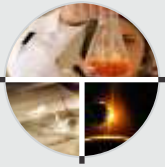

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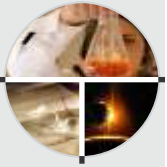

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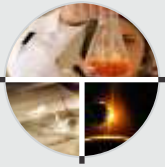
Lesson 501

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 1



Introduction

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

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

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

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

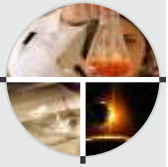
2. A FRUITFUL LIFE IS A LIFE OF LOVE

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

Deut 6:5; Ps. 119; 162; Ps. 138:2; Ps. 119:97; John 14:23; John 15:14; Ps.119:163, 165; 15.26:3.

Lesson 502

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 2



Introduction

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

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

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

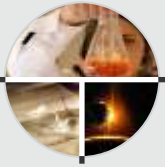
2. FOR A LIFE TO BE FRUITFUL, IT HAS TO BE SACRIFICIAL

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

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

Lesson 503

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 3



Introduction

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

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

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

   John 15:4-6; John 15:7; Ps.J6:S; Acts 4:13; Ps. 73:8; Rev. 3:20; James 4:7; Rev. 3:4: Mill. 2:6; John 15:10; I John 2:6; Amos 3:3.

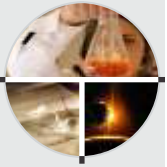
2. **THE REWARD OF A FRUITFUL LIFE IS ETERNITY WITH CHRIST.**

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

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

Lesson 504

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 4



Introduction

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

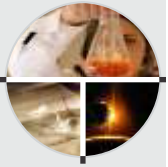
1. FAITH IS THE FERTILIZER FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

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

Gen.6:13-32: Heb.11:7; Gen. 12:1-3; Heb.11:8; Gen. 22:19; Heb. 11:17-19; Gen. 18:9-15; Heb.11:11; Ex. 14:10-16; 15:23-25; 17:1- 7; Jos.1 :6,7,9; 3:9-17; 6:1-20; Jos.10:12-14; Heb.11:31; I Kings 17:1-6; 17:10-16; 11 Kings 2:19-22; 5:11-14; 4:18-37; Dan. 3:16- 18; Luke 1 :30-38; Acts16:22-26.

Lesson 505

I WILL REACH MY GOAL



Introduction

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

1. ONCE YOU SET A SPIRITUAL GOAL FOR YOURSELF, THREE THINGS COULD HAPPEN

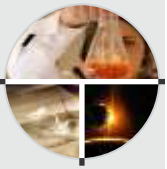
Once you set a spiritual goal for yourself, three things could happen, namely: (i) the enemy may put obstacles in your way or use diversionary tricks (ii) God may test your determination and (iii) if you pass God's test, He will intervene to help you reach your goal.
Matt. 10:22; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9; Gen. 13:10-11; Gen. 22:1-8; Job. 17:9; 1 Pet. 1 :13; Rev. 3:11; II Kings 2:1-8.

2. GOD IS READY TO HELP IF YOU ARE DETERMINED

If you pass the Divine test depend on how determined you are to reach your goal. God will intervene to make sure that you arrive. He did it in the case of Abraham, Caleb, and Joshua, The Shunamite woman, Elisha, Peter and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. He is willing to do the same for you also.
James 5:11; Gen. 22:10-13; 1:5-8; Num. 14:28-30; II Kings 4:25- 35; 2:9-12; Luke 22:31-32; 9:51: Luke 22:41-43; Rom. 15:25-26; Acts 14:19-22; Acts 20:22-24; Romans 8:35-39.

Lesson 506

THE ARMY OF THE LORD - Part 1



Introduction

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

1. GOD HIMSELF CHOOSES THE SOLDIERS IN HIS ARMY

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

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

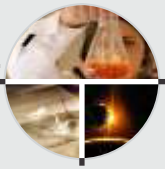
2. THERE IS ONLY ONE PUNISHMENT FOR FAILURES IN THE ARMY OF GOD: EXPULSION

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

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

Lesson 507

THE ARMY OF THE LORD - Part 2



Introduction

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

1. THE ARMY OF THE LORD IS AN UNUSUAL ONE

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

John 10:27; John 10:14; Luke 10. Ps. 23:1-4; II Cor. 10:4; Ex.l9-5-6; Rev. 1 :4-6; James 4:7; Eph. 6: 13; I Tim. 6:12-14; I Pet. 5:8-9.

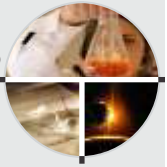
2. THE SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS HAVE A THREE- FOLD ASSIGNMENT

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

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

Lesson 508

THE ARMY OF THE LORD - Part 3



Introduction

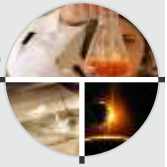
We have learnt that the army of the Lord is an unusual army. An Army of sheep that can overcome wolves, with the ability to hear the voice of God and desire to obey Him totally. Army of priest that is also kings with a three-fold duty of (i) ministry to God (ii) ministry to one another and (iii) ministry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

1. WORSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GOD THAN WORK

Every King has a throne: the throne of God is built by the praises of His people. That is why the Father's greatest desire is not for workers but worshippers, because those who will' ever succeed as His workers must first succeed as His worshippers. That is why activity without worship always produces little harvest because God has decreed that there will be no rain if there is no worship.
Ps. 22:3; John 4:23; James 4:8; Matt. 22:37-38; Luke 10:38-42; Acts 13:12; Zech. 14:17.

2. TRUE WORSHIP INVOLVES COOPERATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

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



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

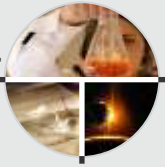
3. YOU CANNOT OBEY GOD FULLY EXCEPT YOU WORSHIP HIM CONSTANTLY.

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

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

Lesson 509

THE ARMY OF THE LORD - Part 4



Introduction

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

1. OUR SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUST HAVE RELEVANCE

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

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

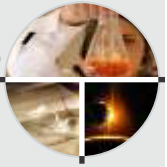
2. WORSHIPPING GOD IS INCOMPLETE UNLESS YOUR BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT ARE INVOLVED

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

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

Lesson 510

THE ARMY OF THE LORD - Part 5



Introduction

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

1. THE RICHER MUST TAKE CARE OF THE POORER

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

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

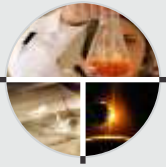
2. IF YOU HARDEN YOUR HEART AGAINST THE NEEDY, YOUR TURN WILL COME

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

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

Lesson 511

THOU GOD SEEST ME



Introduction

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

1. OUR LOOKS AS HUMAN BEING

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

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

2. GOD'S FAVOURABLE AND UNFAVOURABLE LOOKS

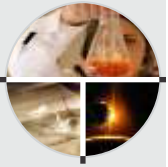
The many acts of God recorded throughout the scripture, truly prove that He is a real person whose acts are to be understood in the same sense as those performed by men. He also, therefore uses these media (Favourable and unfavourable looks) to approve or disapprove of our behaviours.

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

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

Lesson 512

POWER OF AGREEMENT



Introduction

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

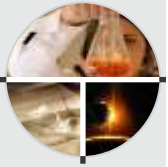
1. WHEN PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER IN JESUS NAME, HE IS IN THEIR MIDST WITH ALL HIS POWER

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

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

Lesson 513

THE SCAPE GOAT



Introduction

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English defines the word "SCAPE GOAT" as "PERSON BLAMED OR PUNISHED FOR THE MISTAKES OR WRONGDOING OF ANOTHER OR OTHERS."

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

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF OFFERING IN ISRAEL

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

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

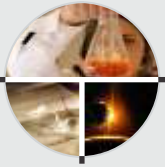
2. THE SCAPEGOAT TODAY

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

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

Lesson 514

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD Part 1



Introduction

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

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

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

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

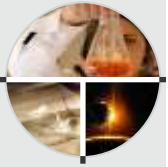
2. GOD COMMUNICATES IN VARIOUS WAYS

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

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

Lesson 515

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD Part 2



Introduction

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

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

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

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

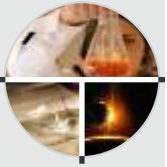
2. DREAMS COULD BE A POTENT WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF THE ALMIGHTY

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

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

Lesson 516

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD Part 3



Introduction

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

1. GOD ALLOWS VISIONS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

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

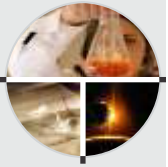
Ex. 3:1-4; Acts 9:1-4; Jos. 5:13; 6:5;.fude 6:11-21; Acts 9:10; Acts 16:22-24; Luke 1:26-:38; Acts 10:9-20; Ex. 3:7-10; Acts 10:1-8; Acts 9:10-15; Is. 6:1-5; Dan. 5:1-5; Dan. 5:25-30.

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

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

Lesson 517

GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY



Introduction

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

1. GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY.

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

a. Gen. 12:10,2:21-24; Jer. 31:1; Gen. 18:17-19; Gen. 12:10-20; Gen. 12:3; 28: 14; Gen. 20:2-6; 26:1-5; Ps. 113:9.

b. **Husband's duty:** Pro. 5:18; Eccl. 9:9; 1 Tim. 5:8; I Chr. 29:19; Col. 3:18-23; Eph. 6:4.

c. **Wife's Duty:** Eph. 5:21-25; Ex. 1 :20; I Tim. 3:11; Pro. 31 :26-28; 1 Pet. 3:1

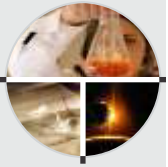
2. THE FAMILY NOT APPROVED OF GOD.

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

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

Lesson 518

RISE OR FALL - Part 1



Introduction

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

1. NOT THE WILL OF GOD THAT ANY SHOULD FALL

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

Heb. 7:22-25; Ps.125:2; Ps. 119:105; Pro 6:23; Ps.119:130; I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4; Ps. 34:7; Matt. 19:30; Matt25:1-12.

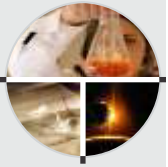
2. SOME WILL SURELY STAND FOREVER

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

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

Lesson 519

RISE OR FALL - Part 2



Introduction

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

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

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

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

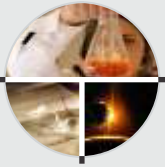
2. THOSE WHO AIM HIGH ALWAYS RISE HIGH IF THEY ARE WILLING TO PAY THE COST

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

Phil. 3:12-14; I Cor. 14:1; I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 14:12; Ps. 38:9; Ps. 63:1; Ps. 3:25; Ps. 119:20, 131; 15.26:9; Matt. 5:6; I Cor. 9:25; II Tim.2:15; Heb.12:4; 15.40:31

Lesson 520

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 1



Introduction

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

1. THE CHRISTIAN WALK IS A WARFARE

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

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

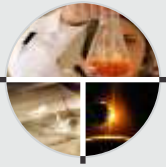
2. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

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

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

Lesson 521

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 2



Introduction

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

1. THE NATURE OF THE ADVERSARY

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

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

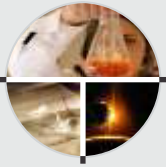
2. VICTORY IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH GOD

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

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

Lesson 522

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 3



Introduction

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

1. PUTTING ON THE COMPLETE ARMOUR

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

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

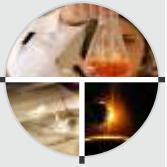
Eph. 6:11; 14-17; 14-17; 2Tim 2:4; Phil. 2:12; 2Tim. 4:7; 2Cor. 10:3; Eph 6:12; 1King 22:34; Matt. 24:13; Job 1:7; Luke 4:3; 1Pet. 5:8-9; Luke 12:35-36; Rev. 3:11

CONCLUSION

The believer must constantly watch and pray.

Lesson 523

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 4



Introduction

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

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

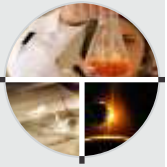
THE SWORD OF SPIRIT

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

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

Lesson 524

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 5



Introduction

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

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

1. THE NATURE OF FAITH.

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

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

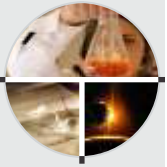
2 THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

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

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

Lesson 525

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 6



Introduction

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

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

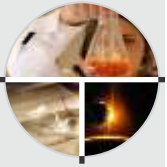
LIONS WITH TRUTH

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

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

Lesson 526

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 7



Introduction

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

1. GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION

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

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

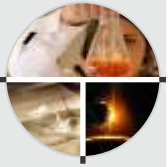
2. WHY BELIEVERS MUST PUT ON THE HELMET

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

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

Lesson 527

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 8



Introduction

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

1. HUMAN RIGHTEOUSNESS CANNOT MEET GOD'S STANDARD

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

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

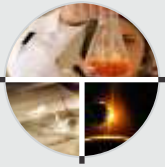
2. WHY EVERY BELIEVER MUST PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE

Righteousness apart from ensuring peace for the Christian also empowers him to confront and overcome the enemy.
Prov. 28:1; Ps. 53:4-5; In. 14:30 Job 1:8-10; Is. 48:22; Matt. 5:16; Ps. 34:17, 19; Ps. 66:18; Ps119:11; Ps.16:11; Gal. 5:16-18

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

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

PUTTING ON THE ARMOUR Part 8



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

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

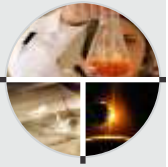
B. SOME OF THE· .REASONS WHY THESE POWERS WILL NOT WORK ARE EASILY AVOIDABLE.

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

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

Lesson 528

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



Introduction

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

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

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

II Tim. 3:12; John 16:33; 15.43:2; Mic. 7:8; Ps. 84:11; Pro. 4:18-19; Ps. 27:1; Ps. 23:4; I Cor. 10:13; John 8:12; Mal. 4:2; Pro. 3:32; Pro 2:8.

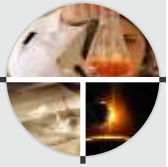
2. YOU CAN BRING LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS AND YOU MUST

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

Isa. 9:2; Mat. 5:14-41; 15.60:3; Acts. 13:47; 15.60:1; Rom. 10:11-14; John 15:1-2; Rev. 2:5.

Lesson 529

LITTLE SINS



Introduction

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

1. LITTLE FOXES SPOIL THE VINE

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

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

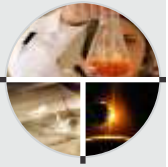
2. ANYTHING NOT TOO BAD IS ALREADY BAD

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

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

Lesson 530

DEALING WITH SIN



Introduction

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

1. COOPERATING WITH THE FLESH WILL SPELL DISASTER

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

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

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

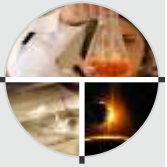
There are several advices the Bible gives us on how to deal with the flesh. These include (i) saying "no" to the demands of the flesh (ii) mortifying it (iii) keeping it under (iv) abstaining from its lusts, (v) making no provision to satisfy its lusts (vi) flee from dangerous zones and (vii) amputating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

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

Lesson 531

THE PRODIGAL SON

Text: Luke 15:12-16



Introduction

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

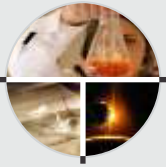
1. WHO IS A PRODIGAL SON?

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

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

Lesson 532

JOHN 11: 35



Introduction

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

1. JESUS CHRIST HAS MANY REASONS FOR WEEPING

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

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

2. HE WEPT BECAUSE HE LOVED

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

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

Lesson 533

TASTE OF THE UPPER ROOM EXPERIENCE

Introduction

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

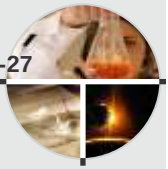
1. WE NEED FAITH TO GET US VICTORY

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

I King 18:21-24; II Chron. 16:9; Zech. 2:5-8; II Thes. 1:6-8; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-2; Jud. 23 1 Cor. 9:19-20

Lesson 534

FROM MARAH TO ELIM (1) Exodus 15:22-27



Introduction

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

1. AFTER A VICTORY, GET READY FOR ANOTHER BATTLE

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

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

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

2. WHERE IS YOUR MOSES?

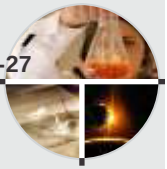
God instructed Moses to lead His Children out of Egypt. A Sheep without a Shepherd will go astray. You need Moses to guide and guard you.

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

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

Lesson 535

FROM MARAH TO ELIM (2) Exodus 15:22-27



Introduction

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

1. PLENTY OF WATER BUT NOT SAFE TO DRINK:

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

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

2. COMPLAIN: IT COULD BE DANGEROUS

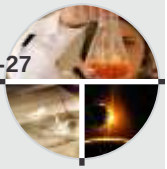
God told them that He was going to take them to their promised land. They fixed their mind on it, forgetting that God has His ways of doing it. Because things could not work as they thought it; the flesh reacted by making them complain.

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

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

Lesson 536

FROM MARAH TO ELIM (3) Exodus 15:22-27



Introduction

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

1. WHY NOT SEEK GOD:

"Who you seek determines what you get. If you seek God, you will find joy. If you seek men or things, you will find happiness. Whom seek ye?"
The people sought for a way out from Moses, they asked him "What shall we drink?" but Moses knew how to seek God because he was in bearing with the One that called him.
Don't ever lose your bearing with Him, He desires you seek Him. Ensure you overcome those hindrances that will make you not to seek Him but do that in humility, sincerely, passionately and make it more personal
Ex. 15:24-25, Deut. 4:29, PS. 105:4, Lk. 11:9, 1 Thes. 5:5-8, 2 Chr. 7:14, Ezr 7:10, PS.146:3, Jer.17:5, Hab. 2:1, PS.132:3.

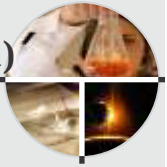
2. SURROUNDED BY OPPORTUNITIES WITH BLINDED EYE:

In the midst of bitter water, the tree to make it sweet was close by but Moses' eyes were blinded to it. Many at times what you need to succeed is next to you but the veil will need to be removed.
As soon as the veil is removed, you will see the glory of God, seeing His glory will make you to see yourself better; keep you humble in Him. He can therefore dismantle repair and then take you to the next level.

2 Kings 5:2-3, Is 6:1-3, 2 Kings 4:1-7, Job: 42:5-6, IS. 6:5, LK. 5: 1-8

Lesson 537

THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (1)



Introduction

The story of Naboth as recorded in1 Kings 2:1-13 is the story of a young Jezrelite who lived during the reign of King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel. It is not a super story but a biblical insight and truth, which every believer has one or two things to learn from. I encourage you to pay close attention to the study as the Holy Spirit of God will give you an understanding in Jesus name.

1. A REACTION TO EVERY ACTION:

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

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

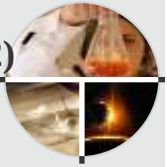
2. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

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

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

Lesson 538

THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (2)



Introduction

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

1. IN THE PALACE YET DISCONTENTED:

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

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

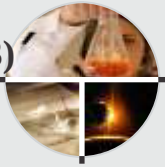
2. WATCH THE STRANGE VOICE:

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

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

Lesson 539

THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (3)



Introduction

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

1. REGARDLESS OF YOUR LOCATION; BE DISTINCT:

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

Rev. 2:13, John 17:14-16, Hebrews 11:24-25, Eph 5:11, 2Thes. 3:6, Daniel 1:8, 1 Samuel2: 11-12.

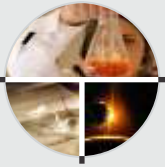
2. QUALITY AND THEN QUANTITY:

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

Judges 16:6, 2Samuel11: 2-5, Judges 16:20, 25, 1Samuel28:7, Mt. 26: 15, Mt. 3:3, 8-9, 1 Kings19:18, John 10: 10

Lesson 540

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP



Introduction

Christian are people that must show love to others and forgive those that offend them.

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

(a) JOSEPH forgave his brethren - Gen.4S:S-1S; SO:19-21
(b) MOSES forgave the Israelites- Ex. 32:4-14,31-34
(c) DAVID forgave Saul-1 Sam. 24:1-22;2 Sam. 9:1-13
(d) SOLOMON forgave Adonijah. -1 Kings 1 :41-S3
(e) The PROPHET forgave Jeroboam. -1 Kings 13:1-6
(f) STEPHEN forgave his persecutors- Acts 7:S4-60.
(g) JESUS forgave his enemies - Luke 23:34

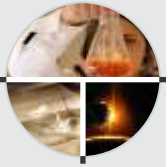
2. EVIDENCE OF ABSOLUTE FORGIVENESS.

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

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

Lesson 541

THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 1



Introduction

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

1. CERTAINTY OF END TIME:

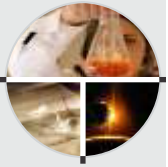
Believers should keep in mind that they are strangers and pilgrims here on earth **1Chr. 29:15, 1Pet. 2:11.** The end of this age preceding the Millennium is what the Bible refers to the last days Dan**. 8:19, 2Tim. 3:1, Jam. 5:3.** It is called by different names- Last day **Micah 4:1, Acts 2:17,**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

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

The end time is no other time than the time we are in and it is similar to the pre-flood days **Mat. 24:37.**
It's an age of godlessness and perilous times **(Gen. 4:16, 2Tim. 3:1-7),** Age of city- building and prosperity **(Gen.4:17),** breakdown in the home and family life **(Gen.4:19),** Agricultural development and commerce **(Gen. 4:20),** music making **(Gen.4:21),** technological advancement **(Gen4:22),** violence and corruption **(Gen. 4:23, 6-11)**

Lesson 542

THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 2



Introduction

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

1. HIS DESIRE TO MANIFEST HIS GLORY:

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Convict sinners of their sin **Isa 6:5, Acts 2:37**

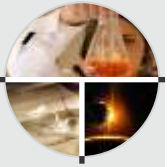
(2) Bring judgement, especially when un-repented sin is brought into the presence of God's glory **Acts 5: 1-10, Acts 13: 8-11.**

(3) Bring victory **1Sam. 4:3, Acts 13: 6-11.**

(4) Commissioning into God's ministry **Exodus 3: 2-10, Acts 9:3-6**

Lesson 543

THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 3



Introduction

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

1. THE DOUBLE EFFECT OF HIS GLORY:

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

Consider the following:

(1) Exodus 14:21-31. The cloud of glory that provided safety for the children of Israel in the Red Sea was the same that drowned their enemies.

(2) Daniel 6:22-24. The Lions that provided a resting pillow for night sleep for Daniel were the same that killed his enemies.

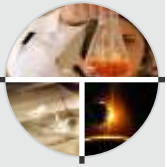
(3) Acts 9: 39-41, Acts 5: 9-10. The glory cloud in Peter that brought life to a Woman is the same that brought death to another

(4) Dan 3:22-25. The burning fire that provided cooling comfort for the 3 Hebrew men was the same fire that slew their enemies that threw them into it.

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

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

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



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

(a) Shame John 2:1-11

(b) Reproach or The "But" of life 2 Kings 5:1

(c) Failure Luke 5:1-11

(d) Barrenness 2 Kings 4:8-17

(e) Loneliness Mark 5:25-34

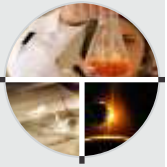
(f) Demonic oppression Mark 5: 1-20

(g) Glaring retardation Acts 3:1-8.

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

Lesson 544

THE GLORY CLOUD AND THE END TIME 4



Introduction

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

1. SUSTAINING THE GLORY CLOUD:

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

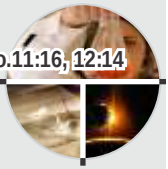
Samson as a case study

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

Lesson 545

THE PURSUIT OF GODLINESS

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



Introduction

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

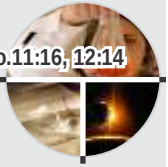
PREPARING YOUR HEART FOR GODLINESS

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

1. **Through True and genuine repentance.** Joel 2:12-13, Acts 8:37. Genuine repentance brings brokenness of the hearts and produces genuine love for the living God. Matt. 22:37.

2. **Through undivided love for God** Deut 6:5. Love of God in our heart produces a soul tied to God. Rom 5:5, Rom 8:35, it constrains 2 Cor. 5:14, it is divided in keeping his word .Jn. 14:15 and loved divine presence Jn. 14:23. The Holy Spirit can only reside with any one that loves Jesus Jn 11: 16 Demonstration of love is by giving. In. 3:16, 1 Jn. 3:18

3. **Through constant and consistent prayer life** Mk 11:24. Aside from asking in prayers. We are to seek God Matt. 7:7, Jer. 29: 13, in prayer. There is divine contact and divine intimacy Jer. 29: 13. Daniel has divine consciousness 1Jn .3:22. 5:14. Prayer enhances inner righteousness. In. 9:31, Mk 11:25-26, James Produces faith Mk 11:24, and his obedience is enhanced 1 In. 3:22, 5: 14.



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

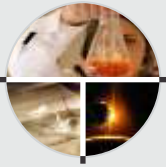
5. **Through total and uncompromising Obedience to God** Ps. 119:2, 119:34. God will not relate with a disobedient person, God hate it. I Sam 15:22. Deut 26: 15. Obedience is a part way which result into divine fellowship In. 14:23, ensures membership in God's family. Matt 12:50. It is a Spiritual knowledge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

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

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

Lesson 546

PSALM 117



Introduction

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

1. OUR GOD IS UNIVERSALLY GOOD

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

Ps. 33:5;Ps. 34:8; Nah. 1-!7; I Tim. 1 :12; II Cor. 12:9; II Tim. 2:1; Rom. 9:16; Tit. 3:5.

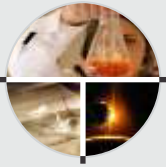
2. PRAISE THE LORD: HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED.

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

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

Lesson 547

SIMEON & ANNA



Introduction

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

1. DIVINE REVELATIONS ARE NOT OBTAINED BY HUMAN WISDOM

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

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

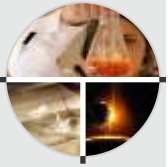
2. THE PURE IN HEART SHALL SURELY SEE GOD.

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

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

Lesson 548

THE PROMISED LAND Exodus 15:22-27



Introduction

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

1. THOSE THAT GOT TO THE PROMISED LAND

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

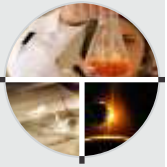
2. HOW TO GET THERE?

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

3. THOSE THAT DID NOT GET THERE

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

THE PROMISED LAND Exodus 15:22-27



4. OBSTACLES ON THE WAY

A. Hatred:- Gen.37: 1-20

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

C. Persecution

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

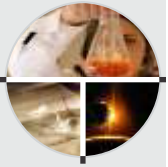
E. Loosing focus:- Num. 14:35-38

CONCLUSION:

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

Lesson 549

CRY FOR REVIVAL 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, examples of past revivals, reason for it and steps to take in getting revived. Lord, it is our prayer that you will revive us mightily today in Jesus Name Amen.

1. WHAT IS REVIVAL?

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

2. EXAMPLES OF PAST REVIVALS

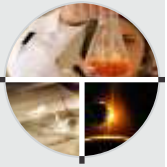
The Lord has always had his special messengers sent out when there was moral lawlessness, decline in spiritual health, political helplessness, societal decadence and economic bankruptcy either of a nation or church. In the Bible days, men like Elijah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel and others were used by God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

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

3. REASONS FOR REVIVAL

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

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



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 pervates the whole society.
H. A nation is what it is today -Isaiah 1:5-6

4. STEPS TO REVIVAL:

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

(A) There 'must be a desire for revival - this leads to genuine repentance and deep contribution in the heart Isa. 57:15

(B) There must be humility - Break up the fallow of your heart Hosea 10:12 brokenness in the spirit is essential.

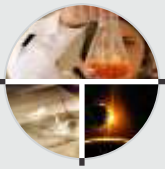
(C) No revival without the fire of Prayer - your prayer life must be at its peak.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 550

ABIDING IN THE VINE John 15:1-8



Introduction

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

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

1. WHO IS THE VINE? John 15: 1

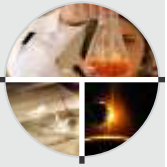
i. The Vine is Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High God
ii. The Saviour / Deliverer - Matt. 1:21; 1 John 4: 14
iii The Mediator- Heb. 4:14-16, 9:15
iv. The Counsellor / Prince of Peace -Isa. 9:6-7
v. The Comforter-Isa. 51:1-3
vi. The Healer -1Peter 2:24-25; Isa. 53:5-6
vii. TheAvenger-Heb.10:30-31

2. HOW TO ABIDE IN THE VINE:

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

3. BENEFITS ATTACHED TO ABIDING IN THE VINE:

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



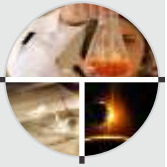
iv. Overcoming destruction - In. 15:6
v Receiving answers -In.15:7; Matt. 7:7-11
vi Ability to be like Him -In. 15:8; Phil 2:.5-11

CONCLUSION.

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

Lesson 551

TRUE HAPPINESS Romans 8:1-17



Introduction

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

1. PURPOSE

A. What is the purpose of man? John 8: 14; John 14:6

B. You need somebody to have everlasting happiness; who is that person?

C. Why? Rom. 8:16

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

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

IN CHRIST, we have:

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

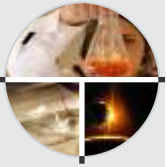
Iii LOVE AND COMPASSION: True happiness is provided by love and compassion of Jesus Christ. To have love and compassion for others is true happiness.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 552

LOVE IS THE GREATEST I Cor. 13:1-13



Introduction

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

1. LOVE MUST ACCOMPANY EVERY GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

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

2. THE ONLY BOND OF PERFECTION

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

3. ETERNALLY VALUABLE

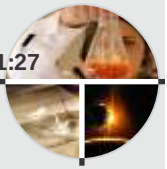
The gift of the Holy Spirit will cease one day but love abides forever. 1 Cor. 13:8. The love constrains us to appreciate the work of our redemption. 2Cor. 5:14, we who were once alienated to Christ. Col. 1:21-22, but has been translated into the kingdom of his dear son, Jesus Christ. Col. 1:13-15 to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

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 553

THE RELIGION OF OLD I John 2:3-11, James 1:27



Introduction

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

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

1. WHAT ARE NOT THE OLD RELIGION?

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

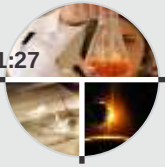
Any attempt at worshipping God which is not based on the finished work of Christ at Calvary is not pure and is not part of the old religion which the pioneers of Christianity practiced.

- despite the blessing of God on those who practise Alms giving, payments of tithes, offering and donation without the seal of the old religion in the givers life. Mal. 3:10-12.

- self-righteousness, doing good to people
- denominational affiliation and participation in God's service.

2. WHAT ARE OLD RELIGION?

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



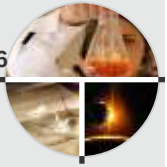
- Total separation from the world and its corrupting influence. II Cor. 6:14-18, I John 2:15-17
- Inward and outward holiness, crucifixion of the fleshly lusts, transparent holy living should daily characterize our Christian living. I Pt. 1:15-16
- practical Christian duties. Acts 2:41 - 47

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

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

Lesson 554

LUKEWARMNESS Revelation 3:15-16



Introduction

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

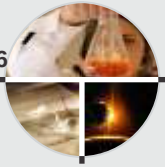
Lukewarmness is a sin. It is a sin of omission or the sin of indifference. It is different from the sin of commission such as stealing, backsliding or adultery. The sin of omission is when you know good and you do not do it. James 4: 17. God does not tolerate lukewarmness. When you are neither hot nor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

HOW DO WE BECOME LUKEWARM ?

1. Lukewarmness in the way we work for God says it is better not to work for Him at all than to work half- heartedly. Jer. 48: 10. If you work for God half-heartedly, you will receive a curse. If you want to work for God, then go all out for Him.

2. Lukewarmness in the way we praise and acknowledge God. Some of us feel too big to dance for God. Michal was the only woman recorded in the Bible who died barren because she insulted David for dancing unto the God of Host. II Sam. 6:20-23.

3. Lukewarmness in the way you react to the poor. There is trouble for those who ignore the cries of the poor. Pro: 21:13. You are not to act indifferent to the cry of the poor, especially if you are in a position to help. Poverty not only materially but spiritually e.g those who have no Christ are poor. Backsliders also are in need of spiritual meat. Mt. 28: 18-20. When last did you talk about the commission given unto you?



4. Lukewarmness in delaying or receiving salvation. This is very common among the youths. Paul and Felix's experience. Acts 24:24-25. Salvation delayed! He Wanted to wait for another day / opportunity which never materilised. Felix is the only man adjudged perished.

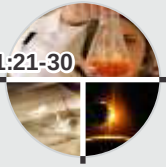
5. Lukewarmness in total separation from the world. You cannot become a true Christian without losing your unrepentant old friends. Isa. 42:. You are the glory of God. And God will not share you with anybody or other god. The children of Israel were told to take every piece of land in Cannan and drive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

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 555

CHARACTER STUDY ON PAUL II Corin. 11:21-30



Introduction

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

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

2. **ZEAL:** a. Readiness to spend all for Christ's sake II Corin. 12: 15
   b. Readiness to preach the gospel. - I Corin. 16: 18
   c. Travail over spiritual children. - Ga14: 18-20
   d. Desire to know God more. - Phil. 3:10-14
   e. Readiness to die for Christ's sake. - Acts 20:22-25; 21:10-13.

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

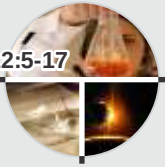
4. **HUMILITY:** a. Counted all achievements as dung. - Phil. 3:8, 2:3-4
   b. Crucified with Christ. - Gal: 2:20; Phil. 2:5-8
   c. Displayed humility. - Phil. 3: 12-14

Conclusion

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

Lesson 556

WHY CHRISTIANS FACE TRIALS? Hebrew 12:5-17



Introduction

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

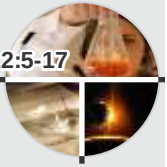
1. FOR UPLIFTMENT

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

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

2. FOR REFINEMENT

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



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

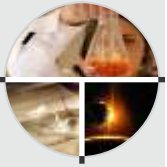
Likewise, the child of God is indeed "raw" at the time of second birth. He often still retains some elements of pride, anger, bitterness, lust, impatience, hatred, apathy, self-will, etc. To become what God wants Him to be, and to be transformed into the image of Christ, the Bible teaches that He is chastened by the father; and chastisement in never pleasant. Heb. 12:7-11. Trials refines a child of God just as fire refines gold, producing in Him Christ - like qualities such as endurance, gentleness, wisdom, humility, submission, trust, love, etc. Job 23:10; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:7; Job23:10-12, Job 13:5

Conclusion

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

Lesson 557

LIVING RIGHT 2 Cor. 5:15-17



Introduction

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

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

1. REASONS FOR LIVING RIGHT

i. God demands it as a base for his relationship with you. Heb. 12:14

ii. Christ has made provision for it. Rom. 6:5, 6

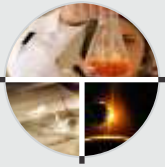
iii. It is a sure testimony of your regenerated life. 2Tim. 2:19

iv. It promotes Christian virtues in this evil world and through right living. You preach Christ to others. Matt. 5: 16 Your life can challenge other believers not to settle for a lower standard of Christian living. 1 Cor. 11:1.

vi. You frustrate the devil who does not mind a religious person or a powerless Christian but who surely fears the power of a triumphant life.

