

MILLENNIUM BIBLE STUDY



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HEB 6:1; 12:1-3; HOS 6:3

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and
Go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation ----- Let us throw off
Everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us
Run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes
On Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith ---- Let us know, let us
Press on to know the Lord --

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BASICS

ELEMENTARY DOCTRINES

NEW BIRTH: {Key Scriptures Jn3: 3; Jn4; Rom10: 9-10 ;}

Man's nature is evil by inheritance. He is born a sinner with a sinful nature. He cannot stand in the presence of God and he cannot enter into heaven with this evil nature.

He needs to be saved {Rom 3:23}. He must therefore be born again and become a new creature in Christ {Jn 3:3}.

Salvation means that a man is rescued from his own sins, being saved from eternal punishment or hell being brought into fellowship with God whereby he may enter heaven and live eternally with God {Rom 6:23; Titus 3:3-7}.

Salvation is found only in the person of Jesus Christ. If you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior & Lord, then He lives within you and you are a child of God, you have eternal life.

New Birth is the rebirth of the human spirit that is evidenced in a good life. {Well of water experience}. Receiving God's life & nature as a free gift from God {Jn 10:10} {Jn 3:16} {Eph 2:8-9}. You become a brand new creature {2Cor5: 17}.

How do you know you are Born – Again? – Rom 8:16

FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS:

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for you {Jn 3:16; Jer 29:11 ;}

Man is sinful {Rom 3:23} and separated from God {Rom 6:23}

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin {Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3-6; Jn 14:6}

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord through faith & by personal invitation {Rev 3:20}, then we will experience New Birth {Jn 3:1-8}

Do you know how to lead a person into a 'Salvation Experience'?

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

GOD'S INSPIRED WORD & HANDBOOK FOR LIVING

Old Testament: covers the period of history before Christ. Here God deals with men under the Old Covenant or Law. It can be broken down into five categories – Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets

New Testament: is a record of the life and ministry of Jesus and the beginnings of Christianity. We are living under grace, God's New Covenant with man through Jesus Christ and not under

the Law. The New Testament can be broken down into four categories: Gospels, History {Acts}, Letters {Rest}, Prophecy {Revelation}.

We need to develop good study habits – Asking the Holy Spirit's help, reading systematically, reading in context, making notes on your Bible, praying over scriptures, using inductive study approach {5'W's & an 'H'} – comparisons, contrasts, opposites, similarities, time factors, conclusions, observation, interpretation, application.

We need to use tools like Bible Dictionary, Concordance, Topical Bible, and Commentaries, Cross References.

Have you been really studying the Bible?

THREE BIG WORDS:

Atonement {Covering}, Lev 16:8; 17:11.

Remission {Erase}, Acts 10:43; 2:38; 26:18; Eph 1:7; Col 1:13-14;

Forgiveness 1Jn1:7-9;

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT:

{Rivers Experience – Jn7:38}

Jesus Christ the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit Jn3:11;

Enabled to live a victorious Christian Life and witness. Acts 1:8

The believer then opens his life to the 'gifts of the Holy Spirit.' – 'Tongues' included.

Have you led anyone into a B.H.S experience?

GIVING AND RECEIVING:

Tithe, Offering, Almsgiving Mal3; Lk6: 38

Give and be blessed. Withhold and be cursed.

Are you a cheerful and generous giver?

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT: 1 Cor12, 14

Nine Special gifts

Word of Wisdom; Word of Knowledge; Discerning of Spirits

Tools to edify the Body of Christ.

Have you identified your gifts, prayed for particular gifts, studied the gifts & sought training in them, helped others in cultivating their gifts?

FASTING

Ministering to the Lord Eph 5:18-19;

Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit – e.g. guidance Acts 13; 2

Ordaining ministers Acts 13:3;

Drawing close to God in times of danger Acts 27:20-25;

Making important decisions Ezra 8:21;

Anointing for service.

Makes your spirit more keen to be used as a channel for healing, deliverance, guidance etc.

Do you fast regularly? Partial or full?

BASIC MINISTRIES:

Ministry Of Encouragement Heb 3:13;

Ministry of Reconciliation Col 1:20-24;

Ministry Of Casting out Demons Lk10:14; Mk 16;

Ministry of Laying Hands on the Sick Mk 16:17-18;

Are you doing all the four basic ministries on a regular basis?

FOUR BASICS TO A FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN WALK:

Prayer {1Tess5:17},

Word {Jos1:8},

Witness {Acts1:8},

Fellowship {Heb10:25}.

Are you practicing these four basics to a fruitful Christian walk on a regular basis?

How do you know you are Born – Again? – Rom 8:16

INTIMACY WITH GOD:

Have you graduated from acquaintance to friendship &

Trusting in God in your close walk with Him?

PRESENTING YOUR BODY & RENEWING YOUR MIND

You are spirit made in God's image for He is Spirit. You have a mind and you dwell in a physical body Jn3:3-6; 4:24; 1 Tess 5:23; When you are born again, the house is the same but the occupant is different. Your spirit is a new creation {2 Cor 5:17}. Your spirit man is born again, is recreated, has eternal life, fellowships with God, thinks spiritually, but your soul & body are the same Col 1:12-13; Your soul is the trouble maker conformed to the world, continues to think (reason) carnally, feel, imagine, act, do its own thing, rejects / overlooks what the Spirit is saying Rom 8:6-7;

You need to replace negative thinking by positive thinking always in line with God's Word.

Train your will to make positive decisions

Program your mind with God's Word

Mind is like a muscle, which needs to be exercised through meditation.

Focus on the answer and the problem, will be left behind.

Are you renewing your mind daily? And how do you do so?

MEDITATION {BASICS} Jos1:8; Ps 1;

Reflective thinking with a view to application.

Are you meditating regularly on the Word of God daily (at least twice)?

REPENTANCE

Repent, Believe, Forgive

Have you clearly understood repentance & from what?

– Dead Works / Self-Government – God's Government.

SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY Rom14:12; 1Cor3:11-19; 2Cor3:10;

Whether you are Employer, Employee, Pastor, Church member, you are accountable to someone. Also every one of us will give an account of himself to God.

You are not accountable for what happened before you were born again, since your past was wiped out and you became a new creature. As far as God is concerned the past does not exist although the evil one may bring you photographs of the past. What has happened in the past is history. You can't rewrite it. But you can do something about your future. Since your past was wiped out and forgotten since you accepted Christ, you should forget it too. If you made mistakes since you became a Christian and you have repented and confessed your sins, then you are free 1Jn1:9. You are going to be accountable for your own self since you were born again.

Accountable for what? – Conduct, behaviour, attitudes, motives, for what God has given you, stewardship etc. - Are you a good steward?

RIGHTING WRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Wrong relationships damage love relationships between Christians often due to pride, anger, misunderstanding, covetousness, insensitivity, gossip, boasting, differences of opinion, personality clashes, power struggles, tactlessness etc.

Wrong relationships that damage love relationships between Christians affects our relationship with God and also affects our witness to the unsaved world, bitterness builds up and this causes many spiritual problems.

The process of mending broken relationships – Mt 5:23-24; If you are the offender 1 Jn 1:9, confess to the Lord and to the other however painful. Next restore name / property {Lk 19:8}

Witnesses may be needed to verify your attempts at reconciling - Mt 18:16-17;

How would you tell of the love of God if you are unloving to fellow believers?

SOUL WINNER

1Cor 9:16 – Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel

Do you think preaching the Gospel is optional?

Can you recall how often you have done it?

POSITIVE CONFESSION

Think - Believe – Confess

Christianity is called the 'Great Confession'

From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks Mt 12:34; Lk 6:45;

For as He thinks in his heart so is he Prov 23:7

With the heart man believes and with the mouth Confession Is made unto 'Salvation' Rom 10;

Jesus the Apostle and high Priest of your Confession Heb 3:1

\If what you say is what you get, are you getting what you expect? If not why not?

HUMILITY – 1 Pt 5:6; 2 Chr 7:14;

Humility is a decision not a gift. It is backed by the grace of God.

The root cause of Lucifer's downfall was pride & rebellion Isa 14:12-15;

The root cause of Christ's exaltation was humility Phil 2:5-11;

Which path have you chosen?

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Fruit of the Spirit speaks of the Character of Christ Ga5:22 – Most of our problems within and outside are caused by dark forces that oppose the fruit of the Spirit. These forces are called the fruit of the flesh – our old sinful nature. Satan always produces the fruit of death – the fruit of the flesh. But Jesus always produces the fruit of life – the fruit of the Spirit. The more we yield to the flesh the worse we become, the deadly traits get fixed into our Character and we look more like the devil than the Lord does.

The Fruit of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace -----

The Fruit of the Flesh - cruel, proud, sad, Dishonest, unruly, careless, hateful, greedy, worried, selfish and so on

As you richly bear the Fruit of the Spirit you will be blessed – How? Check – Are you?

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Are all called to preach? Are they all evangelists?

Is there an art to be learned in preaching the Gospel? If so have you taught anyone this art?

Preaching the Gospel is like fishing. How? And in what ways?

RIGHT DECISIONS

Would you agree that today many people are in the 'Valley of Decisions' &

Our destiny depends on the choices we make.

What in your opinion would be an important decision that people could make?

What would you consider hindrances to make the right decision?

- Fear of failure & what will people say?

How often did you make a decision and stood by it even though it cost you make the wrong one? What did that indicate especially if you couldn't change your stand?

LAWS OF HEALING & HEALTH

Healing is always the Will of God – True / False

Faith begins where the Will of God is known and as long as a person wavers concerning God's Will, he isn't going to receive anything from God. 'Anything' in Jas 4:17; includes healing.

What factors could hinder healing?

HEARING GOD'S VOICE AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN

God has a plan for you that is tailor made. His plans are for good and not for evil to give us a future and a hope. Some people are running around looking for a Word from the Lord when all the time they are carrying an entire collection of God's Words – the Bible – under their arm. When they find someone they think is spiritual they ask him for a word from the Lord. They should find out what God says in His Book and then do it. We have the written Word to instruct us and the Holy Spirit dwelling within us to guide and direct us 2 Tim 3:16; Rom 8:14; We are to do it His way and in His timing.

Have you found God's plan for your life? Are you following it?

VISION

A blind person was once asked what was worse than being born blind – she quickly replied –“to have sight and no vision.” The Bible says - “For lack of vision My people perish” – Some people get visions at the Prayer Meeting. What is vision? – A dream, goal, direction, purpose which God implants deep into your spirit, giving you a conviction of what you have to obtain in your life and not wander aimlessly through life. The vision helps you to reach your potential and the potential helps you to fulfill your vision.

Discuss “To have sight but no vision” & “For lack of vision My people perish {dwell carelessly, wander aimlessly}” - “I come to do the Will of the Father”

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

As representatives of God's Kingdom here on earth, we know we are in an all out war with a highly organized Kingdom of evil spirits ruled by Satan who seek to frustrate us with sickness, financial pressure, strained relationships, accidents, curses, sinfulness, temptations etc. for he the Devil comes to kill, steal, destroy, devour. The battleground is the mind where Satan has built up strongholds to keep people away from receiving the Gospel. In fact he has declared war on the saints, God's people. Our task is to break down these mental strongholds and release men and women from Satan's slavery, tyranny, deception, and captivity through prayer and spiritual warfare. We have to enforce / administer this defeat to the powers of darkness which Jesus already accomplished at Calvary through His death – burial – resurrection – ascension.

We need to have spiritual knowledge and the revelation gifts operating in us. We need to know the 'strong man' Mt 12; 29; the kinds of spirits involved – Spirit of Jezebel, Spirit of Anti Christ, Spirit of Death & Hell. Areas of personality where they intrude, how demons enter, entry points. Why some are not delivered. What are the indications of a curse? Methods of deliverance & how deliverance is to be kept.

Have you ever delivered people from demonic oppression, obsession, and possession?
Are you willing to learn how to?

INTERCESSION

Are you following the 'Prayer Mantle'? Have you attended a 'Prayer Seminar' & a 'Deeper Life Prayer Seminar'? Do you have your notes? Are you following the principles enlisted? Do you have a prayer list? Are you regularly following the 'Prayer / Word Calendar'? Did you join the 'Prayer Link'? Have you led others in intercessory prayer? Are you familiar with the 'Prayer Walk'?

Have you recorded your answers to prayer?

KNOWING WHAT BELONGS TO YOU

Many Christians are praying and believing, trying hard to get what already belongs to them. Know that you are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Three areas that prevent you from receiving your blessings:

Ignorance / lack of knowledge of 'full inheritance' Hos 4:6

Unwilling to act on what they know

Lack of appropriating by faith Heb 11:6;

How do you appropriate His blessings? –

By faith – Take God at His Word

Mark out scriptures that show you your inheritance, believe them, confess them, and act upon them.

Walk in the light of the knowledge of who you are and what you possess in Christ

You need not pray for something that already belongs to you. Simply thank & praise God for your blessings.

IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLING

Every Christian is called to be a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is one who receives instruction from another. He is an imitator of his teacher.

Are you aware of the 'Foundations of Discipleship'? – Heb 6:1-21

A foundation is a substance on which you build a structure. The foundation supports the building.

'Bedrock'

Best and Only Foundation: {1Cor3:11} Jesus Christ. We must ask God the Father for His Will in our lives and do only this. Then Jesus will support this and we can begin to build. Many, including Christians are bldg their philosophies, traditions of men, man's wisdom etc rather than on the bedrock Jesus Christ. We cannot go into maturity without this foundation.

Repentance from Dead Works:

The first call to a sinner is to repent from sin. The first call to a born again Christian is to repent from 'dead works' {acts that lead to death}. 'Dead Works' includes everything we did before we were converted i.e. anything done which is not initiated by God and so is devoid of the life of

God e.g. sins of the flesh, works of the devil, Mere Church attendance – traditional forms & ceremonies to get God's favour. Rev 3:1-2 – The Church of Sardis – Attendance at dead Churches?

Faith towards God

Trust, assurance, confidence in Him & in His Word. Positive Confession...

Doctrine of Baptisms: -

Baptism by One {H.S.} Spirit into One Body of Christ {Position}

Born- Again.

Baptism in Water {Public Confession} We are symbolizing that in our lives we have died to our old natures and now live in the life & new nature that Jesus has made available to us by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit {Power} – to live as disciples of Jesus.

Baptism with fire {Purification} – The purifying / sanctifying process that all disciples of Jesus need to go through if they are to become like Him.

Commitment to the Local Church and to the Body of Christ universally is essential because of the first baptism. Every member is important not independent but interdependent.

Laying on of hands

Flow of divine life, energy, power requiring faith of both the recipient as well as the one laying hands. – Healing, imparting blessings, B.H.S, imparting spiritual gifts, setting people apart for a specific work {anointing / commissioning} etc.

Resurrection of the Dead:

Eternal Judgment

The righteous will go to heaven to live with Jesus forever. Those who do not accept God's way for them in Jesus will go to hell – eternal punishment.

Have you been discipled before?

WALKING IN HOLINESS

Holiness is a unique aspect of God's nature. It means being set apart unto God, separated from the world and set apart unto His work. It is absence of evil, a morally blameless life without sin.

You need to check your association – relatives, friends etc for unequal yoking.

You need to check your conversation – slander, gossip, joking, backbiting, quarreling,

You need to check your appetite –

World – rock music, discos, financial dishonesty, bribing etc.

Flesh – diet, lust, porno, abortion

Devil - superstition, idolatry, witchcraft

You need to check your attitude to sin & repentance -pride, unforgiveness, bldg your own kingdom

Avail of Holy Communion, Lord's Supper 1 Cor 11;

Live a life of self denial

Declare what the Blood of Jesus has done for you.

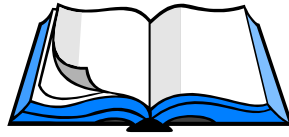
Stay in the Word

Let your works give glory to God

Yield to the Holy Surrender – I surrender all.

Are you walking in Holiness?

SECTION ONE



MEDITATION

Key Scripture Jos1:8

This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate on it day and night, to observe and do what is written in it, then you shall make your way prosperous and you shall have good success.

PRINCIPLE

Meditation has been called reflective thinking with a view to application. It is musing, pondering, thinking on the Word of God in such a specific way that the message of scripture is connected to a specific need of your life.

E.g. Prosperity & Meditation – Ps 1:2-3; Jos1:8;

PRACTICE

PERIMETER [Outline]

Read 4 to 8 verses before & after the selected verse to interpret and establish its theme.

PARAPHRASE:

Write and say the scripture in your own words.

PULVERIZE:

Emphasize each Word, ask questions like when, why, where, whom, how to the Word you have read personally as applying to you.

PERSONALIZE:

How does it apply to your life? You may even ask why you have been failing to keep / obey the scripture.

PRAY:

Pray this verse back to God involving your needs

PARALLEL PASSAGES:

Use scripture references, cross-references, ideas, thoughts.

PROBLEMS:

If you have problems understanding the scripture ask a competent Bible teacher.

POSSIBILITIES:

The scripture you read could be of help to someone else too.

PROTRACTED STUDY:

Detailed study.

HOMEWORK:

Use the above principles, a dictionary, different bibles, concordance, references, etc.

1. Meditate on your daily 'FOLM - Word Calendar' using the above principles.
2. Write the meanings of the words from your dictionary (on the reverse of this sheet) – Perimeter, Paraphrase, Pulverize, Personalize, Pray, Parallel, Passages, Possibilities, and Protracted.
3. Do a special study on Jos 1:8, and write your reflections systematically on the reverse of this page and bring it to class the next time. (You may add another sheet if required).

PERIMETER: Outline

PARAPHRASE: Express meaning of the passage.

PULVERIZE: Reduce to fine particles / morsels – {each Word}

PERSONALIZE: Make personal.

PRAY: Ask earnestly.

PARALLEL PASSAGES: Similar pathways.

PROBLEMS: Something hard to understand.

POSSIBILITIES: Capable of existing, happening, being done.

PROTRACTED STUDY: Lengthen, detailed.

SAVING OF THE SOUL

The spirit of man is the part of man that is saved, born again. It is the part of man that receives Eternal Life, which is the nature & life of God and is born again. It is the spirit of man that becomes a brand new creature in Christ Jesus. God does not restore or renew our spirits because they are brand new.

Our souls that contain our reason, intellect, emotions, will are not born again, they have to be dealt with. The saving of the soul is a process.

Jas 1:18-21;

James is talking to the born again ones whose souls were not saved. {My beloved children} The 'engrafted Word' is able to save our souls.

Rom 12:2; Paul is talking about renewing the mind.

Ps 23; 3; The Psalmist spoke of restoring of the soul.

The Hebrew word translated restore in the O.T. and the Greek word translated renew in the N.T mean the same thing. Man's soul can be renewed or restored when his mind becomes renewed with the Word of God, then he thinks in line with what God's Word says. He is able to know & prove the permissive & perfect will of God because the Word of God is the Will of God.

RENEWING THE MIND

Key Verse: Rom 12:2

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"

Conformed Formed, shaped, molded fashioned, in the world system, worldliness
Transformed Metamorphosis, dramatic, complete change in form, appearance, character etc. -
Caterpillar to butterfly.

Renewing mind Make new or to change your thinking to God's thinking Isa 55:8-9;

Many Christians are still conformed to the world. They cannot 'prove' that God's Will is good. They still think like the unsaved do. {Feelings, experience, govt. job, etc.}

An attitude is simply a way of thinking.

One thing that stops all growth in the spirit & soul realms is a defensive:

"I-Don't-Want-To-Change-Attitude"

Church History shows us that God usually uses a whole new people to start His next move, because the old movement refuses to change Prov 9:7-9;

RESULTS OF RENEWING THE MIND:

Maturity.

1. You think differently, in a new way, unlike the kind you thought of before.
2. You feel different – joy, liberty, freedom, motivation, excitement, challenge, growth.
3. You act differently – people notice and enquire of you.
4. You receive differently – blessings. 2 Pt 3:8; Mt 12:35.

To be a Christian you must be born again. Jn3:3, 6;

God is a Spirit, not mind or body. You too are spirit made in His image. Jn4:24;

Jn 3:16-18; When you are born again, the real you, your spirit man is born. You were spiritually dead and separated from God, but you now have eternal life and fellowship with God. This takes place all in the spirit realm not soul or physical realm. Your spirit was recreated. Your mind and your body stayed the same. Your body is your house on earth. If we Christians could just remain in this new spiritual realm, we could walk victoriously through life from the day we were born again overcoming every obstacle. However we have a soul & body to deal with.

Your soul is your mind, emotions, will, thinking, reasoning, and imagining. You decide how to react or respond to the circumstances of life. The soul realm is where we Christians have the most trouble. It is in our thinking or reasoning that we reject the information given by our spirit

and we continue to do our own thing. Even though our spirit is born again and the Holy Spirit now lives in us, we quickly overlook what He says.

The Key to successful Christian living is to get our mind to line up with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and obey what your spirit man says according to His Word

Rom 8:6-7; You can think two ways: carnally or spiritually. Carnal means, “flesh”. The carnal mind is one that thinks in line with the body or world. Your body is in contact with the natural world where Satan is still Lord. Rom 8:23; 5-6; 1Cor4:4;

A spiritual mind is one that thinks in line with the Spirit of God & the Word of God. It has been renewed; the old ways of thinking have been swept out and replaced with new thought patterns.

It doesn't matter how much praying, confessing, interceding you do. If your mind is messed up you will not receive the things you desire if you continue to be carnal because 'the carnal mind is enmity against God'.

E.g. Your reasoning could dissuade you from obeying Mal 3 & Lk 6:38; So if you do the rest it will be of no use.

The mind is the fulcrum between a positive spiritual life and a negative carnal life. The two choices are ever before you and you must constantly exercise your will to be spiritually minded. Again if you try to figure out everything the Holy Spirit says you will always be carnal minded. To be spiritually minded you must act and think on the Word of God whether you understand it or not. E.g. The Bible says, “By whose stripes ye were healed” {1 Pt 2:24}. Now you first believe it, then think, “I'm healed” and next act like you're healed, regardless of whether you understand it or not or how you feel. Again Give and you shall be given” then act on that no matter what!

Eph 2:8-9; tells us 'saved by grace through faith' – a gift not of works. So some say since I'm saved by faith not works, I'm not going to do anything. I'm not going to tithe, study my bible, pray etc. because that is works! True you can't add to salvation or improve salvation, your spirit is saved, by grace through faith: complete, finished, once and for all, eternally secure – spiritually. But you still have a body & soul and they are not saved by grace through faith. They are saved by works.

James says faith without works is dead. Dead faith won't save you. You can be saved and still be conformed to this world. Many B.A. tongue talking people still live, talk, walk think, act just like the world. And they feel just like the world.

If you are still depressed, still feel bad, are uptight, afraid, can't look people in the eye, talk to them, love them and share with them openly you are conformed to the world. Of you are still involved with self-abuse, adultery, fornication, adultery, pornography, etc. you are still conformed to the world.

Make up your mind.

Use your will and begin to change the way you think.

When the Word of God comes to mind act on it without trying to reason it out.

Just do what God said to do

How can you be changed? Transformed? How can you become a totally new person? How can you do the perfect will of God?

By the renewing of your mind. The mind is part of your soul. Your mind or soul has to be renewed, changed transformed. You will prosper even as your soul prospers. If you are not renewing your mind you are not doing the will of God. To be able to do the will of God you have to work every hour, a constant process of changing the way of thinking.

James didn't say that making Jesus your Lord saves your soul, he said that you have to receive with meekness he 'engrafted word' which is able to save your souls.

Jas1:21; {Amp} Notice the Word contains the power, but it won't work unless you renew your mind. You have to receive the Word and then make it work by an act of your will Apply the Word of God in your life and then the power will come to save your souls.

Heb10:38-39; 'The saving of the soul' is an ongoing thing. Can you lose the salvation of your soul? You can't but you can draw back from it, you can leave it. You can reject it

1Pt1:9 The end of your faith is the salvation of your soul, the renewing of your mind. The beginning of your faith in Jesus is when you were B.A. This metamorphosis is the saving of your soul – the end of your faith.

1. Do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.
2. One thing that stops all growth in the spirit & soul realms, is a defensive, "*I-Don't-Want-To-Change-Attitude*" An attitude is simply a way of thinking.
3. When you are born again, the real you, your spirit man is born. Your spirit was recreated. Your mind and your body stayed the same. Your body is your house on earth.
4. The Key to successful Christian living is to get our mind to line up with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and obey what your spirit man says according to His Word.
5. A spiritual mind is one that thinks in line with the Spirit of God & the Word of God.
6. 'The carnal mind is enmity against God'.
7. You still have a body & soul and they are not saved by grace through faith. They are saved by works.
8. Make up your mind. Use your will and begin to change the way you think. When the Word of God comes to mind act on it without trying to reason it out. Just do what God said to do
9. How can you be changed? Transformed? How can you become a totally new person? How can you do the perfect will of God? By the renewing of your mind.

10. If you are not renewing your mind you are not doing the will of God. To be able to do the will of God you have to work every hour, a constant [process of changing the way of thinking.
11. James didn't say that making Jesus your Lord saves your soul, he said that you have to receive with meekness he 'engrafted word' which is able to save your souls. Jas 1:21; {Amp} Notice the Word contains the power, but it won't work unless you renew your mind. You have to receive the Word and then make it work by an act of your will Apply the Word of God in your life and then the power will come to save your souls.
12. 1 Pt 1:9 The end of your faith is the salvation of your soul, the renewing of your mind.

HOMEWORK:

Make up your mind {Decision}. Use your will to change the way you think. Apply the Word of God to your life.

I will think and speak positively this week. If I do have bad thoughts coming to our mind
– Fear, doubt, worry, jealousy etc. I will confess them according to 1 Jn 1:9 & repent.

I will meditate on God's Word daily morning and evening this week.

I will memorize scripture Rom 12; 1-2; for this week.

A PROSPEROUS SOUL OR A POOR SOUL

If we don't renew our minds we will stagnate, stop walking with God and dry up and be out of the perfect will of God. It has been observed that those that are older have a harder time renewing their minds than young people do. They feel they know everything and it is time for everyone to listen to them.

When we continue to renew our minds, eventually those thought patterns will be renewed and not recur. We recognize negative thinking, confess it, and decide to change it and replace it with God's thoughts. However we will never get to the place where we don't have to renew our minds anymore, because only God has perfect thinking and we will never be God. We must continue to renew our minds, to continually change the way we think. We must continue to grow strong in the Lord in order to live the life the kind of life God desires us to have.

3 Jn 2; Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health, even as thy soul prospers. – I.e. This is my number one prayer. I pray this above everything else. Even As' – Success is determined by the prosperity of your soul.

Salvation is instantaneous and yet also progressive – Spirit / Soul.

A soul that being saved is one being changed & renewed progressively to the will of God.

The spirit and the soul are different, and the Word is the only thing that differentiates between them Heb 4:12;

The Soul contains our personality – senses, emotions, will, reason, intellect. Our will is our power to make decisions, our power to change. The soul has to be sanctified continuously. For example if you smoked cigarettes before you were saved, most likely you will keep on smoking after you are saved because your soul still has the same desires, they don't change instantly. They must be changed & worked on progressively. The soul contacts two realms.

In Gen 2 it says that God breathed into man the breath of life {spirit} and man became a 'living soul'. The soul was that natural life which took place when the spirit and the flesh came together. So now the soul is the intermediary or mediator between the body and the spirit or between the spirit world & the flesh world. Your spirit receives input from God, your body receives input from the world and the soul stands in between. It can respond and react to either one. The body could be saying keep on eating and grow fat or sleep during the day, the body wants to destroy itself because sin is in it. The spirit says fast & pray, get up there is work to be done, study & obey the Word etc, but you must make the choice. The choices take place in the soulish realm. Each of you makes your own decision and establishes your whole life from your soulish realm. You will prosper and be in good health if your soul makes the right choices. Everything that comes from the natural man comes into the soul and every thing that comes from the spirit man comes into the soul. The Spirit of God will speak to your human spirit and it will come into your soul so also the world through your body and into your soul. You can either reject or accept it.

What do you do when the world talks to your body and then it gets to your soul that you are sick and in pain? What should your soul say? Or the H.S has wakened you up in the morning often

to pray, what does your body / world say to your soul? If you reject the H.S voice, by making a wrong choice, you get into trouble during the day and wonder why it happened, the H.S was trying to warn you. Your soul is messed up and that's what is keeping you from the blessings of God.

A PROSPEROUS OR POOR SOUL

If you are not prospering you should know that your soul is not right

If you are sick, your soul is sick. If you are sad your soul is sad. If you are having problems in your life, know that they started with your soul. Your spirit man is trying to grow while you are resisting change and thinking negatively. Your soul is the key to success in your Christian life. If your soul is poor your whole life will be poor.

What are the characteristics of a poor soul?

1. Lack of knowledge of the Word of God. Hos 4:6;
2. Controlled by the desires of the flesh – food, money, sex, power etc. Rom 8:5-6;
3. Being weak or indecisive, choosing things contrary to the Will of God. Lk 10:42;
4. Being undisciplined & fantasizing on ungodly things. 2 Cor 10:5;
5. Refusing to change, seeking to prove yourself right or defending yourself Rom 12:2;
6. Worldliness rather than concern for the heavenly. Col 3:2;
7. Allowing emotional feelings to decide how to act rather than God's Word.
8. A mind that contains worry, fear, negative thinking Phil 4:8;

What are the basic characteristics of a prosperous soul?

1. A mind ready to repent or change any thought any time. Rom 12:2;
2. A way of thinking that follows the Holy Spirit through the human spirit, not the flesh. Rom 8:5-6
3. A mind that meditates on God's Word regularly Ps 1:2-3;
4. A mind that is disciplined to positive things without fear, worry, negativity Phil 4:8
5. A will settled to do God's Will no matter the cost Jos 24:1;
6. A mind that is creative and sharp to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit Rom 8:14;
7. Emotions that are disciplined to the word of God and do not control the way we live 2Cor5:7

As we train and discipline our mind, will & emotions to the Word of God, prosperity in all areas will come. The power of the soul is extraordinary and few realize the great potential of it. Most of the Christian world has discounted the soul's realm in order to be spiritual but God never desired that. He said, "Be spiritual minded" and "Have a prosperous soul" Don't turn your mind off, use your mind for the glory of God. It is one of God's tools for man's success.

If you have a prosperous soul, the door is opened to success, prosperity, health etc.

3 Jn 2, 3, 4; Gaius had a prosperous soul because he not only had the truth, he walked in the truth. Many have the truth but don't walk in it. They know the truth in their mind but don't live it, hearing it not doing it. He that heareth the Word but doesn't do it walks in deception or lies. The truth is really not in you until you act upon it. When you know it and then do it then the truth is in you. Lies will keep your soul from prospering.

A hypocrite is a person wearing a 'church mask' agrees with the Bible but when he leaves the church he does not live the Bible. They then remove the church mask and then put on the worldly mask. – Same old bad attitude, negative way of thinking. Jesus said "Woe to you hypocrites ---

TRUTH means that you are unconcealed, appearing the way you actually are at church as well as home. It is better to have 5 people that walk in the truth than 500 hypocrites. ---Rather cold than lukewarm.

Depression, fear, worrying, being bitter and angry & upset with people is not walking in truth and you will never prosper having them in your life.

You may have certain habits for years, but you can change. The choice is in your will power. You can do with your will whatever you desire. It's up to you. The choice is in your will power. As long as you are in your body you will have to deal with the flesh or 'sinful nature'. 1 Cor 9:27; You can cause your thinking to be renewed through study discipline, confession, conversation, tapes, books, Bible

The spiritual mind is the mind that is programmed, renewed or set on the Word of God. The Word controls it. You won't have moods then; anytime you worry or concentrate on something negative – that is your carnal mind. Remember your body, flesh, lower nature is controlling you right then. You are out of the Spirit and you cannot hear from the Holy Spirit in that condition. You must make yourself plug into the Word – into the Spirit. You must get your mind programmed to the Spirit, to the Word, to the things of God and get off your problems etc. It is all based on what you set your mind on.

How do you keep your mind on God to be in perfect peace?
Isa 26:3; Jn1:1; - On His Word

The mind is a muscle that needs to be exercised and challenged or it will become weak & lazy – like we need Aerobics. Alcohol, drugs, television steal creativity and create a non-productive dull mentality, mental stagnation. As Christians we need to exercise our minds stir ourselves up and are sharp to labor with our Lord. Prov 10:15;

As Christians we should be meditating, asking and seeking for ways to lead our families build our churches and influence our world. It has been found that the greatest stronghold in people's minds is mental laziness.

We need to meditate on God's Word. Take time to think about it. You may read only one verse ask yourself questions about it, but if you will spend 20 minutes with it thinking about it you'll get more of it than if you read a whole chapter. – With the help of the H.S and power of God's Word. Doctors say we have more than 10000 thoughts a day and Satan knows that our mind is the arena of success. This is where the battle is fought. It is our enemy who brings us these negative thoughts to keep us from doing our best. Negative words & music about defeat, misery, sickness, sex etc, If you accept these thought and meditate on them they will become part of your own thinking and eventually destroy you. Prov 23:7;

Out of 168 hours a week you may sleep 49 hours so that leaves you 119 hours to have thoughts going through your mind. If the only Word you receive is that one church service as for most Christians then you have 118 hours of carnal thinking to one hour of Word input! Even if you take 2 hours a day for reading the Word & praying, and thinking on positive things you still have 104 hours of negative thinking against 15 hours of positive! That is why God told Joshua to meditate night & day to override the input of Satan with the input of the Word of God. A mind that is full of news, TV, movies, rock & roll, worry, other worldly input will never please God or receive His blessings.

We have been blaming evil spirits for the way we think & act but often it is not a spirit coming on us but what's coming from within us Mk 7:20-23; LB The trouble comes from within you. If you think of something long enough you will do it. It's the way you think that's got to change.

To meditate means to ponder, imagine, think, mutter or talk to oneself.
Jos1:8; Ps 1:1-3; Isa 26:3;

Don't condemn yourself; think of yourself as the best. Rom 8:1; Col 3:1-2 Seek means search for it diligently. Do you set your mind on things above? On God's Word?

You've got to say "Mind you are going to think on this or that part of the Bible just now. You have to make your mind think on what you want it to think. Phil 4:8;

If your mind says "Oh I'm sick, I better lie down – cast that thought down say – I'm not sick, I'm well in Jesus name! You can control every thought or the Lord would not have told you, think on what is pure, lovely ---

You have a sovereign will, you are created in the likeness & image of God Gen1: 26;

Angels & demons are spiritual beings, but the Bible doesn't say they are made in the likeness & image of God. The thing that sets man apart from other creatures is our will. We are sovereign over our own lives just like God is. No one is in control of your life except you. Deut 30:19; Your will is the most powerful tool God has given you.

Everything in life falls under one of two categories – life or death. The reason why so many Christians have never progressed in their lives is because they are waiting on God. They say "Not my will but thine be done". However the only time you should pray this is when you are praying a prayer of dedication or surrender to the lord or for a family. In things pertaining to your every day life you choose. Mk 11:24; Ps 37:4; Gen 1:26-27; It is your sovereign will that makes you an exact likeness.

In every circumstance in life you have God, a tree of the knowledge of good & evil, and an enemy. The choice is ours. Jos24:15; Prov1:25-29; Jn8:31

Your will is a force that you must use to renew your mind. You can choose life or death, blessing or cursing, hell or heaven Rom 10:9-10; You are responsible for your thoughts words deeds decisions.

You can train your will to make positive decisions and reject all negative influences. You can train your will to agree only with God's will. You have to use your will to do God's will. If you do that you will be a success.

Sin can never be erased till it is confessed. Admit that you were wrong.

Rom 8:29 God predestinated preplanned preordained that you should be changed moulded & conformed to the image of Jesus Every day we are becoming more like Him in every way, Get rid of the Old Man Col, 3:8-10; old attitude, old way of thinking, old behavior old way of thinking and put on the New Man the new way of thinking etc. that is in line with God's Word. God's Will and you will enjoy life. Break the mould of the Old Man.

HOMEWORK:

Answer the following questions?

1. Why do the older have a harder time in renewing their minds than the younger?
2. What happens to those old thought patterns when we continue to renew our minds?
3. The words "Even As" occurring in 3 Jn 2 signify that success is determined by?
4. Explain – "Salvation is instantaneous and yet progressive.
5. Explain - The Soul is the mediator or intermediary between 'body' and 'spirit.
6. What should your Soul say when your body & the world around you say that you are sick and in pain and that your finances are low?
7. Explain – If you are not prospering, your Soul is not right.
8. Refusing to change, always being on the defensive, perpetual negative thinking are some of the characteristics of a poor Soul. Do you agree? Why?
9. Repentance is a characteristic of a prosperous Soul – why?
10. Discuss – The mind is a tool for man's success.
11. The mind is a muscle – Do you agree? Why?
12. How would you distinguish a hypocrite and a man that walks in the truth?
13. Gaius had a prosperous Soul? Why?
14. Meditating on one verse of the Bible for 20 minutes is more beneficial than reading a whole chapter. What are the advantages and disadvantages?
15. You are spirit and have a Sovereign Will means you are made in the likeness & image of God – True / False.
16. Many Christians have not progressed because they are 'waiting on God' with the thought "Not my will be done". Discuss.
17. What kind of moulds can Christians find themselves?
18. How can you break the 'mould' of the Old Man? What will you do to find yourself in the mould of the New Man?

Meditation on God's Word brings success – Why?

Key Scripture: Jos1:8

Because the Bible contains God's thoughts, which are unlimited in knowledge, wisdom, insight, foresight, and understanding, experience.

Our thoughts on the contrary are small, weak, limited in learning & experience, filled with worry, fear & failure, negativity, inaccuracy and can hold us in bondage.

Phil 2:5; We need to lose our negative thinking carnal worry filled thinking, get rid of our small thinking, think big, and get the mind of Christ i.e. think the thoughts of God, think God's way according to His Word, letting His thoughts saturate our minds in every area of our lives.

When we meditate on God's Word we will be transformed in our thinking and begin to act big just like God does and change our lives for the better. We will become supernatural thinkers from natural thinkers and bring prosperity in every area of our lives.

All throughout our lives we are confronted with two trees – the tree of life & the tree of the knowledge of good & evil. We are always confronted with this choice.

It has been said that each of us is at least four different people:

The person we think we are.

The person others think we are.

The person we think others thinks we are.

The person we really are

Who are we really? - We are who God says we are.

What does God think of us right now?

Blessed with every spiritual blessing Eph 1:5; Loved 1:4; accepted 1:5; redeemed 1:7; forgiven 1:7; given wisdom & understanding 1:8; given a guaranteed inheritance 1:11, 14; and much more

When God sees us He sees us inseparably united with Christ – Chosen 1:4; Rescued 1:7; Adopted 1:5; Honored 1:7-14;

Now we only have to actualize this position by what we see & say according to His Word and enjoy the benefits.

1 Cor 3:6-9; We are God's garden or farm. A farmer tills the soil. Paul as a Core worker with God planted the seed of God's Word.

Mk 4:3-8; There are four different types of ground. Only one type brought fruit and that too 1/3rd of it brought 100 fold = $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{12} = 8.3\%$

Prov 4:20-23; There are at least 4 steps for God's Word to be fulfilled in us –

'Attend' – Put God's Word first in our lives.

'Incline' – Listen to what God / His Word has to say.

'Depart not from Eyes' – Look as well as listen to God's Word.

'Midst of Heart' – From this Heart gate will flow God's Word as healing, medicine, prosperity etc. Similarly there could also be four different kinds of ground within you.

Rom 10:17; Does faith come by hearing just once? — 'Hearing & Hearing.' – First through the natural ears & then through the ears of the spirit. (The latter more important) You don't take medicine just once but repetitively.

A seed that is planted, needs to be watered – Acts 13:1; 18:24-25; No matter how good the ground or seed is, it needs planting, watering & patient waiting for the increase / harvest.

Lk 8:18 - The Lord says 'Take heed therefore how you hear'. How important then it is to hear the appropriate Word of God rather than what the world says.

So keep hearing God's Word, take heed how you hear. Give God's Word first place in your life, focus on what He is saying. Keep His Word in your heart and you will reap a great harvest of God's blessings in your life.

There are 4 steps in developing the Spiritual Man;

1. Meditate on the Word Jos 1:8; Ps 1:1-3;
2. Practice the Word Jas 1:23-24;
3. Put the Word first place in your life – Become Word conscious.
4. Instantly obey the voice of God Rom 8:14;

Mk 10:46-52; Blind man Bartimaeus Principle

'Call & Action' - He called out to the Lord {that was his faith calling} then he put his faith into action by rising up, casting away his robe of doubt. He held on to His miracle that was passing by and got healed. We too need to call upon the specific Word of God and put our faith in action. Confessing His Word is in essence faith – in – action.

The woman with the issue of blood got her healing with word & deed, saying and acting – say-do-receive-tell. She kept on saying {Greek}.

Heb 11:3; God created by the Word of Faith. He had faith in His own words.

Mk 11:12-14; 20-22; Jesus too had faith in His own words.

Mk 11:22-24; Have faith in God or Have the faith of God or Have the God kind of faith.

Since we are spiritual beings made in the likeness & image of God – Will & Spirit. Like God had faith in His own words / in His own faith so must we. For having faith in your words is having faith in your faith – your words is your faith or fear talking. You must know who you are in Christ, what you can do in Him. Be in line with God's Word.

One way to act on God's Word is to say it. What you say is your faith speaking. You will always have in your life what you believe for and say Mk 11:23-24; - three times more about the saying than believing – so must you preach thrice more about saying than believing. If you are saying I'll never make you won't. Therefore it is important not to have a double confession but to hold fast to God's Word and things will come to pass.

Release your faith by the spoken Word. The tongue in connection with the speech control nerve centre of the brain is responsible for life & death. It controls all other nerves. You can change your personality & destiny by your tongue. 'Whoever shall say' – The spoken word releases faith.

Rom 10:6-8; Jesus Christ is not staying in Heaven or under the ground but on your lips. He is depending on your lips to be released –salvation, fullness of the Holy Spirit, healing, deliverance from curses etc Don't limit Him. When I talk about healing Jesus Christ comes as healer etc. When I speak the Word it is going to produce that kind of faith and that kind of Jesus Christ.

Meditate is muse, mutter, ponder, think on God's Word.

MEDITATION SECRET TO SUCCESS:

1. Think, believe & confess God's Word.
2. Mutter God's Word over & over again till it sinks into your spirit. (Multiplication Table – for renewal of mind)
3. What you say is what you get
4. Perimeter, Paraphrase, Pulverize, Personalize, Pray, Parallel Passages, Problems, Possibilities, Protracted Study.
5. Make up your mind & use your will to bring about changes in the way you think.
6. Willingness to change.
7. Work hour by hour in changing the way you think.
8. Do what God said to do and don't reason out when God's Word comes to mind.
9. Receive with meekness the engrafted Word, make it work by an act of your will.
10. Recognize negative thinking, confess it, repent of it, and replace it with God's thoughts.
11. Be determined to be positive every time.
12. Do not be a hypocrite but walk in the truth.
13. The mind is a muscle, determine to exercise it. Begin today.
14. Meditate day and night at least 1/2 hour each.
15. Reflect on what you have filled your mind with according to what comes out from it and change the thought patterns by thinking / confessing God's thoughts.
16. Involve your whole personality as much as possible during meditation – singing, praying in English & 'tongues', gestures, breathing, lying down, walking, thinking, reasoning, using your will, waiting on God, listening to Him, conscience, communion, intuition, etc.

HOMEWORK

Resolve to read & meditate daily on the Positive Confessions listed on 'Prayer Mantle'.

Discuss Meditation the next meeting. There will be no other lesson taken at that time.

SECTION TWO INTIMACY WITH GOD

“TEMPLE CLEANSING”

The scriptures tell us of two significant ‘Temple Cleansings’ during the earthly life of Jesus {one at the beginning of His ministry and one at the end}, which are mentioned here for application, to grow in intimacy with the Lord. There are also four important steps we need to take in our intimate walk with our Lord.

THE FIRST TEMPLE CLEANSING – Jn2;

STEP ONE: OBSERVATION

Jesus was visibly annoyed as He passed through the Temple at Jerusalem. He observed & commented that they had made it a ‘market place’.

STEP TWO: REVELATION

What was wrong with it? –

Jesus perceived in His Spirit that this Temple His Father’s House was made unholy, self-centered business centre with leaders sitting comfortably. In the Outer Court of the Gentiles there were moneychangers & merchants, selling animals & birds to make money / business.

Love of money the root of all evil – greed, selfishness, perhaps leaders received a percentage, they didn’t put a stop to it, they were sitting comfortably. This special Gentile court was held as a business centre rather than a place of worship for the gentiles, lack of interest shown to the people who were going to offer worship & sacrifice.

Self centered business rather than the business of the King of Kings. Business rather than Evangelism.

STEP THREE: ACTION

The Leaders took no action, but Jesus did. He made a whip because of the seriousness of the problem and drove away the merchants out of the Outer Court of the Gentiles. He cleansed the Temple. Surely the Religious Leaders must have been unhappy with Jesus. Possibly their profit was terminated.

STEP FOUR: APPLICATION

1Cor 3:16; 6:19-20; Does your individual / corporate Temple need cleansing?
And how often?

Jesus is not interested in our Comfort but in Character. Have we allowed our selfish priorities to take first place? Does our mind, emotions, actions, attitudes need cleansing?
If Jesus came to our Churches today What would He find? Would Jesus make a whip?

Do we have a 'Court of the gentiles' in the Church do we have a special place for evangelization & ministry?

Are we occupied with promoting ministries, fund raising drives, materialism, building Church buildings, making programs, Church building fund, Pastors fund, etc. rather than being Core workers with the Lord in establishing His Kingdom. He said, "I will build My Church" – Building?

It is time that judgment began with the House of the Lord 1 pt 4:17. Let us consider our ways, repent, follow the Lord closely, living holy lives that are Christ-centered, being successful in the King's business.

Who is going to 'rock the boat', who is going to be the Lord's cleansing whip, John the Baptist?

THE SECOND TEMPLE CLEANSING

Mk11; Lk13:34-35; 19:37-46;

STEP ONE:

OBSERVATION

The first time He observed and called the Temple a 'Market Place', the second time He gave a stronger rebuke, He called it a 'Den of Thieves'. He looks at every thing and goes away - 'It is night'. He cleanses the Temple the next day. He says – 'My House shall be called a House of Prayer'. He observed that they had misused the Temple and made it a den of robbers, they were no longer a people of Prayer.

STEP TWO:

REVELATION

Lk 19; Jesus weeps over the city & Temple –

They had become the devil's disciples – Jn 10:10; Kill, steal, destroy.

They had forgotten their first cleansing

They had forgotten God's grace & mercy

They reverted to their old ways

They continued in selfishness

They became spiritually blind

They missed their visitation

They were un-teachable

They had become prostitutes – like a woman who sells her body for money so they sold themselves – gifts, talents, ministry for money, misusing what God had given to them, like Balaam selling & prostituting himself for money to prophesy against Israel. They had misused the House of God. There was no passion for the lost / unsaved Mk 11:17; Isa 56:4-8;

STEP THREE:

ACTION

He drove them away Mk 11:15-16;

STEP FOUR:

APPLICATION

Does your temple need repeated cleansing?

Would Jesus weep over the Temple {individual / corporate} and the city today?