2. SECRETS OF L1VJNG RIGHT

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



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

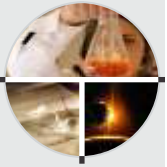
4. Turn away from every known ills and evils. 2 Cor. 6: 14
5. Meet with God daily in prayer and in the study of His word. Psalm 119:9
6. Regulate your life with the word of God. It should be your ONLY guide in all that you do or say. II Tim. 3: 16.
7. Let the Holy Spirit be real to you. Be sensitive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

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 558

BE "A DANIEL" Dan. 1:1-21



Introduction

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

1. THE CAPTIVITY OF DANIEL

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

2. THE QUALITIES / ATTRIBUTES OF DANIEL

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

(a) His steadfastness to his belief while in foreign land. *Dan.* 1:8-13, 6:10; Gen. 39:7-12.

(b) His prayer life *Dan. 6:10,* 9:3-4, 1 *0:2-3; Acts* 3:1

(c) His life as a public servant (He was faultless and holy) *Dan. 6:4*

(d) His reward and promotion *Dan.* 1 *:17-20,2:46-49,6:1-3,28;* Gen. *41:37-40*

(e) The plot against him and his deliverance *Dan.* 6:4-13, *.20-28,* Gen. 39:14-23

(f) His wisdom, boldness, faith and humility *Dan. 1:20, 6:10, 1:12- 13; 2:30*

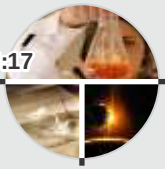
(g) His testimonies to the living God. *Dan.* 6:25-27, 2:28; 2:46-47

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 559

BELIEVERS IN THE MIND OF GOD II Cor. 5:17



Introduction

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

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

(a) Highlights on what these blessings are: Col. 1 :15 -17, Rom 8:17, I Pet. 4:1, Gal. 3:29, Is. 53:4-5, I Pet. 2:24, Provo 2:7, Ps. 32:5, Phil. 4: 19, Rom 5:5.

(b) .In the light of Eph. 1:3 is it necessary to ask God to bless us again? What should be our attitude? John 14:14

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

(a) What is an inheritance?

(b) What are our inheritance in Christ?
Eph. 3: 12, Heb.4: 16, Rom 8: 1, I Peter 1: 1-4, I John 4: 17

3. Already delivered in Christ - Col.1: 13, Matt. 6:9-13
4. Made to be seated in heavenly realms- Eph. 1: 18-21, Eph. 2:4-6
5. Dwelling place of God (Holy of holies) - Eph. 2:22.' Cor. 3:16
6. As powerful person - Eph. 3:20, Eph. 2:10, Acts 1:8
7. As light, salt and the branch - John 15:1-5, Matt. 5:13-14
8. Created in holiness - Eph.4:24, I Thess.4:7, I Pet. 1 :16

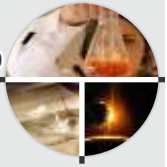
CONCLUSION

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

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

Lesson 560

THE ROYAL PRIESTHHOOD I Peter 2:9



Introduction

There is a common idea which is unbiblical. That is there is a distinction between the clergy and the laity. In 1 Pet. 2:9, the apostles says that all Christians are "..... A royal priesthood of God."

1. This should not surprise us because several passages in the Bible said that God's people are to be named the priests of the Lord and Ministers of our God. Some of such passages are Ex. 19:5-6, Isa.61 :6, Rev. 1 :6, Rev. 5: 1 0, Rev. 20:6.

2. As Priest of God, we are to offer sacrifices unto God, not of rams and goats as the Old Testament priests, but spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. What are these spiritual sacrifices? They include, among other things.

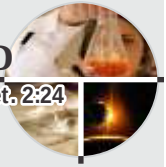
a. Praises, - Ps. 9:11, Ps. 67:3, Heb. 13:15, Rev. 19:5.
b. Singing, - Ps. 81:1, Eph. 5:19, Rev. 5:9,13, Rev. 5:19
c. Rejoicing, - Ps. 107:22, Phil. 4:4, Isa. 12:6.
d. Glorifying, - Rev. 5: 12, Rev. 7: 12, Lk. 2:20
e. Thanksgiving, - Ps. 100,4, Col. 3:15, IThess. 5:18.
f. Listening, - Ecc. 5: 1, Isa. 55:3, John 5:25'"
g. Doing, - Matt. 5:16,1Cor 10:31. Heb. 13:16.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 561

BODILY HEALING FROM GOD



Ex. 15:26: Ps. 10:3:3: Pro. 4:20-22: Is. 53:4-5: Mt. 8:16.17: I Pet. 2:24

Introduction

THE HEALING COVENANT

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

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

2. **God's faithfulness in healing all under the Healing Covenant.**
   Ps. 105:37; 2 Chor. 30:18-20; Ps103:1-5; 107:17-20

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

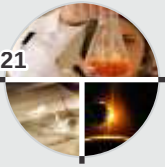
3. **God's Medicine for your healing.** - Ps. 107:20; In. 6:63; Pr.4:20-22.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 562

THE LOVE OF GOD Gen. 3:21



Introduction

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

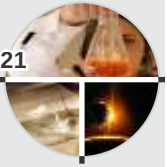
1. **THE LOVE OF GOD TOWARD MAN**

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

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

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

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

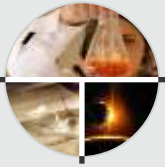


CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 563

TRUST IN GOD



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

Introduction

To put trust in God is to rely on Him absolutely for help at all times. It is totally depending of God at all time and situation. To us, He may 'tarry' in bringing His help, but he is always on time. As we go through this study, may you realise that He is able to give you your good expectations. Provo 23:18.

1. WHY TRUST IN GOD?

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

2. EXERCISE OUR FAITH

i. Resist the devil and evil counsels. PS. 1:1-2, Jas. 4:7
ii. Humble yourself Jas. 4: 1 0, Peter 5:6
iii. Accept and cling unto God promises, you must know the promise, Meditate on them and confess them. 2 Pet. 1:3-4, 2 Cor. 1:20, 2 Pt. 1:19.
iv. Take time to pray Is. 65:24, Matt. 6:6, 2 King 18:35-37.

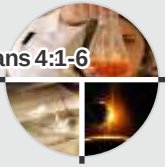
CONCLUSION:

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

Lesson 564

WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING

Ephesians 4:1-6



Introduction

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

1. What is the call? MK. 1 :15, Acts 3:19, Mt. 3:1-2, 1 Thess. 4:7
2. List six things that happen to the person who receives Jesus Christ *(Thereby obeying the call)*

(i) *John* 1:12 *(ii)* *2Cor.* 5:17 *(iii)* *Rom.* 6:2 2
(iv) *John 10:28* *(v)* *1Cor.* 6:19 *(vi)* *1John 5:4*

3. Why it is important to walk worthy of the calling? *Gal.* 6:7-8, *2Pet. 1:10, Eph.* 1:3-4, *Ps. 26:6* 1*John* 1:7, *Rev. 20:12 & 15*

4. How can you walk worthy of the calling? *2Cor. 6:14-17, Eph.* 4:1-3, *1Cor.* 15:58, *Mt. 28:19-20*

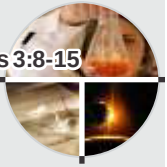
5. What is the result of walking worthy of the calling? *Mt. 25:21, Heb. 11:8-10.*

CONCLUSION

As Christian, we are called to walk worthy of our calling. Let us remember that we need to be faithful unto death, if we are to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2: 1 0). We should all keep looking unto Jesus so that we can make Heaven.

Lesson 565

KNOWING GOD Philippians 3:8-15



Introduction

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

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

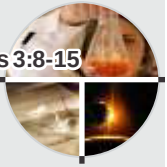
1. **GOD IS KNOWABLE AND DESIRES TO BE KNOWN**

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

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

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

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



sought to know God in the following ways

i. The power of his resurrection, i.e. God almightiness, God ability to do all things

ii. The fellowship of Christ's suffering, i.e. identifying with the cross of Christ and

iii. Conformity with Christ death, i.e. Paul's today yielded to Christ's services even unto death. Phil.1:21, Gal. 2:20

His experiences and knowledge enabled him to have a closer walk with God satisfactorily. Likewise David, a man after God's heart knows God in depth and how to respond to him. 2 Sam. 24:11-14, 1Sam.17:47.

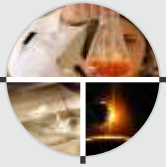
CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 566

DEDICATION

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



Introduction

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

1. WHAT IS DEDICATION?

It is to continue without losing hope. Act 2:42 it is full of commitment to a course no matter what happen. 1 Cor. 15:58, Act4:19-20 .

2. AIDS TO DEDICATION

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

3. OBSTACLE TO LIFE OF EDUCATION

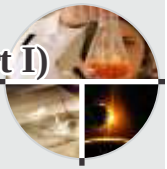
a. Sin and Weight - 2 Cor. 7:1, Heb. 12:1
b. Anxiety
c. Type of friend 1 Kg. 12:7-11, 16
d. The love of the world - 1 Jn. 2:15-17
e. Weariness and faintness - Gal. 6:9, Heb. 12:5, Acts 10:1-4
f. Ignorance: Not aware of things to do
g. Lack of Vision - Pro. 29:18, Eccl 10:10

CONCLUSION:

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

Lesson 567

THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part I)



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

Introduction

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

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

1. Personal Evangelism

Misconceptions:

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

2. What then is Personal Evangelism?

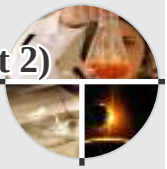
* It takes two to evangelize. It is one on one dialogue. It is a face to face approach.
*. It requires definite action. It requires personal involvement. The power needed is the Holy Spirit.
* The instrument required is the Bible (The word of God) & personal experience.

3. **Personal Evangelism is likened to three things:**
(1) Catching a fish (2) Winning a bride --- (3) Catching a city

4. **QUALITIES A PERSONAL EVANGELIST.**
Using a trend you need (1) Patience (2) Instrument (3) Prayer (4) Maturity (5) Planning logistic (Strategies)
Having personal experience of salvation. A sound working knowledge of the Holy Bible. Be a regular and consistent prayer warrior. Having a separated life and Christ likeness every day. Have a Christ like

Lesson 568

THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part 2)



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

Introduction

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

Practical Approaches

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

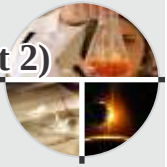
Mass Evangelism. Acts. 19: 10 Using the net to catch fishes.

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

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

THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part 2)

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



2. Literature crusade: means of printed pages and written word which is Spirit. It is quick, powerful and sharper than two- edged sword. e.g. Tracts. Magazines, newsletter, greeting cards, posters, books *etc. Jn.* 6:36; *Heb4:12.*

3. Evangelistic crusades: These are outreach, e.g open air, indoor, market, breakfast/lunch/dinner, ferry crusades.

4. Vacation School Evangelism: summer vacation for youths, camping, adult education on evangelism etc.
5. Seminars: Evangelism seminars where suitable topics are discussed with aim of bringing sinners to Jesus.
6. Evangelistic retreats: prayer retreats, family retreat or revival meetings.
7. Sunday School: discussion of selected topics to proclaim Christ with salvation as end result.
8. Welfare ministration: This is a tool of gathering\sinners together for the purpose of preaching Christ to them.
9. Church planting: This is the most effective method of mass Evangelism. Transforming of new converts to a local Church

Lesson 569

THE GREAT COMMISSION (Part 3)

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

Introduction

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

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

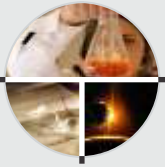
(1) Rewards of obedience to the command of God. Isa. 1:19; Deut. 28:1-14
(2) You shall shine forever like the brightness of firmament. Dan. 12:3.
(3) You will be endowed with Divine wisdom. Pro.11:30
(4) You will have abundant joy. Rms. 10:15.
(5) God will show you mercy because you show mercy to the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

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 570

CHRISTIAN SERVICE (Part 1)



II Corinthians 4:1.10

Introduction

No doubt the epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus contain unquantifiable treasure of what a Christian service is. These are countless saying too in the gospels on what our Lord Jesus Christ emphasis to be the supreme tests of our Christian service being the service conductor/leader or being actively involved in organising service. While all these may have a resemblance of real Christian service, we need to get to the basic in other to have a full grasp of what real Christian service entails.

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

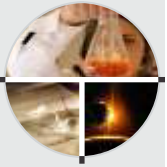
1. The totality of a Christian obedience to God i.e faithfully to his visions, Goals and ideas as enunciated in the scripture 1 Tim. 4:15-6; 1 Tim. 2:5
2. Minister of reconciliation as a Christian service is basically the reconciliation of this sinful world to the son of God 2Cor. 5: 18, Mark 16:15;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

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

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

CHRISTIAN SERVICE (Part 1)

II Corinthians 4:1.10



2. ABUNDANT KNOWLEDGE AND USE

(A) The word of God CoI3:16; Rev. 12:11;
(b) The name of Jesus Phil. 2:9; Acts 4: 12
(c) The blood of Jesus Rev. 12: 11
(d) The Holy Spirit

3. Must have determination. Refuse to be discouraged in your service to God.

4. Walk in the Spirit for purpose of briefness. We say that this summarises abundant knowledge and application of the Scripture to our daily living, a sacrifice and holy walk with God Heb. 12:14; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:1-5; Col. 3:16.

5. Command followership be a source of inspiration, an example for others to emulate. 1 Cor. 11:1; Tim. 5:12,16; 1 Tim. 5:12,16; 2Cor. 4:2 (the best way to do this is to make sure you make disciples.

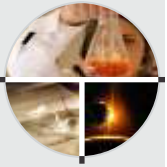
6. Possession of integrity 2Cor. 4:2 Titus 2:7-8

7. Must have a bridled tongue, Isa. 50:4; Provo 15:23.

8. Must be wise Matt. Eccl. 9: 16, 18
9. Set your priority right EccI.2:10, 11,5:7

Lesson 571

CHRISTIAN SERVICE (Part 2)



II Corinthians 4:1.10

Introduction

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

HINDRANCES

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

   Tribalism (i) The early apostles Acts. 6: 1-2

REWARDS

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 572

CHRISTIAN WARFARE WEAPONS

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Introduction

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

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

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

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

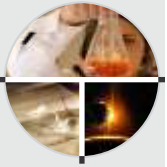
(a) The name of Jesus (Phil. 2:10, Mk. 16:17, 1 Sam. 17:45). The name of Jesus is above all names and it carries the highest authority on earth and in heaven. All the power of God had been put inside the name. The name is mighty when used in prayer and service. Infirmities and demons disappear at the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

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 573

ETERNAL PLEASURE



Introduction

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

1. HOW CAN WE GET ETERNAL PLEASURE

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

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

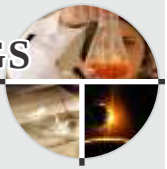
The judgement of the Lord is certain on sin and sin breeds sorrow and doom. Heb. 11:24-26, I Tim. 5:6, I In. 2:15-17, Matt. 6:24, Dan. 1:8-15, Gen. 39:7-9, Heb.13:12-12, Gen. 19:17, Micah 2:10,2 Pet. 3:10-12, Ps. 16:11.

Conclusion:

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

Lesson 574

MOUNTING UP WITH WINGS



Is.40:25-31

Introduction

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

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

1. IT IS POSSIBLE TO GO HIGHER

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

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

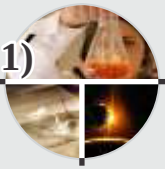
2. WALKING FOR HIGHER GROUND

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

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

Lesson 575

LIVING BY THE WORD (Part 1)



Matthew 4:1-4

Introduction

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

1. WORD OF GOD AS FOOD FOR THE SOUL

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

Deut.8:3, Job* 23:12, *Ps.119:103, Jer.15:16,* 1 *Pet.2:2

2. DIVINE INSPIRATION

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

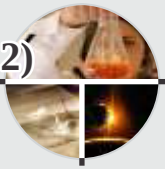
***Jer.36:2, Eze.* 1:3,*Acts* 1:16, 2 *Tim.3:16,* 2 *Pet.* 1:21, *Rev.* 14:13**

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 576

LIVING BY THE WORD (Part 2)



Matthew 4:4. Deut. 8:3

Introduction

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

(1) TO AUTHENTICATE THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST.

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

(2) TO GIVE HOPE TO MANKIND

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

(3) TO RELATE HUMAN EXPERIENCE AS A WARNING

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

(4) TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE OF ETERNAL LIFE

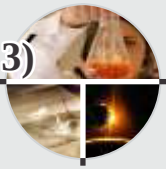
All that is needed to be known about eternal life are contained in the word of God. As we give attention to the word of God, our understanding of eternal life gets broadens. ***1 John*** **5:13,** ***John*** **7:16-17,** ***John*** **8:31-32,** ***John*** **17:3,** ***Col.1:10***

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 577

LIVING BY THE WORD (Part 3)



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

Introduction

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

1. **REJECTION**

   Anyone who refuses to live by the word faces the danger of being rejected by God now and hereafter. Just as we see some earthly fathers rejecting and disowning their children, the word of God also says God will reject all those who will not live by His word. ***Hos.4:6,* 1 *Sam.3:30-33,* 1 *Sam.* 15:22-23, 1 *Sam.* 16:1, 2 *Kings* 17:19-21**

2. **DIVINE PUNISHMENT**

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

3. **FAILURE**

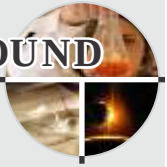
   Any student that is aiming for success in life must obey the instructions of the teacher or else failure will be the result at the end of the day. When you are not living by the word of God, success is not feasible. *Josh.* 1:8, *PS.1:2-, Luke 5:5-6*

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 578

DAVID: STUDY IN HIGHER GROUND



Introduction

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

This cannot just come until some criteria are met.
David a Shepherd boy, the youngest of the family, the least recognized witnessed this experience, hence the need to study his life and learn from him.

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

1. ***GRACE:*** The Eighth son of his father. The figure eight stands for a New beginning. The Grace of GOD on him brought him Favour before the King of .kings, so also was Noah and Joseph. Eccl911, I Sam 1612, Gen 68, Gen 394.

2. ***POWER:*** Spiritual and Physical power are both needed for progress in life. It is not ordinary to fight Lions and Bears and surely there are Lions in the world to fight before you can get to Higher ground. I Sam 1734-35, Jud 146, Ps1574, Lk 1019,Act8:9-10, 18 -19.

3. ***FAITH:*** You need faith to remove every obstacle on your way to Higher grounds, David's faith in the Lord was rugged. I Sam 1737,39,45 46, Mt 1720, Heb 116,Rom 51.

4. ***MERCY:*** You need more of the mercy of GOD to fulfill Destiny. The Mercy of GOD was more on David than Saul. I Sam 1513, 24- 26, II Sam 714- 15, II Sam 1213-14, Rom 915.

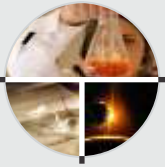
5. ***JESUS LINK:*** You must be linked up with Jesus. The meaning of David is BELOVED and GOD referred to JESUS as BELOVED. Mk 111, Mt 175, Mk 1047.

CONCLUSION

He was a deliverer and King as our Master Jesus.
It is my prayer that those qualities be found in us as we aspire for Higher Grounds.

Lesson 579

DAVID: THE WARRIOR



1 Samuel 17-26

Introduction

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

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

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

There are Battles to Fight: Our GOD is a man of war. David was one and a'1yone that will emerge a winner in life must be ready for warfare.

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

1. SEVEN STEPS TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

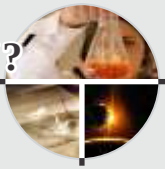
a. ***Be Jealous for GOD:*** I Sam 1726, Dan 68-11,31-6,16-17.
b. ***Be Bold and Courageous:*** I Sam 1732, Dt201-4, Jos 15-6,
c. ***Absolute Reliance on GOD:*** I Sam 1734-37, Psi 207, Pro 2131, Heb 138 *Our God is Consistent.-*
d. ***Trust NOT IN ARM OUR OF THE FLESH:*** I Sam 1739, Psi 446, Hos 17, II Cor 103-4.
e. ***Be not INTIMIDATED by what you see:*** I Sam 1743-45, Exo. 1411-16, Heb 122.
f. *Be on the Attack:* Attack is the best way of defense. Jam 47, Eph 427.
g. *Weak things can accomplish great things:* I Sam 1740, Exo. 42, Jud. 1515. God Handed over the giant into his hands and the remaining four. I Sam 17-51, II Sam 2115 22.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 580

WHOSE SERVANT ARE YOU?



Rom. 6:16-23

Introduction

The word 'servant' refers to a BOND MAN or slave. At one time or the other, consciously or unconsciously, one is a slave to one thing or the other. What you allow to have dominion over you is your master and you are the servant. The question is whose servant are you?

1. SERVANT OF SIN.

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

i. **Sin is a slave master.** The life of the Israelites in Egypt is atypical example of a slave master and servant hood. When a man is bound by the power of sins, he does whatever the slave master commands. Ex.1: 11-14, Rom. 6:12.

ii. **Sin Stings.** When scorpion stings a man, the pain is better imagined than experienced. Like man, when a man allows sin to sting him, the pain last for years. 2 Sam. 11:1-4; 2 Sam 12:11.

iii. **Sin kills.** There are several people that surrendered to sin and have died
as a result. Consider the story of the son of David, Amnon who raped his half sister. 2Sam.13. Judges 16:15-21.

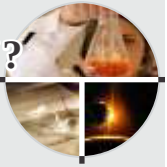
iv. **Sin demotes.** Sin has power to relegate its victims to the ground. Nebuchadnezzar is a typical example of a man relegated by the sin of pride in Daniel 4:27 -33, Acts 12:20 .

2. SERVANT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

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

WHOSE SERVANT ARE YOU?

Rom. 6:16-23



i. **Righteousness promotes.** There is a price tag attached to anything good. If you want promotion, make up your mind to live right. Gen. 39:9-11, Pro. 28: 13, Dan. 6:22-28. Psalms 45:7

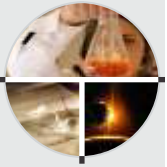
ii. **Righteousness lengthens life.** Many people pray for long life daily But the secret is in living right with God. If you want to live long, righteousness is the answer. Pro.11 :5,19,12:28,13:6.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 581

LIVING FAITH



Hebrew 4:1-11

Introduction

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

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

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

1. WHAT IS FAITH?

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

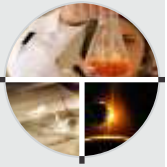
a. The substance of things hoped for.
b. The evidence of things not seen.

There are two essential ingredients of faith i.e.
i) Substance. ii.) Evidence.

Evidence is defined as:- facts or signs that prove the confidence or truth of something.
Faith is trust in God and Jesus Christ whom he sent - *John 12:13.*
The faith that saves is a personal trust in the lord Jesus Christ. You sit on a new chair because faith says you will not fall down. Also, faith says, Jesus is the Saviour and if you surrender your life to Him, He will save your soul unfailingly.

2. WHY IS FAITH NECESSARY?

a. Without faith you can not please God - ***Heb*11:6**
b. If without faith you can not please God, then you are a displeasure to God. -Ps 2:5.



c) Faith is crucial for salvation. - *Acts 16:35.*

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

3. THE SOURCES OF FAITH

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

i.) Divine Faith: a.) God the *father-**Rom* 12:3,** b.) God the son- *Heb. 12:2.* c.) God the Holy Spirit *Gal.5:22.*

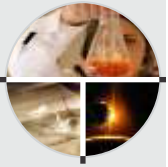
ii) Human Faith: By hearing - *Rom 10:17;* i.e. listening to sermon, studying the scriptures, listening to testimonies of others, listening to good tapes and audio C. D of anointed speakers, attending Digging Deep, Faith Clinic, Holy Ghost Services, Mount Zion Hour, etc.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 582

PARENTAL DUTIES



Deut.6:7-20.

Introduction

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

1. **TEACHING.** The first responsibility vested on us by God is to teach our children. Teaching begins from the womb till adulthood. God commanded the Israelites to teach their children the ways of God. Deut. 6:20; 21 :19; 1 Tim.1 :5. God was not happy with Eli because he didn't teach his children the ways of God and this led to severe judgement from God 1 Samuel 2: 13.

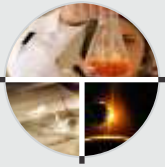
2. **TRAINING.** The second duty of every parent is to train his/her children in the way they should. Remember that the first school for every child is the home. A child that is not properly trained from home is said to lack home training. Proverbs 22:6; Isaiah 38:19. Whatever training you fail to give your child will affect you either now or in future Pro.19:18, Esther2:15,20

3. **PROVISION.** God expects a responsible parent to make provision for his household. It is the duty of the parents to ensure their children are properly taken care of. 2 Cor.12:14, 1 Tim. 5:8, Gen. 30:30. Even though at old age the children are in return expected to take care of their parents.

4. **LOVE.** A Parent ought to love his/her children at all times. God demonstrated this to us by going extra miles to show how much He cares through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for a sinful world. Tit. 2:4.To love our children, we must do it in line with the word of God. Heb.12:5-8.

PARENTAL DUTIES

Deut.6:7-20.



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

CONCLUSION:

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

Lesson 583

REMOVE NOT THE LANDMARK

Deuteronomy 19: 14, Proverb 22: 28.

Introduction

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

1. **The landmark of the fear of God -**
   Provo 1: 7, Provo 8: 13, Acts5: 1- 5.

2. **The landmark of love -**
   John 3: 16, John 15: 13; Acts 2: 1,4: 32; 1 Corinthians 13: 4- 7.

3. **The landmark of prayer -** Luke 18: 1, Matt. 26: 39- 44; Mark 14: 35- 39; Luke 5: 16; Acts 2: 42; James 5: 17 18; 1 Thess. 5: 17.

4. **The landmark of studying the word of God -**
   Luke 2: 40- 49; Acts 2: 42, 46; 2 Timothy2: 15-16 & Joshua 1: 8.

5. **The landmark of selfless and sacrificial giving -** John 3: 16; Acts 4: 33- 37; Luke 6: 38; Galatians 6: 7.

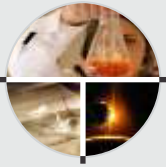
6. **The landmark of praise &worship -** John 11: 41;Psalms 119: 164; Psalms 115: 17; Isaiah61: 3; Psalms 50: 23; Acts 16: 24-26; 1 Thess. 5: 18.

CONCLUSION:

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

Lesson 584

TEMPTATION



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

Introduction

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

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

1) SOURCES OF TEMPTATION

1. Satan: - Mat4: 1, Jb. 1': 12, Jb2: 6

2. The Flesh: - James 1: 14 The temptation of the flesh is manifested in three ways.

a. The lust of the flesh: - 1Jn.2:16,2Sam13:1-6,11.
b. The lust of the eyes: -1 Jn.2: 16,2 Sam 11 :2- 4, Judges 14: 1.
c. The pride of life: - 1 Jn.2: 16, Dan 4: 28- 30.

3. Evil Associates: - Prov.1: 10, 1 Kgs. 12: 8- 11.

4. Christian Friends: - Mt 16: 22- 23

2) REASONS FOR TEMPTATION

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

3.) METHOD OF TEMPTATIONS

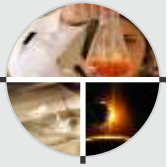
1. Through poverty -Prov. 30: 9, Prov. 22: 7.
2. Through prosperity -Prov. 30: 9, Mt 19: 16- 24.
3. Through worldly glory -Num. 22: 17.
4. Through discouragement - 1 Kgs. 19:4, Psi 42: 11, Num. 11: 10-15.
5. Through the smooth words of an adulterer/adulteress: - Prov. 6: 23 29, Prov 7: 6- 27, Prov. 5: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

4) TYPES OF TEMPTATION

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

TEMPTATION

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



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

5) RESULTS OF TEMPTATION

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

6) HOW TO GET VICTORY OVER TEMPTATIONS

a. By the faithfulness of God - 1 Cor. 10: 13, Rev 3: 10.
b. By using the word of God - Mt 4.
c. By the intercession of Christ -Lk. 22: 31- 32.
d. By personal prayer - Mt26:41.
e. By feeling - 2Tim2: 22, Gen 39: 11-12.
f. By resisting - James4: 7.
g. By accepting the way of escape - 1 Cor10: 13.

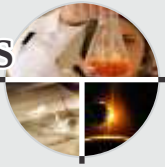
CONCLUSION

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

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

Lesson 585

FISHING FOR MEN'S SOULS



Introduction

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

1. WHY MUST I FISH FOR SOULS?

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

i. The value of a soul is worth more than the whole treasure in this World. - Mk. 8: 35-38; Mt. 19: 21.

ii. The fact of hell: Every unsaved soul would perish forever in hell fire.- Rev.20:13-15

iii. The suffering of Christ on the cross for each sinner must not become wasted. Christ must not die in vain - John 21: 15-17.

iv. Because the world will pass away and all its pleasure but only those in Jesus Christ will abide forever and will inherit all things _ Mt25: 32-34.

v. Because there is a great reward for a soul winner.- Dan. 12: 3, Mt. 13:43.

vi. Winning souls is an evidence and proof that you are wise. Prov. 11: 30.

vii. The blood of the unsaved will be required from the hands of the saved. - Ezekiel 3: 18.

viii. Refusal to win souls is a disservice to the kingdom of God. _ Job 22: 2-3

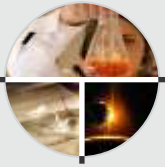
ix. Soul winning brings pleasure to God. - Rev 4: 1.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 586

REWARD



Matthew 16:27, 19:27·29

Introduction

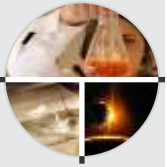
There is reward for everything under heaven. Today we want to know what we will be rewarded for, the rewards and the qualification for the rewards. May the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. What are the things the Lord will reward us for:
a. Labour of love (Diligence) -1 Cor. 15:58, 1 Tim. 5: 18
b. Patience or Endurance - LK. 6: 22· 23, Heb 10: 36, John 1:3
c. Your faith in God - Heb. 11:6

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

Lesson 587

WALKING WITH GOD



Genesis 5:21-24, Hebrews 11:5

Introduction

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

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

1. LIVE A MEANINGFUL LIFE:

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

2. ENOCH'S WALK WITH GOD:

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

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

Lesson 588

CONDITION FOR WALKING WITH GOD

Introduction

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

Sin is a barrier in establishing with the infinite God put a genuine repentance from every sin and faith in the Lord Jesus are the basic steps required before we can start a walk with God and it demands complete obedience and total devotion.
Amos 3:3, Gen. 12:3, Eph. 4:22-24, Romans 8:6-8, 2Cor. 5:15,17,19; John 14:23; Gen. 17:1; Isaiah 59:2.

MAINTAINING OUR WALK WITH GOD:
God is able to keep us till the coming of the Lord subject *to* the fdlowln9 conditions:

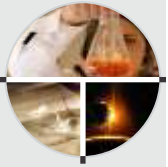
1. Renew your consecration daily.
2. Meditate on the word of God daily and obey the revealed truth
3. Never neglect fellowship of people of like precious faith.
4. Never compromise your faith rather keep off from every false doctrine
5. Daily examine yourself not by man's standard but by the mirror of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

Heb. 10:22-23. Col. 1 :21-23,28; Gal. 2:20, Phil. 3i13-15; psalms 1: 1-2, 119:60; Hebrews 10:25, Col. 2: 18-23, Jude 3, 2Johnl0, 11, 2Cor. 1~ :5, Job 31: 1, Phil. 4:8, 1 Pet. 5:8-10, 1Thes. 5:17, 2Cor. 5:11.

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

Lesson 589

WISDOM (Part 1)



Matthew 25: 1-9

Introduction

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

1. WHAT IS WISDOM?

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

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

2. THE NEED FOR WISDOM:

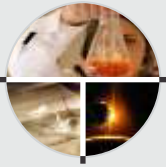
The first thing every man should desire is wisdom; with wisdom you will be able to reach your goal, your success is equally guaranteed, it places you above your pairs. You need to fall in love with wisdom, prefer it above rubies and gold. Wisdom is better than strength, it serves as a defence, it is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

3. WHY NOT ASK FOR IT TODAY?

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

Lesson 590

WISDOM (Part 2)



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

Introduction

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

1. OBTAINING WISDOM FROM HIS WORD:

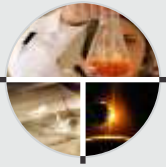
1. Receive the Word Proverbs 2: 1-4
2. Search for it, Seek it (desire, thirst and hunger for it) Proverbs 2:3-4
3. Listen to it Pro 2:'2; Pr22:17, Isa. 55:3
4. Read it, study it 2Tim. 2:15, In. 5:39
5. Let it not depart from your eyes Provo 4:2, Deut. 6:9
6. Hide it in your heart Deut6:6, Ps. 37:31,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

CONCLUSION:

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

Lesson 591

WISDOM (Part 3)



1 Corinthians 3: 19.

Introduction

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

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

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

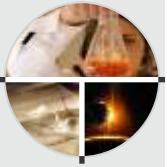
3. **Worldly wisdom is vain and empty.**
   It lacks real substance. "When you weigh worldly wisdom properly, it is full of nothing and cannot stand the test of God. **1 Cor.3:20;Psalm 94:11**

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

5. **Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God.**
   Many times man tries to prove to God that he is wise but at the end it results into foolishness with God. God is the giver of wisdom and if any man wants to prove that he is wise, God can turn such wisdom into foolishness.
   1 Cor.3:19; 1 Cor. 1:20; 2:6; Job 5:3.

Lesson 592

AN EVERLASTING LOVE



Introduction

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

Jer. 31:3, Deut. 7:8,John 3:16, Rom 5:8, Eph. 2:4-5, 1Jn 3:1, Dt. 6:5, Jude21, In.13:35, Deut. 10:19, Mt. 22:39, Rm.12:9, 1Cor.13:1, 1Thes. 4:9,1Pet.4:8,1John 2:10, 4:21, Lev. 19:17, 1John 2:9, 3:15.

CLASS DISCUSSION:

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

Lesson 593

PARTAKERS OF DIVINE NATURE

Luke 15:12-16

Introduction

This is a study that is inexhaustible but we have been able to consider few natures of God since we have commenced the study-He is the Light, Truth, Love. Now, let's look at Him as the Creator and Life. I encourage you to ensure this study brings a meaning to your life, may you be blessed as we study in Jesus'name.

1. THE POWER TO CREATE IS IN YOU:

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

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

2. WHEN THERE IS LIFE:

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

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

Lesson 594

PRESS TOWARDS THE MARK

Phil 3:8-14.

Introduction

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

1. **Define your goals.** Before you reach any goal or mark, you must have a focus of what you want to achieve. You may need to ask yourself if the goal set is worth its salt. Heaven and hell are goals. Hebrews 12: 1-2; 2, Tim.4:8; Luke 9:62.

2. **Discover what will help you to reach the mark.** Information that is not processed cannot give the desired results. Study maps, books and even listen to tapes that can give you information about where you are going. 2 Peter 1:4-11; Eph.4:24-30; Heb.12:14

3. **Avoid hindrance on your way to reaching your goal.** One thing you must understand is that once you set a goal the devil is also ready to hinder you from reaching that goal. He uses different means to hinder you but you also must be wise as a serpent. Matthew 4:1-6;2 Cor.6:14-18; GaI. 5:19-21; Hebrews 12:1

4. **Endure all that happens along the way to reaching your goal.** The Christian journey is a hard road but yielding positive results at the end. We need endurance to reach our goals. 2 Kings 2:1-11; 2 Tim.2:3;Acts 5:41; Romans 8:17;James 1 :12; 1 Peter2:19

5. **Do not look back.** Once you set a goal, forge ahead without looking back. So many people have gone back from pursuing their goals. Remember winners don't quit and quitters don't win. 1 Peter 1 :13; Luke 9:51; 2, Tim.4:1 0; Hebrews 10:37-38.

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

Lesson 595

HOW TO RETAIN YOUR PEACE

Mk 4:39-41.

Introduction

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

1. **Stand in faith.** We need to know that the devil is not happy when we have peace and joy but one thing is sure, what God has done shall be permanent. We need the force of faith to enjoy the blessing of God. 1John 5:4; Exodus 14:14. Isaiah 36:3

2. **Change your confession.** Your confession determines your possession no doubt. Having been assured of peace by God you need to constantly confess your peace in God no matter the situation. Romans 5:1-2; Mark 11:23-24; 2 Kings4:18-36

3. **Avoid the previous pitfalls.** So many people do not look back to the cause of their problems. Therefore, many prayers do not receive answers from God. They cry foul to heaven without results. John 8:1-11; John 5:1-14; Judges 6:1-10.

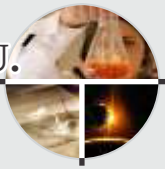
4. **Live in constant thanksgiving.** When God blesses you, the guarantee of retaining that miracle can only be got when you appreciate Him regularly. The thief is around the corner that is always ready to take away. Luke 17:11-18; 1 Thess.5:18; PhI1.4:6-7.

5. **Engage in spiritual warfare.** We are in constant battle daily with the hosts of hell. We have several spiritual weapons to fight with that is why we must not give up. 2 Samuel5:17-23; Ephesians 6:10- 19;Luke4:13

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

Lesson 596

LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU.



Eph.5:1-7.

Introduction

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

1. **MARRIAGE.** So many people have entered into wrong relationship because they have been deceived. Many are also regretting ever marrying their partners because of deception. Some have divorced or separated when they realised the deception. Genesis 29:20-27; Eph.5:3.

2. **TRADITIONAL PRACTICES-** Though some claim to be born again, they still hold unto traditions and beliefs of men out of Ignorance. Most traditions are rooted in deceptions cooked up by men and cannot be substantiated from the Holy Scriptures. CoI. 2:8; 2 Peter 3:17.

3. **CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES-** There are lots of heresies and false doctrines in the body of Christ. So many people have been led into error by false teachers. Eph.4.14; 2 Tim. 3:17-18

HOW TO AVOID DECEIT.

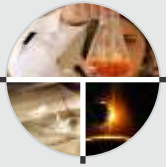
1. Know what the Word of God says over any matter. Keep yourself glued to the word of God daily. Psalm 1:1-2Joshua 1:8; Matthew 4:6
2. Pray always. Do not decide until you have prayed over it. Acts 6:4, Luke 18: 1-8; 1 Thess.5: 17.
3. Study more. 2Tim.3:16-17; 2Tim2:15.

CONCLUSION

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

Lesson 597

THE SPOTLESS LIFE.



Eph. 5:27, Matt. 5:49

Introduction

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

1. **Do not be conformed to this world.** The world is polluted and spotted as well; hence, you must not be a friend of the world. The prince of this world is Satan, He seeks worshippers daily and a little friendship with the world gets you hooked to him. Rom. **12: 1- 2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17**

2. **Follow Jesus' example.** Jesus never allowed Himself to be spotted by the world and He must be your perfect example. **1 Peter 2:21-22; Hebrews 12:1-2.**

3. **Have hope of His coming.** Do not lose hope of Jesus' second coming if you must live a spotless life. Several negative things may be happening around you but be assured that Jesus is coming back again. **1 John 3:1-3; 2 Peter 3:12-14.**

4. **Watch and pray.** Jesus Christ gave us a charge to watch and pray to avoid falling into temptations that can make us to become spotted. Temptations come on a daily basis purposely to defile us. **Matthew 26:41; John 14:30.**

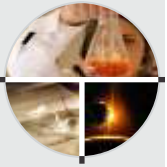
Conclusion

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

Lesson 598

BE NOT A FOOL

Proverbs 14:8



Introduction

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

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

Lesson 599

SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

Luke 15:12-16

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lesson 600

DANGERS OF LACK OF SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

Luke 15:12-16

Introduction

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

1. **You are equated with the beasts.** A beast is a large four-footed animal used for carrying burdens. In either words a man void of understanding is not better than animal. If you despise any opportunity to have understanding you become a prey and bearer of burdens. **Psalm 32:9; 49:20; Pro.26:3.**

2. **You become a companion of fools.** Fools are those who lack insight into a matter. The understanding of fools is darkened and they behave anyhow. Fools deny the existence of God in their hearts. **Pro.12:1; 18:2; 6:32-33; Pro.12:19**

3. **You become lazy and slothful.** A man void of understanding may know what to do but will not do it. Lack of understanding can make a man see death coming and will not do anything to prevent it. **1 chro. 12:32; Pro.24:30-31**

4. **Your days become shortened.** It is not the will of God for man to die prematurely but lack of understanding can terminate life abruptly. A man that is void of understanding can live carelessly and may not control his diet until death comes knocking. Pro. 28:16; Exo. 20:12

CONCLUSION

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

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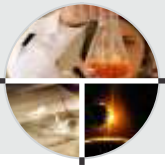

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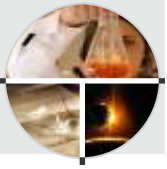

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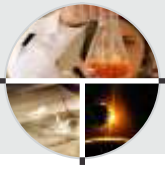

DIGGING DEEP

601-700

Pastor
E. A. ADEBOYE

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

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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 or 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, III 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 is 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, II Cor. 6:12-18, Neh. 13:3, Ps. 119:115, Isa. 52:11, Eph. 5:11, II Thess. 3:6, I Tim. 6:5.

<u>Examples of those who complied and the results.</u>

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 remains 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:

Shower 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, soulish 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 looses its saltness 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:

A 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, Acts5:1-5, 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. 12:333, 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, I Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:12, Eph. 1:2022, Phil. 2:9-11, Dan. 11:32b, Esther 4:16, 2 Tim. 4:6-7, Dan. 6:11, Acts 1:8. I Cor. 1:17, 2 Chr. 1:6-7, I 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.

I 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, I 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:

Apostle 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: ICorinthians 3:9

The Bible says that the commandments of the Lord are not grievous **(I 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, I 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. **I 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. **I 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. **I 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.

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:

According to Solomon, 'Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom' The importance of wisdom in the way we run out 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? Iii) 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

(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 would. 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 devasting 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. 5:911. 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 43:1-3Job 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.

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 narrows ways. The message came in between others. He first mention the narrow way and its characteristics before the board 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 call 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 it 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 expect 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 onto Ceasar what is Ceasar"
Acquisition of wealth
Eating of things sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 10 v 20)

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
  - Envying 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 Corinthians3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

Discipleship 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 l Pt. 1:15-16
(f) Humility l 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

(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

(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.

(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 pervates 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

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.

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

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 1corth 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" - John15:5. 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

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.

(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, 1Sam.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, Jg11:31-35.
(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 evill. 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 grews 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, John10:3

ATTRIBUTES /QUALITIES OF THE TRUE PEOPLE OF GOD

1 They enjoy fellowshipping 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)

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:

A victor 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

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.

- 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

(c) Get information about it Prov. 19:2 and seek godly counsel Prov. 27:17
(d) Have faith (believer 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 , John14:13-14, 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

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 through 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- Dan1:8
- 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.

(c) Prayerfulness: 1 Thess 5:7 ;I 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 incude 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

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. I 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.

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:

For 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.

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. Inspite 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 Corithians 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

(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, Acts16:25-26).

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:

When 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

(j) Who does not lies 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.

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701-800

DIGGING DEEP

Pastor E. A. ADEBOYE

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

DIGGING DEEP

701-800

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NEHEMIAH (Part 1)

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

The remnant of Judah were in great need and in much reproach. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the gates were burned with fire. Even after the temple was finished, the walls were being built gradually and was long neglected until Nehemiah arrived at the scene to complete it. May the Lord Himself enrich us as we study this wonderful book in Jesus Name.

1. THE MAN: NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was the cup-bearer of King Artaxertex and governor of Jerusalem after Zerubabel. The root meaning of his name is "Jehovah has consoled" He helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.

Neh 1:1-3, Ez. 2:1-2; I King 10:5, Neh. 2:1-9, Ez. 4:9-23, Esth. 1:1, Ps. 8:1, Gen. 32:29, Gen. 12:2

2. HIS CONCERN FOR HIS PEOPLE

When Nehemiah heard about the sad situation in Jerusalem he became very sad and uncomfortable. The remnants in Jerusalem were in great affliction and reproach, the wall was broken down and the gates were burned with fire. Nehemiah wept, fasted and prayed for the deliverance of his fatherland.

Neh. 1:2-4, 5-7, Deut. 6:1-9, Neh. 5:14-18, Deut. 30:1-5, Ez. 4:7-23, Isa. 63:16, Ps. 66:18-19, Est. 4:16, Zachr. 7:14, Ps. 8:3, Ps.122:6-9, Mk. 9:29.

NEHEMIAH (Part 2)

Text: Nehemiah 2:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we started studying the book of Nehemiah by looking at the man Nehemiah and the concern he has for his people and his fatherland. Today as we continue our study of the book of Nehemiah, may the Lord richly bless us in Jesus Name.

1. NEHEMIAH'S JOURNEY AND ARRIVAL AT JERUSALEM

   The same King Artaxeerxes who issued a 'stop work' order during the time of Ezra, gave Nehemiah permission to go and rebuild Jerusalem with a letter of authority and a royal escort. On Nehemiah's arrival at Jerusalem, he delivered the letters accordingly and waited three days before commencing the real assignment.

   Neh. 2:1-16, Prov. 16:7, Neh. 2:9-10, Zech. 4:6, I Pet. 2:9, Mt. 16:18, Jn. 10:10, Jos. 1 :5-7.

2. NEHEMIAH ON INSPECTION TOUR

   Nehemiah set out on the inspection tour of Jerusalem by night in the company of some men. The rulers, priests and even the Jews knew not yet his mind concerning the great assignment.

   Neh. 2:12-16, Lk. 14:28-30, Mich. 7:5-7, Eccl. 3:7, James 1 :5, Gen. 37:5-11,12-36, Ps. 34:19.

NEHEMIAH (Part 3)

Text: Nehemiah 2:17-20

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we saw Nehemiah's journey to and arrival at Jerusalem and also his inspection tour of the walls of Jerusalem. As we continue in our study of this book, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. LET US ARISE AND BUILD
After Nehemiah had encouraged the people and told them the reason why the walls of Jerusalem had to be built, they all agreed with him and said "let us arise and build" .
Neh. 2:17-18, Isa. 30:6, Deut. 3:28, Jos. 5:9, Ps. 39:8, Prov. 14:34, Joel 2:19, II Sam. 7:5, Ps. 127:1, Prov. 14:1, Act 20:32, Isa. 35:3, Lk. 22:32, II Sam. 2:7.

2. THE GOD OF HEAVEN WILL PROSPER US
When Sanballat and Tobiah knew that Nehemiah and his people were serious and ready to start rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, they laughed them to scorn. But Nehemiah knew His God and gave the right answer to the enemy "the Lord, He will prosper us" .
Neh. 2:19-20, Ps. 1 :3, Ps. 73:12, Dan. 6:28, III In. 2, Deut. 29:9, Job 20:29, Deut. 32:9, Ex. 30:16, Ps. 135:13, Prov. 28:13.

NEHEMIAH (Part 4)

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

In the part 3 of this series, we examined how Nehemiah encouraged the people to arise and build and how he believed and prayed that the God of heaven will prosper His people for the great work. Today, as we shall proceed further in our study may the Holy Spirit Himself teach us in Jesus name.

1. THE HOUSE OF GOD MUST BE SANCTIFIED
When the work on the walls and gates was begun again, Eliashib the High Priest and the other priests joined the workers and built the sheep gate and sanctified it.
Neh. 3:1-33, Exo. 29:37 & 43, Lev. 8:10, Lev. 27:14, I Chr. 15:14, II Chr. 7:16, I Thess. 5:23, I Pet. 3:15, Lev. 11 :44, I Jn . 2:5, Jn.17:17, Jn.17:21, Jn.17:14.

1. YOU ALONE CANNOT DO THE WORK
The work of God is enormous. It calls for collective responsibilities and efforts. Nehemiah mobilized people and divided the work amongst groups/families to be done systematically.
Neh. 3:3-5 & 12, Mt. 9:37, Jos. 24:15, Mk. 16:15, Dan. 12:3, Eccl. 4:9, Mt.18:19 & 20.

NEHEMIAH (Part 5)

Text: Nehemiah 4:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we discovered that both the house and the people of God need to be sanctified for the Glory of God. We also found out that we alone cannot do the work of God as the work is too enormous, which calls for collective responsibilities and efforts; the main reason for which we have to evangelize.

As we continue in this study today, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. MOCKERY: THE ENEMY'S WEAPON OF DISCOURAGEMENT

   Whenever the devil and his agents know that you are determined to do the work of God, they use mockery and ridicule as weapon: of discouragement and frustration.

   Neh. 4:1-9, 2:10, Jud. 1 :17-18, Prov. 14:9, Prov. 17:5, II Chi 36:16, Neh. 4:7-8, II Cor. 2:11, Hos. 4:6, Eph. 6:12.

2. PRAYER AND DETERMINATION: THE POWERFUL ANTIDOTES

   Opposition to the work of God can be overcome by prayers an determination. Nehemiah's prayers against the enemy We motivated by his faith in God and his love for God's work are people.

   Neh. 4:4, Jer. 18:23, II Cor. 10:3-5, Ps. 56:9, James 4:7,11 17:20, Mt. 21:21, Lk. 17:6, Gen. 11:6, Mk. 11:24, Neh. 4:9,1 17:21, Lk. 6:12, Acts 1 :14, 6:4, 12:5, James 5:16, I Pet. 4: Phil. 4:6.

NEHEMIAH (Part 6)

Text: Nehemiah 4:10-15

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that mockery and ridicule are the weapons of discouragement in the hands of the enemy and that prayers and determination of the believer are the antidotes.
Today as we continue our study in the book of Nehemiah; may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. FEAR MAKES THE STRENGTH TO DECAY
The work of God requires both Physical, Soulical, and Spiritual strength. One of the strategies of Satan is to introduce fear into the lives of the believers so as to distabilise and make them lose their strength. But the Lord is always there to strengthen us.

Neh. 4:10-12, 13-14, Prov. 29:25, Heb. 2:15, Rom. 8:15-16, Heb. 13:6, II Tim. 1 :7, Prov. 3:7-8, 10:27, Prov. 14:26, Eccl. 8:12, Isaiah 40:31, Eccl. 12:13.

2. THE ENEMY'S COUNSEL SHALL COME TO NOUGHT
No matter what the enemy tries against us, the promise of God for us is that their counsel shall come to nought.

Neh. 4:15, Isa. 8:9-10, Ps. 1:1, Acts 5:38-39, Acts 20:27, Ps. 33:10-11.

NEHEMIAH (Part 7)

Text: Nehemiah 4:16-23

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discovered that fear can make strength to decay and that the counsel of the enemy against us shall always come to nought, when God is on our side. Today, as we continue in this series, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. WATCHFULNESS IS ESSENTIAL
While we work and pray, watchfulness is part of the work. The adversary is around the corner, not only prepared to steal, kill and destroy, he is also aggressively hunting for our souls.
Neh. 4:16-19, John 10:10, I Pet. 5:8, Jer. 5:26, Ps. 38:12, Ps. 91:3, Ps. 37:32, Neh. 4:9, 7:3, Mt. 24:42, Mk. 13:33, I Cor. 16: 13, Col. 4:2, II Tim. 4:5, I Pet. 4:7, Ps. 141 :3, Rev. 3:2,16:15.

2. OUR GOD SHALL FIGHT FOR US
When our work for God is genuinely undertaken in faith and humility, in order to give glory to God and to advance His kingdom, using our weapons of the spirit, we can be assured that no matter how great the difficulties, OUR GOD WILL FIGHT FOR US.
Neh. 4:20, II Cor. 10:4, Eph. 6:12, I Tim. 6:12, Ex. 14:14, Deut. 1 :30, II Chro. 13:12, II Tim. 4:7.

NEHEMIAH (Part 8)

Text: Nehemiah 5:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

In part 7 of this series, the Holy Spirit taught us the importance of watchfulness in the life of a soldier of the cross and assured us that God will always fight our battle for us.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord reveals more virtues to us in His word in Jesus name.

1. THE CRY OF THE POOR

God is not pleased with the rich who oppress the poor and those who covet properties of their neighbour or take advantage of others in times of trouble. God will always honour the cry of the poor.

Neh. 5: 1-13, Ps. 10:2, I Kings 21:2 & 3, II Kings 9:25-26, Pro. 28:27, Pro. 17:5, Col. 3:25, Gal. 6:7, Neh. 5:11-17, Ps. 34:6, Ps. 41 :1. Ps. 69:33. Mt. 5:3

2. THE GODLY ANGER

The anger at injustice and evil is a godly one. Absence of such anger indicates an indifference to the suffering of the innocent and the needy. However, the ungodly anger abides with the fools.

Neh. 5:6, Lk. 19:45, Ps. 7:11, Ex. 11:8, Ps. 97:10, Prov. 8:13, Job 1:1, Prov. 14:17, Eccl. 7:9, Prov. 103:8, Prov. 21:-19, Prov. 22:24, Prov. 16:32, Eph. 4:26.

NEHEMIAH (Part 9)

Text: Nehemiah 6:14-19

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we discovered that God is not pleased with the oppressors of the poor as God always honour the cry of the poor.
Also, we learnt that ungodly anger rests in the bossom of fools. Today as we continue in our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. THE PRICE OF LEADERSHIP
Time after time, leaders have to make sacrifices to be the leaders God created them to be often, the greater the calling, the greater the sacrifice required.

Neh. 5:14, I Pet. 2:14-17, I Cor. 9:13-15, I Cor. 11 :7-9,12:13, II Sam. 9:7, I Kings 18:19, Heb. 3:5, Deut. 1:37, Gen. 39:6-9, Gen. 12:1-6, 22:1-18, Heb. 4:15, Lk. 22:44, Ph. 2:7-8, Ph. 2:9-10.

NEHEMIAH (Part 10)

Text: Nehemiah 6:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series we considered the price of leadership. Today, as we continue in our study, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach us and bless us in Jesus name.

1. THE WORK IS GREAT

God's people must have a vision of the greatness of the work to which He calls them. Even though our task or contribution as individuals may seem small, corporately as people of God, we are doing "a great work".

Neh. 6:1-3, I Chr. 29:1, Neh. 4:19, Ps. 111 :1-3, John 5:17, John 9:4, John 14:12, Mt.16:27, Rev. 2:23.

2. SATAN IS CUNNING

Satan uses his cunning devices to stop and distract believer's vision and aspiration about the kingdom. When he has tried all means and failed, he can use false rumour. But by great determination and unwavering faith in God, we shall realize God's purpose for our lives and our generation in Jesus name.

Neh. 6:1-9, Ps. 37:12, 32, Neh. 2:10,19, I Pet. 5:8, Provo 26:24-25, Jer. 51 :45-46, Ez. 7:25-26, Mt. 24:6, I Tim. 3:2, I Tim. 3:2, II Pet. 1 :15-16, I Tim. 6:12, Heb.10:23, I John 5:4.

NEHEMIAH (Part 11)

Text: Nehemiah 6:10-14

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study of the book of Nehemiah, we discovered that the work of God is great and that Satan is cunning, but with great determination and unwavering faith in God we would realize God's purpose for our lives.
Today, as we continue, May the Good Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. BEWARE OF THOSE WHO GOD HAD NOT SENT
The betrayal of God and His kingdom by false prophets and brethren is one of the heaviest grieve that true servants of God sometimes have to bear. Extra care must always be taken so that we do not fall into the hands of people who claim to be working for God but in reality are agents of God's enemy.
Neh. 6:12-14,10-11, Act 20:28-31, II Cor. 11:26, Ez. 13:17, Jer. 14:14, I Kings 18:40, Mt. 7:15-16, Gal. 5:19-21, Eph. 5:5-6, Mt. 13:24-28, 36-43, Gal. 5:22-23, Heb. 1 :9, Act 26: 18, I Cor. 9: 19- 22, Ph. 1: 17, II John 9: 11, I Tim. 3:3, 6:9-10, Mt. 24:24.

NEHEMIAH (Part 12)

Text: Nehemiah 6:15-19

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the characteristics of false prophets and brethren, and we were cautioned to be watchful and prayerful so that we do not fall into their hands.

As we proceed in our studies today, we pray that the Holy Spirit Himself will teach us in Jesus name.

1. STARTING A RACE IS NOT ENOUGH, BUT FINISHING IT

   Not all those who start a race do complete it. Many believers fall back on the way side for lack of commitment and dedication to the things of God.

   Neh. 6:15, Heb.12:1, Gen. 2:1, John 5:36, John 17:4-5, I Chr. 28:20, II Tim. 4:7, Neh.4:15, Neh.5:14-19, Neh.4:6, II Cor. 8:6, II Tim. 2:3, Rom. 9:16.

2. ONLY THOSE WHO COMPLETE A RACE SHALL BE REWARDED

   The prize of a race is not given to those who start the race but those who complete it well.

   I Cor. 9:24, John 19:30, Phil. 2:8-10, Heb. 12:2, Acts. 20:24, II Tim. 4:8, Heb. 10:35, Gal. 6:9, Lk. 6:22-23, Eccl. 9:11.

NEHEMIAH (Part 13)

Text: Nehemiah 7:5-67

INTRODUCTION:

Last week in our study of the book of Nehemiah, we discovered that faithfulness is the price of stewardship and that the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. WE SERVE A RECORD-KEEPING GOD

Our God is the Ancient of days. He is very good in record-keeping. Whatsoever any man does, whether good or bad has an account in heaven. He knows every detail about us. But if only we can repent from our sins and unrighteousness, the blood of Jesus Christ has the power to wipe off every bad records that may have been registered against us.

Neh. 7:5-57, Dan. 7:9, I Jn. 5:7-8, Job 16:19, Ps. 114:3, Rom. 1 :9, Mt. 12:36, Lk. 16:2, Rm. 14: 12, Rm. 4:9, Gal. 3:6, Act 17: 30, Heb. 8:12, 1 Jn. 1 :7-9.

NEHEMIAH (Part 14)

Text: Nehemiah 7:68-73

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that our God is good in record keeping and that the blood of Jesus Christ His Son is able to wipe off our bad records if only we repent and turn away from our sins. As we continue in our studies today, may the good Lord bless us richly in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. GIVING UNTO THE WORK.
For the work of God to advance, God requires from us not only our time and labour but also our substance. No wonder Apostle Paul said "I will very gladly spend and be spent. ... "
Neh. 7:70, II Cor. 12:15, Ps. 106:1, 118:1, Prov. 25:21, Mt. 25:35, Mt. 19:21-22, Mal. 3:10, Heb. 7:2, Neh. 4:6,16, Lk. 6:38, 2 Sam. 24:24, II Cor. 9:7, Jn. 3:16, Eph. 5:2, Jn.10:11.

2. REWARDS OF GIVING
Giving unto the work of God is a divine investment that can never fail to yield its divine dividends and interests.
Lk. 6:38, Mt. 10:41-42, Prov. 11:24-25, Acts 20:35, Mal. 3:11, Phil. 4:18-19, II Cor. 9:6, Gal. 6:7

NEHEMIAH (Part 15)

Text: Nehemiah 8:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

Last week in our study of this series, we discovered that giving to God's work is highly rewarding.
Today as we continue, may the Holy Spirit teach us and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God desires that His people to gather together for spiritual renewal and revival. Renewal and revival come from God and they are mediated through

i. God's word
ii. Prayer
iii. Confession
iv. Broken and contrite heart
v. Turning from the sinful ways
vi. A renewal and commitment to walk in God's will

Neh. 8:1, Heb. 10:25, Rm. 10:27, II Tim. 2:15, Prov. 15:8, Isa. 56:7, Jam. 5:16, Dan. 9:4, Rm. 10:10, PS. 34:18, 51 :17, II Chr. 7:14, Rom. 12:2, II Cor. 4:16 .

NEHEMIAH (Part 16)

Text: Nehemiah 8:6-9

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the gathering together of the children of God as an avenue for spiritual renewal and revival.

Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy God bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. WORSHIP GOD WITH HOLY HANDS

God desires the adoration of his people and call them to worship him regularly and with Holy hands.

Neh.8:6, Ps. 29:2, 96:9, Lam. 3:41, Ps.24:3-41, I Tim. 2:8, Jn. 4:24, I Chr. 16:29, Ps. 22:3, II Chr. 20:21-22, Jos. 6:20, Isa. 1:15-16.

2. GOD'S HOLY DAY

The day of the Lord is to be kept Holy by His people. It is a day consecrated to God to serve Him in holiness.

Neh. 8:9-10, Lev. 23:24, Num. 29:1, Lev. 19:30, Ex. 20:8, Joel 2:11, Mt.12:10-12, Isa. 58:13-14.

NEHEMIAH (Part 17)

Text: Nehemiah 8:10-13

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the blessings of lifting up of Holy hands in worship and the Lord's Holy day. Today as we continue our studies, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH
The joy of the Lord comes from our being reconciled with God and the presence of His Spirit in our lives. It is maintained by the assurance that our sins have been forgiven and that we are restored to fellowship with God and live in harmony with His will. This is the joy of salvation which;

a. Acts as a fortress to guard a believer from troubles and temptations of each day.

b. Supplies the power (strength) and motivation to persevere in faith until the end

Neh. 8:10-13, Lk. 2:10-11, Heb.12:2, I Pet. 1 :8-9, Ps. 51:12, Isa. 55:12, Jer. 31 :13-14, Ph. 4:4, Gal. 5:22, Acts 13:52, I Thess.1 :6, Acts 13:52, I Thess. 1:6, Acts 8:8, Rm. 15:13, Jam. 1 :2-3, I Pet. 4:12-14.

NEHEMIAH (Part 18)

Text: Nehemiah 8:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

In the-last part of this series, we discovered that the joy of the Lord is our strength.
Today as we continue our studies, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF THE LAW
The book of the law is not only to be read, it must also be understood. Proper understanding of the book unravels the hidden treasures needed for our Spiritual development and progress. Our best teacher and interpreter of the law today is the Holy Spirit.
Neh. 8:13, Ex. 19:1, Ex. 20:1-17, Rm. 7:12, Ps. 1:1-3, Jos. 1:8 Ez. 3:1-4, Prov. 14:6, Hos. 14:9, Lk. 24:45, Jn. 16:13, Ps. 119:27

2. THE SPIRITUAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN
The great commission is not only a New Testament command but also part of the laws of Moses. A believer has a mandate to campaign for-Jesus whose manifestos are not only good news but also truthful.
Neh. 8:14-18, Ps. 105:1-2, 145:5, Lk. 2:10-11, Jn. 14:6, 21:24 Mt. 28:19-20, Rm. 1 :16, 15:19,2 Tim. 4:2-3, Prov. 14:25, I Cor. 9:16.

NEHEMIAH (Part 19)

Text: Nehemiah 9:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the essence of understanding the book of the law and our duty as believers to campaign for Christ.

Today as we continue in our studies, may the Lord open our ears of understanding in Jesus Name.

1. SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM STRANGERS

God desires the fellowship of His children who are ready to consecrate themselves unto Him and separate themselves from those things (strangers) that offend Him (God).

Neh. 9:1-3, 13:3, Gen. 12:1, 35:2-4; Jos. 24:1-5, 20-23, II Cor. 6:14-17, Jn. 15:18-19, Heb. 13:9, Jude. 11:2 . Ps. 144:7, Ps. 114:1, Zeph.1 :8, II Tim. 2-19.

2. THE CRY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The cry of the righteous is Holy unto the Lord while that of the wicked is an abomination.

Neh. 9:4, Acts 1 :13-24, 4:24,31 :33, Ps. 34:6, Isa. 3:10-11, Prov. 15:9,29, Ps. 66:18, Isa. 59:1-2, Rm. 6:1-2, Prov. 7:11, Ez. 33:11, Isa. 55:7, 1 Jn.1:7.

NEHEMIAH (Part 20)

Text: Nehemiah 9:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we examined those things God called strangers in our lives and how we could separate ourselves from them. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit quicken our Spirit of understanding in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. THE CRY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The cry of the righteous is Holy unto the Lord while that of the wicked is an abomination. Not only that, the future of the righteous is bright while that of the wicked is bleak.
Neh. 9:4, Ps. 34:6, Prov. 15:29, Isa. 3:10-11, Jer. 31:17, Rm. 8:31, Ps. 56:9, Acts 1:13-14, 31-33, Prov. 15:9, Prov. 7:11, Ps. 66:18, Isa. 59:1-2, Rm. 6:1-2, Ez. 33:11, Isa. 55:7, I Jn.1:9

NEHEMIAH (Part 21)

Text: Nehemiah 9:5-37

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we discovered that not only the future of the righteous is bright, God also hears his cry. We also found out that not only is the cry of the wicked an abomination to God, God is angry with him everyday.
Today as we continue in our studies, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. BLESS THE LORD YOUR GOD FOREVER
True believers should not only bless the Lord their God when they have just received a miracle, His praise should continually be in their mouth forever.
Neh. 9:5, I Chr. 29:10-13, Ps. 34:1, Ps. 103:1-2, Ps. 145:1, Mt. 6:13, Ep. 5:20, I Thess. 5:18.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE HIS POWER AND MIGHT
God is Sovereign, Great and Mighty. Children of God should recount and acknowledge His greatness and sovereignty so as to make themselves and humble fear before Him.
Neh. 9:6, Isa. 40:28, Ex. 14:13, 15:2, Ps. 27:1, Ex. 14:21-28, Ps. 22:4-5, Ps. 103:4, Exo. 14:23.;24, Ps. 103:6, Exo. 14:19-22, Ps. 103:1-2, Rm. 9:14-16, I Sam. 17:37, Isa. 43:2, Dan. 3:17.

NEHEMIAH (Part 22)

Text: Nehemiah 10:1-39

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we should always praise our God at all time as we acknowledge His power and might. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Lord Himself teach us and bless us richly in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. THE COVENANT CHILDREN

A covenant is a solemn agreement between two or more people with certain obligations expected to be fulfilled by both parties. Our God is the Great, Mighty and an Awesome God who keep covenant.

The Covenant children of God stand in special relationship to God and as such expected to keep their own end of the bargain.

Neh. 10:28-29, Gen. 6:18, 9:9, 17:21, Ps. 89:3, 34, Ex. 19: 2' Kings. 23:3, In. -14:14-15, Dt. 26:9-10, Ps. 119:172, He 12:24, 13:20, Neh. 10:30-32, II Cor. 6:17, Num. 18:12, II Cor. 9:6-8, Deut.18:3-5, Num.18:26, Mal. 3:10, Mk.16:15-16, II Cor. 12:15.

NEHEMIAH (Part 23)

Text: Nehemiah 11:1-36

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined what a covenant is, the responsibility and blessing of a covenant child of God. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit open our hearts of understanding to His word in Jesus Name.

1. BY CHOICE OR APPOINTMENT

The work of God suffers reproach and setback today because there are very few men (people) who are willing to surrender themselves for the 'great commission".

But God is looking for men (and women) who are ready and willing to lay down their lives for the course of the kingdom as the "Harvest is truly plenteous but labourers are few".

Will you be one of those who will say today "Here am I oh Lord send me:'?

Neh. 11 :1-3, Mt. 9:37, Isa. 6:8, Mk. 16:15-16, Mt. 28:19-20, In. 15:16, Mt. 20:16, Jos. 24:15, Deut. 30:19-20, Jn, 15:13, I In. 3:16,112 Cor. 8:11-12.

2. THERE IS GREAT BLESSING IN SELF SACRIFICE

There is a great blessing and reward for those who willingly yield themselves up in obedience to do the work of God.

Neh. 11 :2, I Cor. 9:17, Isa. 1:19,2 Cor. 9:7-8, Ph. 1:14, Jud. 5:2, II Chro. 17:16, I Chro. 29:6-9, II Sam. 22:47-50, I Pet. 5:2-4.