How often have we forgotten our first salvation?
 How often have we forgotten the mercy & grace of God?
 How often have we been backsliders?
 Do we serve our own pockets?
 Have we become spiritually insensitive? Blind? When we serve ourselves we become spiritually blind and have lack of spiritual understanding.
 Have we a teachable spirit?
 Is there a danger of losing our visitation – revival?
 Do we abuse what God has given? Spiritual prostitution of T.A.G, false gods for money?
 Do we use our bodies, churches as places of worship?
 Are we misusing the House of God?
 How do we treat the House of God?
 What about our living habits? – Eating, drinking, dressing, keeping clean?
 How about our heart attitudes?
 Do we have a clean heart?
 Are we prayer less?
 Have we a vision & passion for souls?
 Jesus drove them away – Would we?

HOMEWORK:

Meditate on Mt 21:1-17; and answer the following questions, in a line or two?

1. Why is Mount of Olives an important place?
2. Why did the Lord ride on a donkey & the colt?
3. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred, why?
4. How do you compare and contrast Jesus who is meek & humble of heart & the One who drove out those involved with making money in the Temple?
5. What is the significant about the 'House'?
6. What happened when Jesus cleansed the Temple? How does it apply to you & to the Church of today?
7. What was the reaction of the teachers of the Law & chief priests? What was His response on hearing them?
8. As ambassadors of God's Kingdom going in His name, what would you do? Further how would you respond to opposition?
9. What did those whom followed Jesus do? What would you do?
10. Write your four steps, on observing the Church today {about 10 lines at the most}.
{Remember to include yourself as well}
11. How would you ensure that one doesn't miss his visitation?

Glory of God

Exo16:7, 10, 40:34-35; 2Chr 5:11-14; 7:1-2; Acts7:55;

In the O.T. times the “House of God” was the physical building. At first during the time of Moses it was called the Tabernacle which was just a tent. Later it was called Solomon’s Temple because Solomon built it. Here the Jews met. They called the presence of God in the Holy of Holies, the ‘Glory’. The Glory of God would be manifested in front of the whole congregation and they would see it. The curtain that screened off the Holy of Holies was 40 ft x 20 ft x 4 ins. thick. But when Jesus died on Calvary all this changed. The curtain was torn top to bottom. God moved out of the man made Holy of Holies in the Temple. Now He indwells us individually. We are each the temples of the Holy Spirit Heb3:6; 1Tim3:15; 1Cor3:16; 1Jn4:4; and you the whole Church wherever you are located are God’s temple, His Sanctuary. And God’s Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you.

O.T. The Shekinah Glory of the Lord.

Rom 6:4; Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father

Acts 7:55; Stephen saw the Glory of God.

Rom 8:11; Glory of God in the individual / corporate body.

There is something about being in unity in singing, praying, praising, worshipping that brings God on the scene. There is power in united prayer. When those musicians & singers got into one accord and lifted up their voices in praise & worship at the dedication of Solomon’s Temple, it brought the Glory into manifestation and the glory filled the Temple. Acts 4:23-24; He manifests when He is magnified & worshipped. – Individual & corporate Temples.

Another secret is praise until the Spirit of Worship comes and then Worship until the Glory comes. Then stand in the Glory.

You can’t praise long enough without entering into victory. Praise is a powerful instrument of harvest Hos2:21-23; As we sow to the heavens He will sow to the earth. And we enter through the gates of praise. He will create praise for you if you ask Him. Dancing brings anointing. 2 Sam 6:12-16; Dance before, during ministry. Don’t let a day pass by without dancing. Deut 11:24; What is just as powerful as dancing is the lifting of hands 1 Tim 2:8; Sing to yourselves in psalms & hymns – Eph 5:19 – songs of love, rejoicing, thanksgiving, petition etc.

Singing a new song does two things for you – Concentration on God & Simplicity. – Song releases the voice of the Spirit within you, in your language & builds you up as praying in the Spirit does. Some of the greatest revelation comes through singing. When we are lifted up in singing God begins to give us answers. 2Chr20:21-24;

Sometimes it is better to sing fewer songs. When the anointing falls on a particular song stay with it all the way uphill. It is the anointing that is more important than the song. It may take a few minutes or more time before you enter worship.

To live in the Glory realm you must be a worshipper. Worship is being shut away with God.

When I praise Him I offer my lips and I will to praise Him. But one doesn't will to worship. The Spirit of Worship must come on you, or on the meeting then you can worship. As you sing simpler songs the Spirit of Worship will come. You may experience it fall on your shoulders and move in the depth of your spirit. Then no one has to tell you to worship the Lord.

When a song leader is conscious that the anointing has built to the place that the Spirit of Worship comes, he should slip quickly into a little song of worship – less wordy & less songs than the songs of praise.

The ministry of praise increases the anointing in the service and on the individual. But the Ministry of Worship brings the Glory. Praise brings the anointing to Worship and Worship brings the anointing of Glory. If you want a great depth of Worship you must have a great depth of praise which enables you to ascend to the top of the hill.

If you want to be changed then Worship is the Key. When you worship you look into His face and are changed from Glory to Glory. We become like that which we Worship. Worship has that holy hush is awesome, less wordy, sometimes without words, sometimes in total silence we pour out our hearts to the Lord. Ps 24;

Worship is an attitude of the heart since the heart bows down before the Lord. But no one else is present. There are no thoughts in your mind other than God. You haven't come in with a petition, request etc. You have come because you love Him so much and feel the need to express that love. We pour out our love on Him and He on us.

What is the Glory realm? – It is the revelation of the presence of God. It is Heaven's atmosphere coming down on us.

God is revealing His Glory visibly to many people – clouds, cloud in the figure of a man that stood near the speaker, dew drops, golden drops of rain, pillar of cloud, pillar of fire, mist, sparkles, glory dust, gray or yellow smoke, ball of flame, tongues of fire etc. When the Glory comes we have revelation and we are changed. 2 Cor 3:17-18;

One of the most important ingredients for having the Glory revealed is unity. We can be singing the same songs, dancing the same dance but not be one in the spirit. And Glory doesn't come until we are one in the spirit. With oneness of the spirit, unity comes and then immediately the Glory falls. Your desire for Glory makes you set aside all petty things you fought for as really meaningless – in the light of eternity.

If any time in a service everyone is focussed on the Lord, that's unity. Just forget about yourself, concentrate on Him & Worship Him. We not only can see the Glory individually but collectively Ps 107:31-32; Isa 6:3;

When Glory is present Ministry is with ease. There is no struggle. Just let the King of Glory do the work. Then miracles & headings are common place. We need to encourage others to enter the Glory realm even in assemblies.

Glory brings revelation. You can be assured that if you will worship Him until the Glory comes you will begin to see Him. The knowledge of the Glory of God comes through the face of Jesus. Every time you stand in the Glory you are changed some more. Every time you look into His face you have a desire to be more like Him – His compassion, love, holiness, mercy. Look expectantly to see then you will see Him 2 Cor 3:17-18;

If you will praise until the spirit of Worship comes and you will worship until the Glory comes you will see the Lord. 1 Cor 2:9; Isa 40:6;

He will show you Himself part by part, parts of heaven, His beautiful rose garden, music room in heaven where angels pull out manuscripts & drop them into the mouths of believers who wanted to sing a new song unto the lord. You will see angels, angelic host's etc. The time is coming when all flesh shall see the revelation of the Glory of God

If you want to be an effective intercessor you must know the realm of Glory.

If you want to live in this realm & need revelation pray & sing in tongues a lot.

Singing in the Spirit will be a great part of the coming revival.

He wants revelation knowledge to be in our spirits. You will stand in greater authority & teachings will come forth from your mouth that you will wonder where you learned it.

You may pray hours in tongues. Then when you get up to speak, revelation might come in two or three sentences. But it will such a powerful revelation that it will feed multitudes. We must feed people with manna from above – revelation knowledge.

HOW TO BRING DOWN THE GLORY OF GOD

1. Praise until the Spirit of Worship comes and then Worship until the Glory comes. Then stand in the Glory and you will see the Lord in part or full so also more & more of Heaven. When you stand in the Glory you are changed.
2. Ask the Lord to create praise for you.
3. Dance will bring anointing.
4. Lifting of hands will bring the anointing.
5. Singing a 'new song' helps us concentrate on God in simplicity brings revelation.
6. When anointing falls on a particular song stay with the song.
7. The Spirit of Worship must come on you.
8. As you sing simpler songs the Spirit of Worship will come.
9. When the Song Leader is conscious that the anointing of Praise has built up to the place where Spirit of Worship comes he should slip quickly into a little song of Worship, less wordy & lesser songs than the songs of Praise, sometimes no words.
10. Praise brings the anointing to Worship and Worship brings the anointing of Glory.
11. To be changed Worship is the Key.
12. Just forget about yourself, concentrate on Him & Worship Him.
13. When Glory is present, Ministry is with ease.
14. Singing in the Spirit will be of great importance in the coming Revival.
15. When you pray for hours in tongues, then when you get up to speak, revelation may come in two or three sentences, which will have a powerful impact on the multitudes.

Concentrate, dance / lift up hands, Praise till / Worship till, Stand in the Glory, Pray / Sing in the Spirit, Conscious of transmissions in anointing, simple songs, less wordy,

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

Jer 7:23; My sheep hear My voice -----

God's plan for us involves much more than just living a disciplined Christian life. He wants to draw us into spiritual intimacy with Him.

Intimacy is defined as a very personal & private relationship marked by close association, contact & familiarity – a love relationship that develops between you & your heavenly Father as a result of desire. Prov 23:7; Spiritual revelation comes only to those who hunger & thirst for it. Intimacy develops through three steps – Acquaintance, friendship & trust. Jn14:9; Jn15:15; Prov3:5-8;

In this intimate relationship with the Lord it is quite natural to be supernatural and hear the voice of God.

Hearing the voice of the Heavenly Father is the basic right of all His children.

THREE SIMPLE STEPS:

- A. Submit to His Lordship. Prov 3:5-6;
- B. Resist the Enemy Jas 4:7; Eph 6:10-20; - Silence the voice of the enemy with the authority God has given you.
- C. Expect an answer. Jn 10:27; Ps 69:13; Ex 33:11;

Q – How can I get God to speak to me as He spoke to Abraham?

Jas 2:23; Gen 15:6; 18:17;

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1. AVAILABILITY – Mk 1:35; Rom 12:1-2; Jn 10:28-29; Jn 5:19;
Do you find time for God? {Quiet Hour}
Does He own your day & everything else concerning you?
Are you available? Do you avail of God's ability? – Jn 5:19; Eph 3:20;
Can you call yourself a friend of God? Jn15:13-15; Mk3:13-15; Lk11:5;
2. WILLINGNESS – Are you willing & obedient to do God's Will? Jn 7:16-17; Isa 1:19;
3. HUMILITY – Mt 11:28-29; 1 Sam 15:17; 1 Pt 5:6;
It gets God's attention – Jas 4:6; He exalts the humble – the highest form of exaltation is friendship with God.

Q - How can I be sure that I have received God's guidance?

7 Guiding lights {Navigation / Airport} - Isa 58:11; 1 Cor 14:10; Jn 10:27;

1. INNER CONVICTION Prov 20:27;
Wait on the lord, fervently pray, seek God's face till inward assurance comes. If you get your direction from others before you hear from God, you end up in confusion.
2. SCRIPTURE CONFIRMATION 1 Jn 5:14; Isa 8:19-20;
God does not lead a person contrary to His Word.
3. PROPHETIC CONFIRMATION Acts 21:11; 20:23; 21:4;
Agabas prophesies to Paul. What Paul already knows?
4. GODLY COUNSEL Prov 11:4;
Godly – One who knows God's ways. Anytime there is a pressure or haste in your spirit and you can't wait for godly counsel, watch out.

5. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE
God will give you favourable circumstantial evidence that you are on the right track even though your circumstances may point contrary.
6. PEACE OF GOD Phil 4:6-7;
It acts like an umpire at the crossroads of decision – whether peace leaves or remains with you at your decision.
7. GOD'S PROVISION & SOVEREIGNTY Isa 42:16;

In the process of hearing God's voice here are a few do's & Don'ts

- A} Allow God to speak to you in the way He chooses. Do not limit the Holy One of Israel
Ps 78:41; 1 Sam 3:9;
- B} Through His Word – Reading Ps 119:105;
Audible Voice Ex 3:4;
Dreams & visions Isa 6:1; Rev 1:12-17;
Inward Voice / Inward Witness Isa 30:21;
- C} Confess any unforgiven sin Ps 66:18;
- D} Have you obeyed the last thing God told you to do?
- E} Get your own leading; God will confirm it through others. It can be dangerous to rely on others to get the Word of the Lord for you 1 Kings 13;
- F} Don't talk about your guidance until God gives you permission to do so, in order to avoid pitfalls of guidance like pride, presumption, missing God's timing & method, bringing confusion to others who in turn need prepared hearts.
- G} Beware of Counterfeits -, Ouija boards, divining, horoscopes etc.
- H} Opposition of man is sometimes guidance from the Lord. Acts 23:10-14;
I} Practice hearing the voice of the Lord, then it becomes easier.
1 Sam 3:4-7; 8:7-10; 12:11-18;
- J} Relationship is the most important reason for hearing from the Lord
Ex 33:11; Mt 7:24-27;

Man is an eternal spirit being. He is made in the likeness of God. Jesus said that God is a Spirit Jn 4:24; So man must of necessity be a spirit. Man is a spirit, he has a soul and he lives in a physical body 1 Tess 5:23;

PRINCIPLES OF GUIDANCE

- a) Spirit of God will lead or guide the spirit of man, not through his mentality, physical senses, reasoning, - Prov 20:27; Rom 8:14, 16;
- b) Many people say body, soul & spirit instead of the reverse because they are body conscious. We believers must be more spirit conscious because we are spirit beings. Realize that in the new birth you became a new creature created by God in Christ Jesus, that you are a spirit being – this will help you to grow spiritually.
Say aloud – “I am a spirit being, I have a soul and I live in a body”. Saying this will make you more spirit conscious.
- c) The Holy Spirit who resides in your spirit gives your spirit the utterance and you out in tongues and very often guidance come this way, from Spirit to spirit. Sometimes you can interpret your own praying in tongues.
- d) Listen to your spirit.

- e) You {spirit man / inward man} present your body and you have to renew your mind by God's Word.
- f) The first primary way to be led by the Spirit is by the inward witness (intuition)
This is the way God leads all His children. Rom 8:16; {How do you know you are a child of God?} – The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord – it is the Lord lighting up the candle.
- g) The next important way is by the inward voice or the voice of the spirit man – conscience – the still small voice. Rom 9:1; Your conscience is the safe guide only if you are born again.
- h) The only reason your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit is because your body is the temple of your own spirit. He abides in your spirit. He communicates with you through your spirit not mind although it does reach & influence your mentality. Combine the three scriptures together –
Jn14:23; 1Cor 3:16; 2Cor6:16; God is dwelling in you, in your spirit and that is where He will speak to you.
- l) Feelings are the voice of the human body, do not depend on them.
- j) Get help from within – John 16:13; 14:26; The Holy Spirit shall teach you & bring to your remembrance.
- k) The voice of the Holy Spirit – {Audible} Acts 10; 19;
- l) Do not seek voices 1 Cor 14:10;
- m) Spectacular guidance & the gifts of the Holy Spirit, angelic visitations etc.
- n) Praying in tongues keeps your spirit in contact with the Father of spirits. It helps you become spirit conscious. When you [pray this way, your mind grows quiet, then you become more conscious of your own spirit & of spiritual things & you get guidance.

Q – What are some of the hindrances to hearing God's voice?

- A –
1. Hearts that are not blameless before God. 2Chr16:9 {worldliness, impure motives, wrong intentions}
 2. Hardness of heart Heb4:7
 3. Unforgiveness
 4. Disobedience
 5. Pride {fear of man Prov29:5}
 6. Preconception

HOW DO YOU DEVELOP YOUR SPIRIT?

1. By meditation on the Word {also mutter, speak to yourself}
2. By practicing the Word {be a doer of the Word}
3. By giving the Word first place
4. By instantly obeying the voice of your spirit.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. IF God speaks to you He will speak to you audibly. TRUE / FALSE
2. Three simple steps to hear God's voice -----
3. Three simple steps to hear God speak to you like Abraham, what are they? ----- --
4. What are the seven guiding lights?
5. Discuss "Get your own leading".

6. Discuss "Don't talk about your guidance until God gives you permission to do so.
7. What are some of the counterfeit guidance received?
8. Man is body, he has a soul and he lives in a spirit TRUE / FALSE
9. Discuss practice hearing the voice of God.
10. Discuss Spirit leads spirit.
11. Discuss guidance comes by praying in tongues
12. Discuss inward witness, inward, voice, voice of the Holy Spirit.
13. We don't need spectacular guidance today TRUE / FALSE
14. What are the four steps to develop your spirit?

PRAYER SECRETS

1. Praying In Jesus' Name:

Under the New Covenant sealed with the precious blood of Jesus, we need to pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus

The secret of asking in His name. Jn16:23-24;

The only access to God Jn14:13-14; Rom8:32; Phil 4:19; 2Cor1:20;

This is the key that unlocks heaven's door.

Jesus gave us the power of attorney or the right to use His name.

We have authority in His name over all the powers of darkness Lk10; 17; Mt28:18-20. 1Pt5:8-9; Jn16:23-24. The name of Jesus belongs to me just as my hands and feet belong to me.

He is with us in the power & authority of His name Mt18:19-20; Acts16:16-18; Col3:17;

Jesus gave us a signed cheque on the resources of heaven. In our daily Christian walk we have the same right as the apostles did to use His name in prayer. We use the name of Jesus against the enemy, asking & demanding of him. Jn14:13-14; Acts3:6; 9:34;

Mk16:18 we lay hands in His name and heal the sick.

Encourager {2Tess2:16};

Comforter {Heb2:18};

Sower of good Seed {Mt13; 37}

Establisher {Rom16:25}

Creator {Jn1:1-3}

Truth {Jn1:14; 14:6 ;}

Light {Jn8:12}

Door Opener {Rev3:7}

Judge {Jn5:27}

Savior {Mt1:21}

Lamb of God {Jn1:29; Rev5:12}

Deliverer {Jn8:32, 36 ;}

Healer {Lk4:18}

Teacher {Mt23:10}

Faithful {2Tess3:3}

Friend {Jn15:15}

Sovereign {Jn18:37}

Minister of Life {Jn11:25}

Lover {Eph3:17-19}

2. Depend on the Holy Spirit in your prayer life - Directed by the Holy Spirit – Rom8:14; 26-27; Eph3:20; 1Cor14:4, 14-15; Jude20;

The Cross is the basis of Grace; The lord Jesus is the channel of Grace; We appropriate Grace through faith; The Holy Spirit is the administrator of Grace.

When we pray in tongues, it is your spirit praying by the Holy Spirit within you. He helps you to pray. So also it is with groaning.

Praying in the spirit is praying perfectly and you can expect an answer along with God's guidance. You are also building up yourself {edify} spiritually.

3. The ABC of Answered Prayer

Ask God for the things you want Mt7:7-8; 6:8; this presupposes that you know exactly what you want – Jas1:6-8;

Believe that you receive according to God's Word Mk11:23-24; Jos1:8; Jer1:12; This presupposes that His Word has plainly shown you His Will as you have read it.

Confess His Word given to you. In the face of doubt & temptation say 'It is written' Lk4:3-12. Never doubt it Jas4:7; This also presupposes a number of things: - Stay away from any form of people, teachings, things that promote negativity. Meditate on the specific promise.

Give God the praise in advance for the answer.

4. Praise & Thanksgiving – Praise is the weapon of prayer
Ps100:4; Isa60:18; Phil4:6; - Pray till you have a feeling of praise.
 - Praise is God's residence,
 - Access to His presence, the purpose of His blessings Ps30:11-12; 16; 9;
 - Acts2:26; - My tongue is my glory to glorify God.
 - Praise a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness {evil spirit} Isa 61:3; Joel2:22; Isa52:1-2;
 - Praise a spiritual weapon – a way of deliverance Ps8:2; Jonah2:1; Acts 16:25;
 - The mouth is the centre of spiritual conflict Rev16:3; Ps8:2
 - Praise the way into God's victory Ps106:47; Col2:15; 2Cor2:14;
 - Praise is a sacrifice Jer33:10-11; Ps141:2
 -
5. Approach God without condemnation –
Ps66:18; 1Jn1:9; 1Tim2:8; Heb10:17; 4:16; 2Cor5:21;
6. Check your motives
Not self centered but God centered Jas4:12; 2Cor1:20;
7. Right relationship – Tear up the I.O.U – Mt11:25-26; 1Pt3:7;
8. In accordance with His inbreathed Word, praying His Will
Find the promise that relates to your situation and meets your need, then confess it – Do as Thou hast said – 1Chr7:16, 23; Ps33:6; Lk1:37-38; Mt18:18-20; Prayer Symphony 1Pt3:7.
9. You can Intervene by Prayer in national affairs
Tim2:1-4; 1Jn5:14-15;
10. To pray effectively –
 - Symphonize, agree Mt18; 18-19
 - Prayer List, keep a follow up on it
 - Keep a specific time / season e.g. day of the week for a specific need
 - Keep a day of Sabbatical rest to worship God
 - Before you pray praise & worship
 - Pray in the spirit
 - Spiritual armor
 - Mix prayers with the incense of worship.
 -
11. Prayer of Binding & Loosing
Mt6:19; Mt18:18-20; Rom8:14; Mt12; 28;

12. Specific Directed persistent prayer given by Holy Spirit
Jos8:18; Ps18; 2K13:14-25

13. Pray different kinds of prayers noting the rules Eph6:18

Prayer of Faith {Petition} – Based on God’s revealed will in His Word
{No ifs} Mt21:22; Mk11; 24;

Prayer of Consecration – Consecration or dedication of our lives for God’s use anywhere
and to do anything – ‘Thy Will Be Done’ Lk22:42;

Prayer of Commitment – Casting your cares on the lord 1Pt5:7

Prayer of Worship Acts13; 1-4; Lk24:52-53

Prayer of Agreement Mt18; 18-20

Praying in the spirit – in tongues 1Cor14; 14-15

United prayer Acts4; 23-31;

Intercessory Prayer – praying for others, taking the place of another, pleading another’s
cause, standing in the gap – Jesus our intercessor who came to bridge the gap
between God & sinful man 1Tim2:5; Heb9:24; Rom8:34; 7:25;
Man’s need for an intercessor Job9:32-33; Isa59:16;

14. Prophetic Praying

Prayer is man speaking to God, while prophecy is God speaking to man through another
normally. The key to opening doors of the Kingdom / Power / Purpose for God’s people
Acts2 – Simeon & Anna Lk2; Prophets of Antioch Acts13; 1-3; Jeremiah

Prayer & prophecy must go together along with prophetic action. It is out of the womb of
intercessory prayer that a true Word of God is given birth. Prophecy must be
conceived, received, birthed in prayer & intercession –Mary said ‘Be it done to me
according to Thy Word’.

Elijah said ‘According to Thy Word’ – 1K18; 36; - This is the Key.

WAITING ON GOD

Waiting expresses a word called dependence. When you wait on the Lord you sit. God acts while you wait. Kneeling is for repentance. Standing is for request or worship. Prostrating is for worship. Walking is in intercessory mood.

Start with 5, 10, 15, 20 Mts., and then God begin to reveal Him and works.

God sometimes puts us in a situation where we cannot act. We want to do many things for God, but He wants to build in us Character through patience the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We are taught through disappointments, tribulations etc. Drawing in our own strength depletes the well of human resources and we begin to demonstrate an anxious spirit, short temper etc. Hurry and rush are absent from the vocabulary of a Christian worker.

Ps130: 5; 40:1; 37:34; 27:14; Isa40: 31;

Waiting on God does not mean He has walked off stage and the audience is wondering whether He will appear at all. Isaih asked people to wait on the Lord.

To wait on the Lord is to be patient while He does the work He wants to do. It is to acknowledge our limitation and God's resourcefulness, our incompleteness and His wholeness. The true patience in waiting is the evidence of faith. It denotes a belief that God cares, is concerned, shows mercy, offers pardon, and renews strength.

We always want God to move according to our Timetable. His work seems slow & tedious. But that is because He has planned for us more than we can ever imagine 1Cor2: 9;

When we wait on the Lord He renews our strength, because we are at rest and He is doing the work.