NEHEMIAH (Part 24)

Text: Nehemiah 12:44-47

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that our offering unto the lord should not just be regarded as the usual or routine process, it must be sacrificial, purposeful and also from the heart with joy and rejoicing.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord Himself teach us and give us the grace to be the doers of His word not the hearers alone in Jesus Name.

1. THE PRIEST'S PORTION

The office of the ministering priest is a special one ordained by God. Children of God should not only recognize and respect this office but also bless it. By so doing they are indirectly blessing themselves.

Ex. 19:5-6, Lev. 8:1-6,10:12, Num. 8:14-16, Jer. 1:5, I Pet. 2:9, Rev. 1:6, Ps. 105:15:15, II Kgs. 2:23-24, Gen. 14:18-20, I Sam. 9:7-9, Mt. 10:40-42.

2. GOD'S TREASURERS

God is looking for diligent and faithful treasurers. Those who are ready to spend the money of God for God and those who will be able to render proper account of whatever is committed into their hands.

Neh. 12:44, Mt. 6:19-21, II Cor. 12:15, Prov. 3:9, II Cor. 9:7, I Cor. 4:2, Mt. 26:10-16.

NEHEMIAH (Part 25)

Text: Nehemiah 13:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we considered what the Priest's portion was and the qualifications for being a God's treasurer. Today, as we continue in our study, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us through His word in Jesus Name.

1. CAUSES OF CURSES

Curses are terrible while blessings are pleasant and desirable. No rational person wants a curse but everybody wants blessing. However, curses would not just come without a cause. There are curses of the law, curses from Satan and his hosts, parental or ancestral curses, self-imposed curses and curses from God and His servants.
Neh. 13:1-2, Prov. 26:2, Deut. 28:15, Gal. 3:10-11, Rm. 3:23-28, Gal. 3:13, Num. 22:6, 23:19-23, Job 3:1-8, Prov. 18:21, Jer. 17:5, Lev. 20:9, Exo. 20:5-6, Mal. 2:2, 3:8-9, Isa. 44:26-27, II Kgs. 2:24.

2. FROM CURSES TO BLESSINGS

Whatever is the cause of curses; they can be changed to blessings with the power of the living God who had redeemed us from the curse of the law through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son. But you have your own parts to play:

* Come to Jesus the Redeemer.
* Confess, repent from your sins and restitute your ways.
* Renounce and break the curses with prayers and fasting

NEHEMIAH (Part 25) (Cont'd)

* Pay your vows.
* Witness for Christ
* Sow seeds of blessings.
* Remain ever obedient to God.

Deut. 23:5, Gal. 3:13, Jn. 1:12, I Jn. 1:7-9, Acts 3:19-21, Lk. 19:8, Mat. 21:21-22, Mk. 9:29, Deut. 23:21-23, Eccl. 5:4-6 Lk. 6:38, Prov. 11 :24-25, Dan. 12:3, I Pet. 1 :15, Heb.12:14.

CONCLUSION

God has given every man the freewill to choose between curses and blessings. Choose blessings and not curses. Deut. 11 :26-29.

NEHEMIAH (Part 26)

Text: Nehemiah 13:3-11

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we examined the causes of curses and how curses could be turned to blessings.
Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE MIXED MULTITUDE
God desires that His people separated from the mixed multitude in order to put a barrier between them (God's people) and the wicked practices of the unbelievers, worldly values and the ungodly customs of our society. Failure to do this will result to the loss of God's presence and all the good He has purposed for us.
Neh. 3:3, Ex. 12:38, Num. 11:4, Deut. 7:2-4, Hos. 7:8-10, Gen. 12:1, II Cor. 6:14-18, Jn. 17:15-16, I Cor. 5:9-11, II Thess. 3:6-15, Rm. 16:17-18, I Jn. 4:1, Mt. 18:15-17, Jer. 23:38-40, Jam.4:4.

2. NEVER GIVE SPACE TO THE ENEMY
It is a dangerous thing to harbour the enemy. The kingdom bound children of God should always go angry with everything and anything that will bring insult to the name of their God and His holiness.
Neh. 13:7, 4:7-8, 13:1, 10:28-30, 13:5, II Chro. 29:3-5, Jn. 2:14-16, I Jn. 2:15, Rm.12:2, 9, Gal. 1 :9, Heb. 1 :9, Gal. 6:1.

NEHEMIAH (Part 27)

Text: Nehemiah 13:12-31

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we should separate ourselves from the mixed multitude and never to give Space the enemy in our lives.
Today, as we will be concluding the series, may the Lord bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. GOOD OR BAD TESTIMONY
Testimony is the proofs (witness) of a believer's faith. It is also of his weapons to overcome the adversary. God can testify of you people can give testimony about or against you and you can testify of God's goodness. But the question is, Do you have a good or bad testimony?
Neh.13:15, 21, I Jn. 5:9-12, I Cor. 1 :4-6, II Tim. 1 :8, I Tim. 2:5-7, Rev. 12:11, Acts 1:8, 18:5, II Kgs. 17:13-18, Gen.18:19, Job 1:8, Mt. 3:17, Dt. 8:19, Isa. 59:12.

2. GOD NEVER FORGETS
Our God is the best custodian of records. Whatever a man do whether good or bad, He never forgets. He rewards and judge according to the work of man.
However, if we would turn to Him and turn away from sin, our iniquity and sins will He remember no more.
Neh. 13:29, Amos 8:4-7, Rev. 18:5, Amos 2:9-13, III Jn. 9:11, Is. 43:25, 49:15, Ps. 9:12, Heb. 6:10, Rev. 2:5, II Chro. 7:14, Heb. 8:12.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA: A FRIEND IN NEED (1)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

One of the refreshing truths we discover in our walk with God is His closeness and the communion He shares with us on a daily basis. This communion is made more real by the support He render from time to time. He is the God who is always there. Joshua would not have become a legend if not for the support of the Lord. In realizing our dreams in life and becoming a person of significance, we need the ever-present God by our side. May we experience the richness of his friendship from today in Jesus name, Amen.

1. THE BEAUTY OF HIS FRIENDSHIP

God desires and cultivates our friendship. He made us for Himself and we are made in His image so that we can relate with Him at His own Level. Since faithfulness is part of His nature, He keeps His own part of the friendship once you become friends.

Jn. 4:23, 24;1:12; Rev. 1:5,6; 4:11; Ps. 100:2; Gen. 1:26, 27; Tim. 2:13, Heb. 13:5,6; Jn. 21:1-6; Acts. 7:55,56; 27:22-25; Ps. 37:1-8; Isa. 43:2.

CONCLUSION:

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA: A FRIEND IN NEED (2)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we learnt about the beauty of the friendship God shares with us.
Today we will need to know more about this our friend in order to appreciate Him more, praise Him more and reverence Him more.
May He teach us in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHO IS THIS OUR FRIEND?
The Bible begins with the fact that God was there from the beginning of beginnings. He is eternal by nature. He possesses all abilities because He is the greatest. Knowing the Lord as He should be known is to strike the right chord in life.
Jn. 1:1-3, Gen. 1:1, Ps. 90:2, 4, Prov. 8:22-31, Jn. 8:58, Heb. 7:3,6:13-18, Dan. 4:1-4, 34-37, Ruth 1 :15-17,17, 4:13-17.

CONCLUSION
Our friend can be trusted because He possesses enough ability to perform His promises.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA: A FRIEND IN NEED (3)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we learnt about who our friend (God) is. We now know that He is the beginning before the beginning. He is eternal and ageless, has no beginning of days and end of time.

Today, we will need to know how deep His love is to us, in order to appreciate, praise, worship and reverence Him the more, Amen.

1. HOW DEEP IS HIS LOVE TO US?

Rom. 11:33, Eph.3:17-19, Jer 31 :3, Deut. 7:7-8, Ps.40:2-3, Is. 43:1-4, 15.41 :10-11, Phil. 4:19, 15.43:26, Rom. 8:35, Jn. 3:16, James 1 :2-4.

CONCLUSION:

The love of God (our friend) cannot be quantified. It cannot be measured.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
DON'T ALLOW DISTRACTIONS

Text: Joshua 1:7-8

INTRODUCTION:

Having revealed Himself to us as the only friend we can trust, the One who is committed to us not minding the situation, our response should be that of gratitude and absolute loyalty.

Distractions, or situations that could cause one to turn to the left or right are real and they present themselves everywhere.

A. TURN NOT TO THE RIGHT HAND OR TO THE LEFT

Why do people turn from the straight path? Crisis, activities, achievements and worldly pleasure are some of the reasons.

Gen. 3:1-7, 9:20-21, 16:1-4, Exo. 14:1-4, 2 Kings 19:1-7, Num. 20:1-11, Jud. 17:6, 18:1, 19:1,21:25, Isa. 40:30, 31, Ps. 80:1-3, I Kings 20:39-40,11 :1-4, Eccl. 2:1-11.

B. BUT THOU SHALT MEDITATE

To meditate is to mutter, muse, whisper. It is a most rewarding act of worship, of spiritual renewal, of mental refreshing and of divine communion. One who meditates in the word accepts its authenticity and inspiration. To meditate in the word is to turn the word around in your inner man and thoroughly digest it until it becomes part of you. The word of God is the food for our spirit- man.

Gen. 24:63, Job, 15:14, Ps. 19:14, 77:3, 6, 12, 119:27, 97, 99, 145:5.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE CAPTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOST

Text: Joshua 5:13-15

INTRODUCTION:

Life, as many of us are aware, is one big battlefield. It is full of challenges, which present themselves as obstacles, attacks and various forms of hindrances. But the Captain of the Lord's hosts who is our Lord and Saviour has never lost any battle. (Gen. 18:1-14, 32:24-30, Dan. 3:24-25)

A. THE BATTLE FOR JERICHO

Jericho represents the life-long dream of the children of Israel. For more than 400 years their fathers waited for its manifestation. For 40 years, they wandered in the wilderness until the generation who thought they would inherit actually perished. Now, they were at its threshold yet it was locked against them. So it is with many of us.

Jos. 6:1, Gen. 12:1-3,25:21,30:1,2, Exo. 2:11-15, Ruth 1:1-5, 16-18, I Sam. 16:13, 19-23

B. WHY AND WHEN WILL HE COME?

He comes to determine who wins and who loses. He will come at the right time, not a minute too late.

Jos. 5:13-15; Ps. 18:48-50; 20:7-8; 33:16-20; Pro. 21:31; Isa. 31:1,3:1, Sam. 17:47; Jn.11:32-35, 38-44

CONCLUSION

Relax and let Him fight your battles. He is more than able.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Text: Joshua 6: 21-23

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we considered the visit of the Captain of the host of the Lord and the battle of Jericho. We learnt that those on God's side will always win and that our Captain will not be a minute too late.

Today we will focus attention on the execution of the battle, in order to learn-some lessons about serving the Lord. May He continue to teach us in Jesus name Amen.

A. DO NOT SPARE THEM (vs. 21)

The Lord instructed the children of Israel to destroy utterly everything in the land of Canaan. This is because of their level of degradation and corruption in the land of Canaan that time. God had given them space for repentance but there was not a change (Gen. 15:16). When He commanded that they should be wiped out, He had a good reason. He did not want His people to be polluted.

Num. 21 :1-3, Deut. 7:1,2,23·26, 12:29·32,13:15·17, 20:17,18, I Sam. 15:1·23, Ps. 66:18, Col. 3:5·9, Rom. 8:12·13.

B. THE BLOOD LINE. (vs. 2:18. 6:17.22)

The spies told Rahab to tie the scarlet thread by her window. This thread represented the blood line. Anyone who stayed within the blood line is saved. The Lord is reinforcing that for us today. It takes obedience to stay

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA cont.

within the confines of the Lord's commandment all the time.
Exo. 12:12, 13, Lev. 17:11·14, Matt. 26:28, Heb. 9:10, Rev. 1 :5, 5:9,12:11

C. DOING THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME (vs. 22.23).
During a battle, so many things call for attention. A war commander would have his hands full. But not Joshua. He knew what to do and when. Serving the Lord in the time of revival may leave-us at the mercy of the "tyranny of the urgent". Many believers today have substituted service for devotion.
Mark 6:30·32, I Kings 20:39-40, Jn.6:28,29.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Text: Joshua 8:1

INTRODUCTION:

The children of Israel suffered defeat in the hands of Ai because of the son of Achan. Achan was exposed, the nation was cleansed and God was willing to work with them again. Sin always invites defeats and God's displeasure. But the decision to purge ourselves of every form of sin would bring the Lord of hosts to our side.

May He teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

A. THE DANGER OF DISOBEDIENCE

Disobedience is the first sin in the Garden of Eden and what robbed Adam and Eve their bliss. Disobedience of one man robbed the whole of Israel of victory. Achan disobeyed God by touching the forbidden thing. Joshua disobeyed by not committing his way to God. Israel disobeyed by not praying for its leaders.

Jos. 7:1, Jud. 8:22-27, 14:8-9, 16-21, 17:7-13, I Kings 11:1-7, 14-25,26-40, Jos. 7:2-5, Jer. 17:8, Ps. 2:12b, 146:5-7, I Tim. 2:1-3, Rom. 13:1, Jer. 29:7.

B. FEAR NOT

The only people who can hear "fear not" are those on the side of God. Though there is a 'fear not' for every given day, none is meant for the enemies. Those who are not on the side of God have many things to fear.

Gen. 3:9-10, Exo. 3:6, Prov. 29:25, Tim. 1 :7, I Jn. 4:18, Deut. 2:25, 11:25, Isa. 14:3, Prov. 9:1-0, Ps. 111 :10, Ps. 111 :10, PS. 19:9, Prov. 10:27, 14:26,27,19:23, Mal. 1 :6, Jud. 23.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE 1

Text: Joshua 8:1-22

INTRODUCTION:

The Book of Joshua is full of lessons for the discerning mind. Just as the children of Israel were poised against the enemies who were more in number and entrenched, In like manner, every believer is engaged in a spiritual warfare involving spirit beings that are many, highly intelligent and organized. But- our victory in Christ Jesus is assured. (I Jn. 5:19, 4:4,5:4). May the Lord of hosts teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

A. "ONCE BEATEN TWICE SHY"

The adage above describes the reason for the strong determination of Joshua and his people not to allow their initial experience at Ai to repeat itself. Our life does not have to be a succession of failures. Always remember that those who do not learn from their history will keep on committing the mistakes of history. Jos. 8:1-3," Sam. 11 :1-27,12:1-14, I Sam. 13:8-14, 5:1-35, Jn.12:3-6, Acts 1 :16-20

B. RETREAT IS NOT DEFEAT

When Joshua and the army fled before Ai the second time, the people of Ai did not know they were rushing into a trap. David retreated into the wilderness to raise an army. When God is silent and it seems as if nothing is happening, He has only changed His strategy. Jos. 8:14-18, I Sam. 22:1-2, Mark 5:17.

C. LAYING AN AMBUSH

As the man of war (Exo. 15:3), God knows which method would work in every situation. To ambush an enemy is to take the enemy by' surprise at a time and/or a place he is not expecting. Ambushing is premised on what are the expectations of an enemy in a given situation. The opponent then stages a surprise. Jos. 8:2-9, Judges 9:28-41, II Chro. 13:1-7.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE (2)

Text: Joshua 9: 1-27

INTRODUCTION:

Deception is a strong weapon in all warfare, but the story of the Gibeonites is a classical example of deception in spiritual warfare. The Gibeonites were afraid that their land would be taken from them and they would suffer the same fate as the people of Jericho and Ai. The Israelites were a threat to the Gibeonites just as every believer is a threat to the kingdom of Satan. The Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the Israelites, and the devil is doing that on a daily basis.

May we learn how to fight and win in Jesus name. Amen.

A. ELEMENTS OF A DECEPTIVE SITUATION

There are some traits common to all deceptions. These include the deceiver, the deceived, the relationship that subsists, the purpose of deception, the implementation, and the result.

Jos. 9:3-6, Gen. 3:1-10, 4:8-12, 27:6-46, In. 13:21-30, Lk. 22:47-48, Matt. 26:14-16, 27:3-6, Acts 1 :15-20, Jos. 9:27.

Conclusion: It is dangerous to be a deceiver.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE (3)

Text: Joshua 9: 1-27

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we learnt about the various characteristics of a deceptive situation. The Advanced Fee Fraud scam, also called "419" qualifies as a classical example of a deceptive situation. Every believer in Christ must be conscious, discerning and always sensitive to the Holy Spirit in this end- time. (Matt. 24:10-13, 24).

A. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DECEPTION?

The Bible clearly declares that God knows all things and no deceit can be hidden from Him. Whatsoever a person sows, he shall likewise reap.

Job 12:16, 15:31,31 :4-6, Prov.18:11, 26:18-19, Ps. 37:9-10,16, 35-37, Heb. 4:13, II Kgs. 5:20-27, Matt. 27:3-6, Acts 1 :15-20, Jos.9:27.

B. THE SEVEN BASIC RULES

The following basic rules will help you to be at alert all the time:

i. Shun covetousness in all forms. Col. 3:5, Heb. 13:5.
ii. Seek for counsel from men and women of integrity. Prov. 11: 14
iii. Always listen with your two ears. Jam.1 :19
iv. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:14-16
v. Do not justify any shady deal with the Scriptures. Isa. 61: 6-10 Rev. 3:7,8.
vi. Remember that contentment is a virtue. I Tim. 6:6-10
vii. Let the Bible speak to your situation every time. Jam. 1 : 22-25 .

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE (4)

Text: Joshua 10: 1-11

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we learnt about deception and the seven basic rules to follow in order to avoid being deceived. Today, we will look at God's warning about entering into covenants with people. May the Lord teach us by Himself in Jesus' name, Amen.

A. DO NOT BE IN A HURRY TO MAKE FRIENDS

Friendship is based on a high level of trust, fidelity and commitment. God is not pleased with truce-breakers, hence, every believer must think deeply before entering into covenant with people.

II Tim. 3:3, Rom. 1 :31, II Cor. 6:14-18, Jer.7:4, Job 4:17-19, Ps. 11: 1, 4:5: 11, Pro. 14:29, 21:5, 29:20, Ecc. 5:2, I Kgs. 20:28-34, 42.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
BLESSING AND CURSES

Text: Joshua 9:27

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is a complete book full of blessings for those who love God and do His will, but would not spare others of necessary curses. Though the Lord desires the best for all, He has made, some people choose curses by their lifestyle and disposition.

The Gibeonites were cursed in all their generations because they were deceitful.

A. THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ARE CONDITIONAL

The Bible is a book of promises. These promises assure us of God's blessings. But to each of them is attached a condition. Fulfilling the condition is a prerequisite for receiving the blessings.

II Cor. 1 :20, Matt. 7:7-11, Mk. 11 :22-26, Deut. 8:18, 28:1-2, Jos. 1 :8, Jn. 7:17, Matt. 5:3-11.

B. CURSES ARE ALSO CONDITIONAL

Your life cannot attract curses except you do things that magnetize curses. Hence you have nothing to fear if you are living right.

Num. 23:7-8, 20, Prov. 26:2, Deut. 11 :26-28, Jos. 6:26, 7:25, I Sam. 26:19, Prov. 3:33, Gen. 3:17, Deut. 27:20-23.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA
THE ENEMY OF YOUR FRIEND

Text: Joshua 10:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

The military campaigns of Joshua revealed a basic principle of warfare: The enemy of my friend is my enemy. Every believer is not just a child of God, but also a friend of Jesus (Jn. 15:13-15). Whosoever makes himself the enemy of Jesus is our own enemy as well.

A. JOSHUA'S DECISION TO HELP HIS FRIENDS
The Gibeonites had entered into an alliance with Israel. This included a defence pact. Attacking the Gibeonites then is an indirect way of attacking the Israelites. v. 6-7, Deut. 32:10, Zech, 2:8, II Thess. 1:6, I Sam. 26:9, Gen. 12:3.

B. WHEN GOD GOES BEFORE YOU, YOU WILL WIN
God assured Joshua that he should not be afraid. Hearing God in times of crisis allays our fears and assures us of victory even before we are engaged in battle. v. 8, I Sam. 30:8, Jud. 20:1-48, II Kg. 19:5-7, 35-37, Act.10:1-48.

C. THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU
God is not a passive partner. Once He is committed to a life, He goes all the way to show His commitment. He released His arsenal on behalf of the Israelites against the Gibeonites. He can do the same for you today. v. 10, 11, Job 38:22-23, Ps. 18:13-14, Ezek. 38:14-18.

PRAYER UNDER OPEN HEAVENS

Text: 1 Kings 18: 36-45

INTRODUCTION:

It takes only one prayer to open the heavens but seven prayers to bring down the abundance of rain.
Therefore when the heavens are opened, it is then time for serious prayers. May God hear us as we pray from now on in Jesus name.

1. THE HEAVENS ARE OPEN: IT IS TIME TO PRAY
   Under open heavens, wise people pray the prayers of thanksgiving, repentance, restitution, rededication, showers of blessings, fullness of joy and complete testimonies.

   Ps.118:1-5, Isa. 55:6-7, Isa. 40:3-5, Isa. 6:1-8, Joel 2:15-27, John 16:24, Ps. 89: 1.4 .

POWER IN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:

This scripture reveals the last assignment that the LORD Jesus, the Messiah gave to us, His Church. It also reveals His continuing influence over the affairs of this earth and the heavens over the earth. We must take time therefore to get all the details of this private and dear assignment of the LORD so that we will be able to accomplish our divine assignment.

A. THERE IS AN ASSIGNMENT

We require power to accomplish the assignment. The reason we need power is because we will encounter stiff and sometimes frightening resistances.

Matt. 28:18, 19-20, Matt. 13:31-32, 38, Matt. 13:47-50, II Cor. 4:3-4, Jer. 51 :20-24, Jer. 51 :25, Isa. 41:13-16, Jer. 10:11.

B. A FIGHTING TEAM MUST UNDERSTAND THE OBJECTIVE

It must understand what is at stake. It must be disciplined and committed.

Lk. 10:19, I In. 4:16, Matt. 13:50, Jer. 48:10, Rev. 12:11, Ps. 119:78,95,98.

CONCLUSION

You must be salt of the earth, not only a light of the world. And do well to notice the order of what the Lord said in Matt. 5:13. God bless you and be with you

THE POWERS OF A CHILD OF GOD

Text: Mark 16:15-18

INTRODUCTION:

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

A. The Five signs are evidences of the operation of Five Powers working by the Holy Ghost.
Mk. 16:15-18, I Jn. 2:14, I Cor. 14:2-4, Mk.11 :22-23, Jn. 14:13- 14, Rom. 12:14, Ps. 34:1, 30:11, Lk. 10:19, Mal. 4:3, Ps. 91:13 Heb. 9:13-14, 22. Jn. 15:5

B. Some of the Reasons why these powers will not work are easily avoidable. Hosea 4:6, Prov. 29:18, Matt. 5:3-5, Jn. 15:6, Jude . 1 :20-21, Ps. 103:8

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

REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (1)

Text: Isaiah 55:6-7

INTRODUCTION:

Three principal words came out strongly in God's message to us this year. They are; repentance, restitution' and rededication. We would like to study these words in some detail so as to understand them better. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name.

1. REPENTANCE

What does it mean? What are the benefits of repentance? Are there any dangers in not repenting? These and more we believe will be clear in this study.

Exo. 13:17, Jer. 18:8, Lk. 17:3-4, Eze. 33:11, Isa. 55:7-8, II Cor. 7:10, Gen. 6:6-7, I Sam. 15:10-11, I Sam. 16:1, Matt. 3:7-8, Acts 26:19-20, Eze. 18:20, Isa. 59:1, Ps. 66:18.

REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (2)

Text: Joshua 7: 10-13

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we considered repentance. Today, as we look into restitution, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WHEN THINGS STOP WORKING .. IT IS TIME TO FIND OUT WHY?
   To restitute is to (i) find out what you are doing wrong or have done wrong and (ii) undo it.

   Jos. 7:10-13, Hag. 1:5-6, Exo. 22:2-4, Exo. 22:7-12, Gen. 20:1-16, Lev. 6: 1-5, Eph. 4:25.

2. THE LAW OF HARVEST IS THE GREATEST REASON FOR RESTITUTION
   Simply put, the law of harvest says whatever you sow is what you will reap. But if you uproot the tree before it can bear fruits, then there will be no harvest.

   Gal. 6:7-8, Prov. 22:8, Hos. 10:12, Hos. 8:7, Acts 14:19-20, II Cor. 11:23, Rev. 22:14-15.

REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (3)

Text: Number 32:11-12 '

INTRODUCTION:

In the previous parts of this series, we had discussed repentance and restitution. Today, as we look at rededication,
may God bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS HOW YOU FINISH NOT HOW YOU START THE RACE

It is possible to follow God wholly, from start to finish. But if for any reason you had slowed down, you can always start all over again. Just be sure that you do not wait until irreparable harm had been done and that you do not trust your own ability.

Num. 32:11-12, Jos. 14:6-14, Jos. 24:15, II Kings 13:14-21, John 21 :15-19, Acts 4:18-20, Exo. 4:20, Jos. 14:7-12, Jud. 16:21-30, Num. 14:40-45, Matt. 24:13, Rev. 3:11, Zech. 4:6, Phil. 4:13.

REPENTANCE RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (4)

Text: Isaiah 60:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

One of the reasons why we need to rededicate ourselves to the service of the Lord is that no matter how well we are doing now, we can always do much better. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. ARISE CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE

What arise means to the one dead is not the same as to the one sleeping. Surely arise means something to the one standing and another thing to someone running.

Mark 5:35-42, Matt. 25:1-7, Lk. 15:11-20, I Sam. 16:11-13, I Sam. 17:48, Isa. 40:31, II Cor. 3: 18.

2. YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN YOU ARE DOING

There is a difference between bearing fruits and bearing much fruits. There is a difference between crossing Jordan and asking the sun to stand still. You can do much better than you are doing now.

Jn. 15:2a, Jn. 15:2b, Jn. 15:5, Acts 2:41, Acts 2:41, Acts 4:4, Acts 5:14, Acts 3:1-8, Acts 5:15-16, Acts 9:32-35, Jos. 3:9-17, Jos. 10:12-14, Jn.14:12.

DIVINE CHAMPION (Part 1)

Text: Psalm 18:32-44

INTRODUCTION:

Who is a champion? How is a champion known? How much depends on him? Who then is a Divine Champion? These and several other questions will be addressed in this series. May the LORD bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHO IS A CHAMPION?

A champion. is a representative of his people. Usually the best the people have to offer. Usually everything depends on him. Another definition of a champion is the one who is standing after the battle is over.

Ps. 18:32-44, I Sam. 17:4-11, I Sam. 10:21-24, I Sam. 17:8-9, Eph. 6:13, I Sam.17:51.

2. EXAMPLES OF DIVINE CHAMPIONS

There are many examples of Divine champions. They include people like Moses, Deborah, Gideon, David, Elijah and several others. But among champions there could be champion of champions. Will you like to be a Divine Champion?

Exo. 3:1-10, Jud. 4:4-9, Jud. 6:11-14, I Sam. 17:32-37, I Kings 18:21-24, Dan. 3:14-18, Acts 5:12-14, Acts 6:5-8, I Cor. 15:41, Dan. 2: 17-23, Dan. 6: 1, Acts 6:8.

DIVINE CHAMPION PART 2

Text: Jeremiah 1:4-5

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that there are Divine champions and there are champions among champions. Today, as we continue our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. SOME ARE BORN CHAMPIONS. SOME BECAME CHAMPIONS
   There are some Divine champions that are born as champions. There are some that became champions through their achievements.
   Gen. 37:1-10, Exo. 2:1-10, I Kings 17:1, I Kings 18:17-18, I Sam. 16:11-13, II Sam. 23, I Sam. 22:1-2.

2. SOME HAD CHAMPIONSHIP THRUST ON THEM
   Some Divine champions seemed to have become champions by force. They had, as it were, championship thrust on them. Are you a champion? What kind?
   Gen. 12:1-3, Jos. 1 :1-8, I Kings 19:19, Est. 4:13-16, Luke 5:1-10.

DIVINE CHAMPION (Part 3)

Text: Psalm 27: 1

INTRODUCTION:

In our continuation of our series on Divine Champions, we will like to consider the advantages of being a Champion, why some people become Ex-Champions and the dangers of being an Ex-Champion. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen

1. IT PAYS TO BE A CHAMPION.
There are advantages in being a Champion. Some of these advantages are fame, friends, honour, special treatment and being sought' after.
I Sam. 3:19-20, Prov.14:20, II King 2:15, Acts 5:12-13, II Kings 2:19-22.

2. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE AN EX-CHAMPION.
The Bible is full of Ex-Champions. Some lost their championship because of incomplete obedience to the One who made them champions, some fear men more than God and some loved this world more than God's Kingdom. In every case, we see that it is a very dangerous thing to be an Ex-Champion.
I Sam. 15:19-24, Prov. 29:25, Psalm 27:1, Lk. 10:17, Acts 1 :16-17, Matt. 26:11-15, John 12:4-6, Col. 4:14, Philemon 23:24, II Tim. 4:10, II Tim. 2:4, I Jn. 2:15-17, Prov. 23:5, Jer. 45:5, I Sam. 18:6-8, I Sam. 16:13-14, I Sam. 17:49-51, Matt. 27:3-5.

EVANGELISM

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:

Evangelism is called the "Heart beat of God" because it means so much to God. It was the very purpose why He sacrificed His Son, - John 3:16. This being the case, every wise child of God ought to be zealously involved in Evangelism. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHY I WANT TO EVANGELISE

A child of God should want to evangelize willingly, relentlessly and zealously. Some of the reasons for this are obedience to the Master, longevity, standing in faith, answers to prayers, etc.

Matt. 28:18-20, Luke 13:6-9, John 15:2, John 15:16, Mk. 16:15-18, Eccl. 4:9-12, Prov. 11 :30, Dan. 12:3.

2. WHAT I NEED TO EVANGELISE

There are 3 basic needs for evangelism:

? Abiding in Christ

? Power and

? Prayers.

Jn. 15:5, Phil. 4:13, Phil. 4:19, Ps. 23:6, Acts 1:8, Zec. 4:6-7, James 4:2, Jn.14:14.

EVANGELISM (Part 2)

Text: Matthew 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we learnt that since Evangelism is the heartbeat of God, any wise Christian will take it seriously. May God bless us richly as we continue our study, Amen.

1. THERE ARE CATEGORIES OF SONS

   God has many children but they are in various categories. There are sons, sons in whom He is pleased, sons in whom He is well pleased, and sons who are also friends.

   Mat. 3:16-17, John 1:11-12, Mark 3:13-15, Mark 5:35-42, Matt. 17:1-9, Matt. 26:36-38, Phil. 3:10, Matt. 26:40-41, Exo. 17:8-13, John 15:15, Ps. 103:7, John 13:21-26.

2. MARK OF DISTINCTIONS

   How do we know to which category a particular son belongs? The secret is in a story the LORD Himself told us.

   Matt. 21:28-32, James 1:22-25, Prov. 10:5, Luke 15:10, Isa. 1:19, II Cor. 12:15, John 4:34.

EVANGELISM (Part 3)

Text: Matthew 15:10-11

INTRODUCTION:

We have learnt that Evangelism is the heartbeat of God. That God has many kinds of children and that those whom He calls *"beloved, in whom I* am *well-pleased"* are those who take Evangelism seriously. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. THE JOY OF A CHRISTIAN IS TO BE FOREVER FULL

   Since the joy of a Christian is rooted in the Lord and the Lord is constant, a Christian's joy is expected to be full, constant and forever.

   I Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:4, Heb. 13:8, John 16:24, Ps. 16:11, Neh. 8:10

2. SORROW IS A DANGER SIGNAL

   The joy of a Christian starts from the day of salvation and increases steadily as he shares Christ with others. But if a Christian backslides, particularly in the area of soul-winning, sorrow comes to warn him to repent soonest.

   Isa. 12:1-4, Luke 2:10-11, I Pet. 1:3-8, I Then. 2:19-20. l&*e, 15:7, Ps. 51:12, Matt. 26:69-75, II Cor. 7;10, Matt. 15:1-0·11, John 15:16.

EVANGELISM (Part 4)

Text: Exodus 1:7

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we saw that the joy of a Christian is embedded in the Lord and can be steadily increased as he or she wins more and more souls. Today, as we continue our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. TO MULTIPLY, YOUR FRUITS MUST BEAR FRUITS

   To be fruitful is to reproduce yourself. To increase is to make sure your fruits remain. To multiply is to get to the stage where your fruits begin to bear fruits too.

   Exo. 1 :7, Gen. 1 :11-12, Gen. 1 :20-25, John 15:16, Exo. 3:15, Gen. 26:12-13, Gen. 22:15-17, Gen. 46:27.

2. GOD LOVES INCREASE, BUT HE PREFERS MULTIPLICATION

   There are advantages in increase and multiplication. Some of these advantages are that God loves increase, but prefers multiplication; Also God hates barrenness seriously.

   Eccl. 4:7-12, Ps. 127:3-5, John 15:26, Matt. 25:14-28, John 15:2a, Luke 13:6-9.

EVANGELISM (Part 5)

Text: I Thessalonians 5:17

INTRODUCTION:

There is nothing a Christian can do successfully without Christ. Surely you cannot win a soul without the help of the only one- who can save. That is why prayer is crucial in Evangelism. May the LORD answer all our prayers today and every day in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. WHY PRAY AT ALL?

One of the first things a Christian, realizes early in his walk with God is that he has to depend solely on God if he is ever to achieve anything good. He needs an Ally who has all the powers to do all things, win all wars and supply all needs.

Jn. 15:5, Ps.121 :1-2, Ps. 62:11, Ps. 24:7-10, Jn. 14:14, Lk. 11:9-10, Jam. 4:2 .

2. PRAYER IS THE KEY

Prayer is the key to solving all and every problem that we may face as a Christian: be it salvation, sanctification, Holy Spirit baptism, healing, joy, and surely soul-winning.

Rom. 10:13, I Thess. 5:23, Lk. 11:11-13, I Pet. 2:24, Jn. 8:36, Dan. 2:1-24, I Chro. 4:9-10, Jn. 16:24, I Sam. 18:6-9, Mk. 1.0:46-52, I Sam. 1:19-20, Lk. 1 :37.

EVANGELISM (Part 6)

Text: Mark 12:18-33

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that prayer is an important key in soul winning. Today as we continue with our study, may the Almighty bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT
The most important commandment is to love God wholeheartedly. And you can demonstrate your love for God in various ways.