Isa40:31 But those who WAIT on (for) the Lord {who expect, look for and hope in Him} {trust in the Lord} shall change and renew their strength and power: they shall lift their wings {soar on wings} and mount up close to God as eagles mount up in the sun; they shall run and not be {grow} weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.

Ps27:14 Wait and hope for and expect and trust in the lord: be brave, strong and take heart, have faith, and be of good courage, do not despair, let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes wait and hope for and expect the lord.

Ps69: 6 Let not those who wait, trust and hope and look for you, O Lord of hosts, Sovereign Lord Almighty be put to shame or disgraced because of me: let not those who worship, seek and inquire for and require You as their vital necessity be brought to confusion and dishonour through me, O God of Israel.

Prov20; 22 Wait expectantly for, trust in the Lord and He will rescue, deliver you and make the right what is wrong.

Q – What then is waiting on the lord?

A - Trust in the Lord, expect, look for and hope in, depend on Him.

Waiter or Waitress – A man / woman who serves at table in a hotel or restaurant etc.
 Wait – be expectant.

Two Concepts Of Waiting On The Lord:”

1. Waiting For God’s Time – i.e. take no major action until God shows you it is time to act. God acts in His own time, not mine. When you are ‘itching’ to get into action, it is the hardest thing in the world to wait.
 Num22:18 we must learn never to go beyond the Word of the lord to do less or more.
 God controls the time – Ga4:4 When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son --- God controls the times & seasons. Wait for God’s time. Do not get ahead and don’t lag behind. Wait upon the lord He will reveal His time to you. The times & the seasons are in the Father’s power Acts1:7. He will reveal them to us when we need to know them.
2. Waiting in Prayer & Fasting – Ps69:6;

Write down what the Lord gives you and do it! He will show you what to pray for. As we wait on God, He turns on the fire of trials, tests, temptations and our lives heat up. When we have reached the boiling point, Sin and self are purged away, God’s power begins working in us.

Q – What happens when you wait on Him?

Strength and power renewed.	{Inward / Outward}
Soar high and be close to God	{Intimacy with God}
Run and not grow weary,	{Run the race}
Walk and not get tired.	{Sit, walk & stand}
Will not be disgraced, dishonoured, confused,	{Esteemed}
Develops patience, faith, and character.	{Spiritual Growth}
Brings revelation.	{Revelation}
Service to God	{Service}

WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Ps128: 1-4 Blessed, happy, fortunate, to be envied is everyone who fears, reveres and worships the Lord, who walks in His ways and lives according to His commandments. For you will eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; happy, blessed, fortunate, enviable shall you be and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house; your children shall be like olive plants about your table. Behold thus shall the man be blessed who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord.

Ps 111:5; 89:34; He has given food & provision to those who reverently & worshipfully fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever and imprint it on His mind – My covenant will I not break or profane, nor alter he thing that is gone out of My lips.

Deut 10:12 And now Israel what does the Lord your God require of you but reverently to fear the Lord your God, that is to walk in all His ways and to love Him and to serve the Lord your God with all your mind and heart and with your entire being.

Deut13:4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and reverently fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice and you shall serve Him and cling to Him.

Gen22:12 And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear and revere God, since you have not held back from Me or begrudged giving Me your son, your only son.

Ps 34:9 O fear the Lord you His saints revere and worship Him. For there is no want to those who truly revere and worship Him with godly fear Ps23: 1.

Q – What is walking in the fear of the lord?

A – It is to walk in His ways. To walk in His ways, so you must know His ways and His ways are always revealed in His Word. When you obey His Word then you are walking in the fear of the lord.

It is the hatred of evil Prov8: 13; 16:6 - This means having God's attitude toward sin at all times. The more we study the holiness of God from His Word, the more we will understand the extent of His hatred of sin.

It is directly connected with obedience. Gen22: 12;

Jonah1: 9 Jonah's lack of the fear of the lord was evident in his disobedience

i.e. not going to Nineveh but going in another direction. In fact the sailors feared the Lord more Jonah1: 16. We always have God's grace to enable us to obey. We come under His judgment if we don't obey.

Why do we need to obey God?

Because of the knowledge of what He is really like and second, the fear of the Lord.

Obedying God results in the knowledge & FOL.

The Fear of the: Lord is the only way to be released from the fear of man. Prov29: 25.

The fear of man is being more impressed with man's reaction to our actions than with God's reaction. That's bondage. When we have the Fear of the Lord on us, we are impressed only with God's reaction. We are freed from the concern of what people think. That's freedom! The more God conscious we are the less self-conscious we are. The more concern we have for God's approval in every situation, the more confidence He releases to us to act with His authority.

Isa50: 10; Lk12: 4-5; God releases true authority in ministry only to those who are more impressed with His reactions to their actions than with men's reactions to their actions. {Fear of the Lord} –To the degree we are walking in submission, availability, dependence, obedience, faith in the Lord Jesus, He will release His authority to us in the same way the Father did to the Son {FOL}. Jn5: 19;

Prov23:17 "Continue in the Fear of the Lord all the day". – It means to choose holiness in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Why is holiness important?

- It is the most important part of God's character.
- The name of the third person of the Holy Trinity is the Holy Spirit.
- The basis of our respect for God

The degree of our understanding God's holiness will also determine the height & depth of our worship to Him. The beauty of the Lord Jesus comes from His holiness.

Ps25: 14 the friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him. Jas4: 8.

The Fear of the Lord is the answer to all relationships 1Pt1: 22; - Without the Fear of the Lord it is easy to fall into temptations.

We have the Fear of the Lord to the degree we say & believe that the Word of God is our standard of righteousness and to the level we match up to this in every area of our daily living.

We have the Fear of the Lord only in proportion to our freedom from idolatry. An idol is something or someone that takes a priority place in our lives over the Lord Jesus Christ in our thinking, time, affection, loyalty, and obedience. Idolatry is the symptom of 'heart trouble'. This malady can and often does exist in the midst of our regular church attendance and involvement in much Christian activity.

What thrills us the most?

What do we think about the most?

What do we talk about the most?

What gets our time and attention the most?

Possessions? Money? Investments? Food? Sexual Gratification? Job promotion? Authority? Travel? Home? Hobbies? Higher education? Sports? T.V, Leaders? Spiritual leaders? Friends? Family? Project achievements? Fulfillment of vision? Ministry? Leisure time? Pleasure?

When we name our idols before God {and man if God prompts us} and repent of them, then God delivers us.

What it takes to obtain the Fear of the Lord?

We are told that the FOL is the beginning of wisdom, knowledge, instruction in wisdom Ps111: 10; Prov1: 7; Prov15: 33; If the FOL is the beginning, have we begun? The question is not, "What is our ministry in the Body of Christ? How many souls we have reached with the gospel? How esteemed we are in the eyes of men? At what leadership level we are? What are our accomplishments?' BUT "Have we begun? Have we the fear of the lord?" We need to take sides with God against sin, evil. The 'fear of the Lord' is to love and serve Him with reverence, know and obey His commands, ways, hate evil / sin. The benefits follow. We need to remember the Covenant, keep our part of it; He will keep His part.

Prov8: 13; 3:7; We have to separate ourselves from evil in order to walk in the fear of the Lord. That means we have to be concerned about whom we are hanging around with. It will effect us. We cannot keep on doing the things we were doing before if we have to walk in the F.O.L Because when we stand before Him we have to give Him an account of ourselves.

Q – How do we obtain the Fear of the Lord?

Choose – Prov1; 29.

Confess lack of the Fear of the Lord; cry out for His mercy.

Continually seek God for the Fear of the Lord with burning desire

Receive it by faith Heb11; 6; Rom14: 23;

Study what Fear of the Lord is from the Word of God. {Look, read, listen, write, meditate

Guard your tongue Ps34: 11-14; Col4: 6; Eccl3: 7; Prov12: 18;

Understatement, overstatement, exaggeration, lying, evil

Q – What are the benefits of walking in the fear of the Lord?

You will eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; happy, blessed, fortunate, enviable shall you be and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house; your children shall be like olive plants about your table.

Friendship of the Lord

Evil will not come near you (Ps 91).

You will have abundant food & provision.

It will work for your own good (Deut 10:12)

Your present day obedience determines your future harvest.

or there is no want to those who truly revere and worship Him with godly fear

Blessed, happy, fortunate, to be envied

The devil wants you to fear that the Word will not work for you. You need to keep your eyes on the Covenant God who has to keep His Word when you are walking in Covenant obedience, in His ways. Deut 13:4; Gen 15:8, 18; Ps89: 34; –

God remembers His Covenant. We are sure to receive when we walk in His ways.

Gen 22:12; 'Now I know' – implies that God tests us to know whether we have the fear of the Lord.

It is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom is the principal thing.
But wisdom doesn't begin till FOL. When you do this you will deal wisely in all affairs of life.

Solomon knew about this. Eccl 12:13; It is the conclusion to everything.
It is the purpose of His creation – to obey His commands, love & serve Him.
It will bring you promotion.

If you have the Fear of the Lord the angels will deliver you Ps 34:7; You know they will watch over you if you Fear of the Lord obey & keep His commands

You will have no lack --- there is no lack for those who fear Him. Ps 23:1; Ps 31:19;

He makes all things for me to enjoy. I live under a Covenant of blessings.

Find God's ways and then walk in them. To know His ways you must hunger for His Word, then renew your mind – 'as a man thinketh'. A Christian must walk in love. Take God at His Word.

The Fear of the Lord is to serve Him.

If you are not keeping His commands you are not serving Him.

Your present day obedience will determine your future harvest Deut 10:13; The 'gift' of man makes room for him. Let God open doors for you instead of you running all around advertising yourself. Read the Bible with the Covenant in your mind. When you read His promises remember He has got to do what He said. When you walk in the Fear of the Lord everything changes – finances, deliverance, marriage, healing etc.

Ps 34:9; Walk in the Fear of the Lord – then wisdom, riches, honor follow. For there is no want and when there is no want in my life then I am walking in the fear of the Lord. By following the Lord my shepherd there is no want.

2Cor16:9; The eyes of the Lord run to and fro --- 'perfect' means not one who doesn't make mistakes but one who is loyal to Him. And what is loyalty? – When you are willing to change your plans & programs for Him. If you are Loyal to Him He will be loyal to you. You need to know not doubt that He will be there when you need Him.

SUBMISSION & OBEDIENCE

The Arc was symbolic of glory & power of God. The Children of Israel sinned, took the Arc, went into battle against the Philistines {powers of darkness} and were defeated. Eli and his sons were killed and there was disaster. Are you doing the same? The Arc was sent to Abinadab meaning one who is willing. He was willing to live with a holy God and enjoy His presence for 20 years and be blessed. Are you?

In Judges People went into idolatry, immorality, quarrels, unto death, even though the Israelites as a nation came out of Egypt and went triumphantly into Canaan. Because they had no King, each did what was right in his own sight. Judg 17; 6, 18:1, 19, 21:25.

God had ordained that people be under authority and Israel means, under the authority of God. God then had a plan to set a king over Israel who would obey God and govern His people. Israel had rejected God as King. They wanted a King of their own choice and timing. So they selected Saul physically tall and strong yet weak because he would do what the people wanted him to do. King Saul was a rebel doing God's will in his own way. 1Sam 15. Rebellion is as witchcraft & stubbornness as idolatry. Are you?

There is no democracy in God's kingdom. You don't choose your own people over you. You don't vote them in. You must be subject to God's choice of who he wants to rule over you. So for 40 years the nation of Israel suffered because of the wrong King until David was prepared by God to be the right King at the right time. God loved David a man after His own heart able to do His will, not because he never sinned. David had elders & captains and they are chosen in places of authority by God's choice through David. The Govt. of God is a Theocracy ruled by God through His delegates, submissive to God's authority. This is the first test of man coming into authority.

A Leader among the elders is not voted by people but appointed by God. Then there are deacons chosen among the people but appointed by apostles & elders with praying & fasting to approve what God has elected. They are there as long as they function in their ministry.

David had been successful in conquering fortress of Zion that had never been conquered before 2Sam 5. The people of God dwell in Zion and His purpose is to establish His throne right in the midst of His people {Hebron = Fellowship} He is not only interested in having His throne in Zion but He wants to rule as Lord in every part of your life so that the glory of God in the city is manifested. When the Arc was brought and set on Zion's hill where David was enthroned king, it became the most glorious period in history of the nation of Israel where he had rest from his enemies, the Philistines were frightened to fight Israel, there was justice in his govt. There was great prosperity and no lack. The people rejoiced. They came under his rulership as one nation. The people went to David's tabernacle which had no doors to worship God. In this place through inspiration David wrote most of his psalms. At the same time Moses tabernacle was still carrying on at Shiloh and then moved to Gibeon 5 miles away with rituals but God had left. David's wife came here to worship because of her respectability. Here there was the same routine & rituals. And these two tabernacles existed side by side for 33 years. It was the power & glory of God in David's tabernacle that shone forth. God allowed the Tabernacle of Moses to continue even though His glory had departed. Where do you worship? – At Gibeon where there is safety, respectability, no change, glory of God departed? Or at Mt. Zion, the city of the king.

All you have to do is live under His order & authority. Would you say you are living in Acts 2, 4? Where believers multiplied? God's Word multiplied? And the whole city was filled with the teachings of Jesus Christ. The city was being cleaned up and the authorities of the world system were threatened.

Submission – yield, cease resistance, surrender to the control of another, humble,
Obedience – submissive to another's will, carry out the command, do what one is told to do – Relative

If you are not under God's authority, Satan will fill the gap. God wants you to enjoy being ruled by Him, to seek first His Kingdom. You need to ask God to rule over you. Come under His authority.

God is moving to establish His authority over the earth through us. Eventually every town, village, city, nation will come under God's authority. This will give rise to political problems. The world system will collapse along with its evil because Christians will enforce law & order. Ps 2 Acts 4. Will be fulfilled. Then will come the last great rebellion which will bring our Lord Jesus who will fully establish His rule 1Chr 15:11;

THE USE & ABUSE OF AUTHORITY:

Rom 13: 1 Let every soul be subject to the HIGHER authorities. For there is no authority but of God: the authorities that be are ordained of God.

By using this verse of scripture, doctrine of submission has been developed by both Protestant & Catholic groups. These doctrines often go beyond the scriptural concept of submission taught in the New Testament.

When the scriptures speak of HIGHER authorities, it is suggesting that there are legitimate levels or stratification of authority to which we are to submit ourselves. It also implies there are times when higher {divine} and lower {human} authority come in conflict and we have to choose to obey God rather than religious leaders {Acts 5:29}.

Of the SEVEN levels of authority mentioned in scripture, THREE DO NOT pertain to man. They are reserved for God alone.

1. **Sovereign Authority** – Imperial Authority. It is absolute, infallible and authority of the highest magnitude. This authority belongs exclusively to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. No Church leader can exercise Sovereign Authority. Isa 14:12-14; Satan's fall from heaven resulted from his trying to usurp to himself sovereign authority reserved for God alone. Let religious leaders be warned.

Jesus Christ only Sovereign Head of the Church. – Eph 1:16-23 This position of the sovereign authority belongs to the Godhead. Heb 1:1-9; This places Jesus over every person in the Church.

Beware of those who would take Christ's place – The term 'antichrist' in the N.T does not only mean 'against Christ' but also 'in the place of Christ' {Greek = an-tee, meaning instead of, in the room of. Denotes substitution} In Catholic theology, the Pope is the 'Vicar of Christ on Earth'. Vicar comes from Vicarious, meaning to substitute, in the place of. This is a dangerous theology – especially since the Pope's Ex-Cathedra {from the

Papal throne} pronouncements are considered infallible {without possibility of error or mistake} by Catholic Church leaders. Mt24: Many shall come in My Name {professing Christians}. In Rev19, Jesus is King of kings & Lord of lords.

2. **Veracious Authority** – The word ‘veracious’ means truth.
Truth has authority – To reject truth is to incur judgment 2Tess2:12
Father, Son & Holy Spirit speak Truth Num23:19; Jn14:6; 14:17; 15; 26;
The Bible has authority, inspired by the Holy Spirit 2Sam23:2; 2Tim3:16; Ps119:142;
151. Nothing contrary to scripture can be true; Nothing in addition to scripture can be binding; Every believer is responsible to God to search scriptures Acts17:10-11; {Berean Christians}. The Bible is the final authority for faith & practice Isa8:20; Jos1:8; God has given Christ a name above every name Phil2:9; but He has exalted His Word above even His name Ps138;2; This places the Bible above every human authority whether it be religious political military.
3. **Authority of Conscience** – Do not violate it 1Cor8:12; Rom14:20; 14:23; And God is going to even judge the Pagan by his response to his conscience. The conscience is God’s law written in the heart & mind.. – This applies to the Pagan who has never heard the gospel.Rom2:12-16; Even if a man doesn’t have the Bible, he has his conscience. The conscience is the Pagan’s substitute for the Law – 10 Commandments. We must submit to it. Everyone is accountable.

These three levels of authority are higher than any man regardless of his office or title. No one on the face of the earth has a God given right to command you to disobey your conscience, your Bible or your God. These are all above any human office or authority. – be it Church, state or otherwise.

FOUR LEVELS OF AUTHORITY GIVEN TO MANKIND

4. **Delegated Authority** – Heb13; 17 – “Obey them that have rule over you and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls”. Here ‘rule’ does not mean leaders as ruthless dictators but as giving shepherd like leadership to others. A shepherd is not one who rules but rather one who protects, cares for, loves and feeds. Jn10;11; It could be translated like this – Follow them that exercise shepherd like leadership and submit to their care, feeding and loving reproof; for they must give an account for your souls to the Chief Shepherd Jesus!
Delegated Authority never extends beyond one responsibility and never proceeds out of anything other than responsibility.
E.g. Because You have responsibility for your wife & children you have authority in your home.
You don’t have authority in your neighbor’s home because you are not responsible for his wife & children.
Church Leaders have delegated responsibility – The authority to represent another {Christ} and do as he would if present. This authority goes only as far as responsibility – no further 2Cor5:20; When a Shepherd takes responsibility for his flock, he is given the authority to feed, visit, defend, protect, care for, and lovingly discipline God’s sheep.
5. **Stipulative Authority** – This is the authority of contracts or legal agreements for mutual benefits between parties agreeing and penalties if violated.

6. **Authority of Custom or Tradition** – Good tradition or custom is accepted by everyone because it has proven itself over the years to be for the common good. 1Cor11:16; Gen29:9-30; conflict between stipulative authority and the authority of custom – Laban & Jacob, gave first born daughter Leah not his second born Rachel.
7. **Functional Authority** – The authority that arises out of one's ability or capability as a result of birth, training, grace, experience – e.g. Doctor to minister to the sick. Mt9:12; Eph5:21;
8. Submission based on love brings a mutual respect for the ability that each spouse can bring to the marriage and home.

RELATIONSHIP

FAMILY

Mini Church: God has designed marriage and family to work. The family is designed as a mini Church, a beautiful expression on earth of a loving relationship in heaven

Key to family success: Agape love {God kind of love} A family without love is self centered. A vicious circle – Man begins to rule his wife in a spirit of tyranny Gen3:16; {consequence of sin}, the wife reacts with independence, children react with rebellion, again man reacts in tyranny and it goes on.

The Lord's pattern for the family is a cycle of love Rom5; 5.

Principles for happy successful family –

- Giving Eph5:25-33. The husband's expression of love is giving.
- Submitting Eph5:22-24. The wife's expression of love is submitting
- Obeying Eph6:1. The children's expression of love is obeying.

The Key phrase for each member –

- The husband loves 'as Christ'
- The wife submits 'as to the Lord'
- The children obey 'as to the Lord'

THE HUSBAND: Eph5:23-25; 1Pt3:7; Col3:19;

The husband is not a dictator over his wife anymore than the Lord Jesus but is rather the head in the same way as Jesus is. The husband has to lead, protect,, provide her & his family's good in mind. He loves her as Jesus loved the Church. He gives himself unselfishly & totally for her, to bring her to her full potential.

THE WIFE – Eph5:22-24; 1Pt3:1-6; n Col3:18; Prov31:10-31;

{Submission = adjust yourself to him} The wife expresses her love to her husband by submitting to him, fitting herself to his side.

Husband & wife are to complement one another. The two together are one complete whole – 'One Flesh' – each fills the part that the other is missing.

Adam was created a social being. He needed someone of like nature to fellowship with & work with to fulfill God's call & purpose for him Gen2:18-25;

PARENTS – Eph6:4 Prov22:6; Children learn what the Fatherhood of God is like through their parents. In the characteristics of God as our Father are essential principles in raising of our children.

1. Keeping our word Jer1:12;
2. Being consistent Jas1:7; Mal3:6;
3. Loving discipline Heb12:4-13; Prov13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13;
4. Expressing love 1Jn3:1
5. Giving a focus for living 1Jn3:2-3; Rom8:28-29;

RIGHTING WRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Fellowship between Christians is at the heart of our Christian experience. Our relationship to God through Jesus Christ binds us together as the Body of Christ.

Jesus by His death on the Cross paid the penalty for our sins and restored the broken relationship with God Rom5:1. It also made possible right relationship between God's children 1Jn4:21; 1Jn3:14;

We are to love our fellow Christians in words & deeds 1Jn3:18;

Sin still interrupts relationship, causes problems between Christians – Jealousy, pride, anger, misunderstanding, covetousness, insensitivity, gossip, boasting, bitterness, impatience, tactlessness, greed, differences of opinions, personality clashes, power struggles, damages the love relationship between Christians. And wrong relationships with fellow Christians affect our relationship with God. 1Jn4:20-21; Mt6:14-15;

By asking forgiveness we can be reconciled with God and each other. We are commanded to restore relationships Mt18:22; Jn15:12; We are to restore right relationship because of our witness to the unsaved world Jn13:34-35; How can we tell of the love of God if we are unloving toward fellow believers? 2Cor5:18; And this requires a great deal of personal initiative. If the situation is not resolved immediately bitterness builds up Heb12; 15;

Mt5:23-25 In the presence of God as we open ourselves to His Spirit, He examines our hearts and convicts us of sin, wrong actions & wrong attitudes.

This scripture describes the process of mending broken relationships. It does not spell out whether the person at the altar was the offender or the offended one. If you have caused offense do 1Jn1:9;

Confession to God brings His forgiveness, confession must also be made to the other person. Verbalize your specific offense and ask forgiveness. After you have asked for forgiveness you may need to make restitution Lk19:8 {Zaccheus} – Return stolen property, replace or repair damaged property etc.

If you have been offended by a Christian take the initiative in resolving the problem Mt18:16-17; Jesus instructs the wounded party to take action. If all attempts fail and a brother refuses to reconcile differences he has with you relate to him as you would to a sinner but he is still a brother and there should be no bitterness, vindictiveness, revenge, alienation for we are all sinners. Be willing to admit your part in the problem or ask if you have done something that caused the situation.

Prayer is a spiritual tool that brings spiritual solutions.

Mt18:16-17; suggests that witnesses may be needed to verify your attempt at reconciliation. A witness or peacemaker should be a mature Christian who is objective & spiritual Ga6:1;

Once the relationship has been restored or you have exhausted all the means at your disposal you are cleansed and free from the guilt or hurt. God's forgiveness is complete and yours should also be. Forgive the other without reservation and forgive yourself too.

Ask God to reveal to you right now anyone whom you may have offended or who has offended you to the point that you are unable to worship in peace.

HOW TO WALK IN LOVE:

Mt5:44 Love your enemies – You can't do that unless you are Born Again and the love of God is in you Rom5:5; This Agape love, the God kind of love has been shed abroad in our hearts not heads by the Holy Spirit. The best thing you can do for those who hate you persecute you is pray for them, send them a special offering. Lk23:34; Acts7:59-60; {Jesus, Stephen}. Notice the blessing you can inherit 1Pt3:8-10; If someone is insulting you, don't say a word, perhaps you can meditate – *The Greater One is in me. Greater is the love that's in me than hatred, greed, selfishness that's in him. Well that poor man can't help acting that way, perhaps the devil's nature is in me, just look at him and love him.* Let love in your spirit rise up in you and dominate you 2Cor5:14.