Jn. 3:16, Gen. 22:1-2,15-18, Mala. 1:6, Matt. 6:9, Prov. 3:9-10, Ps. 100:1-4, Ps. 108:1, Ps. 22:3, John 4:23-24, John 15:14.

2. THE ONLY OTHER IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT
The only other important commandment is to love your neighbour like yourself. These two commandments are really all that matter because others are based on them.

I John 14;20-21, Rom. 13:10, 2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 16:19-30

THE TRUE WORSHIP

(special Edition)

INTRODUCTION:

We should understand what it is to live in the temple of worship, performing every duty as to the Lord, most of our worship is mechanical in outward posture and routine, whereas we ought to worship the Father in the Spirit and Truth John. 4:24, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.

1. THE ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

   True and acceptable worship can only be done in the heart and mind of a regenerated believer, God can not accept the worship of an unsaved person.

   Philip 3:3, John 4:21-23, Acts, 10:4-6, I Cor. 2:14-16, I Cor. 1:18, II Cor. 3:14, Eph. 4:18, Heb. 5:14, Rev. 14:7, I Chr. 16:29, Psalm 96:9, Matt. 4:10.

2. THE MODE OF TRUE WORSHIP

   Jesus Christ should be our hearts' love and praise in our worship. Believers should be conscious of what Christ did, remembrance of His atoning sacrifice, resurrection, ascention and His Priestly intercession should fill believers heart, the flesh should not be allowed to mar the sacred moments of spiritual worship.

   I Cor. 1:29-31, I Pet. 2:9, Ps. 9:11, Heb. 13:15, Isa. 42:12, Rom. 8:1-2.5-6, I Cor. 6:15, I John 2:16.

OUR THOUGHTS AND THE GOD OF PEACE

INTRODUCTION:

The thoughts lay wires which presently convey the message, as you think so you are almost without knowing it. In this study we are going to talk on two aspects: (1) The importance of our thoughts and (2) Secret of the indwelling presence of the God of Peace, May the Lord bless us richly as we study at his feet in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

1. IMPORTANCE OF OUR THOUGHTS

To bring the blessed dove to brood in the nest of our souls, our thoughts must be right. Though it is important because it has a reflex effect upon the whole character and because we naturally pursue our ideals.

Phi. 4:7-8, Acts 8:19-21, Prov. 4:23, Rev. 3:20, Luke 22:3-15, Prov. 23:79, I Chron. 22:19, Prov. 12:15, Prov. 15:28, lsa. 56:6, Matt. 15:19-20, I Cor. 6:19-20, Rom. 1:28-30.

2. THE SECRET OF THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE GOD OF PEACE

Allow the Six Angels i.e Truth, Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely, and good report to come into your soul. Give the entire control of your nature up their serene. God abides where the heart is kept free from evil thoughts.

Philip. 4:8, Prov. 12:19, Mal. 2:6, Deut. 25:15, Rom. 12:17, Col. 4:1-3, Deut. 16:20, Ps. 24:3-4, Matt. 5:8, Heb.13:1-3, Rom. 12:10, Heb. 11:1-2.

THE PILGRIM'S ROAD SIGN

INTRODUCTION:

We must always remember that we are just pilgrims on this land, we are only passing through as we move towards home. In this study we want to study the Spiritual High Way Code, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. SPIRITUAL HIGH-WAY CODE

Worldliness should be avoided because everything in this world is designed to side track us from our ultimate goal. Always stay in direct communication with your guide the Holy Spirit. Keep looking unto Jesus and study your spiritual high-way code.

I Pet. 2:11-17; Ps. 39:12, I John 2:15-17, Matt. 4:8, James 4:4, 2 Pet. 1:4; John 16:13; Eph. 4:30; Isaiah 1:19; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:9; Acts 4:31; I Kings 13:8,14, I Cor. 10:12; Matt. 14:30; Heb. 12:2; 2 Tim. 3:16; Ps. 119:11, Ps. 107:20; Exodus 33:!4.

MOVING IN GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

When God is not moving according to our time schedule, we decide that we better do something to get things going: Only to end up creating many problems. In this study we want to see the danger of not waiting for God's time. May he Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. THE DANGER OF NOT WAITING FOR GOD'S TIME

Seed shall become slave, and Children from the wrong wives, taking the wrong decision which is contrary to God's will. God will choose another person and very soon God will be rejected.

Genesis 15:13-14; Gen. 21:10-12, I Sam. 13:12; I Sam. 13:8-13, I Sam. 8:5-7; Ecc. 3:1-8; Isaiah 49:8; 2 Corint. 6:2; Rom. 13:11, Ephes. 5:14-16; Isaiah 40:31; Ps. 37:5-7

THE DANGER OF FALLING INTO SIN

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

It is far worse to sin after receiving Christ's Salvation, than to sin before knowing the Power of God to deliver us from sin. In this study we shall talk on (1) The Causes of Sin (2) The inevitable punishment of sin. May the Lord teach us as we study at his feet in Jesus mighty Name. (Amen).

1. THE CAUSES OF SIN

Through the tempter i.e. The Devil, pride leads to disobedience, satan- standing against you, lack of knowledge about what is called sin.

I Chron. 21:1-14, II Cor. 11:3, Gen. 3:4, Matt.4:3, Prov. 13:10, Prov. 11:2, I John 2:16, Zech.13:1, John 13:2, 1Peter 5:8, Hosea 4:5, II Cor. 2:11, Isaiah 50:8, Rom. 10:3, Eph. 4:18.

2. THE INEVITABLE PUNISHMENT OF SIN

God punishes sin whether it is in the King, his most anointed or the poorest servant. Because God uses you does not mean God will permit you to sin. When one backslides, he often has to pay very dearly for his sin, even though he repents.

Rom. 6:23, James 1 :15, Acts10:34-35, Ez. 33:13-15, Matt. 7:21, Joshua 7:24-25, II Kings 5:26-27, II Sam. 12:7 -10

TIME

Text: Eccl. 3:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

Time is the most precious talent ever given to you and because it waits for no man, we must try to use it, for it will never com back after wastage. We pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us as we study at His Feet in Jesus Name.

THE MEANING OF TIME

The best definition that can be given to time is what you do with your time.

Luke 16:1-3; Psalm 89:47, Hos. 10:12; Rom. 13:11, I Cor. 7:39, II Cor. 6:2; Rev. 1:3, Rev. 10:6.

THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

The story of Naboth as recorded in 1 Kings21 :1-13 is the story of a young Jezrelite who lived during the reign of King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel. It is not a super story but a biblical insight and truth, which every believer has one or two things to learn from. I encourage you to pay close attention to the study as the Holy Spirit of God will give you an understanding in Jesus name.

1. A REACTION TO EVERY ACTION:

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

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

2. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

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

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

THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

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

1. IN THE PALACE YET DISCONTENTED:

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

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

2. WATCH THE STRANGE VOICE:

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

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

THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:

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

1. REGARDLESS OF YOUR LOCATION; BE DISTINCT:

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

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

2. QUALITY AND THEN QUANTITY:

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

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

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION:

One of the visions the Lord gave us is to possess the land for Him. In this study we want to consider one of the best ways of achieving this- Personal Evangelism. Evangelism is to be the preoccupation of every believer. I encourage you not to miss any of this study. May the Holy Spirit kindle the fire of evangelism in you as we study in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS EVANGELISM?:

   The word Evangelism has a Greek root which means "announcing the gospel". The gospel itself means "good news". Evangelism could therefore mean "announcing the good news". The gospel is simply the message that Jesus, born of a Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, died on the cross and rose again. Faith in Him will enable a sinner to be a saint. The good news is not to be merely heard but acted upon.

   Luke 2:10-11, Mt. 1:18, Mt. 2:1, Mt. 27:31-37, Mt. 28:5-6, Jn. 3:16, Is. 9:6, Rom 10:9, Jn.1 :12, Acts 2: 36-37, 2 Cor. 2:15-16.

2. YOU'RE INVOLVED IN IT:

   The expectation of the Scriptures is that every believer, once you have an encounter with Jesus is to be involved in the proclamation in the good news. Jesus gave the command to all the disciples and in the New Testament days, every one was involved. Every believer should be involved in taking the good news to those who needed to hear it. It is not only a minister or a clergy that should be left to it.

   Mt. 28:19, Jn 5:15, Jn. 4:28-30, Mk.16:15, Acts 2:47b, Acts 9:9b-10.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: In spite of the fact that every believer is to be involved in this task, few of us are involved; what possible factors are responsible for this?

PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this study, we considered the meaning of Evangelism and the need for every believer to be involved in announcing the good news. Did you personally tell somebody about the Saviour between last week and now? I encourage you to be involved in this divine assignment now. May you not be replaced in Jesus name. May His fire put you to evangelise to others as we study in Jesus name.

1. PASSION FOR SOULS:

Our involvement in Evangelism should go beyond resolutions because of the consequences of not witnessing. There is a need for us to develop a genuine passion for souls. Passion refers to emotions felt and it is the grief we feel in our hearts for people who are suffering. The soul of a person is worth a lot and the nature of God is in our soul. Obedience serves as fuel that makes an individual develop a passion for perishing souls and you need to also develop an eye that sees the crowd. You equally need to sustain the passion for these perishing souls and the key requirements to sustain it will include: Prayer and see the people in the light of God's word. Mt. 9:26, Lk 23:26, Mt. 9:36, Eph. 1:18, 2 Cor. 5:16, 2 Cor. 4:3, Eph. 6:19, Mt. 15:8.

2. EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM AND THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The good news is not to be merely heard but acted upon; the Holy Spirit however plays an important role in this process. The presentation is done by man, the Holy Spirit empowers the word; and the more reason the early apostles did not rush into presenting the gospel the moment they received the great commission, they remain until they were endued with power.

Acts 2:23, Joel 2:20, Acts 1 :8, Acts 4:29-31.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:

In the second part of this series, we considered the relevance of passion for souls in personal evangelism; we reminded ourselves on the things to do to sustain and develop passion for souls. In our study tonight, we will be considering method to be used in informal evangelism. May His Spirit teach us in Jesus name.

1. METHOD OF INFORMAL EVANGELISM: Jn. 4:4-42

An unscheduled and unplanned setting in witnessing is referred to as informal evangelism. Often, opportunities of presenting the gospel come in our daily relationship with people; these people could be our relatives, neighbours and work place colleagues and they could be people we come across as we carry out our daily activities.

Considering an encounter of a woman with Jesus in John 4:4-42; this could be the method to adopt: A need to be in touch with unbelievers, learning to get it started, readiness to change the subject. Be prepared to make a claim for Jesus and don't forget to deal with the subject of sin.

Prepare for distraction and be ready to deal with it, present Jesus, give a challenge and give assurance.

1 Pet. 3:15, 2 Tim. 4:2a, 1 Pet. 3:15, Mt. 5:14-15, Lk 5:29,31, Jn. 4:4-7, 2 Cor. 6:14, 1 Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:15, Rm. 3:23, 1 Pet. 3:15, Rm. 6:23, Rm 5:8, 1 Jn. 1:8-10, 1 Jn 1:7, Jn 1:12, Rev. 3:20, Acts 2:37, 16:30, Pro. 28:13, 1 Jn. 1 :9, Acts 2:38.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Part 4)

INTRODUCTION:

We have examined a method of personal evangelism that was perfected by Jesus Christ, through which we can regularly share our faith. The method is rather informal. When personal evangelism is organised or planned, the presentation has to be formal and this is what we will be considering in the last part of our study today, may you receive a crown from Him in the last day as you become a soul winner in Jesus name.

1. NON-VERBAL PERSONAL EVANGELISM:

   This will include witnessing through letter writing, video and film shows, booklets and tract distributions.

   The written word has tremendous power and the distribution of the evangelistic message in the form of tracts or booklets is a very effective evangelistic strategy. These materials should be distributed carefully; with decorum that befits the Word of God, preceded with prayers and asking the Lord to empower the tracts through the Holy Spirit. Encourage the receiver to read the materials and once they are given, prayers should be focused to those that received them to read and for it to impact them. Prayers should be centred on finding a good church, people who will follow and disciple readers that decide to follow Christ. Acts 8:35, Rom.1:16, 1Pet. 4:11

2. VERBAL PERSONAL EVANGELISM:

   This is best done in pairs. Those involved should note the following: prayerfully choose a theme, should be neatly and decently dressed, be courteous, present the good news in a language you will be comfortable and do a follow up.

   Lk 10:1-24.

GOD'S OWN FAMILY

INTRODUCTION:

You become a part of your human family by your first birth but you can only become a member of God's family by the second birth. God created man by His power but not every one is a child of God. (Mt.12:50). In this month of "New Identity", we will be considering God's own Family, ensure you don't miss any part as the Lord will bless you richly.

1. FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY:

One of the purposes, the Lord made man is to be part of His family. He is a God of love, He treasures relationships. He does not only desire a family, He needs it. Even though, you were formed for God's family, the only way to get into His family is by being born again into it. Your faith in Christ gives you a condition to be part of it. Eph 1:5, Gen. 2:18, 3:8, Mk 3:14, John. 1:12, 1Pet. 1:3, Gal. 3:26.

2. BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF GOD'S FAMILY:

The moment one is spiritually born into God's family, he has some astounding birthday gifts and these will include- The family Name, Privileges, Likeness, Intimate access and Inheritance.

As he grows in this family, he gets a share in family fortune. Here on earth, he receives "the riches of His grace ... kindness, patience, glory, power and mercy".

Even though in eternity he has the inheritance of getting to be with God, being completely changed to be like Christ, being freed from all pain, death and suffering, receiving a reward and being assigned position of service and having a share in Christ's glory.

GOD'S OWN FAMILY

1John 3:1, Gal. 4:6-7, Rom. 8:29, 5:2, 8:17, Eph. 1:7, Rom. 2:4, 9:23,11:33, Eph. 3:16, 2:4, 1Thes. 5:10, 4:17, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rev. 21 :4, Mk. 9:41, 1 Cor. 3:8, Col. 3:4, 2 Thes. 2:14.

3. IDENTIFYING WITH GOD'S FAMILY:
Healthy family has family pride; members are not ashamed to be recognized as a part of the family. Equally believers are to be publicly identified with their spiritual family.
A way to be identified with His family as commanded by Christ is to be baptized by immersion.
Water baptism for a believer is not optional and it is not to be delayed. It declares your faith in Christ, shares Christ burial and resurrection, it symbolizes death to your old life, announces your new life in Him and even your inclusion in God's family.
Mt. 28:19, Acts 2:41, 8,16,33,2:38, Mk. 16:16, John 3:5, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, Col. 2:12.

GOD'S OWN FAMILY (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

In our previous study, we were able to see that God does not only desire a relationship but He needs it and that one of the best ways to be identified with His family is water immersion (Baptism). As we go into the second part today, I pray the Holy Spirit will give you an understanding in Jesus name. Amen.

1. CALL TO BELONG:

Every believer is called to belong, not just to believe. There are no solitary saints in the Lord, we are created for community. We are put and joined together; we are connected to other believers. The church is the member of His body. However, being a member of the church means being a vital organ of a living body. You were created for a specific role. But this role can only-be achieved if you are attracted to a living local church. Your discovery comes through your relationships with others. The church is in-destructive, it will exist for eternity and it is God's agenda for the world.

Eph. 2:19, Lk. 5:10, Lk. 10:1, Gen. 2:18, 1 Cor. 12:12, Eph. 2:21-22,4:16,12:4-5, 1 Cor. 6:15, Mt. 16:18, Eph. 5:27.

2. LOVE, IN SPITE OF IMPERFECTIONS:

The moment you belong to the church, there's a high expectation but soon after, the expectation are not met, discouragement sets in and a seed of wanting not to belong to again begins to germinate. The church of old had their own imperfections and so don't expect absolute perfection; every church has its own weaknesses and problems. Divorcing your church at the first sign of disappointment might be a mark of immaturity. God has things. He wants to teach you. In spite of the imperfection; love. Acts 14:1-2, 5:1-10, 6:1, 1Cor 1:11, Eph. 4:2-3, Col. 3:14, 1 Pet. 2:17.

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL Part 1

INTRODUCTION:

For revival in the body of Christ to be real, it has to start from an individual. We must personally be ready for revival and renewal; it is this personal revival that will give birth to spiritual vision and according to the testimony of the Bible "Where there is no vision, the people perish". If the people of our own generation are not to perish and if the Church must be militant, then we must be ready to maintain a life of constant spiritual revival. May the Holy Spirit fire us for genuine personal revival as we study at His feet in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS REVIVAL?

   The dictionary defines revival as the process of bringing something back into existence while renewal is said to mean giving new strength or energy to something. Revival in this context means divine visitation to a people which brings them from a state of spiritual apathy to a renewed and more active attention to righteousness, a powerful and widespread outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a people, God's visitation that brings changes in the spiritual and moral climate of a community; we are talking of an individual bringing back his spiritual life and receiving new strength for the master's service. Charles G. Finney, one of the greatest revivalist and evangelist once said that when he discovered that the power of God upon him was fading, he would go to the bush for a whole day to pray until the lost anointing returned. Katherine Khulmah said there is nothing as terrible in the life of a man who once had the power of God upon him but later lost it

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL Part 1

Ps. 85:1-13, Hab. 3:1-2, Ezek 37:7,8, Mt 26:75,. Mt 25:5, Jud. 16:20,28, 1 Sam. 16: 14, Jonah 3:4-10, 1Kings 18:31-39, Joel 2:28, 2 Kings 23:4-20.

2. MARKS OF SPIRITUAL DECAY

When a believer begins to experience formality and insensitivity to the voice of the Spirit the following will characterise his life:

1. A mechanical spiritual life. He may still be engaged in activities but all will be in human strength. Jud. 16: 20b
2. Unprofitable, uninteresting quiet time 1 Sam. 28:6
3. Carnality in personal lifestyle 2 Tim. 4: 10
4. Loss of brotherly love and Christian confidence
5. Dissensions, jealousies and evil speaking 1 Cor. 3:3-5
6. Slothfulness in prayer Lk 18: 1

Conclusion: Consider who you were in the Lord when you started and measure it with where you are now, why not rise from slothfulness?

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this study, we tried defining revival and marks of spiritual decay. As we continue in the study today, I pray the Spirit of the Almighty God will awaken us from every act of slumbering.

1. ERRORS CONCERNING PERSONAL REVIVAL: Ezekiel 37:7, 8 There was no life in the dry bones until breath of life came on them. The bones experienced a coming together, noise and rattling but these were not to mistaken for true life. Equally the noise of singing and clapping, shaking of dancing and drumming, coming together in fellowship in a local Church is not to be be mistaken for personal revival. The sin and flesh may come upon the dry spiritual life, yet the "skin" may cover it up. There is no revival without the breath of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 3:1 ; 5:1-8).

2. THE PRICE FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL:
True personal revival comes from God through the Holy Spirit and the effects of a personal revival is response to fervent prayer of faith, spiritual refreshing like the morning dew, vision for missions, power for service, genuine repentance and conversion. God is still in perpetual search for a man whom He would put His Spirit so he can experience revival and help others to be revived. There is, however, a price to pay; which includes among others: Self denial, renewed consecration and fervent prayer with necessary confessions and restitution.

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL (Part 2)

Ezk. 3,1:9.10, Psalm 85:6, Acts 8:4; 5:12·16, Ezk. 22:29-30, Mt.16:24, Romans 12:1,2.

CONCLUSION: Many are presently in the state of spiritual decay but this is not God's will for you. Are you ready to pay the price for true personal revival? God wants you to be the; instrument with which He will revive His work at this end time; if others have paid the price, you can also do it.

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL (Part 3)

Text: Hosea 10:12

INTRODUCTION:

In the second part of this study, we considered errors concerning personal revival and the price for personal revival. . We need to remind ourselves of the fact that Christ second coming is imminent and He will only come for a revived Church. As we go into the third part today; pay close attention as I trust the Holy Spirit to give you an understanding of His word.

PRAYER AND REVIVAL:

Matthew Henry said, 'when God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is to set them praying", Acts 1: 12-14. Successful prayers that will bring revival must have the following:

(1) A vision for the need Ezk. 37: 1·3, Neh 1:1·3, Ps. 51:18, Ezra 9:6

(2) React to the need Neh. 1:4, Psalm 126:5-6, Jer3-7; this may include planning special days of personal and corporate prayers, sanctifying periods of fasting.

(3) Intercede for the need. Ezk. 37:4-10, Neh 1:4-5, 11, Acts 4:23-24,31-33. There is a need for intercessors to identify with their nation, community or church in admitting and confessing the wrongs done (Daniel 9: 4-14), and praying whole heartedly for divine intervention.

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND REVIVAL (Part 4)

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we considered the role of prayer in revival. As we continue in the study today, I encourage you to make yourself available for the end time revival. Remain blessed as we study at His feet in Jesus name.

PURITY AND REVIVAL

"Break up your fallow grounds" is heart preparation for revival. The apostles sank their differences, confessed their indignations one to another and became united before revival came. Acts 2:1,11.

God promised revival on condition that His people shall "humble themselves ...." 2 Chr. 7:14. Before you can therefore pray for revival your heart must be humble and contrite before God.
2 Chr. 34:1; 2; 27; 2Kings 23:4-20; Isaiah 6:5-8.

To expect answers to revival prayers:

1. Idols must not be allowed in our hearts Ezk 14:3
2. All unforgiving spirit must be expunged Mt 18:21-35
3. Strained relationship must be amended 1 Pet. 3:7
4. Impure motives must be dealt with James 4:2
5. All unconfessed sins and restitutions must be dealt with.

CONCLUSION: To expect revival, God commands us to draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.
Heb.10:22

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

Growth is desired in every realm of human endeavour as it symbolises progress and self fulfilment. Life becomes static and retrogressive without growth. Spiritually; we need growth, we need to cease from being a baby Christian. As we start a study on Spiritual Growth today, I earnestly pray the God of growth will cause you to grow in Him in Jesus name.

1. THE ENEMY OF GROWTH:

God is the Author of growth, Jesus worked in concert with His Father, He did not only expect growth from us, He frowns at stagnancy but growth has an enemy - SICKNESS. It is health that brings growth; healthy living is only achievable when sicknesses have been tackled from the roots. Sin defiles, it corrupts and it's hazardous towards healthy living. What can therefore bring Spiritual healing from God is acknowledgement of spiritual defilement and consequent self purging. Gen. 1:28, Mt. 13:31-33, Mt. 25:19-21; 26-30, Is. 1 :6-8, 1Sam. 15:26, 2Kings 5:27, Is. 1 :16-18, Is. 55:6-7, 2 Pet. 3:18.

2. THE NEED FOR CLEANSING:

God desires a fellowship with man but this could not be made possible without being cleansed from sin. Failure to cleanse ourselves separates us from both temporal and eternal blessings. God hates sin and sin attracts the judgement of God when it is not purged. God will not use a corrupt instrument to accomplish His purpose; cleansing will however restore a broken fellowship.

Heb. 1:13, Rm. 3:23, Ezk. 18:4, Rm. 6:23, Is. 59:1, 2, 1 Cor. 6:9,10, Rev. 21:8, Josh. 1:1,5, Is. 52: 11.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 1)

3. THE CONDITION AND POWER FOR CLEANSING: Man-made efforts cannot effect cleansing, only God has the power to cleanse after all necessary conditions are met. He is the only one who has the power to turn a sinner to a saint. Christ death and sacrifice was for cleansing of sins and iniquity, His shed blood can turn a sinner a saint.

   Recognition of your Spiritual condition and taking appropriate steps to rectify it brings about Spiritual healing. A sinner needs to acknowledge, repent, confess, forsake, believe and receive Him. A desire and thirst for cleansing must be there.

   Is. 64:6, Is. 1:10-15, Is. 1 :16-18, 55:6-8, Ez. 36:25-27, 15.53:4-5, Heb. 9:22, Jn 1:12, 1 Sam. 7:3-4, Ps. 51:2,7, Ps. 79:9, Rm. 3:23, Lk. 18:13, Acts 3:19, Lk. 13:3, 1 Jn. 1 :19, Pro. 28:13, Jn. 3;16, 2 Cor. 5:21, Jn. 1:11-12, Eph. 2:8

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of our study, we considered an enemy of growth, a need for cleansing and the conditions for cleansing. As we go into the second part today, will you say there has been a measure of Spiritual growth in your life between last week and now? May you not remain in the same level as we progress in our study in Jesus name.

1. SPIRITUAL HEALTH AND GROWTH:

A child whose growth had been retarded is expected to experience rapid growth after the problem militating against growth had been removed. Equally Spiritual health is attained after cleansing. God expects us to grow in Fruitfulness into Christ, in Love, unto Perfection, in holiness, through "The Word", in grace, and the knowledge of Christ but the Spiritual law of growth is predicated on being attached to Christ.

2 Chr. 7:14, 2 Peter 3:18, Jer. 3:22, 33:6-11, Mt. 5:48, 2 Cor. 9:10, Eph. 4:,15, 1Thes. 3:12, Heb. 6:1, 1 Pet. 2:2, John 15:5

2. THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Every child of God must realize and appreciate the need to grow as growth is an evidence of freshness of Christ in the believer. To show the praises of God and be approved by Him, we must grow until we are conformed to the nature of Christ. Among the things that Spiritual growth will help to do are:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 2)

1. Mature and be adequately equipped for your ministry,
2. Prevent boredom, confusion and dissatisfaction in our lives.
3. Be approved of God, a workman rightly dividing the word of truth.
4. Have desired impact in winning souls and maturing believers.
5. Be good examples to members of our church and thereby encourage them to grow.
6. Experience a fulfilled ministry.

1Cor. 13:11, 1Pet. 2:2, 2Tim.2:15, 1 Pet. 2:9, Rom. 8:29, 1Tim. 4:12, 2Tim. 4:5-7

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study, we considered the need for Spiritual growth. In the study today we want to look at one of the essentials of growth. May you receive a heart of understanding in Jesus Mighty name.

1. DEVOTIONAL STUDIES: ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH

Just as children cannot grow without physical food, so also Christians cannot grow without spiritual food (the word of God). We must therefore study and meditate on the Scriptures daily in order to experience continuous growth in our lives. For real fellowship and intimacy with God, we need a quiet place, a good Bible, an aid for studying the Bible, a notebook and a pen. After reading and studying the passage, take note of important lessons, new knowledge about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, any mistakes to avoid, commands to obey, warning to heed and promises to claim and then pray on all the points. Apart from the regular devotional time in the morning and evening, sometime should be set apart each day to study the word of God.

1 Peter 2:2, Joshua 1 :8, 2 Timothy 2:15

2. THE 3DS FOR EFFECTIVE DEVOTIONAL STUDY

A life of discipline, diligence and determination is needed in order to grow continuously spiritually. God has given every Christian the grace to grow spiritually. Every believer must desire to grow in order to continue to enjoy intimacy with God and have a fulfilled Ministry. 1 Cor. 9:27, Prov. 10:4; 12:24, 22:29, Acts 20:22-24, 1 Cor. 2:2.

SUSTAINING YOUR NEXT LEVEL (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

Truly, God has brought us to a new level. Many in time past had been brought to an experience of the next level but could not sustain it. In our study today, we would be considering Dt. 34:1-7 and from it we will bring out power to sustain your next level. I pray this will not be a level that will lead to your death in Jesus name.

1. GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF MAN:
Moses had walked with God faithfully before now, several miracles were performed through him but yet God's way of holiness was not compromised. "Longevity" is not God's way of keeping His promise.
Exodus 3: 1-10, 14:21;17: 6;24:15-18; Lev. 20:7, Lk1:74-75, 2 Pet. 3:11, Acts 10:34-35, 2 Chr.19:7, Col. 3:25, Ezk. 18:4.

2. ANGER: BANE OF DESTINY:
Moses had an internal adversary called anger. This robbed him of remaining at the next level. Anger can make you see the next level of blessing so close yet it will refuse you having it. To handle anger; don't let your emotion pile up until the day it will explode, submit your temperament to God. Ask daily for His help. When you come to a volatile situation, leave that scene immediately and totally blank your mind on the issue. Change the subject. Think on something else. Take time to pray in the Spirit. Make time to talk things over with the person. Ex. 2: 11-12, Ex. 34:19-20, Num. 20: 8-12, Eccl. 7:9, Pro. 37:8,16:32, James 1:19

SUSTAINING YOUR NEXT LEVEL (Part 2)

Deut. 34: 1-6

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we considered an internal enemy that could hinder a man getting to the next level. Our God is no respecter of any man, if you keep by His rule; He is determined to take you to the next level. As we continue in the study today, may you receive an understanding to His word in Jesus' name.

1. GOD IS CONSTANTLY FAITHFUL:

God is constantly committed to His word. Though Moses gave room for anger which led to his disobedience but in man's unfaithfulness, God will remain faithful. He is committed to every of His promise in your life. His words could absolutely be trusted, they are written for a purpose, they are to be kept and studied.

Dt. 34:4, Dt. 7:9, 1 Kings 8:56, Heb. 6:18

2. DO IT GOD'S WAY:

Considering Moses commitment to the Father's work; one would wonder why he should receive such a great punishment for his action. One important thing He is teaching us is that it is His business and He wants it done in His way and in His own method. He has different method of solving similar problem; He has new ways of doing things.

SUSTAINING YOUR NEXT LEVEL (Part 3)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

We have considered four basic things in this study so far; God is no respecter of any man, Anger: Bane of destiny, God is constantly faithful and Doing it in God's way. As we round up the study today, may the lord enrich you.

1. HARD WORK: SECRET OF NEXT LEVEL

It is surprising to note that father Moses at the age of 120 could still go to mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah. He worked to the point of death, even though he was not able to physically get to the Promised land but that he could see it a far off was a new level to him. The next level to an idle man is poverty and shame.

Ex. 3:1, Ex. 17:9-12, Ex. 18: 13, Pr. 22:29, Pr.12:24, Jn. 5:17, 2 Pet. 3:14, Pr. 19:15, Zech 11:17.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of this series, we will consider God kind of love and that love is very fundamental in our relationship with Him. As we continue with this series. May the Holy Spirit give you an understanding in Jesus name.

1. SCRIPTURAL LOVE:
The scriptural love that can sustain the Christian life is not erotic love (EROS), nor likeness (PHILEO), but love by faith (AGAPE). It is God's kind of love.

It is the love that seeks the welfare of all, and works no ill. It seeks opportunity to do good to all, especially those of the household of faith. You have to love fervently, with a pure heart and as brethren.
1 Cor. 13:1-8, Rom. 15:2, Rom. 13:8-10, Gal. 6:10, 1 Pet. 1:22, 1 Pet. 3:8.

2. THE PREREQUISITES SCRIPTURAL LOVE:
The natural man cannot love in God's way. Newness life in Christ, purity of life and walking in the Spirit are the basic prerequisite for scriptural love.
II Cor. 5:17, 1 Jn. 4:7-8, 16, Dt. 30:6, 1 Tim. 1:5, Rom. 8:5-8, Gal. 5:16-22.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

Christ's unparalleled teaching and exemplary life centre on forgiveness and love. These two form the major building block of Christian faith and practice. God has set the example of true and genuine forgiveness by forgiving us our sins, when we come to Him in repentance. As Christ has done, He commands believers to follow in His steps.

1. CONFIRMATION OF SCRIPTURES CONCERNING OFFENCES / HURTS

It is abundantly stated in the Scriptures that believers can offend one another even while living right in the sight of God. Some of our actions that may not come under God's condemnation may become offence to some in God's household. Some offences come when there's

1. Lack of consideration for one another
2. Continuous contention without complete knowledge
3. Careless and unguarded speeches

When we are thus offended, what must we do?

Mt.18:15,1 Cor. 6:1, Eph.4:32, Lk 17:3-5. Mt. 20:24, James3:2

2. CHRIST'S COMMAND TO THE OFFENDED

What brings joy, favour and continuity to our Christian relationship is the opportunity to experience the grace of forgiveness from Christ and also the grace to do same to those who might have offended us.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 2)

Christ has established for us scriptural principles for treating offending brethren. These principles must be carried out in the attitude and in an atmosphere of prayer, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Mt. 5:39-46, Mt. 6:12,14,15, 18:21-22, Lk 6:35-37, Rom. 12:14, 17,19-21, Mk. 11 :25-26, Eph. 4:3.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we considered confirmation of scriptures concerning offences and Christ's command to the offended. We will continue in this study today and I pray the Almighty God will give you an understanding heart in Jesus name.

1. CASES OF COMPLETE FORGIVENESS AND LOVE TOWARDS THE OFFENDER
   (a) JOSEPH forgave his brethren Gen.45:5-15; 50:19-21
   (b) MOSES forgave the Israelites Ex. 32:4-14,31-34
   (b) DAVID forgave Saul 1 Sam. 24:1-22; 2 Sam. 9:1-13
   (c) SOLOMON forgave Adonijah. 1Kings 1 :41-53
   (d) The PROPHET forgave Jeroboam. 1 Kings 13:1-6
   (e) STEPHEN forgave his persecutors Acts 7:54-60.
   (f) JESUS forgave his enemies Luke 23:34

2. EVIDENCE OF ABSOLUTE FORGIVENESS
   There should be clear evidence of absolute forgiveness and love towards the offender as demonstrated by the following:
   1. Records of wrong doing should not be kept. Jer. 31 :34
   2. Intercede for the offender to prevent God's judgement.
      Num.12:1-13.
   3. Restore withdrawn privileges and relationship. Prov 24:17, 29
   4. Not rendering evil for evil.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 4)

INTRODUCTION:

From past studies, we have learnt that Love is the foundation of our Christian faith and Christian homes. The word of God says "For God so love the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Whenever this Christian treasure is manifested in the home and in the church, Christ is exalted and God glorified, and the brethren are fulfilled in their Christian calling.

IMPEDIMENTS TO LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOME AND IN THE CHURCH.

(A) IN THE HOME.