To walk in love means to walk in the Spirit, because love is a fruit of the Spirit. You as a born again one are a love child of a love God. You are born of God, you are born of love because love is God. The nature of God is in you and the nature of God is love. We have his divine love because the Bible says so. Meditate on all this.

Everyone in the family of God has it or else they are not in His family, although they may not be exercising it. Jn13; 34-35; The only commandment Jesus gave us was the commandment of love and He put His love in our hearts. Natural love is selfish, my boy, my baby. Notice mothers in law have rarely trouble with sons in law, usually it is with daughters in law. That mother is selfish. That's her boy and she doesn't think there's any girl in the world good enough for 'my boy'. Human love can turn to hatred overnight. That's the reason many married people say "I just don't love him / her anymore" they were operating on natural human love when they say that. Divine love has never been to the divorce court. If we walk in God's love and let it dominate us it would cure the ills in our homes. God wants us to grow. We can grow in love, because love is a fruit and fruit grows.

Love never fails – It is the first fruit of the Spirit Ga5:22-23. This passage actually refers to the fruit of the recreated born again human spirit. {The same word pneuma is used} Jn15:1-5. The fruit grows on the branch. The branch produces fruit because of the sap that comes through the tree into the branches. This fruit of the spirit is not entirely the fruit of the Holy Spirit although there is involvement of the latter. It is the fruit of the recreated human spirit through the life of Christ within. The first fruit that shows up is love. 1Jn3:14; Jn13:34-35 The natural human being can't love the unconverted unless he's born again.

Start confessing you are love - from 1Cor13 {Amplified} every morning at rising and before going to sleep at night – that's me, the love of God is in me etc.

Children should be brought up in a love atmosphere – then they'll be winners in life. Love is ready to believe the best of everyone. But when you see the worst in your children, telling them 'You'll never amount to anything' they'll live up to what you said.

SECTION THREE VISIONARY

DREAMS

Q – What is a dream? – Not just one you received in your sleep. It is more like a dream, vision, goal, direction, mission, purpose which God implants deep into your spirit giving you a conviction of what you have to obtain in life. God should be the source of your dream. It enables you to reach your potential and the potential helps you fulfill your dream. The Holy Spirit is the One who helps you dream dreams and see visions Acts2:17; He also helps you fulfill them through His supernatural power. It is the key to achievement. Joseph, Moses, Caleb, David, Elijah, Nehemiah were visionaries.

Gen37:19 Hab2:3 Acts2:17-18; It was God's dream, not something Joseph had concocted. God has spoken to every one of us sometime in our lives. He has given us dreams, visions, things to accomplish for Him. We are either involved in it or it is lying dormant. You must see yourself having accomplished your dream. Dare to dream big dreams for God. Purpose in your heart that the dream God gave you is not going to lie dormant, that you are going to do something about it. – what God has told you to do in your house, local church, fellowship and then proceeding from that point. If Joseph had quit, the dream would have gone down with him. God would have had to look out for someone else to do what He wanted done.

God has given many people dreams and visions to accomplish for Him but they have quit when they reached the hardest part. God may have to look for someone else to do your part. Dare to believe your dream. Think of Edison.

God is given dreams to pastors, church leaders, laity. There is a world out there waiting for release from captivity, chained with sin, sickness, poverty etc. needing salvation. God can't do anything on earth without the cooperation of a man or woman who will do it for Him. Will you be the one?

Prov29:18 The Bible says that without a vision, people perish. But in addition to having a vision, people should also be committed, because it is commitment that will see that vision come to pass.

The Holy Spirit comes to cooperate with us to create, by helping young men to see visions and old men to dream dreams. The reason God's Word says 'where there is no vision the people perish' is that if you have no vision you are not being creative; and if you stop being creative then you are going to perish {not eternally} The Holy Spirit communicates through visions & dreams.

People make resolutions for the New Year ahead and set their sights on goals they hope to attain. However sometimes before the month is over their firm resolve gradually dissolves into mere good intentions left unachieved. This is vision without commitment.

Caleb & Joshua were men who each remained committed to their visions, realized their goals, saw their visions come to pass despite their circumstances, surroundings, opinions of others.

Num13, 14; Caleb was one of the 12 spies Moses sent to search out the land of Canaan. Caleb believed God's promise to Moses that He had given the land of Canaan to the children of Israel. Therefore when Caleb spied out the land he envisioned himself possessing the land just as God had said.

Does your vision conform to God's Word? When your vision is in line with the provisions & promises of God, no matter how large or 'too good to be true' your vision may seem, it will come to pass if you stay committed.

Jabez was another who saw his vision fulfilled. 1Chr4:9; His name meant sorrow. According to his name he was destined to a life of sorrow, trouble, trials. But Jabez envisioned another destiny for himself. The Bible says he was an honorable man. He walked in obedience to God, he knew the Covenant promises God had established with His people. He dared to envision those promises fulfilled in his own life so he called on God saying – 'Oh that Thou wouldst bless me ---'1Chr4:10;

Are there some areas of your life that need to be transformed? Is there an aspect about your own character or personality that you want to change? Do you have a spiritual or natural goal you want to attain this year? Don't make idealistic, unrealistic New Year's resolutions, rather take the Word of God and appropriate its promises & provisions as your very own because they really are. Then commit yourself to believe God, obey Him, praise Him, thank Him while you watch God bring your vision to pass.

Only through a vision & dream can you visualize and dream bigger churches. You can visualize a new mission field, you can visualize the increase of your church.

SUMMARY

1. Source – God should be the source of your dream.
2. Supply – God fulfills them through His supernatural power.
3. Purpose – God gave it to you because it is important. Act on it, with faith. Believe God. Don't allow it to lie dormant.
4. Cooperation – God won't work it out, without the cooperation of man.
5. Commitment – Your commitment is important to make the dream come true.
6. Conform – Your dream must conform to God's Word.
7. Covenant Promises – Envision them, appropriate them as belonging to you.

VISIONARY REALITY OF THE UNSEEN REALM

We need to remember that supernatural visions & revelations are the foundation upon which the Church was established and upon which it stands. The whole Bible, Old and New Testament is a supernatural revelation from God.

In the O.T God revealed His Will to men by speaking through prophets by direct inspiration. God revealed Himself to men in dreams, visions, supernatural revelations. Angels brought messages to men and were continually active as God's ambassadors in carrying out His plan of redemption on earth. The Lord appeared to men and spoke to them in a 'voice' with 'words'. He thus spoke to Moses, as a man speaks to man face to face Exo33:11;

The N.T likewise claims to be a supernatural revelation. Ga1:2 what Paul wrote in all his epistles was simply a part of this supernatural revelation of Jesus Christ. Without such working of the Holy Spirit and without such visions & revelations there would be no Christianity at all. The true Church begun in this manner, exists to the present day because just such supernatural manifestations formed the cradle in which it was born and nursed into vigorous life.

Wise men warned in a dream by God when Herod wanted to destroy baby Jesus. Mt2:12
 Angel appears to Joseph in a dream Mt2:13
 A man of Macedonia appeared to Paul in a vision. Acts16:8-10
 At Corinth the Lord spoke to him in the night by a vision Acts18:9
 When he was praying in the Temple he fell into a trance saw Jesus who spoke to him giving him directions for work. Acts22:17
 Peter falls into a trance while praying at housetop and receives a message. Acts10:9-15
 An Angel appeared to Cornelius in an open vision by day Acts10:1-3
 Paul snatched up to heaven and has supernatural revelations. 2Cor12:1-7
 Angel spoke to Philip directing him to Gaza. Acts8:26
 The whole book of Revelation was given to John as a supernatural revelation when he saw 'in the Spirit'.

The greatest of all the supernatural manifestations in the early church were those of the mighty Holy Spirit who came to those people just as the lord had promised He would after He ascended to the Father. The first Christians did not read prayers, neither did they say prayers. Instead they prayed to God from their hearts and God supernaturally answered their heart cries.

These trances, visions, revelations, supernatural revelations are evidenced even today. Branham preached and called out healings when his angel came and stood next to him giving him the messages.

The Adullam Rescue Mission in Yunnanfu Yunan Province China – Street beggar children of the city {tongue speaking Christians}, unschooled, unlearned asked God to reveal

Himself to them in the 20th Century. They were given accurately visions, transportations of heaven, hell, beyond, rapture, Armageddon, passion - death – burial – resurrection of Jesus, angels, the redeemed, conditions of the lost in hell, imprisonment of Satan in the pit, Anti-Christ, marriage supper of the lamb, visions of the third heaven, New Jerusalem, music & language of heaven, throne of Christ, angels with wings, coming of the Lord, the animals in heaven and much more. The unseen world to them was more real than anything else.

There are people living today have died gone to heaven, made their visit to hell, returned to their bodies.

In the world of darkness, occultism, spiritism, there are people living among us, who become transparent, appear, disappear, half human – half spirit, eating human flesh {children}, drinking human blood, sexual intercourse with spirits, secret societies. Some church leaders who come to receive demonic powers.

Underworld sorcery laboratories, undersea laboratories, manufacturers. Queen of the Coast. These agents of Satan can transform themselves in to men women boys, girls birds etc. They cause accidents, sickness, slumber in Church, confusion in Church, lukewarmness in Church, make people ignorant of God's Word, fashion etc.

Christians are known in the spirit world by the light that shines continually in them, like a very bright candle in the heart or a circle of light around the head or a wall of fire around him / her, angels walking with them, one by the left, one by the right, one behind them. This makes it impossible for the devil's agents to come near them. The only way they succeed is make them sin, thereby giving them a loop hole to come near him / her. Conception & birth through magic, speaking to magical flowers. Kainiki breastfed by mermaid, could break up his body into small parts, assemble it again, transform it as a goat with a human head. Living in a Sorcery world, River Zaire, Tree spirits. They can enter lukewarm Christian homes and work evil there. Finger pointing in anger puts a curse. His father had the ability to duplicate himself into seven different persons at once in different locations at the same time. There are different degrees of Sorcery, water spirits.

There is mysterious world under water. Hail Queen of heaven, the ocean's star, the Queen of the coast, Great activities underneath River Congo., River Zaire.

A person's life duration is 80 years and it is written in his or her inner self. If a person has not died in the Lord, {early}, the rest of his life he is in Satan's service or by the witchdoctor.

Time Table of Lucifer's Activities on Earth:

<u>Hours</u>	<u>Activities on the Earth</u>
0.00 – 1.30 a.m.	Presence of Lucifer
1.30 – 4.30 a.m.	Presence of God & His Angels
4.30 – 5.30 a.m.	Presence of evil spirits, sorcerers

5.30 – 6.30 a.m.	Neutral time
6.30 – 8.00 a.m.	Full presence of God's angels
9 – 10.00 a.m.	Full presence of the Holy Spirit
11.30 – 1.00 p.m.	Presence of Satan & his angels
2 – 4.00 p.m.	Full presence of God & His Angels
5 – 8 p.m.	Presence of evil bringing sickness, bad luck, curses, intense sorcerer activity.
8 – 9 p.m.	Neutral time
10 p.m. – Midnight	Tie of heavy darkness of evil powers.

Hell is inside the earth. Some angels have wings, some do not. So also with Satan & his angels & demons.

Q – What is the ‘Fourth Dimension’?

‘One Dimension’ - A line drawn between two points.

‘Two Dimensions’ – Lines upon lines {Plane}

‘Three Dimensions’ – Planes upon planes {Cubic}

The 1ST dimension, a line is contained in & controlled by the 2ND dimension, a plane.

The 2ND dimension, a plane is contained in & controlled by the 3RD dimension, the cube.

The 3RD dimension, a cube is contained in & controlled by the 4TH dimension, the spiritual world.

Gen1: 2 - The Holy Spirit who belongs to this dimension, He incubated the third dimension of the earth, recreating it. The spiritual world of the 4TH dimension hugged the 3RD dimension, incubating on it and the earth was recreated. The spirit is the 4TH dimension.

Q – What is incubation?

Incubation - Hatching eggs, by sitting on them {e.g. Hen} or by artificial heat.

Incubator – Apparatus providing artificial warmth for hatching eggs.

Hatch – Emerge from the egg, of an egg produce a young animal.

There are four basic steps or elements needed in the process of incubation to make your faith usable:

1. ***Envision a clear cut objective & well defined goal***

A specific, definite, vivid picture, not vague, e.g. ‘blind man Bartimaeus’ – write it down, draw it up, see it clearly, link it with your imagination, feel it in your emotions.

Heb11:1 “Faith is the substance of clear cut things hoped for”.

Rom 4:17 “Call those things that are not as if you already have them”

Jn4: 35 “Say not there are four months ---”

You have to *wait for a time* because its like pregnancy & birth – you need to become pregnant with all your clear cut objectives. In the meanwhile keep praising the Lord that you already have it.

2. ***Have a burning desire for your objective, well-defined goal.***

Ps37:4 “Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give thee the desires”

Prov10: 24 “The desires of the righteous shall be granted”

Live with it, sleep with it, walk with it, and talk about it.

3. ***Pray till you receive the substance, assurance, and title deed.***

Till the moment you receive peace & assurance in your heart, after that you don’t have to *pray* any longer. It may take 2 mts, 2 hrs, 2 days, 2 wks, 2 months, 2 yrs, but whatever the length of time pray through till you receive the assurance. *Wait upon the lord* till you get the assurance. Spend a long time waiting on the Lord, till you get the assurance. *Keep praising Him*. Once you get the assurance whether you see those things or not at that moment, legally they are bound to come to you because they belong to you.

4. ***Speak the Word of Assurance.***

This shows the *evidence of your faith* – “*calling* those things that are not as though they are”. *Speak boldly* as if you already have what now is not. E.g. God changed names Abraham & Sarah. The spoke the Word God gave them.

Abraham – Father of many nations; Sarah – The Princess. Imagine them calling themselves with the names God gave them and it being heard by others and the criticism that followed.

God is dwelling within you; but God is not going to do anything for you without coming through your own life. God is going to cooperate with you to accomplish great things. What becomes ***pregnant*** in your heart & mind is going to come out in your circumstances. Speak the Word of assurance, for your word actually goes out & creates. Your word is the material which the Holy Spirit uses to create.

The spirit is the fourth dimension. Every human being is a spiritual being as well as a physical being. They have the 3RD as well as the 4TH dimension. This is irrespective of whether a person is a Christian or not. So men by exploring their spiritual sphere of the 4TH dimension through the development of *concentrated visions & dreams in their imaginations* can brood over and incubate the third dimension influencing and changing it.

Buddhists have been able to develop the human fourth dimensional spiritual sphere with clear cut visions & mental pictures of health. They can incubate over their bodies because the 4th dimension has power over the 3rd dimension and the human spirit within limitations has the power to give order & creation. God gave power to humans to control the material world and to have dominion over material things, a responsibility they can carry out through the 4th dimension. The unbeliever by exploring their inner spiritual being can carry out dominion over their 3rd dimension which includes healing of physical sicknesses & diseases. In this case they belong to Satan and they link up the human spirit with the spirit of the evil 4th dimension and with the evil 4th dimension they carry out dominion over their bodies & circumstances. By developing their spirit and carrying out dominion over their bodies & circumstances, they can also do some miracles. But that spirit is not a spirit with salvation. They have certain limited powers to carry out dominion over the 3rd dimension.

The spirit, the subconscious are in the 4th dimension. For example the Unitarian Church try to develop the subconscious, the fourth dimension of the human spirit and put the human spirit in the place of Jesus Christ; this indeed is great deception and great danger.

But Christians can ***link*** our spirit's 4th dimension to the 4th dimension of the Holy Father – the Creator of the universe – we can have all the more dominion over our circumstances.

The 4th dimension is always creating and giving order and carrying out dominion over the 3rd dimension by means of incubation. In Genesis, the Spirit of the Lord was incubating, brooding over the water; He was like a *hen sitting on her eggs, incubating them and hatching chickens*. In much the same manner the Holy Spirit incubates the third dimension, so does the evil spirit incubate.

E.g. By continually watching acts of violence on T.V, these acts can be incubated and the same sin hatched.

Q – How do we incubate?

By *Envisioning, Imaginations, visions, dreams.*

“Where there is no vision the people perish” – If you have no vision, you are not being creative, then you will perish, wandering aimlessly.

Through a vision & a dream you can visualize & dream bigger churches, increase in your church, a new mission field. You can incubate your future and hatch results. That is why the Holy Spirit comes to cooperate with us to create, by helping young men see visions, old men dream dreams.

Eve kept looking at the forbidden fruit, saw it deeply in her imagination, brought it to her 4th dimension where either good or evil is created, seeing the fruit clearly, imagining that it could make her as wise as God. She felt attracted to it, took and ate, and with that action fell.

Lot's wife was warned by the angel not to look back Gen19: 17, 26; She looked back and that sight came to her inner self, gripped her imagination. Lust for her former life began to take hold of her and God carried out His just judgment upon her.

Gen13: 14-15; Abraham was asked to *lift up his eyes* and look N-S-E-W and receive the land for him & his descendants. As he saw and began to dream of it, in his 4th dimension the Holy Spirit began to use that language. The Holy Spirit began to carry out dominion.

Abram got his child when he was 100 years old and Sarah 90. They laughed with unbelief. But God helped him believe by asking him to *look at the numerous stars*, so many his descendants would be. He also *changed his name* to Abraham – Father of nations. He also helped Sarai by *changing her name* to Sarah – Princess. Can you imagine with visions & dreams their bodies changed? King Abimelech tried to make Sarah his concubine at this age?

You can *win souls* much more easily by the 4th dimension, then by knocking at doors, struggling.

God gave visions to Isaih, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, all major servants of the Lord. He called hem into the 4th dimension, taught them the language of the Holy Spirit. They then made the prayer of faith.

God changed the name of *Simon meaning 'a reed'* {bendable, changeable, not stable – one moment angry, another laughing, one time drunk, other times intelligent} and called him *Peter – a rock* {stable, alive not dead – he understood as a fisherman the waves breaking upon a rock, yet it stood}. Peter became a strong rock of the Early Church. But before he was changed into this rock, Christ saw a vision of Peter as a rock in His heart and then he became that rock.

God changed the name of *Jacob* {the cheater, swindler} to *Israel meaning 'the prince of God'*. It was after this that he changed.

The Bible is of the 4th dimension, for in it we can read of God and the life He has for us and can learn the language of the Holy Spirit. By reading scriptures you can enlarge your visions & dreams. Make your dreams and your visions and create. Let the *Holy Spirit come and quicken the scriptures* you read and *implant visions* in the young & *dreams* in the old.

Let your mental pictures be vivid & graphic, become enthusiastic, praying throughout the process till you receive the substance, then speak the Word of assurance.

THE CREATIVE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD

The speech control nerve centre in the brain has total dominion over all other nerves. This is what a neurosurgeon had to say. It has already been said in the book of James. The neurosurgeon further commented that simply speaking could give one control over his body to manipulate it in the way he wishes. If one keeps on confessing that he is weak, tired, old, has no ability, is poor, etc. then the nervous system responds and produces this kind of person. But saying the opposite can produce the opposite kind of personality.

Before you are *changed* you must *change* your language. If you do not change your language you cannot change yourself. If you want to see your children changed, you must first teach them to use the proper language. If you want to see rebellious & irresponsible youth changed into responsible adults you must teach them to use this new language. How do you learn this new language? – From the Bible. Acquire the Bible’s language, speak the word of faith, and feed your nervous system with a vocabulary of constructive, progressive, productive, victorious words. Be success oriented.

Another reason to use the creative power of the spoken word is to bring about the purposes of God. He helps us by giving us, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, visions of healings etc. When God gives you this He can’t heal before you speak. You may feel the permeating, pulsating, presence of the Holy Spirit in Church but nothing will happen, no soul; will be saved, no broken home rejoined till you speak the word. Let God have the material with which He can build miracle. {And God said}. Before you give the word, the Holy Spirit does not have the proper material with which to create. If the Holy Spirit imparts faith into your heart to move a mountain do not pray beg for the mountain to move; rather speak, “Be removed” and it shall come to pass! *If you make it a habit to speak under the Holy Spirit’s anointing and in the faith God gives you then you are going to see many miracles in your life.* When praying envision a clear-cut picture by going in the 4th dimension and ask God to make it like that.

Another reason to use the power of the spoken word is to create and release the presence of Jesus Christ {Rom10}. What is Jesus Christ’s address? – Jesus is in His Word. And where are the words that can result in your salvation? – In your mouth & heart. If you do not speak the word of faith clearly, Christ can never be released – ‘whatever you bind on earth ---’ You have the responsibility of carrying the presence of Jesus Christ. It is your responsibility to create the presence of Jesus Christ wherever you go. You must release Jesus and meet specific needs. What kind of Jesus are you releasing, creating – the kind that you preach. So preach the ‘saving Jesus’ the sanctifying Christ’ ‘baptizing Saviour’ ‘healing Jesus’ etc. and you will have all these aspects manifested in your Church.

If you speak about salvation, the saving Jesus appears.

If you speak about divine healing, the healing Jesus appears.

If you speak about the miracle performing Jesus, -----

He is bound by your lips & by your words. He is depending on you. If you don’t speak clearly because of fear, how will Jesus manifest His power to your generation? So speak boldly.

If the father maintains a family altar and speaks clearly about the presence of Christ at home & in the family, he can create the presence of Jesus Christ and Jesus can take care of all the family problems.

At your prayer meetings give the Word; let people have more time to pray together. Let the spoken words be digested, pray them through so that the word so implanted becomes a part of them.

When the Holy Spirit takes over the 'speech centre', He takes over all the nerves all over the body and controls the entire body. So when we speak in other tongues we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

God does not use you because you are completely sanctified, for as long as a Christian lives he will be struggling with the flesh. God uses you because you have faith.

1. Speak the word to control & bridle your whole body & life.
2. Give the word to the Holy Spirit so He can create something out of it.
3. Create & release the presence of Jesus through your spoken word.
4. Preach the word which has; power to perform miracles.
5. Speak the word of assurance you have received.

CALLING PLACE & FUNCTION

Rom 12:1-8;

When you *present* your body,
 It will *renew* your mind
 With a renewed mind you can *find God's will*
 In the process of finding God's will, you must *humble* yourself
 When you humble yourself God will bring you to your place & function.
 When you find your place & function, He gives you the *appropriate measure of faith* to
 function in your place.
 With this measure of faith, the *appropriate gift* will come into operation.

Rom12: 1 –

'Therefore' calls for an appropriate response to what God has done in redeeming mankind, as we refer to the earlier chapters. It is the work of grace. The key word is 'grace' Jn1: 17 – Grace comes through one channel alone Jesus Christ, one basis the Cross, one way to appropriate through faith – believing, not struggling or striving.

'Reasonable' means logical.

'Present' means make available. We must make His property, our body available for His use. {Our spirits already belong to Him, but we must present our soul, body}

1Cor6: 19-20; The ultimate objective of the creation of the body was to be the temple or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. God does not dwell in chapels, cathedrals, temples made of stone but in the heart. You don't belong to yourself, but to God, for He bought you completely spirit-soul-body. If you belong to yourself, you can't belong to God. 1Pt1: 17-19;

When He demands our body, He demands all that is in it. This is your reasonable & logical response to what God has done without any reservations.

'Living sacrifice' – You have to place your body on God's altar, the Cross, {die unto yourself} like the O.T animal sacrifices, with one difference – it remains live.

M23 – the altar sanctifies the gift. The gift has no more claims.

The way to be holy is to hand over your spirit – soul – body and all it contains as a living sacrifice to the Lord having no more claims to it. {I surrender all}. The lord accepts responsibility, ownership of a weak sinful body. He is responsible to all that is committed to Him.

We are not to be *conformed* to this world but *transformed* by the renewal of our mind.