- Lack of sacrificial love, mutual trust and understanding between the couple. Eph. 5:25,22,33; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 3:1-12.
- Failure to keep to God's established standard for the home i.e. wife's submission to the husband; selfless love to the wife at all times. Ph. 2:4, Eph.5:22-33.
- Lack of respect and honour for one another. 1 Peter 3:1-9
- Unholy, sinful behaviour- bitterness, rudeness, selfishness, adultery, unclean language. Col. 3:18,19, Eph. 4:31,32.
- Unkind, criticism, impatience, nagging, lack of appreciation and consideration for others. 1 Cor. 7:32-34.
- Infiltration of third party, in-laws, relations. Gen. 2:24.
- Failure of husband in providing for the family. 1 Tim.5:8.
- Prayerlessness and failure to live by God's word. Mat.18:19.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 4)

- Unseen forces. Gen. 3:1-12, Luke 22:1-6

(B) IN THE CHURCH

- Gossiping, backbiting, tale bearing and spreading bad news about other brethren. Rom. 1 :28-32.
- Unkind criticism, lack of love and consideration for the suffering and the afflicted. Titus 3:2, Provo 22:13
- Using personal secret revealed to the minister in preaching topic, illustrations and examples.
- Lack of Bible based hospitality and brotherly affection. False doctrine and failure to keep to the established truth. Mt. 7:15,
- Sin. Eph.5:11,12.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 5)

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this study, we considered impediments to love and fellowship in the home and in the Church. We will be rounding up this study today; we encourage you to ensure you do everything possible to promote love both in the Church and at home.

1. REQUIREMENTS OF LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOME AND IN THE CHURCH

There are basic factors that could create an atmosphere of love and fellowship in the home and in the Church. These are:

(a) Keeping Christ in the centre: The secret of true love and fellowship is union with Christ and total submission to His will. Psalm 27:1, Proverbs 3:6.

(b) Complete obedience to God's commandment. Ps. 119: 1-3, 10-12, 16, 140; Jn. 14: 23,24; Acts 2:42.

(c) Corporate and individual prayers affect love and fellowship. Prayers keep brethren in unity but it has to be from a clean heart. Mt.18:19, Acts 4:23-32.

(d) Sacrificial giving, sharing and affection for one another. Love is not possessive but shares with the needy. Attendance of house fellowship, finding time for one another and staying together will be important. Acts 21 :41-47, Acts 4:32-35, Jn. 3:16-18.

(e) Partnership Evangelism. It creates an atmosphere of love and friendship among members of the same team Lk. 10:1, Mk.6:7,12; Acts13:1-4.

JOSHUA'S GENERATION: ONE THAT IS NOT AFRAID OF CHALLENGE

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

God encouraged Joshua in the challenges of life and ministry. II Cor.3:5, Phi. 4:13, Isa. 30:6. Moses generation is gone, we are in the generation of Joshua which means "Jehovah is salvation". (The same meaning of Jesus). Matt. 1 :21

1. GOD'S MESSAGES OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO JOSHUA

He will be no slave to anyone and he will possess his possession and that God will be for him, He was unstoppable Joshua 1:3, Isa. 54: 17. Deut. 28:13, Obadiah 1:17, Rom. 8:31, Matt. 1 :23, II Cor. 10:3-5.

ii) God will expand his coast, and he will recover all the blessing God has slated for him because God will give him victory Jos. 1 :4-5, I Sam. 30:8, Rom. 8:7 -9, Gen. 12: 1-3.

iii) God told Joshua to be strong and of good courage. You cannot face the challenges of this generation, if you are fearful. Fear God and your enemies will fear you. Joshua 1 :6-7, Psalm 27;1-3, I Sam. 17:45-48, Psalm 119:63, Matt. 10:28, Psalm 23:4, Ecc. 1:12-13.

2. THE THINGS JOSHUA DID TO FACE THE CHALLENGES

i). He meditates in the word of God day and night, by doing this he will avoid spiritual dryness and be approved of God. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1;1-3, II Tim. 2:15, Phil. 3:10, Daniel 11 :32, John 17: 17, I Thess. 4: 13.

ii). He humble himself for the grace of God to abound. By this we must pray, because we need the grace to face the challenges to equip us for the race set before.

JOSHUA'S GENERATION: ONE THAT IS NOT AFRAID OF CHALLENGE

Text: Joshua 1:5

In order for us to have the shock absorber to face mountain confronting us, we should be able to perform up to the expectation God required from us. I Peter 5:5, I Cor. 15:10, Heb. 4:16, Zech. 4:7, Luke 18:1, I Thess 5:17.

CHALLENGES OF THIS GENERATION

A) There is a lot of crimes in our society or in this generation that shows this is the end time. To help the situation as Joshua generation. We must reach the unreached with the gospel of Christ. Truly the field is ripe for harvest and failure to preach shows we are selfish II Tim. 3:1-5 Jeremiah 8:20, I Cor. 9:16, II kings 7:9, Ezek. 33:8-9.

B) We must go from glory to greater glory. Thereby bring down Gods glory to our generation, how do we do this? With open face- sincerity, no pretence or hypocrisy and you should remove your mask II Cor. 3:18, II Cor.3:13.

C) Beholding which means you must not be spiritual blind. Acts. 26:19, II kings 6:15-17, you must believe in change because you either change or decay e.g Peter said No Lord because he taught he knows better than God. Acts. 10:13-15.

CONCLUSION: God gave all it will take to Joshua and he was victorious. He is willing to do more than He did for Joshua. If only we are willing and obedient. Isa. 1:19.

EXCEPT THE CORN DIE

Text: John 12:24-25

INTRODUCTION:

We want to look at the number one enemy of our divine liberty and how effectively it can be overcome. May the Lord Almighty teach us in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE NEED TO PLACE THE ADAMIC NATURE

A Christian can only be fruitful in the degree that he dies to self. What Christ requires of us is not only yielding our soul to Him for salvation, but the yielding of our complete ego that He may give us abundant life. As Christian, we have two natures, the carnal man is against the things of the spirit of God.

1 Cor. 15:36, Gal. 5:19-21, Phil. 3:7-8, Rom. 6:11, Col. 3:3, 1Kings 13:4-6, Rom. 7:5-6, Rom. 7:23, 1 Cor. 2:13-14, Matt. 16:23.

2. THE SECRET OF VICTORY OVER ADAMIC NATURE

It is getting rid of the flesh and putting on the new man, i.e To be crucified daily, there are three crucifixions, the body of sin must be destroyed, spiritual circumcision must be done, by these the fruits of the spirit will manifest.

Eph. 4:22-24, 1 Cor. 9:27, Gal. 6:14, Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:6, Col. 2:11, Rom. 6:18, Rom. 8:13-14, Phil. 3:3, Gal. 5:22-23.

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 1)

Text: Psalms 16:5-11

INTRODUCTION:

God has promised 'His Presence' . It will not be out of place for us to know what are in 'IN HIS PRESENCE' and how to enjoy God's presence to the fullest this month. We will begin our study in this New Year, with taking a look at two people who enjoyed 'His Presence'. May the Lord count us worthy even today to continual enjoy 'His Presence'.

A. DAVID AS A CASE STUDY

David enjoyed His presence. No wonder he concluded as follows, that

i. His inheritance was of the Lord. Ps 16:5a I Sam 16:4-13.
ii. His overwhelming blessing was from the Lord , Ps 16:5b, Ps.23:5
iii. The breakthrough he enjoyed was from the Lord. Ps. 16:6a, 1 Sam. 17:33-37,45-47.
iv. Goodly heritage that he had came from Him. Ps 16:6b
v. He enjoyed good counsel & guidance Ps. 16:7a- Ps 34:20 Ps. 25:15, 1 Sam 30:1-20.
vi. He was sustained no matter the storms /challenges. Ps 16:8
vii. His Presence' ensured him peace. Ps 16:9b, 11 c
viii. His Presence' gave him fullness of joy. Ps 16: 11 c.

B. JOSEPH AS A CASE STUDY - GEN 39:1-23

God's presence did all the following for Joseph;

i. In slavery, he was prosperous. Gen. 39:2-3

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 1)

ii. God's presence made Joseph to find favour, grace & mercy. Gen 39:4-6,21 Gen 40:5-8

iii. His presence made Joseph to be in charge and in control. Gen. 39:4-6.

iv. God's presence also made him a source of blessing. Gen. 39:5

v. He fulfilled the dream of his life. Gen. 41:38-43, 46, Gen. 42:6, Gen. 43:26-28.

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 2)

Text: John 142:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we looked at the blessings, which are in 'His Presence' using the lifes of David and Joseph. The question which might be bordering our minds is 'how does He manifest 'His presence or what can we do to attract 'His Presence'? Tonight God Himself will give us insight into 'His Presence' in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE MANIFESTATION OF HIS PRESENCE: GOD IS SOVEREIGN

   Considering how God manifest His Presence we need to know that God is sovereign, the Most High and Almighty. Gen. 17; 1, Ps. 91:1, He cannot be boxed or predicted the way and manner he would show forth himself. He showed himself in several ways. Exodus 3: 1-6, Exodus 4;6-7, Exodus 12:29-31 etc.

2. PARAMOUNT IN HIS PRESENCE, HE CAN

   (i) Send His Word as a sign. Jn 1: 1, Ps 107:20, Matt 8: 13

   (ii) Manifest His Presence through 'His Presence's Carrier' 1Kings17:8-9, 13:16,21-22. God sent Elijah to show His Presence to the Widow of Zarephath who was faced with bankruptcy, famine and the death of her son.

   (iii) Manifest 'His Presence' through Angels. Isa 63:9. There are angels of ' His Presence' that He uses to save, redeem and carry His own all the days of their life. Gen 18; 1-11, Lk. 1:5-13, 19, Matt. 28:1-6.

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 2)

Text: Joshua 1:5

(iv) Manifest 'His Presence' through appearing physically Himself. Dan. 3:23-25, Acts 9: 1-6.

3. ATTRACTING HIS PRESENCE: DAVID'S CASE

i. You must earnestly desire 'His Presence'. Ps. 14:2, Matt. 7:7, Prov. 2:4-5, Ps. 42:1-4.

ii. Living a life of praise and worship always ushers 'His Presence' - Ps. 22:3, Ps. 42:8, Josh. 6:1 -5.

iii. A life of genuine repentance. Ps 51:1-11, Ps 39:1, 2 Sam. 11:1-4,11, 2 Sam. 12:9-10, 13-14, 16,24.

iv. Holy and Consecrated life. Gen. 39:6, 10-12, I Kg. 2:1-4, Prov. 23:26.

v. Sacrificial giving attracts 'His Presence'. I Kings 3:4-5, Gen. 22:1.

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 3)

Text: John 13:16-18, 26-27, 1 Samuel 15:1-26

INTRODUCTION:

In the course of this study, we have seen the blessings that are in 'His Presence'. We have studied some ways through which God manifests His Presence. We have dwelt on 'How to attract 'His Presence'. As we shall consider what connotes 'His Presence', what can make these things disappear or can make 'His Presence' will never depart from us in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS 'HIS PRESENCE?

What sums up 'His Presence'? What are the evidences of 'His presence', how will you know you have a measure of 'His Presence'?

(i) HIS SPIRIT Matt 3:13-17, John 14:16-18

Through the descending and lightning of Holy Spirit upon Jesus, God announced his presence, his presence with Him. Acts 2: 1-4. Holy Spirit is a clear sign of 'His Presence' in a believer's life.

(ii) THE POWER OF GOD

What follows the Holy Spirit is the power of God. Acts 1:8, Micah 3:8. Jesus showed his abiding presence by giving his disciples power. Matt. 10: 1, Mk. 6:7, Acts 8:5-10.

(iii) ANOINTING OF GOD

This is the combination of the Holy Spirit and His Power (Acts 10:38), which show forth 'His Presence'. 1 Jn. 2:27 -28.

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 3)

2. DISAPPEARING OF HIS PRESENCE SAUL'S AND SAMSON'S CASE Judges 16:20

From Saul's case what could be responsible are as follows:

i. Disobedience to God's word: Judges 14:3, 1Sam. 15:3, 15-18, 26.
ii. Covetousness: 1 Sam. 15:8-9, Col. 3:5c, 2 Peter 2:3, Heb 13:5
iii. Deceitfulness: 1 Sam. 15:13-15, Heb. 3:5, Eph. 4:21-23.
iv. Aiding/Abhorring of sin: 1 Sam. 15:20-22, Rom. 1:32, Ps. 50:18, Hos. 7:2-3

3. CONSEQUENCES OF ALLOWING DISAPPEARANCE OF 'HIS PRESENCE'

1. Total rejection from the Lord 1 Sam 15:35,1 Sam 16:1.
2. Floodgates of calamities will be opened Judges 16:20-25, 30.
3. Open doors will be created for the tormentors (Satan) 1 Sam 16:14.

LIVING LIKE AN EAGLE (Part 1)

Text: Isaiah 40:31

INTRODUCTION:

The Eagle is a bird that is unique: Today as we study the holy spirit will give us understanding in Jesus Name (Amen).

1. YOU ARE UNIQUE

Everything about the Eagle is unique. For instance, before an Eagle is born, they have a small tooth on their beak and that helps them to break out of the egg. Their wings are specially designed to make them aerodynamically superior to other birds; they can build their nest at more higher elevation than other birds. As Eagles are unique from all other birds, you are also unique. You only need to identify your strength.

Ps. 139:14, 1 Pet. 2:9-10, Jn. 17:15-16, Ex. 4:10,14, Esth. 2:12-15, Mt. 3: 11, Gen. 29:32-35.

2. SO WHY NOT FLY?

Believers in Christ are intended to fly at very high altitudes like Eagles. You are designed for heavenly realms. Your new nature, with these Eagle's wing make you want to soar up high, close to Christ in heavenly realms. You've got Eagle's wings. Take an advantage of your position; through prayer and a refocusing of your mind, you will fly.

The ability to fly high will give you freedom, unique perspective of the world beneath, and the ability to view things differently.

Eph. 2:6, Phil. 4:13, Jn.15:5, 1 Sam. 17:45, Dan. 3:17

LIVING LIKE AN EAGLE (Part 2)

Text: Isaiah 40:30-31

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we considered the fact that for you to soar on high, you must be prepared to leave your place of comfort. As we go into the second part of this series today, may the Holy Spirit teach and bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS YOUR DIET LIKE?

In many ways the life of an eagle parallels that of man. Eagles are careful about their diet, they go after fresh meals, bring nourishment to their body. Man is a trinity comprising spirit, soul and body. What you feed yourself with is important. To purify yourself will mean abstain from anything that will contaminate the body and spirit.

II Cor. 7:1, 1 Thess. 5:23, I Jn. 3:3, I Cor. 1 :8, Num. 13:32, II Cor. 6:17-18

2. BUILDING A NEST

The eagle builds up her nest in a high place, higher than the nest of other birds. The reason for this is threefold; Protection from enemies, to provide a good perspective of their environment and to give them a good launching pad for soaring. The eagles' nest building project takes a great deal of time and attention and it is a lifelong project, because it is her place of security and rest, much effort and resources is committed. Our sure foundation by which we can be protected is the word of God. The word of God will provide protection from the enemy, give a unique perspective of the world around us and give us a launching pad to soar. Ps. 119:114, Pro. 30:5, lsa. 40:8, Mt. 4:4, Heb. 4:12, Ps. 119:16.

LIVING LIKE AN EAGLE (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:

In the second Part of this series, we considered efforts made by eagles to put up her nest and the importance of a believer's nest (Word of God) to him. As we conclude this study today, I pray the Holy Spirit of God will cause you to soar in the midst of your storm in Jesus Name.

1. SOARING ABOVE THE WINGS OF ADVERSITY

As the Eagle approaches a storm at the front, it lock its wings into such a position as to allow the force of the buffeting wind to lift it up, the forward motion of the wind striking the wings at just the right angle to cause the uplift. The force of the wind is deflected harmlessly downwards by those magnificent wings, allowing the bird to soar to new and greater heights. A time of adversity will come; they are things that ultimately make you successful. God's Promise is there for you.

Jn. 16:33, 2 Tim. 3:12, Is. 43:2, Ps. 66:12, Gen. 12:9-10, Ex. 2:14,23, Mt. 2:13-14, Jn. 15:5, Col. 3:3.

2. A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE:

Eagles are birds of the light. They hunt by day; they fly by day and feed by day. They are remarkably clean birds and it shows they have high standards. They want the best in life, To fly with the eagles, you must be committed to excellence.

Gen. 17:1, Zech. 3:4, Mt. 5:48, Gen. 29:17-18, Lk 15:22, Est. 2:2, 1 Sam. 24:24.

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 1)

Text: Prov. 6:16-23

INTRODUCTION:

The things that God hates, must be avoided. As we begin today a series on seven things that the Almighty God hates, the grace to distaste them, Lord will give unto us. Amen.

1. A PROUD LOOK: WHAT DOES IT ENTAILS?

The state of the heart dictates the countenance Proverbs 15: 13, A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance. Therefore we can say; A proud look is a product of a proud heart. The Scripture gives insight into a proud look. Psalms 18:27, Ps 101:5. A proud look means high look. This is position where a person thinks he is above the status of others or things. Esther 1:1 0-17, Queen Vashti lost her position as a result of this.

ii. A proud look is having haughty eyes. Prov. 16.:18, Ps. 13: 1. This is a state when one believes he is better than others and thereby carries this around. Do you know that there are division /grouping in the church today? Do we know that there are people who could not relate to other because they believe they are better spiritually or physically? God distastes this. Paul showed to us what we should be 1 Cor. 9: 16-27.

iii. A proud look means having loft eyes Isaiah 2: 11, 17. This is the state or behavior of a Christian when and where he feels, he is worthier than others. Have you had a Christian saying "By my spiritual level, I should have been made a Deacon or Deaconess or I should have been made this or

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 1)

Text: Joshua 1:5

that", God regards this as loft eyes before Him. Moses, Dathan, Abram's case. Numbers 16:1-3, 7,12-14, 29-33.

Results of a Proud Look

i. The imagination of the proud are always scattered Lk. 1:51, Ps. 33:10
ii. A proud look distances God from a man Ps. 138:6
iii. Destruction & down fall await a proud man Ps. 16: 18, Esther 1 :19

2. A LYING TONGUE

God hates this because it speaks contemptuously against the righteous Psalm 31: 18. This tongue speak deceitful words. Ps. 120:2. This tongue lies to get his emotional feeling done. Gehazi was a perfect example. 2 King 5:1, 10,15-16, 20-27. He got leprosy as a result of lying tongue.

3. HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD

These are hands that kill the dreams and visions of others. A classical example is Joseph's brothers Gen 37:18-20. Lord hates such people. Their end is always disastrous. Esther 7:10, Curse does not leave such. Gen 4:11-12.

CONCLUSION

If we have involved in any of the above, I think it is time to pray for mercy, so that Heaven will not pass us.

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 2)

Text: Prov. 6:16-23

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we looked at three of the seven things that God hates. 'A proud look' 'a lying tongue and 'the hands that shed innocent blood' were examined. We shall be considering today four other things that God distastes. Every area that Devil has been using to short change us, the Lord will reveal them tonight in Jesus name.

1. A HEART THAT DEVISETH WICKED IMAGINATIONS

God speaks specifically about two things here. Our heart and its imaginations. Gen 6:1-7, God had a good plan for human race. He wanted us to multiply and dominate the earth. But all of a sudden discovered that the imaginations of the heart were evil and wicked. It repented and grieved God. He decided to kill man. God hates the hearts that is the source of wicked thoughts and imaginations. The question is, what flows out of your heart Matt. 12:34, Prov. 4:23, God warns that we watch our heart with all diligent. Gen. 37: 18-20.

2. FEET THAT BE SWIFT IN RUNNING TO MISCHIEF

God mentions feet here, in other words He means our legs. Where does your leg carry you to ? Is it to the company or location of righteous or evil ones? Psalms 1: 1. Do you walk in the counsel of ungodly or sit among the scornful. Who are your bosom friends? Who are the people that you visit or visit you? God hates feet and legs that run into the fold of mischievous people.

3. A FALSE WITNESS THAT SPEAKETH LIE

We have dealt extensively with a lying tongue in the part 1.

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 2)

Scripture however mentioned a false witness which we need to consider. Acts 1 :8, The Lord said we shall be his witness. The question is what kind of witness are you?

Are you a witness of the truth or Evil?

A witness can only testify in two ways

(I) By his appearance:- Does your appearance witness Christ in truth Luke 3:8, Matt 7:16. Does it show you as a false or true witness? Just a look at your life and appearance, does it show the true representation of Christ?

(ii) By,-the word that proceeds out of his mouth:- The word that proceeds from your mouth always, are they seasoned with salt? Col. 4:6, Matt. 12:37. The word we speak determines what witness that wear. God distaste a false witness.

4. HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG THE BRETHREN

God hates people who cause quarrel and strifes among brethren. These people operate in the church by comparing one brethren to the other in terms of gifts, talents or grace the Lord gives to individuals. Matt 25:15, 1 Peter 4:11. These ones also go behind backbiting others. Psalms 15:1, 3, 34:1, 3-14. Their aim is to scatter God's fold. Pro. 25:23. No wonder, Paul expressed fear as regards this behaviour. 2 Cor 12:20. Romans 1:30-32 God therefore pronounces judgment that they are worthy of death.

CONCLUSION:- Let us pray that the Lord should give us a new heart because all these deeds are from our heart. Ezekiel, 18:3, 1 John 3:3, Ezekiel 36:26.

GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 1)

TEXT: Isaiah 61: 13; Matt. 11 :28- 30

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus gracious invitation comes to "all that labour and are heavy laden" with the troubles of life and the bondage/ dominion of sins. The expectation is for all to come to Jesus, surrender unto him, so we can be free from all insurmountable burdens; live a life of peace and His Holy Spirit to guide through the journey of life Jn. 14:26.

2. MEANING OF SALVATION

Salvation means "deliverance", "bringing safely through", "keeping from harm". In Old Testament, God revealed Himself as the one that saves His people. Also, in the New Testament, it is described as "the way" or road that leads through life to eternal fellowship with God in Heaven. This road of salvation must be walked to the very end. Ps. 27:1; Deut. 26:8; Matt. 7:14; Jn. 14:6; 2 Pet. 2:21.

2. STEPS TO SALVATION

For us by God's grace through His Son, Jesus Christ based on His death (Rom 3:2. There is only one way to Salvation. Christ Jesus is the only way to the Father God. Salvation is provided 4), Eph. 2:8 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Hence, a sincere repentance is required for a true Salvation to take place; which must be backed by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jn. 14:6; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8; Eph. 3:17; Acts 20:21; Rom. 4:16.

THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

He started on this study last week and dwelt on two key areas the meaning of salvation and steps to salvation. In conclusion, we noted that the road to salvation must be walked to the very end. It is my prayer that none of us journey half-way. We will all make it to heaven in Jesus mighty name.

1. THE THREE STAGES OF SALVATION

God freely offers us eternal life in Jesus Christ. To make it to eternal life there are three fundamental stages: The past stage of salvation the personal experience by which, we as believers receive forgiveness of sins and pass from spiritual death to spiritual life; from the power of sin to the power of the Lord; from the dominion of Satan to the dominion of God. The present stage of salvation saves us from the practice as dominion of sin, filling us with the Holy Spirit.

The future stage of salvation

(i) Deliverance from the coming wrath of God;

(ii) Our sharing the divine glory and receiving the resurrected or transformed body

(iii) Receiving rewards as faithful overcomers. This future salvation is the goal toward which all Christian strive.

Acts 10:43; Rom.4:6-8; Rom. 6:17-23; Acts 26:18; Mat. 6:9; John 14:18-23: Rom. 6:1-14; Acts 2:33, 38,39; Eph. 5:18; 2 Cor.10:4-5; Eph. 6:11-16 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Thes. 5:8-9; Rom. 13:11-12; Rev. 19:9; Rom. 5:9; 1 Cor. 3:15-19.

THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 2)

3. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Every Christian desires to have assurance of sa1vation, that is, the certainty when Christ returns or death comes, he/she will go to be with the Lord Jesus in heaven. We have assurance of eternal life if: we believe on the name of the son: of God; we honour Christ as Lord of our Lives and sincerely seek to keep His commandments; we love the Father and the Son rather than the work we overcome the influence of the world.

1 John 2:3-5; 3:24; 5:2; John 8:31; 1 John 2:15; 1 John 2:29; 3:8; 1 John 3:24;1 John 1:1; 1 John 3:2-3; John 14:1-3.

THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 3)

Text: Ps. 62: 1-2,6: 8; Heb 3:12

INTRODUCTION:

Salvation is a life-long journey and must be patiently and carefully walked to the end in order to earn the reward. As identified in our discussion of last week, a crucial aspect of the journey is the second phase; where we must defend and protect this gift of God. Just as Naboth refused to sell his inheritance (1 Kings 21:2-3); our Salvation must not be traded or sold.

1. SUSTAINING YOUR SALVATION Luke 9:62

It is very dangerous to lose or drift away from' the gift of salvation; because forgiveness might not be possible. The sustenance of our salvation should be of paramount importance to every believer. Accordingly, we need to emphasize on the following: (a) Obedience; (b) Perseverance/Longsuffering in faith; (c) Fellowship; (d) Draw closer unto God and let the realities of God's heavenly kingdom becomes greater than realities of this world; (e) Crucify the flesh.

Heb. 6:4-6; Deut. 29:18-21; 1 Sam. 2:25; 3:11-14; 16:1; Ex. 22:20; 1 Sam. 15:22-23; Rev: 21 :8; Mat. 7:21; Eph. 6-18; Col. 1:11; Phil. 1:5-6; 1 John 1:3-4; Heb. 7:19,25; 11:6; Jos.1:8; Rom. 8:6-8; Gal. 5:19-21

2. RETRACING YOUR STEP

God has the right to do as He pleases with individuais and nations. He has the right to reject a nation/individual if they/he disobeys and the right to show mercy if they repent, restitute, return to God and cry to heaven for His mercy. Ps. 51 :1-12; Luk. 15: 11-24; 19:8; 2 Chr. 7:14; Ex. 22: 1-14.

THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 4)

Text: Psalm 61:1.2

INTRODUCTION:

The angel said unto them, fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luk. 2:10). The birth of Jesus, Christ, the greatest event in human history, is synonymous with Salvation and represents the utmost gift from God to mankind. It is therefore the desire of Christ that every believer exhibits/demonstrates the blessings/benefits of salvation.

1. SALVATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES

Salvation is not a Greek gift but a Heavenly gift with divine assignments/responsibilities. Christ, the saviour worked, He therefore enjoins every believer to work. These "greater works" include (a) preaching the gospel to the poor, the meek, and the afflicted; (b) healing and binding up the spiritually and physically sick and broken hearted; (c) breaking the bonds of evil and proclaiming liberty from sin and satanic dominion and (d) opening the spiritual eyes of the lost that they might see the light of the gospel and be saved. Jn. 5:17; 14:12; Matt. 11 :5, 28; 28:19-20; Mk. 16:17-18; Luk 9:2; Matt. 10:1; Luk. 4:18

2. THE CHALLENGES

As a believer, your faith in Christ will be tried, you will face persecution and rejection. We need not be deterred, because Jesus said "these things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might. have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." 1 Pet. 1:7; Acts 13:50; 2 Thes. 1:4; Luk. 9:22; John 16:33; Acts 27:22; Matt. 28:20.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 1)

TEXT: Joel 2:28·29, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 1:8.

INTRODUCTION:

The Holy Spirit is probably the least known member of the Godhead. There is a said lack of knowledge about Him even within the church. Yet we are in the age of the Holy Spirit - Jn. 14:16 and the time of the latter rain Zech. 10:1. Therefore, we need to know as much as possible about the Holy Spirit.

(A) WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead and He is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. The Bible calls Him God Acts 5:3-4; He possesses the characteristics that God alone has such as eternal nature Heb. 9:14, Omnipotent Ps. 139:7-10, Omniscient 1 Cor. 2:10-11, Omnipotent Luk. 1 :35; He is associated with the Father and Son on equal status Matt. 28: 19 and He is essentially active in God's plan of redemption. Jn. 16:8, Jn. 3:5-6.
2. The Holy Spirit is a Person and not a thing or forces. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal power or influence like electricity or some other forms of power which can be switch on and off at will. To show that He is a person, personal pronoun is used for Him. Jn. 14:16; 14:17; 15:26; 16:13-14 and He possesses the basic characteristics of personality such' as intellect, sensitivity and will the expressions of His personality includes ability to feel Eph. 8:26, teach Jn. 14:26, exercise His will 1 Cor. 12:11, forbid Acts 16:6, work miracles Acts 19:6 and could be grieved Eph. 4:30.
3. This is the age of the Holy Spirit. He is the "other" comforter who has taken the place of Jesus Jn. 14:16. The season of His outpouring was predicted in the Old Testament while the fulfillment is in the New Testament. Joel 2:28-29, Eze. 36:27, Isa. 44:3, even Christ was filled Lk. 4:18.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 2)

TEXT: Jn. 14:16-17, Jn. 16:7-11

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study on this topic, we established the fact that Holy Spirit is God with defined personality, not just a force or a thing. We concluded that this is the age of the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact the place of the Holy Spirit in the church today cannot be overemphasized. The way an individual relates with Him will go a long way to determine fulfillment in life and ministry of such a person. We shall look at some vital roles. He plays in the life of believers and in the church of Christ today.

The works of the Holy Spirit in Believers/Church

1. He brings us to salvation: The Holy Spirit convict, reprove and convince unconverted people about sin, righteousness and judgment - Jn. 16:8-11, He produces conversion and. regeneration Titus 3:5, Eph. 2: 1, Jn. 6:63. He liberates us from . the power of sin and death, so we can be Holy Rom. 8:2 and He gives us an inward assurance of salvation Rom. 8:16, 1 Jn. 5:6, I Jn.5:8.

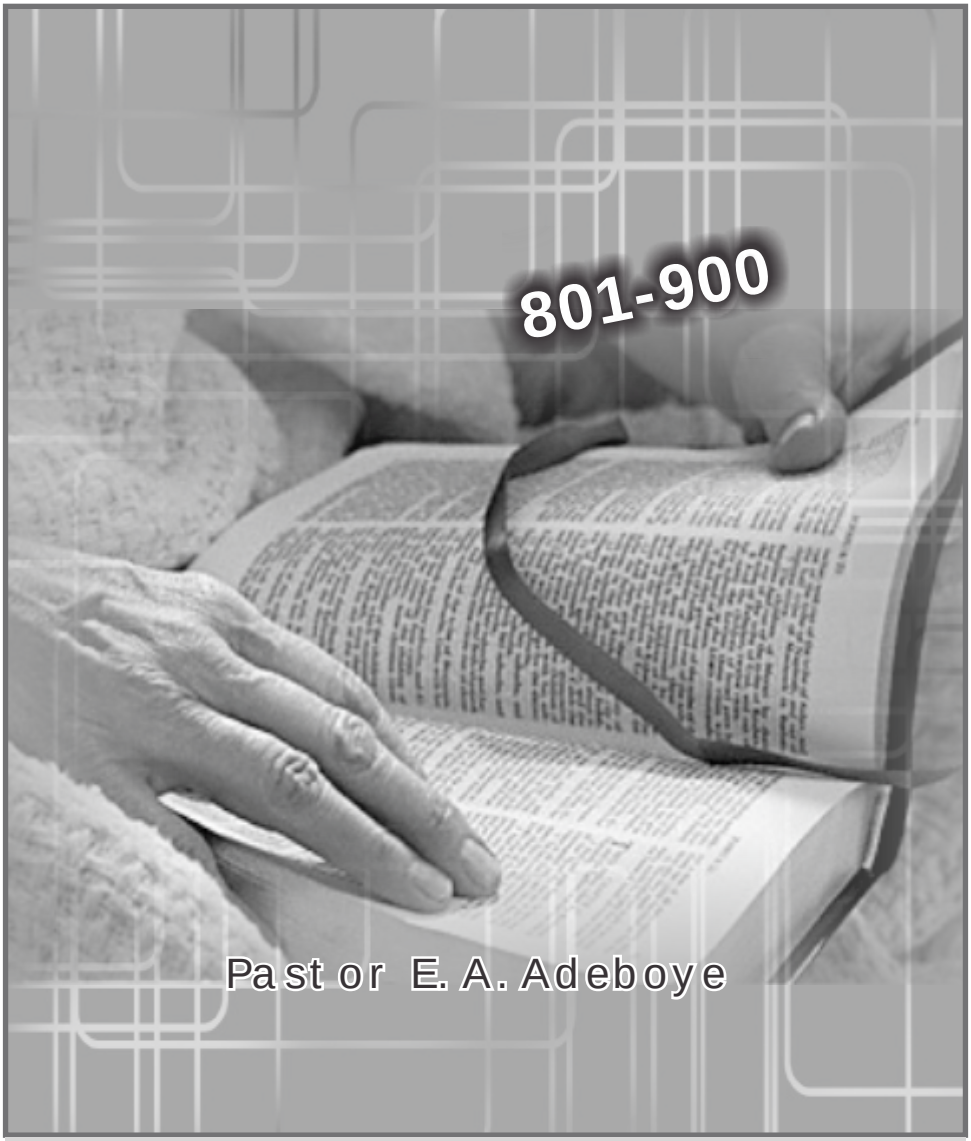
2. Holy Spirit empowers believers Acts 1 :8: He guides us into all truth Jn. 16:13, In. 8:37, He teaches us all things Jn. 14:26, 1 Jn. 2:27, He gives life to our physical bodies Rom. 8:11 (impart life, strength, health and vigour to our bodies); He gives power for service Acts 1 :8, Acts 4:33; He empowers our prayers Jude v 20, Eph. 6:18, Rom. 8:26-27, and Inspires praise and worship to God Acts 2:11, Phil. 3:3, Eph. 5:18-19, Jn, 4:24.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 2)

3. Holy Spirit is the Director of Mission Acts 13:2-4: He send people to the place of need Acts 16:9-10, He might forbid when necessary Acts 16:6.

4. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life Gal. 5:22-23: The fruit of the Spirit cannot be produced by natural man, no matter how refined or educated he or she may be. God character is seen in us only when God the Holy Spirit lives in us who believes and that is when we can live the life of God Holiness. 1 Peter 1 : 14-16.

5. The Holy Spirits glorifies Jesus - Jn. 16:13·15: He testifies that Jesus is alive: Acts 5:30-32, Acts 4:31-33 and He brings a fresh understanding of the word of God thereby enhancing the believers relationship with Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 2:9,10; Jn. 16:13:



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DAVID - PART I

LESSON 801

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 28:13-14

INTRODUCTION

Among believers in the old Testament time, there is none that can be compared to the New Testament follower of Christ but DAVID. He was a believer in every area. I believe an indepth study about his life will be a blessing to every one. May the Lord teach us in Jesus Name."

1. DAVID WAS AND WORTH MORE THAN A KING

   David was not just a king, he was among other things a Singer, Warrior, Priest, Prophet, Shepherd and more importantly a dancer.