Religion majors on externals. When Christians become absorbed in the externals they lose their inner reality. Jesus called the religious people of his time – hypocrites or actors,

which means one who is under the surveillance of the judge for the best performance. Actors wore masks, put on acts.

Eph4: 22-24 Paul says put off the former conversation – involving metamorphosis from Old Man to New Man and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. In Romans he says be renewed in your mind. You were first controlled by the spirit of the world; you are now to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. When God changes the inside, the outside also begins to see changes.

The Holy Spirit renews our minds in three areas –

Objective – The *Kingdom* / Thy Will {not mine, self-centered} – To establish God's kingdom on earth. To seek His Kingdom and to submit to His Will.

Motive – Thine is the Kingdom, the power & the *glory*. That God may be glorified 1Cor10: 31; Jn7; 18;

Means – *Supernatural power* of the Holy Spirit. It is to establish the objective of God Zec4: 6; Only the Holy Spirit power can do the spiritual work.

The natural man is always self-centred. We get free from the slavery of self through the renewal of the mind. The difference of being carnal or spiritual is the mind, the way we think. Rom8: 5-8; The Carnal mind is at war with God. To be carnally minded is death. To be spiritually minded is life & peace.

Humble - God tells us to be humble. When God commands us, it always relates to our will and not to our emotions. Humility is a decision, not an emotion.

Jas4: 7 – We are to do it, backed by the grace of God.

1Pt5: 8 – You can't resist the devil till you humble yourself before God, then He will back you up. Humbling self always brings about exaltation. Exalting self brings the opposite. God does not give you a gift of humility but He can humiliate you.

You have to be humble by your decision. It proceeds from your will. The original sin was pride not murder. John the Baptist said that the axe was laid at the roots. The root supports the tree.

The ROOT {below the surface} – Self – pride, rebellion, self-will.

I think {imagination}, I feel {emotion}, I wish {will}. The natural mind goes by these. The man by nature is a rebel and God is dealing at the roots. The feeling, wishing, thinking determines the way you live, whether in the flesh or not.

STEM – Sin – The sin principle gives rise to sins.

BRANCHES – Sins

What I think or feel is unimportant but what God thinks & feels feelings are unreliable. My will must be aligned to God's Will.

Jesus Act Of Humiliation: {7 downward steps} Phil 2;

1. Emptied Himself
2. Form of a servant
3. Likeness of man {not age}
4. Fashioned as a man in all things except sin.
5. Humbled Himself as Carpenter's son.
6. Obedient to death
7. Death of the Cross {ultimate shame & humiliation}

Jesus Act Of Exaltation {7 upward steps}

1. Highly exalted Isa52
2. Given name higher than
3. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow
4. Things in Heaven
5. Things on earth
6. Things under the earth
7. Every tongue confess – glory of the Father

Jesus is the perfect example of self-humility – a renewed mind. Submit yourself to one another with all lowliness, meekness, and humility, long-suffering. God chooses His student by character and not by talents or educational qualifications. There is one thing you can offer Him which He can't take from you and that is surrender of your will
Lk14: 7-11;

The way up is the way down and vice versa.

Now after you have humbled yourself, God will bring you to your place & function in the Body of Christ with the appropriate measure of faith & the appropriate gift.

Rom11:29; 12:4-6; The word 'gifts' here means an endowment or enduement of the Holy Spirit. Paul is talking here about ministries or offices – the gifts and the calling of God. People are gifted by God to stand in certain offices, anointed to obey certain callings. We do have the same Spirit but there are degrees & measures of anointing. Paul is talking about different gifts & ministries in Rom12:6-7; Everybody is not called to be a teacher in the Body of Christ. A person could share with another whatever he or she knows. But there is a difference in teaching someone what you know and being really called of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit, equipped, endowed, endued by the Spirit of God to stand in the office of a teacher. So also not everybody is called to be a Pastor. People need an overseer, shepherd {pastor – Greek} but not all are called to it.

The gifts and the calling of God are without repentance i.e. God is not going to go back on His call in your life Heb6:4-6; 10:26-29; God doesn't repent or change His mind.

One place ministers often miss it is trying to be a jack of all trades and master of none in the ministry. Being only in the permissive will of God is like washing your feet with your socks on. You know that something isn't right. However every evangelist for the sake of experience should be made a Pastor for at least two years and vice versa. We need each

other. We need different ministries. But let us do only what God has called us to do then we'll become more expert as it.

Gifts & calling – 'Am I called or not?' What am I called to do? What is my place in the Body? What is my calling? We are called to salvation, be saved, filled with the Holy Spirit in some sense, preach, proclaim the good news and be a witness. But there are specific ministries e.g. Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher. Are you called or not?

Whatever God has called you to do, gifted & endued you by the Holy Spirit to accomplish, He hasn't changed His mind about it. One day you will have to give an account of what you did with that calling. Obedience to God's call will bring blessing & satisfaction to your life. 'Am I doing what God called me to do?' If you will simply step out and do what He has called you to do – proclaim His Word, assist others through the ministry of helps – you'll find yourself walking in the blessing of God and a greater fulfillment in your life than you've ever dreamed possible.

INTEGRITY OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER



Q – What is Integrity? - Moral excellence, honesty, wholeness, soundness.
 As is generally understood & used – Sincere, honest, trustworthy.
 Integrity involves the total being – A person may be honest but with a vile tongue.

Mk10:17-22; 1Sam16: 7; Jesus considered Integrity more than just being right outwardly. He checked hearts to see motives, inner longings, inner love, attitudes, opinions, prejudices, and the real person on the inside.

Man is like an iceberg; most of his personality is submerged.
 1Pt1: 15-16; God's Standard – Holiness. And God's solution to man's predicament 2Cor5: 17; Eph1: 4;

Q – What then is a Leader of Integrity?
Therefore a Leader of Integrity is one who is transformed in the inner person into a new creation by the Lord Jesus and whose whole life is an outflow of this inner relationship.

Lack of integrity has caused many problems in society. And man is responsible for the problems in society.

Materialism has an effect on both the rich & poor. Jesus taught more on money than on any other subject. Money by itself is not sinful. Money is only a medium of exchange. We can sin in our attitude {inner life} towards money. Wrong attitude towards money causes several problems.

There are three disciplines to overcome anxiety due to materialism:
 God is owner – so I will look to Him.
 God is the Provider – so I will trust in Him.
 God wants me to seek Him – so I make what I have available to Him 2Cor8: 1-5;

Q – What should a Christian Leader's response be towards issues such as bribing for a good cause, evasion of taxes, abuse of domestic help, getting work done by the back door?

Q – How can I be a person of integrity in Finance, Wealth, Material Possessions?
I must be willing to change if I want to see changes in my area of influence
Make use of the three inner disciplines to overcome anxiety due to materialism
Pleasing God is more important than getting the job done 1Sam15; 22-23;

There are sexual problems in society. God's standard of 'sexual integrity' – Mt5: 27-28;
 Many live a double life – Your cheatin' heart & How great Thou art.

The causes for defeat & victory – Compare David & Joseph 2Sam11; Gen39;
 Discuss Gen13: 1-9;

The poor lifestyle of a Christian, especially Leaders in areas of sexual integrity has caused people to turn away from God.

The lifestyle integrity includes the characteristics shown in 1Tess2: 1-12; we will fail to be a
 [people of Integrity without these characteristics 1Sam12; 23; Ga6: 2;
 The lifestyle of a servant leader is the life in the Spirit of God Ga5: 22-23;

Q – How to be a person of Integrity in the area of sex & moral life:

There are 4 steps for victory in areas of sexual defeat –

- A. *We are stewards of our body 1Cor6:19-20;*
- B. *Recognize that by our own effort we cannot defeat Satan*
- C. *Submit / yield to Jesus Christ Rom6:11-14;*
- D. *Continued surrender to Him Ga2:20;*

Lifestyle Integrity is the life of a servant Leader.

Q – What does it involve to be a person of Integrity?

How can I be a person of Integrity?

What is the ultimate purpose for being a person of Integrity?

Stand against the pressures of worldly standards

Pay the cost of taking such a stand

To be alone and yet press on in obedience to do His Will

The ultimate purpose of our calling is to show forth His praises 1Pt2: 9

I can only be a messenger for God if I am convinced that the Gospel of

Jesus Christ is the only solution and the key to victory is in the hands of His messengers.

2Chr7: 14;

SECTION FOUR: SEED PLANTING & HARVEST

FAITH IS THE KEY



Heb11:1. Supernatural faith is the title deed or warranty that the thing for which we have finally hoped for is at last ours.

Rom10:17; Jas2:17.

Faith comes by hearing God's Word and acting upon it.

There are two kinds of faith – Natural & Supernatural.

Rom10:17; 12:3; 14:23; Mk11:22; Heb11:6; Jn20:24-29; Rom4:17-21

Natural – 'Thomas Faith' – 'Seeing is believing' – Mental assent, head faith, physical senses alone

Supernatural – 'Abraham's Faith' - 'Believing is seeing' – Heart faith – Standing on God's Word in the face of contradictory circumstances.

There are at least *Five Enemies of Faith*

– Unbelief, Mental Assent, Unworthiness, Hope, Wavering.

UNBELIEF:

Hos4:6; Rom10; 17; 2Tim4:2-3; 3:16; Heb4:6, 11;

Cause – due to ignorance of God's Word & un-persuadable-ness to act on God's Word

Cure – Get a knowledge of God's Word {Bible} and obey it.

MENTAL ASSENT:

2Cor4:4, 5:7; 1Cor9:27; Acts27:25;

Merely agreeing mentally that God's Word is right but refusing to act on it.

UNWORTHINESS:

Eph2:10; 2Cor5:17, 21;

Dwelling on shortcomings, failures etc. rather than how God looks at us His new creation, His workmanship.

HOPE: Jas5; 15; 1Tess5:8; Mk11:24;

It is of the mind, expecting things to come in the future. It will not produce fruit unless based on faith, because faith gives substance to hope.

WAVERING: Jas1; 6-8

A double minded person is unstable. Once you take your stand, don't waver.

The following can also be considered as ENEMIES of Faith:

Failure to understand what it means to be a new creature in Christ {2Cor5:17}

Failure to understand our place in Christ {Epistles}

Failure to understand our righteousness {2Cor5:21; Jer31:34; 1Jn1:9}

Failure to understand our right to use the name of Jesus {Jn16:23-24; Mk16 :}

Failure to act upon the Word {Lk6:47-49; Prov3:5}

Failure to hold fast our confession of faith
{Heb3:1; 4:14; Rom10:10; Mk11:23-24; 5:25-34 ;}

FAITH COMES from God & His Word. It comes before sight. It is impossible to have faith in God without knowing Him. It begins with a personal encounter with Him. {Heb11:3; Ps27:13; Jn11:40; 2Cor4:13; Rom12:3;; 10; 17; Mt7:11; Heb4:6}

Faith comes by a measure of faith given, by sowing the seed of God's Word {teaching / preaching} & hearing God's Word {Mt19:23, 26; 17:20; Lk1:37; 1Pt1:23; Mk4:13; 4:10-34; 2Cor1:20; Isa55:8-13; Jer1:12}

In order to hear God's Word Prov4:20-22; give undivided attention to it, be humble, teachable, meditate.

FAITH AS A FRUIT & FAITH AS A GIFT

Gift expresses ability, fruit expresses character. Both are complementary to each other. The gift should provide practical expression for character as in the life of Jesus. {Mt7:17-20; 1Cor12:7-11; Ga5:22; 1Cor12 & 13}

Faith is a tool and not a toy. It is to be used for the common good, for useful practical purposes. It is a supernatural manifestation, sovereignly distributed. {Mk11:21; Lk8:22-25; Jn11:43; Mt14}

There is a special kind of supernatural faith, a mustard seed of faith from God's storehouse of faith given by Him on His own initiative, to fulfill a particular need and withdrawn when the need is met {Jn5:19;14;10; Mk11:23-24; Jas5:15-18; Ps33:6-9}

When faith operates as a fruit it has to be cultivated. It presents an unwavering trust in God through a personal commitment to Jesus followed by an attitude of trust which is based on the worthiness & trustworthiness of God, who keeps His Covenant promises &

helps us to do the same. [Ps125:1; 37:5; 2Tim1:12; Ps89:24, 28, 33-34; Ps15; Prov3:5; Ps56:3-4]

FAITH WALK & FAITH TALK

Righteousness is a step to the highest kind of faith. The just or righteous shall live by faith Rom1:7.

Righteousness is a gift and not a fruit which you received when Jesus became your Savior & Lord. You received the righteousness of Jesus.
2Pt1:4; Eph6:10; Rom3:25-26; 4:25; 2Cor5:21

Righteousness deals with separation {holiness} not segregation
2Cor6:14-16

Righteousness that refers to fellowship not mere assembling
[Father – Son – Holy Spirit] – 1Cor1:9; 1Jn1:3-7; 2Cor13, 14.

Righteousness that refers to a walk in faith along with corresponding action.
Trusting in God is trusting & acting upon His Word Jas1:22; 2:14-22.

Heb3:1; 4:14. When we confess God's Word regularly regardless of how the situation appears, the Word becomes indelibly printed in our hearts & thereafter flows through our mouth bringing the benefits.

There are at least four different kinds of confession;
Confession of the sins of the Jews
Confession of the sinner or unbeliever today – Lordship of Jesus Christ
Confession of the believer of his sins
Confession of our faith in God's Word
Mt3:5-6; Jn16:7-11; Mt10:32-33; 1Jn1:7-9; Jos1:8; Heb4:14

When Confession is at work it does the following:
It brings forgiveness & restores broken fellowship
It brings salvation
It dispels fear
It builds faith
Ps137:1-4; 1Jn1:3-10; Jas5:14-15; Mk16:15-20; Isa41:10; 1Jn4:4; Rom8:31; 10:17-18;
Lk17:5; Ps119:28; 2Cor1:24; Rom8:37

It is of utmost importance to your walk with the Lord that you feed your faith daily. F.F.Bosworth said, "Most Christians feed their bodies three hot meals a day, their spirits one cold snack a week and then they wonder why they are so weak in faith.

Some people have such a struggle. They say they are trying to get faith or else they are trying to believe. But all that is necessary is just to act on what God says. Faith is just acting on God's Word. Faith is an act! Your actions & your words must agree that you are

a believer. God watches over His Word to perform it. If you believe God, act like you believe Him.

The Word of faith is a seed you keep constantly sowing and you will reap a harvest of good report in due course of time.

SECTION FOUR: SEED PLANTING & HARVEST

EVANGELISM

LEARNING TO WITNESS Acts1:8;

God's Word is the SEED we sow in witnessing 1Pt1:23; The Spirit of God uses God's Word {SEED} in the fertile soil of the heart in order to produce new birth. No one can be saved without that Word. So a successful witness for Christ must learn to be skilful in the use of the Bible, for in personal witnessing it is the sower's seed. It is also bread, spiritual nourishment to the person who comes to know Christ as Savior Isa55:10-11; 1Pt2:2;;

Effective witnessing is an art to be learned Christ promised to make you a fisher of men if you obey His command to follow Him closely. While He does the saving He expects you to do the seeking Mt4:19; Lk19:10;

Witnessing for Christ is simply taking a good look at Him / at His Word {Quiet Time} and then telling people what you have seen and heard. 1Jn1:3;

Learning the art of witnessing requires the following:

1. PREPARATION

Laying the Ground work.

To have something to say

To know what to say

To know how to say it

To have the boldness to say it in love

2. APPROACH

Preaching the Gospel is like fishing, using a 'bait' where the fishes are, going where the people are. Jesus the Great Fisherman trained His disciples. He will also teach us if we follow Him closely by being led by the Holy Spirit Mt4:19; Mk16; 15; Jn1:41-45;

3. BAIT Acts10:38; 2Tim2:24-25;

Win a person's confidence {friendship, being thoughtful, courteous, hospitable, finding out his interests, encouragement, appreciation}

Ask God to show you ways to serve & do good to him.

Give your simple testimony

Study the person and find an opening for speaking about his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Use an attractive gospel tract

4. **POINTER:** - A personal witness always points out to Christ. A positive testimony often convinces the unsaved person.

Preach the Gospel, bring people face to face with Jesus Christ Rom1:16; 1Cor15; 3-4;
Say what God says, use the Bible, keep the message simple.

Recognize that you are helpless, inadequate & dependent on the Holy Spirit.

If you cannot answer some questions, be frank about it.

Be alert for any opportunity to witness.

Do not force a decision from a person at new birth, for it is the work of the Holy Spirit, a miracle you cannot produce.

Avoid arguments.

5. **SCRIPTURES:** - A working knowledge of scriptures is vitally essential. Memorizing scriptures is very important. Memorizing of scripture is commanded Deut6: 5. Why?

It brings victory over sin in our lives

It brings victory over Satan

The Holy Spirit uses the Word to penetrate the heart & bring conviction

Therefore have a definite plan of learning many verses per week and be consistent.

6. **PRAYER** - When we start praying for the person to be evangelized, God prepares his heart to receive the Gospel. Personal prayer is necessary to be an effective witness, because he hears God's voice & obeys His command Ps27: 4; We are also to engage in spiritual warfare with spiritual weapons Eph6: 17-18;

Mt4: 19 Christ promised to make you a fisher of men. The Lord is our example in personal witnessing – He taught individuals as well as large groups.

Your credentials are important – Are you following Jesus closely in the sense of Mt4: 19? Can you say like Paul – “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”

Satan tries to attack a young Christian in three ways –

To doubt his salvation – counter attack it with 1Jn5: 11-12;

To bring temptation – counter attack it with 1Cor10; 13;

To feel that he has not been forgiven – counter attack it with 1J1: 9;

Know that God has given a believer victory over sin Ps119: 11

For effective witnessing–Prov22: 20-21; The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance verses of scripture memorized.

The real basis of witnessing is to have

Personal relationship with Christ Acts22: 14-15; - Knowing Him personally as Savior & Lord. Witnessing for Christ is simply taking a good look at Him and then going out and telling people of what we have seen and heard.

Personal fellowship with Christ 1Jn1: 3; In order to witness concerning the person of Christ Ps27: 4; Acts4: 13; 2Cor3: 18;

How do we have such fellowship?

Spending time with Him in prayer, meditating on His Word.

Be filled with Holy Spirit. It is only God must work the miracle in successful & fruitful witnessing and for new birth. Eph5: 18; Jn15; 26-27;

What is the involvement? –

Confession of sins Ps66: 18; 1Jn1: 9

Surrender to Christ Mt4: 19

Dependence on the Holy Spirit 1Tess1: 5

Trusting the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ as we seek to point a needy soul to Christ

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE:

1. The condition of the lost Eph2:1
2. The only remedy Rom1:16
3. Preach the Gospel Rom1:16
4. Q – What is the Gospel? The penalty of sin is death Rom6:23
 - The Fact of sin Rom3: 23
 - The penalty of sin is death Rom6: 23
 - Christ paid the penalty Rom5: 8
 - Repent – change one’s mind about God, sin, turn from sin to God in faith
 - Receive Jesus Christ as personal Savior & Lord, putting trust in Him Jn1: 13;

Basic Questions Often Asked:

Q - Why do we need to be saved?

- a) The person outside Christ is blind, in darkness, under the power of Satan, separated from God. 2Cor4:3-4; Acts26:18; Eph2:1
- b) We were born sinners with a sinful nature passed onto us by our first parents Gen: 1-3
- c) Our conscience, the Holy Spirit & the Bible tell us that we have sinned Isa53, Rom3:10, 23
- d) Sin constructs a wall, barrier, separation between righteous God and us
- e) We need to be saved from sin, guilt, and power of sin & its consequences.

Q – How could God be just & yet merciful to the sinner?

1. Sin was punished on the Cross and not ignored 1Pt2: 24
2. Jesus Christ as the sinner’s perfect substitute paid in full the penalty of sinner’s sins by His death on the Cross 2Cor5: 21; Rom4: 25;
3. The Cross is God’s side of salvation, where His justice & mercy was operative and His holiness satisfied 1Cor1: 18-25;

Q – How can we be saved?

1. Not by being good enough, but by accepting the perfect substitutionary death of Jesus who took our place as sin / sickness substitute and paid the full price of punishment for our sins.

2. When we accept His death as ours, we do not have to be punished anymore for being a sinner

Q – What must I do to be saved?

1. Have a full knowledge of the fact of sin Rom3:23; the penalty of sin Rom6:23; that Christ paid the penalty Rom5:8; and He was a perfect substitute 1Pt2:24
2. Trusting faith that Christ died on the Cross, paid the full penalty for your sins Rom1:16; Acts16:31; 1Cor15:3-4;
3. Repentance with true sorrow for sins Acts2:38, 3:19; Lk13:3;
4. Confess your sins to Jesus, thank Him for being punished in your place 1Jn1:9
5. Verbally confess your salvation with your mouth while believing it in your heart Rom10:9-10;
6. Ask Jesus to come into your life Jn1: 12; and help you to be the kind of person you ought to be and do what pleases God, determine to follow Him.
7. To receive the benefits of salvation through the Blood of Jesus {Blood Prayer}

Q – How can I know that I am saved, have eternal life & assurance of salvation?

1. Because Jesus & the Bible say so. Jn6:37; 1Jn5:11-12;
2. By your changed life 2Cor5:17; 2Pt1:3-4;
God inwardly transforms you by His life & nature to always please Him & do what is right in His sight. Although your old sinful nature still draws you to sin if given an opportunity, yet it has no dominion over you, and you know that you can be forgiven Jn1: 12, 13; Rom6: 14; 2Cor9: 8; 2Cor5: 17; 1Jn1: 9;
3. The testimony of God's Word. If Satan causes you to even doubt that your sins are forgiven, just quote God's Word. Acts13:39; Jn5:24; 1Jn5:11-12; Jn1:12; Rom10:9-10; 1Jn1:9;
4. The inward witness Rom8: 16; - The Holy Spirit brings to our consciousness a vivid assurance that we are saved and confirms it by His inspired Word 2Tim3: 16; The epistle of John was written that believers may know that they have eternal life.

Q – What is the Holy Spirit' work regarding salvation?

He reproves, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, judgment & points to the lord {Jn16; 8-11}, leads to repentance & to receive the forgiveness of sins, causes one to believe, be born again and become a child of God Jn3: 5-6;

He continues His work in the believer to lead him to the truth, revealing Christ to him, He comforts, guides, directs, protects, empowers us for service, helps us in our weakness, temptations, problems, in our prayer life, helps us to maintain our fellowship with God and produces in us spiritual fruit and fills us with God's love Eph5: 18; Jn15: 26, 16:13, 14:26; Acts1: 8; Rom8: 26-27; Ga5: 22; Rom5: 5;

Q – What Kind of approach should we have for witnessing?

Create opportunities to make new friends with a different lifestyle

Use crisis situations

Listen to what they have to say

Take time to pray for lost friends

Invite lost friends to your home, church for a meal, fellowship, bible study

Visit neighbours, newcomers
 Arouse interest by asking questions
 Think of how to witness beforehand so you are ready at opportune time
 Introduce spiritual matters naturally
 Nurture relationships by being interested in their concerns
 Go out of your way to show interest to your lost friends

SELF EXAMINATION:

1. Is your salvation experience still fresh & vibrant?
2. Can you summarize your experience briefly & forcefully?
3. How long was it that you shared this experience with another?
4. What was the result?
5. Do you participate with the evangelistic efforts of your prayer group, church?
6. Have you teamed up with a more experienced person {leader} to witness, evangelize fir the on – the – job training?
7. Examine and evaluate the resources of evangelism provided by your prayer group, church. Which of these resources is most appealing to you and why?
8. Examine your relationship with others.

ASSIGNMENT WITNESSING AT A HOME:

1. Memorize the name & information you have of the person(s).
2. Find clues to family interests e.g. toys, plants, vehicles etc.
3. Smile & identify yourself & purpose of your visit – It is important for people to know where you come from and why you have come. If they do not invite you in ask if there is a more convenient time for you to come back.