   2 Sam 2:4, I Sam 16: 17-18, I Sam 17:32, I Sam 30: 7-8, Psalms 22:1, I Sam 16:11, I Sam 16:13, 2 Sam 6:10-12, Eph. 5:19, I Pet. 2:9, Acts 2: 15-17, Eph. 2:4-8

2. BEWARE, GOD HAS A SUBSTITUTE

   It is possible for us not to hear about David if not for king Saul's sin. It is important we know God has a substitute for any that disappoints Him.

   I Sam. 16:1, 13-14, I Sam. 2: 27-30, Acts 1:16-20, Psalms 75: 6-7, Acts 10: 34-35, Rev. 3:11

DAVID - PART 2

LESSON 802

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 16:11-12

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series we learnt that in order for worship to be acceptable, worshipper must be holy and also that God does not see as man sees. As we continue with our study of David, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. PRAISE GOD, GOD IS NOT A DEMOCRAT

   God is not a democrat or else David would never have been king. God is a Dictator, an Autocrat but a wonderful one.

   I Sam. 16:11-12; Gen. 1:1-4; Ps. 115:3; Ps. 33:11; Ps. 33:8-9; Job 33:13; Jer. 29: 11; Jer. 1:4-5; Gal. 1:15-16; Rom. 9:17; Job. 21:29-30; Rom. 9:15-16.

2. WHEN YOUR DAY COMES; NOTHING CAN HINDER IT

   Wherever you may be, your destiny will fish you out. And when your day comes, nothing can stand in your way to hinder it.

   I Sam. 9:1-3; 17,21; I Kings 19:19-21; Jud. 6:11-16; Exo. 3:1-10; Jos 1:1-9, Gen. 41 :8-14; Luke 1 :5-20.

DAVID - PART 3

LESSON 803

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 17:22-37

INTRODUCTION

In our last study, we were told that God can repeat miracle and that it takes diligence to make it to the top. As we continue in our study today, we pray that God's blessings will be upon us in Jesus Name.

1. SONGS OF A BACKSLIDER

   Songs of a Backslider are - "It is not possible for me", it can not be done, there is no hope and all the likes. Watch the word of your mouth and you will know your stand in the Lord.

   I Sam 17:33-37, Num 13: 31-33, Num 14: 1-4, Jos 7: 10-1 2 , John. 15:5.

2. SONGS OF THOSE STANDING FIRM

   In the contrary, Songs of those firm in the Lord will be "I can do it", It is possible, there is a way out, because they know that with God all things are possible

   Num 3:30, Num 14: 6-9, 24, Zech. 4: 6-7, PhiI4:13, PhiI4:19, Eph 6: 1 0, Luke 1 :37, Mt 14: 23-29, Mk 9:23.

DAVID - PART 4

LESSON 804

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 16:13-14

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that the man God chooses, as His representative will also be His spoke's man. We also saw that God will anoint such a man. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE CHOICE IS YOURS: EITHER TO HOUSE GOD OR DEMONS

   As soon as David was anointed, he became a carrier of the Holy Spirit. You too can be with awesome results. On the other hand, anyone who chooses can also be a house full of demons.

   I Sam 16:13-14; I Cor. 6:19; Acts 2:37-39; I Cor. 12:4-11; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Acts 3:1-8; Acts 19:11-12; Acts 5:14-16; Jud. 14:5-6; Jud. 15:14-15; Jud. 16:2-3; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18; Mt 12:43-45; Luke. 8:1-3; Luke. 8:26-30; Jos. 24:15; Acts 5:1-5; Acts 13:6-12; Acts 7:54-56.

2. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE DISCARDED BY GOD

   It is far better never to have been used of God than to be an ex-vessel unto honour. Those whom God discarded always ended badly.

   I Sam. 4:10-11; 14-22; Est. 1 :19-21; Mt. 10:1; Mt. 27:3-5;

I Cor. 9:27.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that a person can choose to house God or demons. Also that it is dangerous to be discarded by God. Today, as we continue our studies, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

MUSIC HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN DELIVERANCE

Divine music drives demons away, just as worldly music invites them in. When Divine music is played, God is invited in, because He inhabits the praises of His people. And of course where God is present, demons cannot stay.

I Sam. 16: 14-23; 2 King 3:13-15; Ps. 22:3; Acts 16:25-26; Ps.

68:1-4; Ps.18: 1-3; 2 Chr. 20: 21-24; Ps. 66:1-3; Ps. 67:5-7; Ps. 32: 7; Ps. 103: 1-5; Ps. 57: 4-7; Ps. 34: 1-4.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that Divine music drives away demons even as worldly music invites them in. So that those who knows how to praise God will enjoy continuous victory. As we continue in our study today, may God bless us richly, in Jesus name. Amen.

1. DAVID WAS A SKILLFUL MUSICIAN AND A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOUR

   You too can be a skilled musician; because every man can play a Ten-stringed instrument' so also can you be a mighty man of valour through the knowledge of God and the power of His might.

   I Sam. 16:17-18; Ps. 47:1; Ps. 33:1-3; Dan. 11:32; Eph. 6: 10; Eph. 3: 14-16; Isa. 40: 28-31.

2. HE WAS ALSO A WARRIOR AND A PRUDENT MAN

   We are warrior too. Infact, we are chosen warriors. The main weapon of David was the Name of the LORD. That can be our weapon too. And we too can be prudent by sticking to the Word of God.

   2 Tim. 2: 3-4; Eph. 6:11-12; I Sam.17: 45; In.14: 14; Ph.2:

9-11; Eph.6: 13-17; Mt. 1: 21; Mal.4:2; Heb. 12: 2; Isa. 9: 6; Jn. 1:1; 14; Jn. 14: 6; I Cor. 1: 22-24; Jn. 8:3-11; Mt. 22:15-22; Mt. 4:1-11; Rom. 12:10; Mt. 12:36.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that, like David, we too can be skillful musicians, mighty men and women of valour, great warriors and prudent people. Today, as we continue our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. DIVINE PRESENCE SPELLS UNTOLD BLESSINGS

David was a handsome man, but there is a beauty far more excellent than physical beauty. If God is with any man, several blessings result.

I Sam. 16: 17-18; Pro. 31:30; I Pet. 3:1-6; Ps. 110: 3; Ps. 149: 4; Exo. 3:11-12; Jos. 1:5-9; Jud. 6:12-16; Acts 10:38; Is. 43: 2; Dan. 3:23-25; Ps. 23:4; Gen. 39:2-5; Ps. 5:12; Pro. 3:33; Pro. 28: 20; Gen. 6: 8; Lk. 1:30; 2 Cor. 12:9; Ps. 75:6-7; Gen. 39: 20-23.

2. DIVINE ABSENCE SPELLS DOOM

If God is for us, who can be against us? But if God is

against us, or merely leaves us alone, then we are in serious trouble.

Rom. 8: 31; Jos. 7: 10-12; I Sam. 4: 3-11; Jud. 16: 20 -21.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that Divine presence spells untold blessings. Today, as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE SINFUL HAS CAUSE TO FEAR

Saul trembled before Goliath because God has forsaken him. If God is on your side, no man can withstand you. The converse is also true.

I Sam. 17: 10-11; Rom. 8:31; Ps. 24:7-10; Deut.28: 2,7; Gen 2:19-20; Gen.3: 9-10; Gen. 3:8; Is. 59:1-2; Gen. 3:7; Gen. 2: 25; Jos. 7:10-12.

2. HOLINESS PRODUCES DIVINE BOLDNESS

While the sinner trembles, the holy stands solid as a

r o c k .
Because he knows that he is surrounded by the Rock of Ages Himself.

Pro. 28: 1; Is. 3: 10; Ps. 91: 7-11; Pro. 18: 10; Ps. 125: 1-3; Heb. l: 9; Is. 10: 27; Jud. 15: 11-14; Jud. 16: 18-21.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series we saw that age has nothing to d o with Divine call. Also that while we all start off as infants. Some end up as Kings. Others as servants. As We continue with our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen

1. TO REACH YOUR GOAL; JUST PRESS ON

For anyone who wants to reach his goal, it is imperative that you refuse to be bogged down by oppositions. You keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and press on.

I Sam. 17; 16, 22-30; Ps. 30:5; Is. 3: 10; Dan. 6:16-26; I Sam. 17; 28; Songs. 8; 6; Mt. 10; 36; I Cor. 36; 1. Sam.

17; 29-30; 29-30 Ps. l; Tim 2; 4; Heb.12; 2, Ph.3:13-14

2. THERE ARE REWARDS FOR VICTOR
Anyone that overcomes shall be richly rewarded. Not only will he be free from the second death but he will even share the throne of the Almighty.

Gen. 17: 1-16; Rom. 2:28 -29; Gal. 3: 13-14; Num. 23; 19 Rev. 2:17; Rev. 2; 11; Rev. 2; 17; Rev. 2; 26; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 3: 12; Rev. 3:21; Rev. 19:5-9.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series we saw that if you wish to reach your goal just press on. Also there are rewards for overcomers. As we continue our study today, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. IT TAKES DILIGENCE TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP
To stand before Kings and not among mean men, you must be diligent. To be wealthy, you need diligence to get to the top and stay there. You need diligence to get to heaven.

1 Sam. 11 :31-37, Prov. 22:29; Prov. 10:4, Prov. 12:27, Prov. 13; 4, Prov. 21 :5, Rom. l2:6-8 , 2 Pet. 3:13-14, 2 Pet. 1:5-10.

2. OUR GOD CAN REPEAT MIRACLE

The God who defeated a Lion and a bear can also defeat a Goliath. If He has ever given you victory before, He will do it again.

Exo. 14:14-30, Exo. 17: 8-14, 2 Kings 2; 8, 2 Kings 2: 13-14, 2 Kings 5:9-14, Matt. 8:1-3, 2 Kings 6:37, Matt. 9: 1-7, 1 Kings 17: 17-23, John 11:39-44, Heb. 13:8, Mal. 1:3-6.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we discovered that the song of the backslider is always full of words like, I cannot, impossible, hopeless, etc. Whereas the song of the steadfast is always full of words like, I can, possible, hopeful etc. Today, as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

DAVID - PART 12

LESSON 812

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 17:43

1. OUR WEAPONS ARE NOT CARNAL

Saul's Armour is useless to David just as human weapons are useless in spiritual warfare. To be constantly victorious, all you need is Jesus! He is the whole Armour of God.

I Sam.17:38-40; 2 Cor. 10:4; Ps. 20:7-8; Jer. 17:5 8; Heb. 12:2; Eph. 6: 1 0-18; Ph.4: 13.

2. FIVE SMOOTH STONES

Those who would be God's battle-axes must not only be stones but smooth stones. Those who would operate under His anointing must be holy and thoroughly pure.

Lev.10: 8-10; Dan. 1: 8-16; Gen.39: 7-9; Dan.3: 26-27; Dan. 6:20-23; I Cor. 9:25-27; Co1. 3: 5-6; Heb. 1:9; Jer. 15: 19-21; Is. 1: 24-26; Zec. 13: 8-9; Mal. 3:3.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID - PART 13

LESSON 813

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 17:4-43

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we must not under- estimate our enemies; we also learnt about who actually is a dog, Today, may God bless us richly as we continue in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE CURSE CAUSELESS SHALL NOT COME
   Goliath cursed David but his curse was of no effect, Curses do not operate without a cause and cursing someone that God had blessed is a wasted effort.

   1 Sam. 17: 43, Num. 22: 2-6, Pro. 26: 2, Num. 23: 23 Num, 22:12, Num. 23: 8, Gen. 12: 1-3, Pro. 17: 13, John, 15:1-2.

2. BLESSINGS BASELESS SHALL NOT BE
   Just as the curse causeless shall not come, so also blessings baseless shall not be, that is if you want God's blessings, you must provide the basis for it. Please Him and He will bless you.

Gen. 27:1-4, Deut. 28:1-13, Mal. 3:10, Lk. 5:1-11, I Kings 17: 8- 16, lI Kings 4:8-17, Pro:11:25; Gen. 22;15 - 22, Ph. 3:7-11, Acts. 19:11-12, Gen. 27:30:33, Pro. 27; 7.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that our weapons are not carnal and that those who would be God's battle-axes must be smooth stones. Today, as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ENEMY

One of the mistakes of Goliath, a seasoned warrior, was that he disdained, or belittled, David. A vital lesson for us spiritual warriors is never to underestimate our enemy. A small snake can have a potent poison.

I Sam.17: 41-43; Mt. 26: 41; I Pet. 5:8, Jos. 7: 2-6; Jud.16: 6-2 Songs. 2: 15; Pro. 6: 10-11; I Thes. 5:16-17.

2. WHO ISA DOG?

Goliath asked David a very serious question; 'Am I a

dog? Every Christian ought to know who is a dog from biblical point of view!

Rev. 22: 15; Pro. 26: 11; 2 Pet. 2: 20-22; Mt. 15: 22-27; Ps. 22 v 6; Mt. 7: 6; Deut. 28: 18; 2 Kings 8: 12-13; Ph. 3: 2

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that first, as the curse causeless shall not come, so also the blessing baseless shall not be. Today as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. OVERCONFIDENCE AND PRIDE ARE TWO DANGEROUS RELATIVES

Goliath thought he could easily destroy David. He did not even think that David could beat him. Beware of overconfidence and pride. They are dangerous!

I Sam. 17:44-47; I Cor. 10: 12; I Pet. 1: 5; Lk. 22:31-34; Jud. 16: 6-12; Jos. 7: 2-5; Jam. 4: 13-15; Pro. 6: 16-19; Jam. 4: 6.

2. LET GOD FIGHT YOUR BATTLES

David's speech made it clear that he was not the one going to fight Goliath. That was why he was sure of victory. Let God fight your battles too.

Exo. 14: 13-38; Jos. 6:1-21; Jos. 10: 8-11; Num. 16: 23-33; 2 Chr. 20: 20-25; Deut. 32: 40; I Kings 8: 27; Ecc. 5: 8; Rom. 8: 31; Ps. 68: 1-3.

DAVID – PART 17

LESSON 817

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 18:1-37

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that over - confidence and pride are two dangerous relatives and we should let God fight our battles for us. Today, as we continue our study may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen

1. GOD WILL PLAY HIS PART PROVIDED YOU PLAY YOURS

   As long as your enemy remains inactive, then you can rest. But as soon as he moves, you must act and fast. One thing is sure, if you move, God will move with you.

   I Sam. 11:47: 48, Ps. 23:5, I Pet. 5: 8-9, Mk.16:15-20. Ps, 121:1-5, Ps. 68:11-3 Rom, 8:31, Jam. 4:7, I Sam. 17:37, Jud. 14:5-6, Jos. 10:6-10, I Thes. 5:18, Lk. 8:38, II Cor 11 :27, Ps. 81 :1-3.

INTRODUCTION

As the showdown between David and Goliath reaches its

climax, we discover that there are several beautiful truths for us to learn. May the Holy Spirit Himself teach us today in Jesus name?

EVERY GIANT HAS A WEAK SPOT: EVERY PROBLEM HAS A SOLUTION

In spite of his size and Armour, Goliath left one weak spot exposed. That led to his defeat and David's victory. Every problem, no matter the size, has a solution in Christ Jesus. In fact the weapon for total victory is in-built to the problem itself. May our victory be total today in Jesus name, Amen.

I Sam. 17: 48-52; Jn. 14: 6; Isa. 53: 5; Jn. 1: 7; Neh. 8: 10; Ph. 4: 4; Rom. 8: 28; Ga1. 2: 20; 2 Chr. 5: 17; Exo. 36: 24-26; Dan. 6: 24; 2 Chr. 20: 20-25; Ps. 47:1.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID – PART 19

LESSON 819

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 18:5-9

In the last part of this series, we saw that it is not enough to knock out our enemy, the old man, but you must thoroughly crucify it. We also learnt that the solutions to our problem are built into the problem. As we continue our studies today, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen

1. DAVID AND JONATHAN MADE A COVENANT; YOU CAN MAKE A COVENANT WITH GOD,

   A covenant is a very powerful agreement between two parties. It is usually sealed with blood, In the old covenant between God and Abraham, It was man who

supplied the blood for the covenant. In the new covenant between God and man, It is God who supplied the blood for the covenant. You can be included in that covenant if you are willing to pay the price.

I Sam. 18:1-3, Gen. 12:1-3, Gen. 17:9 -14, Rom. 9:4:4, Eph. 2:11-14; Heb. 8; 6 -13; Lk. 22:30; Acts 2:39, Col. 2; 9-11, Deut. 10:15. Jer. 17: 9, Eccl. 9:3, Mt. 15:17-20, II Cor. 5; 17: Dan. 4; 10-16; Ezek. 36:24-26, Lk. 23:46, Ps. 95:6-8, Jos. 1:5, I Sam. 17: 32-36.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt about covenants in general and the one between David and Jonathan in particular. As we continue our study tonight, may the Almighty bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WHAT JONATHAN GAVE DAVID IS SIGNIFICANT

Jonathan gave David his robe, garment, sword, bow

and girdle. Each item is significant particularly as It relates to what Christ gave to his church.

I Sam. 18; 4; Isa, 61; 10; Ps. 132; 16; Isa.61; 3; Eph. 6; 10-1
Heb. 4; 12; Isa. 54; 17; Zech. 25

2. WHAT JONATHAN DID NOT GIVE TO DAVID IS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT

There is one item that Jonathan failed to give to David as result, his ultimate became suspect. Thank God that Jesus Christ our Lord gave all to His church.

Ruth 4; 7; Lk.15; 19 -22; Jn.8; 35; I Sam. 20; 41-42; Jn. 11: 12, I Jn 3;1; Rom. 8:15-17; Jn.13: 1, John 15:15; John 14: 1-3, Rev. 3; 12; Rom. 8: 37.

DAVID - PART 22

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 18: 17-27

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we discussed the importance of what Jonathan did not give to David and saw that in loving us Jesus loved us all the way. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

PROMOTION COMES FROM GOD TO THE FAITHFUL

David's promotion was rapid because God was on his side. However David also exhibited some wonderful traits that should be a lesson to all who want to be promoted.

I Sam. 18: 5-9; Is. 1: 19; I Sam. 15: 22-23.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw some of the qualities that led to the rapid promotion of David. We also saw the need to watch and pray. As we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

DAVID – PART 23

LESSON 823

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 19:1-7

1. THE 3 SOURCES OF PROPHECIES

Prophecy can come from one of 3 sources; the Holy Spirit, the human Spirit and evil Spirits. But only the one from the Holy Spirit is genuine prophecy.

I Sam. 18:10, 1 Cor. 12:8-10, Acts 2:16-17, Eph. 4:11;' I Thes. 5-23, Jer. 23:26, Jer. l4:15, I Kings 22: 1-23, Acts 16:16, John. 4: 1

2. DARKNESS ALWAYS WANT TO DESTROY LIGHT

It is the desire of darkness to destroy light But God is more than sufficient to deliver

I Pet. 5:8; Jn. 8:44, Jn. 10:10; Pro. 21:31, I Cor. 1:9-10, Is. 54:17, Ps. 91: 1-8.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that prophecies can come from 3 sources. Also that darkness always wants to destroy light. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. ONE OF THE PUNISHMENTS FOR

BACKSLIDING IS FEAR

Since the backslider refuses to fear God. He is tormented by all kinds of fears. He fears men and demon; and he even fear where there is nothing to fear.

I Sam. 18:12-16; John 4:18; Gen. 3:8-10; Ps. 53:4-5; Ps. 19:9; Ps. 27:1-3; Ps. 56: 4; Pro. 14:26-27; Rom. 8:15; 2 Timothy 1:7; Ecc. 12:13-14.

2. HOW DO I ACT WISELY

It is clear that he who acts wisely will find good and be delivered from his enemies. But how do I act wisely?

Pro. 16:20; Pro. 28:26; Pro. 4: 7; Ps. 111 :10; I Cor. 1 : 2 4 ; Jam. 1 :22-25.

INTRODUCTION

In the last past of this series, we saw that one of the punishments for backsliding Is fear. We also learnt how to behave wisely, As we continue our study today may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

DAVID - PART 25

LESSON 825

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 15: 19-24

1. BEWARE OF THE SNARE OF THE FOWLER

The devil and his children, never tell the truth. "Whatever they offer you is merely a bait into a trap. Therefore beware!

II Sam. 18:17-27, Jn. 8:4; Gen. 3:1-10; Mt. 4:5-7; Mt. 4:8-10; Jud. 16:4-5; Pro. 31:30; Gen. 29:21-26; John 4: 1

2. OUR GOD IS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT

Saul asked David for one hundred Philistines, David gave him two hundred instead. We see here again that our God is more than a match for the enemy.

Ps. 91: 3; 1 John 4: 4; Exo. 1: 27-30; Dan. 3: 26-30; Dan. 6: 2-28, Est. 7:8-10; Ps. 103, 8-12; 2 Cor. 12: 9.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID – PART 26

LESSON 826

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 20

In the last part of this series, we saw that it is needful to beware of the snare of the fowler. And also that our God is more than sufficient for our deliverance. As we continue our study tonight, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WE HAVE A GREATER FRIEND THAN JONATHAN

   Jonathan pleaded the cause of David with his father and won David a temporary respite. Our friend, the Lord Jesus Christ, pleaded our cause with his father and won us a permanent respite.

   I Sam. 19:1-7, Jn. 3:16, Jn. 14: 6, Eph. 2:18-19, Eph. 2 : 1 1 - 1 4 , Jn.14:1-3, Jn. 2:1-2.

2. UNTIL YOU LET YOUR FLESH DIE, YOU ARE

DAVID – PART 27

LESSON 827

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 21:1-9

A SPLIT PERSONALITY

There is a reasonable part of Saul but there is also a very evil part. Similarly, until you let your flesh die, you will be split between the spirit wanting to do good and the flesh bent on doing evil

Gal. 5:16-17, Gal. 5:18-23, Rom,8: 5-8; Eph. 4:17-25, Eph. 4:28-31, Rom. 8:12:13, Col. 3:1-10, Rom. 2:1-2, Gal. 5 :24.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that we have better friend than Jonathan. Also, we saw that we have to crucify the flesh or else we will remain a split personality. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

DAVID - PART 28

LESSON 828

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 21: 8-9

1. WITHOUT THE HEAD THE BODY CANNOT SURVIVE

A wife is meant to be help-meet for her husband. Here we see from Michal's action that the duties of a wife include protecting the husband's life. This makes sense because if the head dies so will the body.

I Sam. 19:8:17, Gen. 12:10-20, 1 Sam. 25: 2-34, Mt. 19: 5-6, Eph. 5:23, 30, 1 Cor. 6:15-20, Deut. 6:5 Lk. 14:26, Acts. 21:1-13, Jn. 15: 5, Acts. 17:27-28, Ph. 4:19.

2. CHOICES

Life is constantly a matter of choices. Living or dying, heaven or hell, it is all a matter of choices.

Deut. 30:19-20, Heb. 11:24-26, Est. 4:16, Dan. 3:14-18, Dan. 6:6-10, Exo. 32:26, Mt. 26:39.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of the series we learnt that there is a time to run. Discuss that in such a time, we must make sure we flee to our source, the Almighty. Today as we continue

our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen

1. WHEN YOU HIDE IN THE ROCK OF AGES YOUR SECURITY IS ASSURED

Every effort made by Saul, to get David from the strong hold of Samuel fails, Infact the last effort led to the disgrace of Saul himself. God has several ways of dealing with the enemies of those who trust in Him. When you make the Rock of Ages your Refuge, your security is assured.

I Sam.19; 19-24; Zech. 2; 5; Exo. 14; 19-20; Isa. 54; 17; Dan. 3:26-27; Dan. 5:21-22; Ps. 23:5; I Sam. 17:48-49; Exo. 14:23; II Kings 6:14-20; I Sam. 19:19 -23; Exo. 14: 27-28; Dan. 6:24; Num. 16:31-33; II Kings 1: 9-12; Acts. 5; 1-11; Act. 13; 6-12; Acts. 16; 35 -39; I Sam. 19; 24; Act. 9: 1-9; Act. 16:25:9-34; Ps. 91: 1-10.

DAVID – PART 30

LESSON 830

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 22: 1-2

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that when you hide in the Rock of Ages, your security is assured. Today, as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. AVOID ANGER AT ALL COST

   There are two kinds of anger; carnal anger and righteous indignation. Since it is not always easy to distinguish between the two, it is best to avoid anger at all cost.

   I Sam. 20:27-34, Eccl. 7:9, Pro. 22:24-25, Ps. 7:11, Mk. 3:1-6, Mt. 21:12-13, Eph. 4:26-31, II Kings.3:13 -15, Num. 20:2-12, Jam. 1:10-20.

2. GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT HALF MEASURES

God prefer those who go all the way; either for or against, cold or hot. He hates lukewarmness He will not accept half measures.

I Sam. 20:41-42, Rev. 3:15-18, Lk. 9:59-62, Ph. 3:7-10, Rev. 2:10, Acts. 21:10-13, Lk. 22:54-62, Ph. 3:13-14, Rom. 8:35-39.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we must avoid anger at all cost and that God will not accept half-measures. Today as we continue our study, may God enrich us spiritually in Jesus name? Amen.

1. THE KING'S BUSINESS

God is the King of Kings. His business cannot be done anyhow. It has to be done in an acceptable manner.

I Sam. 21:1-9; Jam. 1:22; Mt. 25:21; 2 Tim. 2:5; Jn. 9:4;

Ecc. 9:10; 2 Cor. 9: 7; Jn. 16:10.

2. WHO CAN DINE WITH GOD

God is a consuming fire. Those who will eat at his table must satisfy certain conditions.

Heb. 12:29; Ps. 24:3-5; Hab. 1:13; Mt. 5:8; Mt. 10:26; I Jn. 2:15-17; Jn.4: 32-34; Jn.14: 6; 2 Sam. 9:1-8; Eph. 2 : 8 ; Rom. 5: 20; 2 Cor. l2: 9.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt about the King's business and who can dine with God. Today as we continue may God enrich us in Jesus name. Amen.

1. GOD CAN CHANGE DEATH TO LIFE, ENEMIES TO SERVANTS

The sword of Goliath was to bring death to David but it brought him life. And now the Weapon of the enemy is to serve David.

I Sam. 21:8-9; Gal. 2:20; Gal. 6:14; Ph. 3: 7-10; Acts.16: 27-34; Acts 16: 6-10; Acts 16:16-18; Jam.4: 7; Acts 21 :10-14; I Thess. 5:18; Mk.16: 15.

2. GOD CAN REPEAT MIRACLES

The sword of Goliath had completed a miracle in the life of David before. Now it is about to serve him again. Our God can repeat miracles.

Exo. 14: 15-16; Exo. 17:5-6; 2 Kings 2:8; 2 Kings 2:13-1 Jud. 15:14-15; Jud. 15: 18-19; 2 Kings 2:14; Jos. 1: 1-5; Jud.15: 14,17.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt about the mighty ones of God and His training grounds. Today, as we continue our study, may God satisfy your thirst in Jesus

name? Amen.

1. THE DISTRESSED
   Among those who gathered themselves together to David are the distressed, the debtors and the discontented. As it was with David so was it with his greater Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

   Mk. 5: 21-24; 35-43; Mk. 5: 25-34; Lk. 7:11-17; Mt. 8:1-3; Mt. 15: 21-28; Mk. 5:1-16; Mk. 10: 46-52.

2. THE DEBTORS - Jn. 8:3-11; Lk.7: 36-47; Lk.19: 1-10.

3. THE DISCONTENTED - 2 Kings 2:9-12; Mt.5:6; Ph. 3:7-10; Acts 19:11-12; I Cor. 14: 18.

INTRODUCTION

In our last Study, we saw the duties and benefits of a captain. As we continue in the study today may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

DAVID – PART 35

LESSON 835

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 25:1-5

1. FOUR HUNDRED MEN

David became captain over about four hundred men. They were devoted to him all the days of his life. Among these men, Thirty-Seven men were able to excel. God will always have soldiers among soldiers.

I Sam 25: 16-13; I Sam. 30:1-18; Gen. 14:14-16; Judges 7:1-7, I Sam. 14:6; I Sam 23:39; II Sam. 23:8-16; I Cor 15:3-6; Mt. 17:1-2; Mk. 5:37-42; Mk. 14:32-34; John 13:21-26; Dan. 3:13-18; Dan . 6:1-3; Rev. 11:5.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God always has an army within an army and that some always excel, May we excel as we continue our study today in Jesus name. Amen.

1. IT PAYS TO CARE FOR OUR PARENTS

David took care of his parents even while he was in trouble. It is not only God's law that we should care for our parents, it is Christ like too. And it pays to do so.

Exo. 20:12, Deut. 5:16; Jn. 19:26-27; Gen. 27:33; Gen

22:15-18; Gen. 6:7-8; Gen. 7:13-16; 1 Kings 11:11-13; Rom. 15:1; I Sam. 2:30-34; 1Sam. 31:6; Ps. 37:25, Gal. 6:7-8 2.

2. WHAT IS TRUE FOR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS IS TRUE FOR SPIRITUAL PARENTS TOO.
Take care of your spiritual parents and be blessed. The converse is also true.

Gen. 37:3-4; I Sam. 16: 10-11, II Kings 3:11-12; II Kings 2: 9-15; Deut. 34: 9, Ps. 105.1 :1-5; II Kings 5: 20-26.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that it pays to take care of our parents, both biological and spiritual. Today, as we continue our study, may God give us grace to be doers of the Word and not hearers only in Jesus name. Amen.

1. GOD HAS SOMETHING BETTER IN STORE FOR YOU

DAVID – PART 37

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 23:16-18 (Part 1)

The Prophet Gad told David to get out of the cave of Adullam and move on. Even though the cave was comparatively safe, yet it is not the ultimate goal of God for David. It is not the throne of Israel. God has something better in store for you too: but you must move on to get it.

Mt. 25:24-29; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; Mk. 16:20; Lk.10:1-17; Deut. 32: 1-7; Mk. 5:1-16; 2 Kings 7:3; Gen. 39, Gen. 41; Mt. 14: 22-23; IKings 18:1-39; Gen. 13: 14-17; Mt. 2: 1-10; Gen. 24: 34-35; Gen. 26: 12-14; Gen. 30: 40-43; Is. 43: 18-19; Ep. 3: 20; 2 Cor. 3: 18.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God has something greater in store for us than we have at present. And that we need to go out, go forward and get it. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus

name. Amen

1. JESUS IS ENOUGH

Like king Saul, Satan constantly tries to entice Christians with world goods and temporal successes so as to get them to deny the faith. But well grounded Christians know that Jesus alone is sufficient.

I Sam. 22: 6-10, Pro. 17:17, Jn. 15:13-15, 1 Pet. 1 :8, Neh. 8: 10, Ph. 4:4, Jn.14:27; Isa. 9:6, Ph. 4: 7, Jer. 29: 11, Act.15:18, Rev. 1: 8, Isa. 3:10, Co1. 1: 27.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that any well-grounded Christian knows that Jesus alone is sufficient. Today as we continue our study. May the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THERE IS TIME TO SAY "NO"

When Saul asked his soldiers to kill the priests of God, they refused because they know that God is superior to any King.

I Sam 22:22-29; Dan.1:3-8; Dan. 3:14-18; Dan. 6:6-10; Exo. 1:15-21; Pro. 1:10; I Cor. 9:27; Jn. 2:15-17, Ps. 105; 14-15; I Sam. 24:1-7; Rev. 1 : 10-16; 20; II Kings 6:15-17.

2. WHAT WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED FOR?
Doeg is remembered today as the man who killed God's priests. What will you be remembered by?

Jn. 13:21-30; II Kings 5:20-27; I Kings 18:36-39; II Kings 5:9-1 0; Lk. 8:1-3; Jos. 24:15.

INTRODUCTION

The last part of this topic, we saw that it is good to dwell with those who have friend and enemy like us, today as we continue in our study we pray that God Himself will bless us mightily in Jesus name. (Amen).

1. DON'T FIGHT THE BATTLE THAT YOU

WILL NOT CONQUER

Before you go to any war, make sure you must conquer for example; it is a dangerous thing to fight God or His ambassador.

1 Cor. 9:26, Isa. 45:9, Phil. 2: 10, Acts. 2: 1-4, Acts. 12: 21-23, Acts. 15: 6-12, PS.105: 14-15, Num.16: 1-35, 11 Kings. 19: 35, Heb.1: 7, Ps.119: 89

2. WITH GOD'S PEACE MAKER YOU WILL ALWAYS CONQUER

Before you go to the battle, ask from your defender the man of war, after this follow all His authority, and you will always conquer.

Pro. 20:18, Exo. 15:3, Ps. 24:7, 10, Isa. 46:9-10, Jam. 4: 7, Mk. 16:17-18, Acts. 16:31, 3 Jn. 2, Acts. 2:38-39, Mt. 11: 12.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we must never fight a war we cannot win and that with God as our Ally, we will always be victorious. As we continue our study today, may God give us more victories in Jesus name.

1. DON'T BE A DEVIL'S INFORMANT: USE YOUR TONGUE ARIGHT

The enemy has its informants: but you don't have to b e one of them. You have better things to do with your tongue. Use your tongue aright.

Ps. 34:1; Jn. 1: 40-42; Jn.1: 43-46; Jn. 4: 28-30; 39 Mk.

5:1-20; Isa. 52: 7

2. TRUST YOUR SAFETY TO NO ONE EXCEPT GOD

Safety is really of the Lord not walls and gates. And God won't let you down if you trust in Him. Only be vigilant.

Pro. 21:31; Ps. 20:6-8; Ps. 127: 1; Ps. 124:3; Isa. 26:4; I Pet. 5:8; Mt. 26: 41; Eph. 6:13.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we must use our tongues aright rather than being a devil's Informant. We also learnt never to trust our safety to anyone except the Lord. May God prosper us mightily as we continue our study in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WHAT YOU WILL BECOME; GOD SAYS

Once God speaks, it is done. When He decrees that

someone will become something; that settles it.

Ps. 33: 6-9; Ps. 119: 89; Isa. 55:11, Jn. 6: 63 Heb. 4:11-12; Deut. 28: 13; Rev. 1: 5-6.

2 WHETHER THE ENEMY LIKES IT OR NOT
The enemy may know what God's plans for your life are. He may therefore try to thwart them. But he shall fall.