OPENING A WITNESSING CONVERSATION

Be friendly, Complement, Ask questions from natural to supernatural, be a good listener, show interest, Witness. You may use the following method: FORT

F – Family

O – Occupation

R – Religious background

T - Transition – Ask diagnostic questions to know his spiritual condition

E.g. Do you have an uneasy feeling there is something missing or wrong with the direction of your life? If you were to die tonight do you know for sure you would go to heaven?

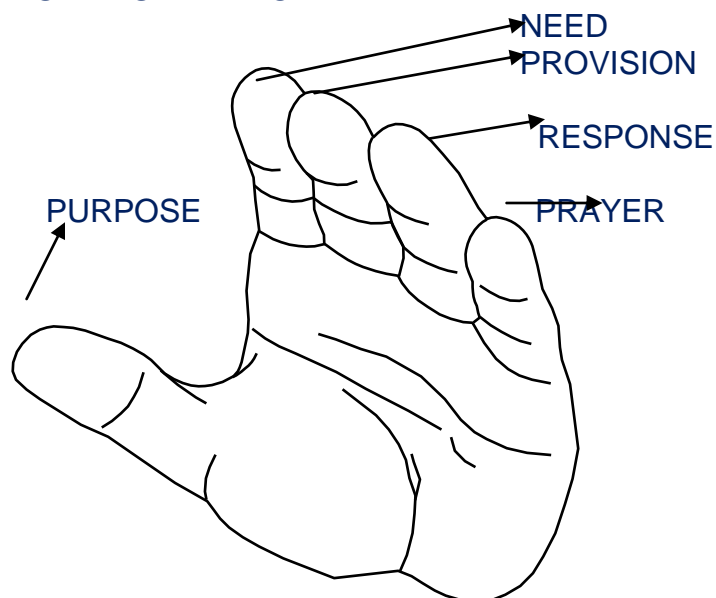
Suppose you were to die tonight and you stood before God, He asked you “Why should I let you into my heaven?”

– According to his answers you would know how to proceed. If he gives substitutes let them all come out.

Then move into the Good News presentation, ask his permission to do so at that time or at another more convenient time.

Keep your presentations simple and short 10 – 15mts, except for his question.

GOOD NEWS PRESENTATION



PURPOSE: Jn3: 16; Rom6: 23; Jn10: 10; Jn14: 3;
God's Son, Free Gift of Eternal Life, Meaningful Life, Spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven

NEED: Rom3: 23, Eph2: 9, Rom6: 23
We are sinners, We cannot save ourselves, We deserve death & hell

PROVISION: Jn14: 6, Jn1: 1, 14; 1Pt3: 18; Isa53: 6; Rom4: 25;
Jesus is God become man, died from the dead, rose from the dead

RESPONSE: Jn1: 12; Acts3: 19; 26:20; Eph2: 8; Jas2: 19; Rom10: 9-10;
We must repent, have faith in Jesus, commit our lives to Jesus as Lord

PRAYER Rom10: 13; - Prayer for understanding, commitment, thanksgiving.

PURPOSE: - The thumb represents the 'thumbs up' sign, that you are important to God, He loves you and has a purpose for your life. In life, I haven't measured up to God's expectations, or to my own. I've been proud and have often failed. {Pride – failure – thumbs down sign}. I've discovered that my sinful nature kept me from fulfilling God's purpose for my life. God expects me to live a full & meaningful life
He wants me to spend an eternity with Him – How?
He offers me the free gift of Eternal Life.

NEED: - The Index finger – How often have I pointed the finger at others, now God points it at me Rom3: 23; - The Bible shows me that I have sinned, cannot save myself, only death and hell await me. I need to be saved, I need a Savior. What shall I do?

PROVISION: - The Middle finger Jn14: 6; - Just as the pointing finger stands between thumb and middle finger so our sins stand between us and God.
The middle finger represents Christ. It stands taller than the other fingers and in the centre of all others – Jesus is the lord of all and centre of the universe. He became man.

{Now without bending your other fingers, bend the middle finger to touch the palm, you feel pain.}– Christ suffered pains for our sins on the Cross. {Now let your bent middle finger go back to its original position}– Christ rose from the dead and offers you Eternal Life, removes your sin & judgment.

RESPONSE: Ring Finger Jn1: 12; - This finger represents commitment {Like marriage for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness & in health, until death parts us} When I accepted the ring in marriage, I pledged to forsake all other girl friends and promised to be faithful to my wife as long as we lived. The Bible sometimes compares our commitment to Christ as a marriage. The person must repent, believe in Jesus and make his commitment.

PRAYER: - Little Finger Rom10: 13; Make a prayer to lead him to an understanding of all that has been spoken to him. Lead him through a prayer of commitment & thanksgiving.

COMMITMENT – QUESTIONS:

1. Transactional Question – “Does this make sense to you?”
2. Clarification Question – “Do you believe Jesus died for you and God raised Him from the dead?”
3. Negative Commitment Question – “Is there any reason why you should not be willing to receive God’s free gift by repenting & placing your faith in Christ?”
4. Positive Commitment Question – “Are you willing to turn over your life to Him and be obedient to His teaching?”
5. Reinforcement Question – “do you believe He will help you to live the new life He gives you?”
6. Commitment Question – “Then wouldn’t this be a good time to receive God’s free gift by repenting and placing your faith in Jesus?”
7. Prayer Question – “May we pray together?” -----

How do you deal with a negative response?

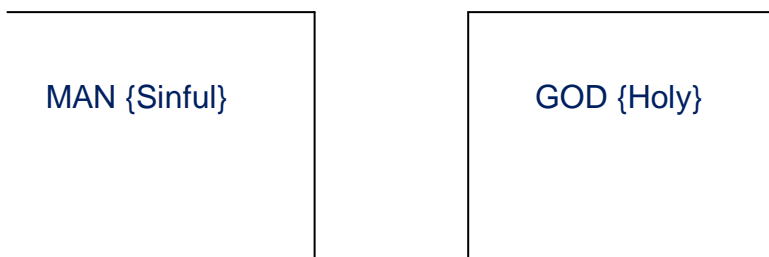
You would say – “It’s a decision you alone must make. As much as I would like to see you trust Christ right now I cannot make the decision for you. However I promise to pray for you asking God to help you come to the point that you are willing to trust in Him. May I have your permission to pray for you.?”

ANOTHER MODEL FOR WITNESSING: - STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

STEP ONE: God's Purpose ----Peace & Life

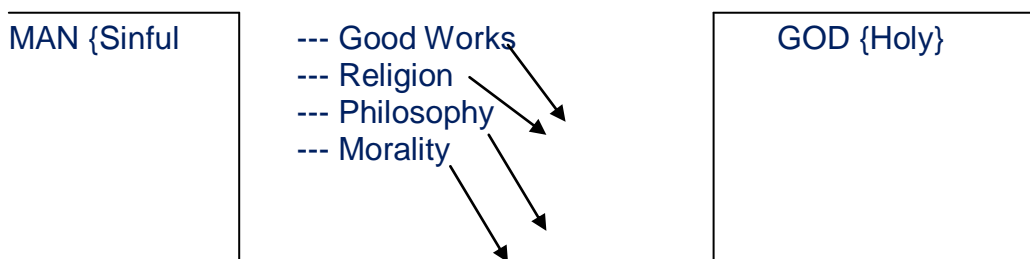
God loves you and wants you to experience peace & life, abundant & eternal now. Rom5: 1; Jn3: 16; 10:10;

STEP TWO: Our Problem ---- Separation

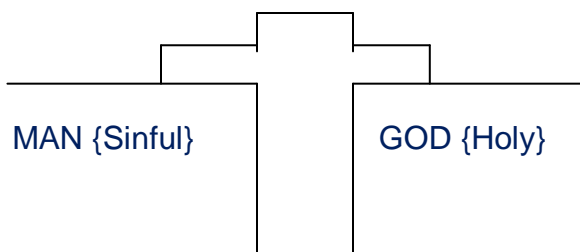


God created us in His own image to have abundant life. He did not make us robots to automatically love & obey Him, but gave us a free will. We can choose to disobey God and go our own sinful – willful way and this results in separation from God
Rom 3:23, 6:23;

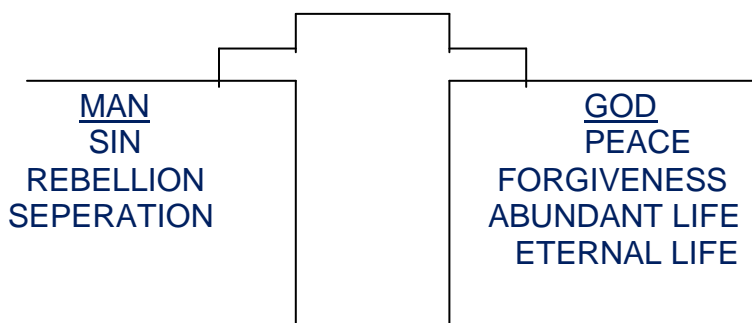
Our attempts through the ages are to bridge the gap and yet without success.



STEP THREE God's Remedy --- The Cross



Jesus Christ is the only answer to this problem. He died on the Cross, rose from the grave, paid the penalty for our sins, bridged the gap between God & man 1Tim2: 5; 1Pt3: 18; Rom5: 8;

STEP FOUR: Our Response ---- Receive Christ

God has provided the only way; we must make the choice. We must trust Jesus Christ and receive Him personally as Savior & Lord Rev3: 20; Jn1: 12 Rom10: 9-10

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST:

1. Admit your need {I am a sinner}
2. Be willing to turn away from your sins {Repentance}
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior.

How To Pray -----

ANOTHER POWERFUL WAY TO EVANGELIZE IS USING THE 4TH DIMENSIONAL PRINCIPLE [Visualizing]

AFTER CARE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS:

Although we commit a spiritual baby to God, He also commits it to us. Like our own human family, our children need to be properly fed, clothed, protected, trained and it is our responsibility, so too newly born Christians need to be fed, taught how to feed themselves from the Bible. Mt21: 15-20; 2Pt3: 18;

We have the responsibility to under-shepherd the new baby Christians and take care of them. We need to have a quick follow up of these new Christians. Teach them how to read their Bibles daily,

To get to know Christ better,
 About the assurance of salvation,
 To talk to God daily in prayer,
 To tell others about Christ,
 Worship,
 Fellowship

Serve other Christians,
Demonstrate their new life by their love & concern for others
Teach them how to be filled with the Holy Spirit,

A new Christian needs to have fellowship with God to retain his joy of salvation, to have a life of victory over sins & bear fruit for the lord. He needs to have a family altar {if possible} i.e. spend time daily in the house praying, worshipping, reading the Bible. He needs to be protected from false doctrines & other attacks of the enemy such as doubts, discouragement, sins, temptations, etc. Get him to meditate on scriptures. Teach him to receive Baptism in the Holy Spirit, speak in new tongues etc.

Remember as you preach the Gospel, get them saved, delivered, healed, B.H.S. placed within the fellowship.

SOWING & REAPING

God has so constituted you and His world, that there is built in you and me the eternal principle of 'Sowing & Reaping'. In the Bible it is called 'Seedtime & Harvest'.

Gen8: 22 *'While the earth remains --- seedtime & harvest --- shall not cease.'*

He says you must sow seed or have seedtime in order to produce a harvest. You must sow first before you can expect to reap. Your miracle follows your seed planting.

The principle of sowing has your legitimate self-interest. As you sow {money, love etc.} you reap. Do not judge lest you be judged. Your salvation also was in your interest.

Have you realized that you have already sown seeds? Everytime you initiated a positive action for good knowingly or unknowingly, you planted a seed. For example, a smile, a pat on the back, helping somebody, saying a prayer on someone's behalf, giving your time to a good cause or money or a good thought – that is sowing a seed of faith.

Ga6: 9. *Each of these seeds has a harvest on the end of it, a due season for reaping.*

Have you also realized that it is God who multiplies the seed you sow?

You may hear someone say, "I've helped this person, now when I need help why won't he help me? --If you helped him you planted the seed. But you cannot expect the one you helped to be the Source who will help you in return. No person has the power to multiply a seed. God alone does it.

Eccl11: 1; "Cast your bread on the waters: for you will find it after many days." - The wave you cast your bread upon may not be the one upon which it returns. It may be a new one. Whichever wave it returns on, it will be God who sends it back. He is your Source. This means the ones you help may or may not help you, but God who is the God of the Harvest will cause someone to help you. Trust in Him. *God is your Source; He is the God of the Harvest.*

The seeds you plant to help people are a demonstration of your inner self being on God's side, expressing your deep feelings to do good.

Jesus Himself is a seed. He is called 'the seed of David' Rom1: 3; 2Tim2: 8; Like us He Himself is a seed. Like us what He did was a seed He planted – Acts10: 38 {went about doing good}; Lk9: 56 {came not to destroy men's lives but to save them}. Every thought, every act, every wish, everything He did became an expression of His inner self to heal, save, give life, give it more abundantly. That was the seed He planted.

God is the source of multiplying your seed.

Being like Jesus and ministering to people as He did is what God is. It is His method. It is His seeds He wants us to plant so that He can multiply them back to us to solve our own problems and meet our own needs. Also to open up healing for our own illnesses and bring constant replenishment for our daily existence while on earth.

Not once can you ever find Jesus expecting people to help Him first.

"I came not to be ministered unto but -----to give" Mt20: 28; then to us He said

"Give and it shall be given unto you." Lk6: 38;

“Do unto others as you would have men do unto you.” Lk6: 31;

It is something you do first, the seed you start planting, then the harvest follows. Jesus had our good in mind when He gave us these instructions. *Doing guarantees that God will cause it to come back to us multiplied. He chooses His own channels to bring our good to us.*

Lk6: 38 says that with your giving it will be measured back to you. Notice that whatever seed you plant for good, when God multiplies the seed it is much more. How much more we will receive if we give graciously?

You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but who can count the apples in one seed?

In the principle of seed faith as you give first, expect a miracle. It is more blessed to give than receive – Why? ‘Blessed’ here means ‘productive’. It is more productive to give than receive. The giving results in multiplication not receiving. Therefore a rejected opportunity to give is a lost opportunity to receive. Also anything we get by becoming a getter instead of a giver will eventually get us. It will rise up and bite us. On the other hand we must know every good seed we plant will without fail bring a good harvest. Ga6: 7; *Seedtime is followed by harvest-time.*

If you give nothing, nothing is multiplied to you, and when nothing is multiplied to you it is still nothing. Zero multiplied by zero is still zero. Therefore knowing the principles you can become cheerful in your giving because of the results. You can expect a miracle; the harvest becomes God’s commitment to you.

God is telling us to get our relationships right:

1. Our relationship with God – When I know God as the Source of my total supply and look to Him for all my needs, my relationship is right with Him.
2. Our relationship with other people – When I’m reaching out to others, helping them find answers and giving for the needs of others and learning to receive from God through others – that’s planting of precious seed to grow into the miracles I need. And my relationship is right with others {my neighbour}.
3. Our relationship with ourselves – When I’m confident and full of faith the way God told me to be and I’m expecting and receiving the miracles that are coming my way everyday, I’ve got right relationship with myself.

I’ll expect a miracle, I’m betting what I need just plant a seed out of a need, plant a seed to match your need, then God will move your mountain. The seed will have in it the nature of an expanding force that breaks the mountain up and reduces it to a size you can deal with. You may be requiring a major healing within your own body, apply the principles of seed faith, giving first. You can have health, you can have success and you can have it now. You can get your mountains to move and have the desires of your heart.

Sowing & reaping Lk6: 38 – *His hand to my mouth.*

We are created in God's image & likeness. It is His purpose that we learn to give in love, gratitude & thankfulness for all that He has done for us. Everything we have has been given to us by God who possess all things 1Chr29; 14; We are not our own, we have been bought with a price 1Cor6: 19-20; In giving we can expect a harvest of souls.

Again by planting seeds / chunks of truth in your mind to arouse questions, thoughts, ideas, insight, how to apply God's Word in your life, you can be set free from bondages & stumbling blocks that prevent, hamper, steal your blessings. These seeds will send down roots into your spirit and bring forth a harvest of blessings. Therefore plant seeds of tithing & offering – It is your way out of all types of poverty.

2Cor9:6-11; The Law of sowing & reaping here always operates in proportion and according to how much you give. The more you sow the greater your harvest. You will personally reap what you have sown. The crop will be the same, but the quantity will be greater.

Ga6: 8 – We will reap corruption if we sow to the flesh, but eternal life if we sow to the Spirit.

Whether you sow your time, money, something else, you will always reap the same thing that you sow. This is how it works in the natural. Parsley seed does not produce carrots. What you put in the ground is exactly what comes up.

Again some crops grow quickly others take more time. The person who plants an olive tree seldom lives long enough to pick an olive from that same tree. In that case the next generation will reap it what the previous generation has planted. Certain things bring long term results, while other things produce a quick return.

When you plant or sow something it is better to find a seed that continues to produce fruit for a long period of time. For example you will benefit more from the seed of an apple than radish. God has provided you with long term areas in which to sow and He will show you exactly what they are.

Paul tells us that he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. But to encourage you, he promises: And God is able to make all grace abound toward you --- sufficiency in all things ----. Here God is saying that He is the giver and you are the sower. He supplies the seed to the sower and bread for food. If you dare to place yourself at His disposal and begin to give, this law will come into operation.

There are two important laws – The Law of sowing & reaping and the Law of faith or waking by what is not seen. You need to exercise this faith by beginning to sow what little seed you have in order that this law should function. Prov11: 24-26; Dare to give and prove God because of what He said.

Some people however stop giving as soon as they receive some money. Their resources dry up and suddenly that money has disappeared – all because they tried to retain it. Do not delay if God exhorts you to sow into a particular project. When the Holy Spirit speaks

be prepared to sow immediately. This will bring you out of your financial bondage and into freedom, where God wants every one of us. There is no greater satisfaction than to give to the work of God.

2Cor8: 9-14; always sow your seed into good soil and never sow under pressure. God will speak to you, enabling you to give it with joy. Ask God how much you are to give. The devil does not want believers to give. If they do he wants them to contribute to the wrong things. If you sow into something that is not approved by God, the devil has channeled it down a blind alley and prevented it from bearing fruit. You should do nothing out of routine or religious duty but as a result of fellowship with the Lord. In this way you will be actively involved in what God is doing. Willingness - the motive is important behind giving the money.

LAWS OF PROSPERITY

Many are mistakenly taught that if you are humble, you're poor and it is a characteristic of holiness to live on "Barely – Get – Along – Street, way down at the end of the block next to Grumble Alley".

Isa1: 19 – "If you are willing & obedient you shall eat the good of the land".

Ps89: 11 – The Lord made the world and the fullness thereof.

"The Silver & gold are mine and the cattle on a thousand hills" – says the Lord.

Lk6: 38 Give and you shall be given ---

The Lord gave Adam dominion over all the works of His hands. That meant Adam had dominion over the cattle of a thousand hills, over the world and its fullness, over silver & gold. He made it not for the devil and his crowd but for Adam. But Satan came along and Adam committed treason and sold out to the devil. Adam originally was the god of this world. He ruled and dominated this world. That's the way God planned it. When Adam sold out to Satan, then Satan became god of this world 2Cor4: 4; The Lord is not withholding adequate food & clothing from our children, it's the devil that is doing this. He is the god of this world. The money we need is down on earth and not up in heaven. The silver & gold are down here where we need it.

Ga3: 13; Poverty came as a result of sin. But we are freed from the curse of sin

Cor8: 9 tells us that Christ desires that the children of faith be prosperous. Many have failed to claim God's blessings of prosperity. Many receive their ticket to heaven by faith in Jesus Christ and think no more. But there is a promise of abundance. If you want to be prosperous just realize that Christ has already laid the groundwork.

Just like you exercise faith for healing by claiming, publicly announcing, the same with finances. Don't pray about money anymore, claim whatever you need. You say "Satan take your hands off my money!" Say "I claim -----"

Naming whatever you want or need, because it is Satan who is keeping it from coming to you, not the Lord. Claim it because it is down here on earth and Satan has the most control over it, because he is god of this world. Claim not only your needs but wants Ps23: 1, 10;

Say, "Satan take your hands off my finances." Then say, "Go ministering spirits and cause the money to come". Heb1: 13-14; They won't minister to you, but for you. Actually ministering spirits are sent to serve you, like a waiter or waitress. Turn your order in – send the ministering spirits out to get it by saying the above. Otherwise for years angels are standing around you doing nothing unless you tell them to.

If you want to be prosperous, search your heart and find your true motives. Do you want to be prosperous to bear fruit, be productive, care for others spiritual welfare, be a channel to bring more people to KOG? Then put God first and your desires to build Kingdom of God Mt6:33; Man's purpose is to be God's temple 1Cor6:19-20; 3:16-17;

Consider the adornment, carvings, luxury in which Solomon built his temple, how much more we? There are many blessings in tithing relating to the universal law of giving & receiving Gen14: 19-20; 15; 1; If an animal only received and refused to give its species would soon be extinct. Mal3: 10 Tithing brings many benefits – protection, prosperity. Give tithes to the local church where one attends Mt23; 23. God will also bless your house with joy, peace, health etc. In giving we can expect to receive a harvest of souls.

Jos1: 8; Ps1; Meditating on God's Word with application makes one prosperous.
3Jn2 As you soul prospers you will prosper.

After you have claimed what you need that is the end of the matter. Thank God for it. It is working. Don't claim something ridiculous.

JOSHUA 1:8 'Meditate' – means to think about the Word and practice it so that it becomes a part of you. It means recite or respeaking of God's Words in Hebrew – thus they shall not depart out of thy mouth. When you meditate on the Word, your heart & mind will be filled with the Word. How will you do this?

– '*Give attention to it*'. In other words you think about it continually mulling it over in your mind.

'Do all that is written' *This* is done after you meditate on God's Word, because unless you do this you are still not guaranteed success. So you must practice it then you make your way prosperous. It does not say that God will make your way prosperous. You do!

Say, this is my Bible. I'm taught the Word of God. I am what it says I am. I can do what it says I can do in Jesus' name.

PSALMS 1; Says that the person who delights in God's Word by *meditating on it day and night* is the one who prospers. The 'amplified' says that when you meditate on God's Word you will be able to *deal wisely in the affairs of life*. When you make the right decisions & deal wisely in the affairs of life then you will prosper. What happens when you make the wrong decisions? In some cases you won't prosper and you won't be successful.

It says after you meditate & study the Word then *you*, not God *will make your own way prosperous*. The wisdom of God's Word in you makes you successful. It depends a lot on what you do. You have to fill your heart & mind with the Word, so the Word can cause you to deal wisely in all the affairs of life.

Prosperity does not touch on finances only, but in every area of life.

God is willing to give if we agree with Him. Prov21: 23; Mt12: 36-37; Mal2: 17; Amos3: 3; We weary God with our negative words. We need to say positively what God says about our health, finances, prosperity etc.

3Jn2 Beloved I pray that you may prosper in all things and be health, just as your soul prospers. To prosper in all things refers to prosperity in every area of your life. Money is just one of these areas. God is a God of prosperity. He is a covenant God and because of

the covenant He has made with you, He wants to meet your every need. And He meets your need with His abundance & prosperity.

A life of prosperity means having so much, that not only are your own needs met, but you can also meet the needs of others.

Adam had no lack in the Garden of Eden. God was his constant source of provision. Jn10; The thief comes to steal many things, and among them is your money. Jesus Christ said that He had come to give abundant life. And this means having an unlimited supply. Financial prosperity is the lowest level of this abundant life. While it is not to be despised, you need to recognize that life with God is of much more value than a pocketful of currency notes. Money is the world's ultimate guarantee of a secure life. For us the guarantee is God.

Prosperity involves every aspect of your life. God wants you to have an abundance of peace, joy, power, and love. He has deposited these within you. However the spirit and the flesh are continually at war in you and there is a struggle against the devil who is out to steal your strength, peace, health, possessions. Just as God wants you to prosper, the devil wants you to fail.