Pro. 19: 21, Gen. 36:3-8; Gen. 50: 17-20; Ps. 27: 3; lsa. 41: 10-13; Zec. 4: 6-7; Mk.11: 23; Rom. 8:31.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that you would become whatever God says whether the enemy likes it or not. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THERE IS A LOVE THAT IS TOTALLY SELFLESS
As in the case of Jonathan's love for David, almost all-human love has a motive. But there is a love that is

purely selfless; it is DIVINE!

Gen. 12:11-16; Lk. 15:25-30; 2 Sam. 12:15-23; Jn. 15:13; Jn. 13:1; Isa. 43: 2; Rom. 8: 37; Lk. 15:21-22.

2. THIS LOVE WONT LEAVE YOU ALONE IN THE JUNGLE.
Jonathan returned to the palace and left David in the jungle.
Divine love won't do that to you. Infact, it will do anything and everything for you.

Mk. 10:30; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Est. 5: 1-3; Est. 7: 16; Pro. 11: 20; Exo. 12: 29-33; Exo. 14:13-28; Heb. 12:5-9.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God knows how to handle our enemies. Today, as we continue our study. May the LORD bless us richly in Jesus name, Amen.

1. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE ANOINTED IS IN THE HANDS OF THE ANOINTER

God has not left the judgement of his anointed in the hands of anyone except Himself or the vessel he used to anoint the anointed. The judgement of the anointed is only in the hands of the anointer.

Ps.105: 14-15; Jude 9; Eze. 28: 14; Rev. 1:16,20; II Kings 5: 25-27; I Sam. 5: 26-29.

2. THE ADVANTAGES OF THE ANOINTING FOR ANOINTED

The anointing confers many privileges on the anointed. Some of which are the breaking of yokes in his life, removing obstructions to his destiny and supernatural body-guards.

Is. 10:27; II Kings 2:13-15; II Kings 2:23-24; II Kings 4:8, II Kings 4:11-13; II Kings 4:14-17; II Kings 5:1-14; II Kings 6:14-17; II Kings 6:18-20; II Kings 13:20-21.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that the judgement of the anointed is in the hands of the Anointer and that there are several advantages of anointing for the

anointed. As we continue our study today, may the LORD bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WHEN YOU HAND OVER YOUR ENEMY TO GOD, YOU PUT HIM IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
God is normally angry at the wicked daily. Infact when you feed your enemy, you put him in trouble how much more when you now hand him over to God for judgement!

2 Tim. 4:8; Gen. 18:25; Pro. 20: 22; Rom. 12:19-21; 2 Thes. 1: 6-8; Heb.12: 29; Heb. 10: 31; Ps. 7:11; Pro. 25: 21-22.

2. IT IS HARD TO BE MEEK, BUT IT PAYS
It is difficult to be meek, to refrain from avenging yourself. But it pays, in blessings, in avoiding God's anger and in hearing Him clearly.

I Pet. 3: 1-4; Mt. 5: 5; Zep. 2: 3; Mt. 11: 28-29; Num. 12: 3-8; Exo. 2:11-12; Exo. 3: 1.

2 SAMUEL DIED BUT GOD LIVES

Whenever a great man dies, there is mourning because they leave behind a vacuum difficult to fill. However, God lives forever.

Deut. 34:5-8; Deut.34: 10; Ps. 23:1; Deut.32: 40; Heb. 13:8; Ps.18: 1-2.

3. LET GO OF YESTERDAY: TOMORROW WILL BE O.K

After the burial of Samuel, David went on his way. A chapter had closed in his life, another begins. Let go of yesterday, afterall, tomorrow will be O. K.

Ecc. l:4; Heb. 13:8; Ps. 119:89; I Sam. 16:1; Lk. 15:11-24; Ph. 3:13-14; 2 Sam. l2:15-24; Isa. 3:10.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID - PART 48

LESSON 848

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 25:14-17

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God lives and that we should let go of yesterday. As we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. PARENTS TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

   How could an evil man come from the house of Caleb? Maybe, unlike Joshua, Caleb did not commit himself to the training of his house in the fear of the LORD.

   Num. 13:30; Num. 14:24; Jos. 24: 15; Gen. 22: 7-9; I Sam. 2: 27-30; 2 Sam. 13; Heb. 12: 5-8; Pro. 29:17; Pro. 22: 15; Pro. 22:6.

2. CHILDREN SUBMIT TO YOUR PARENTS

   It is one thing to be corrected; it is another to submit to correction. If you want to be greater than your parents, you must submit to them.

   Exo. 20: 12; I Sam. 4: 10-11; 2 Sam. 18: 9-15; Gen.22: 15-18; Gen. 24: 34-35; Gen. 26: 12-14; Jos. 1:1-5; 2 Kings 3: 11-12; 2 Kings 2: 9-15; 2 Kings 5: 20-27.

DAVID – PART 49

LESSON 849

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 25:14-17

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that both parents and children have parts to play, if the good name of the family is to be preserved. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name Amen.

1. IT IS DANGEROUS TO PROSPER THROUGH WICKED MEANS

   Some people prosper through wicked means. Do not envy them. Some prosper through serving God and then forsake God. Do not copy them. Some prosper and remain faithful to God. Emulate them.

   Ps. 37: 1-7; Ecc. 24: 19-20; Ps. 73: 12-13; 16-19; Ecc. 5: 13; Pro. 22: 16; Ecc. 6: 1-2; Hos. 13: 1; Hos. 5: 9; Gen. 24: 34-35; Job. l: 1-3; 2 Kings 4:8-10; Dan. l: 1-3; 22; Pro.10: 22; Ecc. 5: 19.

2. THERE IS A GREATNESS SUPERIOR TO WEALTH.

Wealth is not everything. There are certain things superior to wealth.

Pro. 22:1; Pro. 4:7; Pro. 3:13; Pro. 8:11; Pro. 1:32-33; Acts 3: 1-8; Ph. 3: 7-11; Acts 19: 11-12.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that it is dangerous to prosper through wicked means and that there is greatness superior to wealth. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. FLESHLY BEAUTY IS OF LITTLE VALUE

The Bible says that beauty without discretion is like decorating a pig with gold! Worst still is the fact that not only is beauty transient; the flesh is actually an enemy of the Spirit.

Pro.11: 22; Isa.40: 6-8; Gen. 3:17-19; Pro.31 : 30; Rom.7: 21-24; Rom.8: 5-8; I Cor. 9: 27; I Cor. 6: 19-20; Ecc. 12: 1-7; Job 19: 25-27; Ps. 149: 4.

2. THE CONTENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CONTAINER

Of what use is a beautiful container if the content is poison? But then how wonderful if the container is not so beautiful but the content is wonderful and precious.

Mt. 23:27-28; I Pet. 3: 1-4; 2 Cor. 4: 7; Acts. 3:1-8; Acts l9: 11-12; 2 Kings 2: 23-24; 2 Kings 4: 38-41; 2 Kings 6: 1-7; I Cor. 6: 19; Mk. 16: 17-18; Mt. 5: 29-30.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we were studying the confrontation between Nabal and David. Today, as we continue this aspect of our study, may the LORD bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. DO NOT DESPISE ANYONE: ONLY GOD KNOWS TOMORROW

Do not despise anyone, no matter how little. Only God knows tomorrow. Most especially, do not despise yourself: God has not finished with you yet.

I Sam. 25: 4-10; Mt.18: 10; Rev. I: 8; I Cor. I: 26-29; Zec. 4: 9-10; Job 8: 7; Ps. 75: 6-7; I Sam. 2: 7-8.

2. WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

If anyone asks you today: "Who are you? Who is your father?". How will you answer? Do you really know who you are?

Jn. 1: 11-12; Ps. 91: 1; Ecc. 5: 8; Gen. 17: 1, Lk. l: 37; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8: 16-17; Rom. 8: 37; Rev. 1: 4-6; I Pet. 2: 9.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that it is dangerous to despise anyone and that if anyone asks you about your identity, you can boldly say, " I am a child of the Most High". Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. THE VOICE OF PRIDE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

The commonest words in the language of the proud are "I, my, mine". Whereas only God is the true I AM. Consequently, the proud unwittingly equates himself to God, forgetting that all he has is from God.

I Sam. 25: 10-11; Isa. 14: 12-14; Dan. 4: 28-32; Exo. 3: 13-

1 4 ;
Isa. 45: 5; Deut. 32: 39; Isa. 42: 8; John 1: 1-3; Ps. 23:1; Jam. 1: 17; Gen. 2: 7; Dan. 4: 32.

2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF PRIDE
It is a dangerous thing to yield to pride. It leads, among other things to humiliation, deprivation and at times to sudden and premature death.

I Sam. 15: 22-23; Dan. 4: 33; I Kings l2:16-21; Pro. 1:32; Ps. 53: 1; Luke 14:11.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt about the voice of pride and its implications. We also learnt about the consequences of pride. Today, as we continue our study, may the LORD bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. A VAGABOND CAN BECOME A DISCIPLINED SOLDIER IF HE IS WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE
David's army consisted of 400 former vagabonds. But

within a short period of time, they had become a highly disciplined army. It does not matter what we used to be, we too can become highly effective soldiers of the cross.

1 Sam. 25:10-13, 1 Sam. 22:1-2; Eph. 2: 1-7; Lk. 16: 13; Mt. 12: 30; Jos. 24.15, 1 Sam. 7:3, Mt. 4:10, Deut. 10:12, Deut. 6.5, Rev. 3.15, Ps. 11.9.2, Jere. 29: 13; Deut. 30:19. Ex. 19:5.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that a vagabond can become a disciplined soldier if he is willing to pay the price. Today, as we continue our studies, may the LORD bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. HE WHO KNOWS HOW TO COUNT HIS

BLESSINGS WILL KNOW HOW TO GIVE THANKS

- Nabal was called a son of belial because he had three major faults: pride, ingratitude and unwillingness to listen to advice. We had considered pride in a previous study. Today, we want to look at the issue of ingratitude. Actually, we wish to consider just 21 reasons why we should constantly, praise God.

  Ps. 100:1-5; Is. 55:8-9; Rom. 9:15; In. 1:1-3; In. 9:1-7; I 43:1-2; Ps. 23:1-6; Jam.1:13; Jer. 29:11; Jam. 1:17; La 3:22-23; Heb. 13:8, Ps. 103:1-5; Is. 59:1-2; Heb. 12:14; Pet. 2:24; Lk.16:19-24; Ram. 8:37;Ps.18:35; Ps. 34:8; P 68:19; Gen. 17:1; Ps. 23:5; Neh. 8:10; Is. 40:28-31; I Pe

2:9; Mt. 20:16, Rev. 19:16; Jn.1 :11-12; Rev. 1 :5-6; I Jn.1: Ps. 32:1-2,Ps. 103:12; Zee. 2:8; Jn. 17:6,9; Is. 9:2, I John 1 :4-5; Is. 60:1.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that three things that marked Nabal out as a son of Belial: pride, ingratitude and unwillingness to listen to advice. Today, we shall discuss the last of these characteristics of a son of Belial. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus Name, amen.

1. IF YOU ARE WILLING, GOD WILL ADVISE YOU ALL THE WAY

It is dangerous to live without constant words of advise. In fact it is foolish to do so. Of course, the most reliable of counselors is the LORD of hosts Himself and He is willing to guide you forever.

Pro. 11: 14; Pro.12: 15; Pro.13: 10; Pro.15: 22; Isa.28: 29; Jer.32: 18-19; Ps.48:14; Ps.73: 24; IS.30: 21; In.16: 13; Ps25: 9.

2. JUST A WORD OF ADVICE

God's advice may run counter to what common sense will tell you. In fact, some of His pieces of advice are really hard. But then, He is the Original Counselor.

Lk. 6: 38; Pro. 2: 24-25; Ecc. 2: 1-6; Exo. 15: 26; Ps. 3: 10; Pro. 2:30; Mt. II: 12; Jam. 4: 7; I Pet. 5: 8-9; Mt. 5: 29-30; Lk. 9: 59-62; 2 Tim. 2: 22; I Cor. 6: 18; I Tim. 6: 6-11; Zec. 4: 6; Is. 9: 6.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that if you are willing, God will advise you all the way. Today as we continue our study, may we greatly be blessed in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A CROWN TO HER HUSBAND

Abigail was a wonderful wife. She had many adorable qualities. She was wise, quick-witted and discreet. Surely, a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.

Pro. 14: 1; Pro. 18: 9; Ps. 34: 14; Pro. 13: 8; Exo. 30: 11-12; Ecc. 3: 1,7; Amos 5:13; Pro. 12: 4; Pro. 31: 10; Pro. 31: 30; Gen. 2: 18.

2. THERE IS HELP FOR YOU TOO

Wonderful as Abigail was, she could not have helped her husband and family if she had known about the danger they faced. There is someone who knows all things and can help you too.

Job. 42: 1-2; Dan. 2: 20; Ps. 18: 10; Mt. 20: 28; I Tim. 2: 6; Ps. 28: 7; Ps. 40: 17; Deut. 33: 27; Heb. 13: 6; Jn. 14: 26.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that every member of our household could be saved if we are willing to pay the price. As we continue with our study today, may the Almighty bless you richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

2. NO ACCIDENTAL MEETINGS

David realized that Abigail" coming to meet him on the way was no accident. He realized that it was God

that planned it and he gave glory to Him. We too must realize that there is nothing like an accidental meeting and should pay more attention to those we too meet" accidentally.

1 Sam. 25:32-35; Exo. 2:5-10; 1 Sam. 9:1-17; 1 Sam. 17:22-23; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Kings. 19:15-21; 2 Kings. 4:8-17; Lk. 5:1-11.

2. GOD IS WORKING HIS PURPOSE OUT IN YOUR LIFE

Silently, relentlessly' but surely, God is working His purpose, out in your life. However, He uses human vessels at times. Sometimes, He uses them to open doors and at other times to close them .

Is. 46:10; Pro. l9:21; Is. 43:13; Gen. 50:18-20; Exo. 2:7-8; 11 Sam 17:17-18; Acts 9:10-17; Rev. 3:7.

DAVID – PART 60

LESSON 860

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 26: 12

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that there are no accidental meetings and that God is working His purpose out in your life. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE DRUNK WITH WINE

   It is so dangerous to be drunk with wine that only the hopeless are allowed by God to be drunk. Now since those who drink a little once in a while can be drunk on special occasion, it is best to abstain from drinking completely.

   Pro. 31: 4-5; Lev. 10: 8-11; Rev. 1:5-6; Pro. 23: 33 Ep. 5: 3 - 8 ; Pro. 10:19; Pro. 23:34-35; Pro. 31:6-7 Pro. 23:31-32; Hab. 2: 15; Gen. 9: 20-25; Gen. 19:30-38; I The. 5:22; Ep. 5: 18,

2. AVOID INSANITY: TEMPORARY OR

PERMANENT

To be drunk with wine is to be temporarily insane. Other forms of temporary insanity are anger and an act of adultery or fornication. They all must be avoided like plague.

Pro. 14: 17; Ecc. 7: 9; Pro. 22: 24-25; Pro. 16: 32; Pro. 6: 32-33; Pro. 9: 13-18; Pro. 6: 20-29; I Cor. 3:16-17.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we discovered that the drunk and the angry have something in common: both are temporarily mad. Today as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus' Name? Amen.

1. THE HEART IS VERY CRUCIAL TO A MAN

The heart of a man reveals who he is. The heart can do a lot of things like thinking, speaking, moving, etc. That is why God is more interested in what goes on in the heart more than on the outside, because the heart really controls the man.

Pro. 27:19; Pro. 23:7; Ps. 27:8; Ps. 16:7; Is. 29: 13; I Kings 2: 4; Acts 5: 3; I John 3: 17; Psalm 95: 7-8; I Sam. 16: 7; Ps. 7: 9; Mt. 15: 19-20.

2. YOU CAN HAVE A NEW HEART

The original heart of a man is simply terrible. But God is willing to give you a new heart: pure, God-controlled and determined to praise God.

Jer. 17:9; I Sam. 10:9; Eze. 36: 26; Mt. 5: 8; Jn. 7:37-39; Ph. 4: 7; Co1. 3: 15; Ps. 57: 7.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that the heart is very crucial to man and that you can have a new heart. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us abundantly in Jesus' Name. Amen.

1. FEAR CAN BE DANGEROUS

Fear is intended to be a life-preserving instinct. But if it is

wrongly applied, it can kill. Nabal was literally paralyzed by fear.

I Sam. 21: 10; I Kings 19:1-3; I Sam. 17; 10-11; Mt. 14: 26; Lk. 21: 26; I John 4: 18; Pro. 29: 25; Heb. 2: 15.

2. THERE IS A GOOD KIND OF FEAR
There is a kind of fear that can preserve both your physical and spiritual life. It is the fear of God.

Ps. 19: 9; Ps. 111: 10; Ps. 34: 9; Acts 9:31; Acts 10:35; Ps. 27: 1; Ps. 23: 4; Mt. 10: 28; 2 Tim. l: 7; Heb. 10: 31.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that though fear can be dangerous, there is a good kind of fear; the fear of God. May God teach us today as we continue with our study in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE SMITTEN BY GOD
The Bible is full of cases of those smitten by God. While not all resulted in death like Nabal's, but some did. For example, when the Rock of Ages struck Goliath on his forehead, he never recovered. It is dangerous to be smitten by God. However, he never smites without a

reason.

I Chr.16: 21-22; I Sam.17: 45-50; I Sam. 17: 4-10; Rom.8: 31; 2Kings 5: 25-27; 2Kings 5: 20-23; Acts 9: 1 5; Dan.4: 31-33; Dan.4: 28-30; Jam.4: 6; Exo. 3: 13 14; Acts 5: 1-11; Acts 5: 3; Rev.22: 15; Actsl3: 9-11; Actsl3: 8; Matt.16: 18; Acts 12: 20- 23; Isa.42:8; Lk.12:16-20; Lk.12:21;IJohn2:15-17; Col. 3: 14.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw how dangerous it is to be smitten by God. Today, as we continue our study, may God enrich us wholly in Jesus Name? Amen.

1. GOD CAN FIGHT FOR SOMEONE

When God decides to fight someone's battle for him, the fight is over quickly and VICTORY IS ASSURED. The person may not even have to lift a finger to win the battle.

Exo. 14: 13-28; Num.16: 23-35; Dan.6: 24; 2Kingsl9: 32-37; 2Chr.20: 20-25; Rom.8: 31.

2. GOD CAN BE NEUTRAL
When God decides to be neutral, the battle is over q u i c k and DEFEAT IS ASSURED.
Jos.6: 20-27; Jos.7: 2-5; Jos.7: 10-12; Jud. 16: 18-21; In.15: 5.

3. GOD CAN FIGHT AGAINST SOMEONE
When God fights against someone, the battle is over q u i c k and DISASTER IS ASSURED.

Num.23: 17-25; Num.25: 1-9; Jam.4: 6; Exo. 15: 9-11.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God can fight for or against someone. He could also remain neutral. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. NO ACCIDENTAL MEETINGS
When Abigail first met David, she did not know that she was meeting her future husband. When Moses first came to the palace, Pharaoh had no clue who he was. Be careful how you treat casual acquaintances.

Ex. 2: 1-10; Ex. 8:1; Ex. 12:30-36; Ex. 14:26-28; Ex.

24:13; Jos.1:1-1 Sam.16:14-23; I Sam.17:32-37 1 Sam.18:6-9, I Kings 19:13-21, II Kings 2:1-15.

2. BEWARE WHAT YOU SOW
When Abigail gave food to David, she did not know that she was feeding the one who would feed her for the rest of her life. What you sow today, you will reap tomorrow.

Ps. 126:5-6; Eccl. 11: 1; Eccl. 11 :6: Eccl. 11:1, Gal. 6: 7-1 0 ,
Is. 41: 8: I Kings 11:11-12; II Kings 9:1-1I: I Sam.l5:1-3: Deut. 25:17-19, EccI. 4:9-12.

INTRODUCTION

The Chapter 26 of the first Book of Samuel begins another chapter in the life of David. In it we see another side of a Divine Champion with many lessons to teach us. May we be richly blessed as we study on in Jesus Name? Amen.

1. A MAN'S ENEMIES CAN BE THE

NEIGHBOURS

The Ziphites, David's current neighbours conspired against David without cause and informed King Saul about David's hideout! And soon, the enemy without began to close in, thanks to the enemies within. What can we do to be safe among our neighbours?

Mt. 10: 36; Gen. 4: 1-7; Jud. 16: 4-5; Pro. 27: 10; 2 Kings 4:1- 7; Jud. 2: 1-4; Mt.28: 18-20; Acts l: 8; 2Cor.5: 17; I Jhn 3: 8- 9; In.4: 35; Jer.8: 18-22; Acts8: 1-4.

2. THERE ARE ENEMIES CLOSER THAN OUR SHADOWS

David sent spies to confirm if Saul had indeed come. But there are enemies whose presence we do not need spies to confirm. How do we deal with them?

Rom.7: 22-24; Rom.6: 12-14; I Cor.9: 27; Co1.3: 5-8; Rom.8: 12-13; Mt.5: 8; Mt.15: 19-20; Rom.8: 6-8; Jer.17: 9; Eze. 36: 26; Ps.51 : 10.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that a man's enemies can be the unconverted neighbours. We also saw that there are enemies closer than our shadows. Today as we

continue our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus. Name.

1. TOUCH NOT MY ANOINTED
   The reason why it is dangerous to harm the anointed of God is because the anointed is a Holy Ghost carrier and surely the Holy Ghost is pure Fire.

   Ps. 105:15; Acts 10:38; I Sam. 10:1-1; I Sam. 16:13; Acts 2:1-4; Jud. 15:14; Mt.12:31-32.

2. THERE IS ONLY ONE SECURE SECURITY
   It is foolishness to trust in any other thing or person other than the LORD. He only is the security that cannot and will not fail in the time of need.

   Jer. 17:5-6, Ps.127:1, Jer. 17:7-8, Ps.121:1-8, Ps.91:1-12, Ps.23:1-2, Ps.127:2, Ps.4:8, Ps.23:5, Zec. 2:5, Pro.18:10, Ph.2:10, Rev.12:11.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID – PART 69

LESSON 869

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 27: 5-12

In the last part of this series, we discovered that the only secure security is in God and we should not touch His anointed. Today, as we continue with our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus name, Amen.

1. GOD HAS VARIOUS WAYS OF FIGHTING

   In our text today, we saw how God dispossessed King Saul of his weapon by simply sending him into a deep sleep. God can drown, roast, paralyze, bomb and humiliate His enemies at will.

   Exo. 14:28; 2 Kings 1 :9-12; Dan. 6:24; Num. 16:23-24; Exo. 14:17-18; 1 Sam.17:45-49; Jos. 10:8-11; 2 Kings 1:13-14; Dan. 4:28-35.

2. THERE ARE CATEGORIES OF SLEEP

   There are at least five categories of sleep, beginning from slumber and ending in death.

   Mt. 25:1-5; Rom.11:8; Ps.127:2; 1Sam.26:12; Ps. 13:3; Jn.11:11-15.

DAVID - PART 70

LESSON 870

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 27:5-12

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that God has many ways of fighting His enemies and that there are categories of sleep. As we continue with our studies, may the lord bless us richly in Jesus Name? Amen.

1. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP

   It is possible to sleep physically and yet be spiritually awake. It is dangerous to sleep when you should be awake, even in the physical. In the spiritual, it is extremely dangerous to ever be asleep.

   Song.5: 2; Pro.10: 5; I Sam.26: 12; Jud. 16: 19; Mt.25: 7-8; Mt.26: 40-41; Pro.6: 9-11; Pro.23: 21; Jonah 1: 5-10; I Thes. 5: 3-9.

2. ONE GOOD WAY TO WAKE UP A SLEEPER IS BY SHOUTING

   There are two basic ways of waking a sleeper: beating or shouting. The lord is shouting today, saying loud and clear, "Awake!"

   Acts 12: 5-7; Jud. 16:18-20; Mt. 25: 5-7; Eph. 5: 14; I Cor.15: 34; Rom.13: 11; Mk.13: 35-36.

DAVID – PART 71

LESSON 871

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 27:12

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series we learnt that it is dangerous to be spiritually asleep and that one good way to wake up a sleeper is by shouting. Today, as we continue our study, may God keep us revived in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. IT IS DANGEROUS TO FAIL THE MASTER

   Abner failed Saul, his master. David said that he deserved to die. David was right. It is a dangerous thing to fail your Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

   , Gen.22: 1; Deut.8: 2; Pro.24: 10; 2Kings 5:5,20-27; Mt.16: 26; Luke.22: 3-6; In.12: 3-6; Ma1.3: 8-9; Luke.22: 55-62; 2Tim.3: 12; Gen.13: 8-13; Luke22: 42; Gen.19: 15-38.

2. IT IS HIGHLY REWARDING NOT TO FAIL THE MASTER

   There are several people who did not fail the Master. They were richly rewarded. However, consider the story of the ten virgins!

Gen. 22:15-18; 2 Kings 2:11; 2 Kings 2:12-15; Dan. 3 30; Dan. 6: 28; Rev.2: 10; Mt.25: 1-13; Zec. 4: 6.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw David informing the camp of King Saul that he had spared the life of Saul again and accusing the royal guards of dereliction of duty. Today, as we continue our study, May God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. IF GOD IS ANGRY WITH YOU, REPENT QUICKLY

David said, "If the LORD had stirred thee up against me, let Him accept an offering .... " In other words, if it is God that is angry, I will repent and mend my ways before Him soonest. That is a good piece of advice! Because you can never fight against God and win.

Ps. 62: 11; Mt. 28: 18, PS. 90: 2, Dan. 2: 20-21; Deut. 32: 29-41, Rev. 3: 7, Ps. 139: 7-14; Jonah 1-3; Rom. 9: 15; Jer. 3: 22-23; Mt. 11: 28-30.

2. IN ANY OTHER SITUATION, BE A SOLDIER
David went on to say," ... If they be the children of men (that are against me), let them be accursed .... "The Bible is clear as to how to deal with various categories of our enemies. Let us follow Biblical injunctions.
Mt. 5: 23-24; Jn.13:-35; Heb.12: 14; Ps. 34: 14; I Cor. 9: 24-27; Co1. 3: 5-6; Is. 54: 17; Jam.4: 7; I Pet.5: 8-9; Mk.16: 17; Ep.6: 10-18; I Thes. 5: 17.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that if God is against us, we must repent quickly. But if anyone else is against us, we must be soldiers of Christ. Today as we continue in our study, may God enrich us greatly in Jesus name, Amen.

1. EVERYONE IS SEEKING FOR SOMETHING
David said that the King of Israel is come out to seek

a flea. God is seeking for worshippers, Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and the Holy Spirit is seeking whom to help in prayers. Even the devil is seeking someone too.

Jn. 4: 23; 2 Chr. 16: 9; Lk. 19: 10; Rom. 8: 26; I Pet. 5: 8;ICor. l: 22-25; Matt. 7: 7.

2. WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?
God advises us to seek heavenly things rather than earthly, spiritual things rather than material. What are you seeking?

Matt. 6: 33; Col. 3: 1; Ps. 34: 14; Matt. 5: 6; Ps.27: 8; Isa. 55: 6-7; Pro. 8: 17; Ps. 63: 1-4; Ps. 27: 4; Heb. 2: 6; Ps. 42: 1 - 2 ; I Cor. 12: 31; Phil. 3: 13-14; Hos. 10: 12.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that everyone is seeking for something and that it is time to seek the Lord. Today as we continue with our study, may we be richly blessed of the Lord in Jesus name. Amen.

DAVID - PART 75

LESSON 875

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 28: 3-6

1. YOU TOO WILL DO GREAT THINGS

God used King Saul, an enemy of David, to prophesy good things upon David's life. He said that David will do great things. You too will do great things through Jesus Christ.

Num.22: 27-31; Num.22: 32-35; Num.23: 5-12; Dan.11; 32; Job.17: 9; Job.22: 28; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:23; Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12; Phil.4: 13.

2. YOU TOO SHALL PREVAIL

King Saul also said that David shall prevail. To prevail is to conquer, subdue or bring your enemy under control. You too will prevail by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8: 37; 1John 4: 4; Deut. 28: 13; Rom. 6: 12-14; I Cor. 9: 27; 2 Cor. 10: 4-5; I Cor. 14: 32; Zech. 4: 6-7;

DAVID – PART 76

LESSON 876

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 28: 7-10

Rom. 8: 1-2; Rom. 8: 13.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we learnt that we too shall do great things and still prevail in Jesus name, Amen. Today as we continue our study, may God take us to higher grounds in Jesus name, Amen.

1. THE CHASE IS OVER

   Saul returned from chasing after David. And he never resumed the chase for one reason or the other. For every true child of God, the chase is over!

   Isa. 40: 31; Isa. 49: 24-26; John 3: 14; I Sam. 26: 21,25; Acts 12: 5-19; I Sam. 23: 27-28; Matt. 2: 19-20.

2. YOU ARE FREE NOW: ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM

   The chase was over but David did not know it. Even though he was free then, he did not begin to enjoy his freedom immediately. You are free now; begin to enjoy your freedom.

   Acts 16: 25-28; John 8: 32,36; Rom. 8: 1-2; I Pet. 2: 9; 1John 4: 4; Acts 1: 8; Rom. 6: 11-14.

THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 4)

LESSON 877

TEXT: PSALM 61:1.2

INTRODUCTION

A new chapter opened in the life of David. Knowing well that the promises of King Saul cannot be trusted, he decided to do something drastic. Aware that the enemy within is more dangerous than the enemy without, he fled into the country of the Philistines. As we begin this new chapter in David's life, may God bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. IF YOU CONQUER YOURSELF NOBODY CAN DEFEAT YOU

   Your greatest enemy is within you, your flesh. If you conquer the flesh and let the Holy Spirit rule unhindered in your life, no outside enemy can overcome you.

   Rom. 7: 24, Rom. 8: 6-7; James 1 :13-15; Rom. 6: 12-14; I Cor. 9: 27; Prov. 25:28; Rom. 8: 13; 2 Cor. 4: 7-10.

2. KEEP YOUR INNER MAN WHOLE AND STRONG

   One of the greatest prayers of Paul for the saints is that their inner man be strengthened. This is because he knew that if the inner man is defeated, the battle is lost. If you are a true child of God, you can be sure your tomorrow will be O. K

Eph. 3:16; Prov. 18: 14; Prov. 17: 22; Prov. 12: 25; Job 17: 7; I Kings 19: 1-4; Lk. 22: 45; Neh.3: 10; Isa. 3: 10; Zec. 4: 6-7; John 9: 1-7.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that the enemy within is more dangerous than the enemy without. Today, as we continue our study of David. May God bless us richly in Jesus' Name. Amen

1. CAN LIGHT DWELL WITH DARKNESS?
   David dwelt with Achish at Gath! The prince of God decided to dwell with the prince of the devil! Can the giant-killer dwell with the giant-producer? Can light dwell with darkness?

   2 Cor. 6: 14-16; Lk. 24: 4-5; Amos 3: 3; Mk. 16: 17; Deut. 28: 1; 13; I Sam. 3: 1-4; Exo. 27: 20; Rev. 3: 14-16; Gal. l: 6-10; Mt. 5: 48; Mt. 5: 6; Eph. 5: 18.

2. TAKE GOD'S ADVICE: BE SEPARATE
   God does not want His children fellowshipping with darkness. He wants you to be separate. Take His advice!

   Eph. 5: 1-11; I Cor.5-9-11; 2 Cor.6: 17-18.

INTRODUCTION

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 2)

LESSON 879

TEXT: JN. 14:16-17, JN. 16:7-11

In the last part of this series, we saw how dangerous it is for the child of God to settle down in the midst of sinners. Today as we continue our study, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. BEWARE OF FLATTERY
David flattered Achish and got Ziklag allocated to him as a result, only to use Ziklag as a base to raid towns and villages of the Philistines. Beware of flattery! The flatterer never wishes you well.

Pro. 29: 5; Pro. 26: 28; Pro. 20: 19; Pro. 2: 10; 11; 16; Ps. 12: 3.

2. DO NOT ACCOMMODATE THE ENEMY
Achish accommodated David to his ruin. It is dangerous to accommodate your erstwhile enemy. No matter how harmless an enemy may appear, beware of him!

Gen. 19: 30-38; Num. 20: 7-12; Jud. 16: 4-21; Jn. 12: 1-6; Eph. 4: 27; 2 Tim. 2: 22; Pro. 6: 10-11; Jam. l: 13-15.

INTRODUCTION

In the last of this series, we saw how dangerous it is to accommodate your enemy. As we continue our study. May God further enrich us spiritually in Jesus' Name,

Amen.

1. THE WEALTH OF THE SINNER IS LAID UP FOR THE JUST

David invaded the towns of the Philistines and took over their wealth wiping them out in the process. This might be just one example of wealth changing hands from the wicked to the righteous. It had always been so in the plan of God and so shall it always be.

Pro. 13:22; Ecc. 2: 26; Deut. 6: 10-13; Ps. 24: 1; Hag. 2: 8; Ps. 50: 10; Exo. 3: 21-22; Exo. 12: 35-36; 2 Chr. 20: 20-25; 2 Kings 7: 12-16.

2. THEY THAT FORSAKE THE LORD PRAISE THE WICKED

Just in case you are wondering whether or not David was justified in what he did to the Philistines, just remember that those who justify the wicked and condemn the just are abominations to the LORD. He is a good Friend and a dangerous Enemy.

Pro. 3:33; Pro. 10: 6-7; Pro. 17: 15; Pro. 28: 4; Deut. 28: 58; 63; Pro. 23: 5; Deut. 30: 15-19.

INTRODUCTION

In the last part of this series, we saw that the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just and that only they that forsake the Lord praise the wicked. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHOSE SERVANT ARE YOU?

   Achish thought that David will be his servant forever. But he was terribly wrong. Whose servant are you and whose servant shall you be forever? This is a question you must answer.

   Rom. 6: 16; John 8: 44; Isa. 9: 6; John 10: 10; Ps. 29: 11; John 15:10-11; Rom. 6: 17-18.

2. FOREVER IS A VERY LONG TIME

   Achish said that David will be his servant forever. Now forever or eternity is a very long time. Where will you spend your eternity?

   Daniel 4: 28-37; Mark 9: 43-48; I Thess. 4: 15-17; Rev. 21: 23; Ezek. 37: 25; Isa. 55: 6-7; Prev. l: 24-32; 2 Cor. 6: 2.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID – PART 76

LESSON 876

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 28: 7-10