You must make up your mind once and for all that all your money, possessions, time belongs to Jesus. The Holy Spirit will then lead you as to how & when you are to give. There are times when God directs us to go without certain things. He will tell you what you are to relinquish and your decision will be accompanied by peace & joy. Prosperity is God revealing to you the way in which His resources should be distributed throughout the earth.

You should boast about the blessings of God 2Cor10: 17; God wants you to testify to His blessings in every area of your life.

Abraham was a rich man who walked continually in the blessings of God. However when he was presented with an opportunity to gain possessions unjustly, he refused to receive them and thus avoided being brought into bondage Gen14: 23; God will bless you if you have the right motives. Prosperity exists for the expansion of God's Kingdom. The Gospel can be spread to the ends of the earth – through financial freedom.

LAWS OF PROSPERITY

1. Covenant God.
2. Lordship of Jesus, the "Great I AM". Lordship over the works of His hands, the "Small I Am" – 'god of your world' by His Word - God has given you dominion.
3. There is a miracle in your mouth. His Words from your mouth lords it over every issue in your life. Your word also lords it over your life. Choose God's Word.
4. Take back what the devil has stolen. You are born from above, over Satan the god of this world, free from the curse.
5. Commission God's angels to get it for you, they minister for you.
6. Be willing & obedient
7. Giving opens the door to receiving – Tithing & Offering
8. Meditation & application.

9. Claim – proclaim
10. Walk in the fear of the Lord.
11. Right motives.

WHAT YOU SAY IS WHAT YOU GET

King Solomon realizes 3000 years ago there is power in what you say.

Prov6: 2 *"Thou art ensnared with the words of thy mouth."*

Jesus – 'a greater than Solomon' fearlessly proclaimed the power of confession –

Mk11: 23 *"I say unto you that whosoever shall say --- and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."*

There is power in what you say, if you believe.

"He shall have whatsoever he saith" – is a double-edged sword, cutting both ways. It can work for you or against you. How?

It can bring negative results

For example, you see little Tom, sneezing several times and you say, 'Oh he's caught the flu'. You have no proof, but sure enough, the chances are because you opened the door by what you said, he got it.

Two neighbors were talking the other day - "My son has gone through the measles, has yours?" the reply, "not yet". Here one of the neighbours is expecting it.

We often use phrases, I can't, I'm afraid, when God words say I can, fear not and it can bring negative results. You say, "I can't pay my bills" even though God's Word says, "My God shall supply all your need ---", and you get what you say.

It can bring positive results

Brother T.L.Osborn says – "There are 3 things to be considered in sickness.

FIRST – What the symptoms say

SECOND – What God's Word says.

THIRD – What you say.

If you say what God says, the sickness has to go. If you say what the symptoms say, you have what you say.

The answer is in thy mouth.

A mother hid some Easter eggs in the court pocket of her small son. She told him that she had prepared it especially for him, to search for it. So he went on searching, fruitlessly, ever getting further away from them. Finally getting frustrated, he put his hands on his hips and said he couldn't find them. His mother said 'now you are really close to it'. Staring at his coat, he discovered the bulge, he found the eggs. This is how many of us pray. We are trying to find God and the answer to our need, by ascending up to heaven in our searching or descending into the deep in our seeking. We fast, pray, search, seek but the thing we are looking for – is nigh thee, even in thy mouth – the word of faith Rom10; 8;

There is power to snare, deliver, cure, kill in your mouth – "Death & life are in the power of the tongue'.

God is just waiting for you to begin to speak in faith so you can have what you say. 'That if you confess with your mouth – you shall be saved' Rom10: 9; The word 'save' is from the Greek word 'sozo' means deliverance, healing, protection, preservation, soundness {do well, make whole}

Rev12: 11 they {the company of believers} overcame him {the devil} by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony {what they said}.

If we would change our negative way of speaking and thinking based on God's promises, we would get our miracles. However we are not to be ignorant of negatives all around us or we may live in illusion.

'Don't ever say anything you don't want to get'
Refuse to give way to negative thoughts & words
And Declare aloud your positive faith in God's provision.

Speak out in positive words when everything seems to be going wrong, because we know that all things work together for good to them that love God Rom8: 28; God will cause our worst circumstances to work on our behalf, no matter how impossible things seem to be at that time.

Heb3: 1 Jesus is the High Priest of our Confession / Profession / Testimony. Jesus is the High Priest of what we say. Heb4: 14; Col3: 1; Heb7: 25; He is using your confession {1Jn2: 1} against the accusations of the devil {Job1: 6} {Rev12: 10}. He is the High Priest of our confession {what we say}. He pleads with that of which it is said He's High Priest at the courtroom of heaven. Jesus is pleading what we say. Recognize that Satan is our accuser Rev12: 11. Jesus is our advocate 1Jn2: 1; And our testimony / confession is important to overcome the devil. If we are grumbling, complaining charging God foolishly for allowing the tests, then Jesus has nothing to do to combat the accuser of the brethren. Instead we have loaded Satan's canon and given him the ammunition to blast forth his accusation before the Father. The result: the trial & test drag on because we have accepted defeat & given the devil authority before God to keep us in defeat. But if in our trials of faith we confess positively & specifically in line with scripture, Jesus picks up the promises & our confession, begins to present them to the Father. What is the effect in heaven? – The accuser of the brethren is cast down. We come into victory and keep it.

Are you giving Jesus a good confession to plead against Satan's accusations?

Confess, proclaim, and speak a testimony of faith right now!

The word is very nigh unto thee {even} in thy mouth – {Deut30: 14} The word of your victory! The word of your healing! The word of your deliverance! Speak it and it shall be established unto you. Proclaim it far & wide and it will bless you. Tell it wherever you go and it will happen to you – for our God will stand behind His Word to perform it., Even while you are yet speaking Isa65: 24;

Using words is an instrument of faith to open the door to God's abundant blessings. *Only speak & believe and the thing you have spoken will come to pass.*

In Mk11: 23 – Jesus talked more about ‘saying’ than ‘believing’. This verse is a secret to obtaining miracles from God. How do you have faith? – You decide to take God at His Word. How do you have doubt? – You decide not to take God at His Word. Heb11: 1 ‘Now faith is the substance’ If we decide to take God’s Word for it, that very decision {faith} is the evidence to us that we will get the ‘things not seen’ that hoped for.

Agree with God’s Word Amos3: 3 – ‘Agreeing with God’ is having faith.
Declare it is written Mt4; when you confess you possess.

Christianity is called ‘The Great Confession’. Heb3: 1; 4:14; Rom10: 9-10;

Heb3: 1 The literal Greek word for confession or profession means to acknowledge, to agree with, say the same thing that God says about any given subject or thing, to line up our words with what God’s Word says, to acknowledge what God’s Word has declared.

Confession is affirming something we believe it is testifying to something we know it is witnessing to a truth we have embraced.

Jesus said that if we confess Him before men, He would confess us before the Father {High Priestly Office}. He can only confess what we confess. So confess what God declares you to be and you will have victory.

THINK – BELIEVE – CONFESS

Our confession is the result of our believing and our believing is the result of our right & wrong thinking. Many talk of their weaknesses and are bound with fetters of inability. When you talk of inferiority & unworthiness it stops all action of faith. When we confess fear & failure continually it negates the Word of God and builds a prison house for us.

It is true we need to repent & confess our sins regularly {to acknowledge what God says about our sins} but after this we need to confess what God’s Word says {positive confession}. There is no faith without confession of God’s Word Rom10: 17; Ten of the 12 spies sent to Canaan fixed the landmark of their lives by their confession – “we can’t do it” – their wrong belief brought in wrong confession and they wandered 40 years along with a whole generation.

The mind is like a computer. If you let garbage in you can expect garbage to come out. What we believe is the result of our thinking. If we think wrong then we will believe wrong. If our believing is wrong then our confession or what we say will be wrong. It all hinges on our thinking. The Word of God is given to straighten our thinking.

SECTION FIVE: REVIVAL & RESTORATION

LEARNING TO FLOW WITH THE SPIRIT

Throughout the history of man, we can see the flow of divine activity as it sweeps on from generation to generation, and we can see it in this generation still uninterrupted, still steadily progressive.

12TH Century – Francis of Assisi – transformed by a vision of Jesus from an ex-soldier playboy to an apostle of love, whose words were like fire that pierced the heart. His faithful band of 12 formed an order, which stirred Italy, Egypt, and Spain. Large audiences responded to the challenge to forsake all and follow Jesus.

14TH Century – Zwingli – Weak voiced, strong sight, lacking the gift of an orator, yet his preaching set Switzerland afire. His emphasis was conforming to the will of God as set forth in the Bible. He was martyred.

15TH Century – Martin Luther – He came at a time when Europe had reached a critical mess, religiously & economically. Many religious leaders were hypocritical, cynical, indecent, unbelieving, worldly, denying Christian principles. He left behind a most valuable exposition of:

Justification by faith alone and not by works
Each believer has direct access to God
The Bible is the supreme source of authority for both faith & life.

15TH Century John Calvin

17TH Century – The Great Evangelical Revival
Zinzendorf & his round the clock prayer watch
John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd

18TH Century – Charles Finney – Over 1.5 million converted through his ministry. He had a mighty B.H.S before his powerful ministry. He emphasized the working of the Holy Spirit, holiness, a mighty man of prayer. His much spoken but little known prayer partner Fr. Nash.

19TH Welsh Revival – Evans Roberts, John Lake, Smith Wigglesworth
More Recent – Oral Roberts, Du Plessis, T.L.Osborne, Bosworth, Gordon Lindsay, Billy Graham, Yongii Cho etc.
Today China has more than 1 Lac House Churches, more than 30 million Christians.

In the charismatic renewal many Protestants & Pentecostals could not accept what God was doing outpouring His Holy Spirit on hundreds of thousands of Catholics all over the

world and so they missed their blessings God was freely giving. Can this happen to Catholics on the other hand? Yes it is possible to miss the revival.

God did such a mighty thing through the instrumentality of Wesley in his days, yet the fact remains that God has moved on since Wesley's day. The flow of the Spirit is ever onward. The spiritual tide is a rising tide.

If you in your day and generation fully respond to God's requirements, you will find yourself borne onward in the stream of His purpose. If however you hold on to the past, wanting God to do as He has formerly done, wanting Him to repeat something that in your estimation ranks high in spiritual value, you will find yourself out of the main stream of His goings. To be a Luther in the 16TH century was a good thing, but to be a Luther in the 20TH century would not meet the need. To be a Wesley was of great value to the Lord in the 18TH century, but it would be inadequate in the 20TH century would be inadequate. Every instrumentality raised up of God has a specific function and the contribution made of the hour, but it would not serve to build up the Church at a later stage in the Church's development.

Unfortunately many people fail to recognize the onward flow of the living stream, all through the Church's history. If today you try to be a Luther or a Wesley, you will be a complete failure. You will fall short of the purpose of God for this generation, for you will be moving backward while the tide of the Spirit is flowing steadily forward. The whole trend of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is an onward trend. The record from beginning to an end is a progressive unfolding of God's goings.

Acts 1: 8 – "in Jerusalem and in all Judea & Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth." From Judea, the stream flowed on to Samaria, but having reached Samaria it did not stagnate there; it flowed on to Rome, for it was bound for the ends of the earth.

In the Acts he is both Jew & Christian. He fellowships with other Christians outside the temple; nevertheless he still visits the temple.

In the book of Hebrews he is no longer both Jew & Christian, he is simply a Christian. Now he no longer meets with his fellow Christians at times in the temple and at times outside the temple. What he could do when the Spirit was newly poured out in Jerusalem he cannot do now that the tide of the Spirit is sweeping onward to the ends of the earth. In Hebrews we find he has forsaken the temple for "*the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched not man*", and he has forsaken the many sacrifices for the "*one offering*" by which the believer is "*perfected for ever.*"

In Acts we read that Paul went into the temple to perform a vow. Do not hastily conclude that he was wrong. We do not apply God's ultimate standard to His saints in every age, for God's movement toward His ultimate goal is progressive. What is required of you and me today is not that we attain the ultimate but that our measure correspond to the stage reached in the development of the divine purpose at this present time.

You and I must be found at the point which the tide of the Spirit has reached today – not the stage it reached at some date in the past, or will reach in the future. It was all right for

Paul to purify himself in the temple in accordance with the 'Old Covenant but what was right then would have been wrong later on. Therefore the writer of the Hebrews explains that once the Old Covenant had served God's purpose it was abolished and had to give way to the new. *God will judge you according to your walk in the light as you are moving in the tide of the Spirit.*

The book of Acts is progressive from beginning to end and when it closes with the 28th chapter, the movement of the Spirit does not cease, the tide flows on throughout succeeding generations and all the while God keeps on raising up instruments that will make the specific contribution needed at the specific stage that the Spirit has reached in His mighty onward move.

We are dependent on our spiritual ancestors because God had purposed to have a seed and that in no generation did He suffer the genealogical line to be broken, for securing of His purpose necessitated the perpetuation of that seed. We are for this reason dependent on our spiritual ancestors. But we not only need to accept the heritage that comes to us from them; we have the solemn responsibility to pass it on.

Will you & I be caught up into that tide? If we fail to meet the requirements of God's purpose for this present time. He will find others who will meet His need. Only if we have the authority of the Spirit shall we be found in the onward flowing tide.

Each day the Spirit is bypassing this one and using that one. If we put up a resistance to Him today, He may have to cleave a way for Himself elsewhere.

We can learn to flow with the Spirit of God:

To get anointed you don't have to shout in prayer. Sometimes when people are B.H.S they begin to yell. It may not be demonic. It doesn't say be filled with Spirit and scream, but start speaking in tongues.

1Cor14: 27 You are always right scripturally to remain quiet once three persons have spoken in tongues, do not interpret at that service, one of the three should. God is not the author of confusion. Let all things be done to edify.

Everybody may be flowing with the Spirit but some could be distracting everybody with their loudness and it can stop the flow of the Spirit. Pastors should go privately to these people and correct them in love. Do not correct them in public unless their behaviour is really extreme. Something is wrong when someone says I can't help it. Then his / her actions are not inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit only gives you a gentle push. It is demons who drive & force people to do things.

We need to interpret the flow {Jn7: 38} {1Cor14: 28}. God uses certain ones to interpret. But caution if there is no interpreter. We need to learn to control the excesses. For example, if this happens at a meeting, "the devil has been after me this week, bless His

holy name”, Pastors put a stop it and change the direction of the service. Most testimony meetings today are really backslidden.

We need to train people and control the excesses. Because in the new present wave of the Spirit we are going to see more & more of fanaticism, as there has always been excesses in any move of the Spirit.

If you can't find what the Bible says, do not say it either. When God moves everybody will be blessed. If somebody is of the flesh, everybody will have a sick feeling. And if it is of the devil, it will seem like the hair will stand up on your neck.

Every Church should have believers meetings from time to time because many of these manifestations of the Holy Spirit will not occur when outsiders & sinners are in the service. There is a dance in the Spirit and there is a dance in the flesh.

Many times the power of God is not manifested more than it is because believers themselves hinder God from moving in there midst. They fail to hunger for the moving of God's Spirit. They are irreverent towards the things of God.

1Cor12: 8-10; We should want all the gifts of the Spirit to be manifested and not just a few like tongues & interpretation which are at the bottom of the list. And 1Cor14 was not written to an individual alone but to the whole Church of Corinth. The reason that folks don't have spiritual gifts in operation is that they don't desire them. They are not coveting {long for, desire greatly} them. The Holy Spirit is a perfect gentleman and He will not impose anything.

Mk5 – They had the 'brakes on' – unbelief that hindered Him.

At a service there can be unbelief and also irreverence. For example clapping at a time that is not convenient, shuffling of chairs, getting up and leaving, the anointing just flies away. And you cannot just blame the pastor, because the whole Body is responsible. You can't say that it's the hand that did the mischief, but not the whole body. It takes all of us working together.

We need to know how to cooperate with a minister in a service and not pull against him. This will enhance the flow of the Spirit of God and many will be blessed and helped.

Some ask, “why don't people get healed in our Church?” – Either the congregation is not recognizing what God wants to do and they don't understand the move of God's Spirit OR they are just sitting there waiting for God to initiate something on His own – He does it sometimes, but not always.

Someone may ask why this person doesn't heal me – He can't. But if you understand and believe that the anointing is upon the minister the anointing will work for you.

Acts3: 1-7 'Expecting to receive' is the key. If you can just get people to expect to receive, things would be different for them and in the Church.

So expect God to move, manifest Himself. Expect that whatever the Word of God says is yours is yours! Expect it to be made real in your life. Take the brakes off, start praising Him for the answer and it will be so in your life.

Take the brakes off and flow with the move of God's Spirit Mk6: 1-6;
In the program of God, He sometimes sends in a tidal wave that sweeps everything before it, and at other times it is just as gradual rising tide.

We are all ready in this new wave of revival from God, a gradual rising tide of God's blessings intercepted by a great tidal wave all over the world. As Jesus was God's revival wave of His time, He now is moving in with many new waves of visitation {gifted people – Benny Hinn etc.}

FALLING UNDER THE POWER

People fall under the power of God when they are overwhelmed by the presence of God or by the power of God in manifestation.

Jn18: 3-6; Garden of Gethsemane
 Mt28: 1-4; Angel of the Lord at Sepulcher
 Acts9: 3-5; 25:14 Paul & his men fell to the ground

Why would these men fall to the ground?

Because there was a manifestation of God's Spirit and God's glory. A bright light shone around them and they were overwhelmed by God's presence. When the presence of God is in manifestation the natural gives way to it. When the natural comes in contact with the supernatural something has to give way and it won't be the supernatural.

Phrases such as 'falling under the Power', 'resting in the Spirit', 'being slain in the Spirit', 'being overcome by the Spirit', prostrations, paroxysms, swooning, fainting, 'flaking out', 'being zapped', have commonly been used to describe the phenomenon.

Scriptural references to 'Falling':

1. The prophets sometimes fell as the Spirit came upon them, giving them a vision or a burden or a message from God. Ezek1:28; Dan10:9; Rev1:17;
2. The priests in the O.T appear to have fallen under the 'cloud of God's presence' as they worshipped the Lord at the time of the Temple dedication 2Chr5:14
3. The disciples who accompanied Christ fell on their faces before their transfigured Lord Mt17; 6
4. Some people being delivered of demons fell under God's power, it seems – Mk3:11; 9:26-27;
5. Saul of Tarsus – Acts26:14; 9:4;
6. An unbeliever coming in the company of believers where the gifts of the Spirit are manifested 'will fall down and worship God exclaiming, "God is really among you" 1Cor14:25;
7. The crowd at Jesus' arrest drew back and fell to the ground when Jesus said I AM HE. Jn18:6;

The 'Falling' Phenomena In History:

St. Theresa of Avila in 16TH century
 Revivals in the 18TH & 19TH century were noted for these -. John Wesley, Welsh revival.
 Mary Woodward Etter.

REVIVAL & RESTORATION CHARACTER {SANCTIFICATION / GROWING FRUIT}



The Fruit of the Spirit portrays the character of Christ Ga5: 22-23;

A little boy receives from his parents the nature and character of the family. The nature develops as the child continues to grow {skin, color of the hair, bone structure, height etc.} We sometimes say that the child is truly a picture of his parents.

The same is true in the family of God. When we were born into God's family, we received Christ's life and nature. We are to develop into His image. The nature and character of His life is to grow in us as we grow in Him. Our divine destiny is to become like Jesus – in nature, word & deed. 2Cor3: 18; Rom8: 9;

CHRIST'S CHARACTER

The fruit of the Spirit is a beautiful word picture of Christ's character. Each fruit is a specific quality of His life. As in nature when light passes through a prism, we see seven rainbow colours, so also in the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace etc. – the rainbow colours of God's life.

The Fruit of the Spirit divides itself into three equal categories of Relationships:

Love, Joy, Peace is a relationship with God.

Long suffering, Gentleness & Goodness is our relationship with our fellow human beings.

Faith, Meekness, Temperance is a relationship with ourselves.

The fruit of the Flesh – Cruelty, pride, sadness, dishonesty, unruly, careless, hatred, worry, greed, selfishness, other sins etc.

KEYS TO A FRUITFUL LIFE:

The fruit of the Spirit tells us what Christ is, the qualities of His being. He is not only lovely, He is love, joy, peace ---- When we have Christ within, we too can be lovely, joyful, peaceful etc. whether we feel like it or not. The feeling or the emotion follows our faith in the fact. An emotional response to the spiritual reality. E.g. the joy of the lord is the Lord Ps30: 11-12;

The fruit of joy can be expressed in different ways – aloud, sing, shout, dance or quietly blending into the fruit of peace. As a result of what we have and are in Him we can be lovely, joyful, peaceful etc.

DIFFICULTIES BRING FORTH THE FINEST FRUIT

We find pressure, tension, discord, strife etc. Most of our problems within or without are caused by dark forces that oppose the fruit of the Spirit. These forces are called the fruit of the flesh – our old sin nature. Jesus always produces the fruit of life – the fruit of the Spirit. Satan always produces the fruit of death – fruit of the flesh. We choose whom we will yield ourselves to. The more we yield to the flesh the worse we get. In time these deadly traits get fixed into our character and then we look more like the devil than the Lord.

Times of trouble can be times of great growth in Christ. If we look to the life & power of the Spirit within, we can become strong in areas of weakness. Our natural reaction in bad times is to fight back in anger or fear. The Holy Spirit seeks to overcome evil with good. As we submit to His Spirit, God's love grows strong in our lives. We become better Christians and more like Jesus in character and we become a blessing to God, others & ourselves.

FIVE SECRETS OF LIVING:

- A The secret of living is fruit bearing.
- B The secret of fruit bearing is abiding.
- C The secret of abiding is obeying
- D The secret of obeying is loving
- E The secret of loving is knowing.

Life is your most precious possession. Right now you are either spending your life, investing your life. It is you alone who determines the course you take.

Jn10: 10 Satan – the thief tries to rob you. He is being assisted by people and circumstances. One can be robbed of life because of impatience, selfish indulgence, sex, alcohol etc.

Jn15: 1-17; Who are you and why are you here? – Jesus tells that we are branches. He is the vine. We are here to bear fruit. You have become a vine in the vine by trusting in Him as your Savior & Lord. You have a living relationship with Christ by faith. As the branch gets its life from the vine so do you from Lord Jesus Christ. Fruit is the result of life. The reason for your salvation is to bear fruit in this world to feed a people starving for spiritual reality.

The branch cannot bear fruit for the branch to eat but for others to eat. It is our great joy to share this fruit with others.

Fruit bearing is a beautiful process. First comes the leaves, then the flowers and then the fruit. God provides water from beneath and sun from above. Day by day branches develop and day by day fruit is produced. Instant fruitfulness is not possible. Fruit must be

cultivated. God has put you on a branch in the vine and you are to produce fruit where no one else can except you.

There are different kinds of fruit, not just the fruit of the Spirit in Ga5.

E.g. 'Soul Winner' - Winning others to Christ, and helping them to grow Rom1: 13; Prov11: 30; - 'Win' – a hunter taking his prey, so must we track down a lost soul for Christ. Mk1: 17; 2Cor5: 20; Jn4: 35; Zec3: 2; 1Cor15: 10;

To win others to Christ is to allow His life to flow through you and bear fruit.

CULTIVATING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Spirit are given to proclaim Jesus as Lord. It is important to note that gifts & fruit must be well balanced in the life of a Christian.

CHARISM: The Greek word for spiritual gift – something freely given. An extraordinary ability bestowed by the Holy Spirit for special service, to secure the Church against the world, flesh & the devil. Eph6: 12; Mt12: 29; Zec4: 6; The Gifts are the weapons of our warfare.

Philip's ministry in Samaria was evangelism accompanied with new birth, signs, wonders, miracles. The Samaritans believed, were baptized, were saved
Acts8: 7-8, 12-13; Mk16; 15; 1Pt1: 23;

Peter & John were next sent to Samaria to minister what is known as Baptism-in-the-Holy Spirit or receiving or being filled with the Holy Spirit. This infilling was evidenced by speaking with Tongues Acts8: 14-17;

The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in 1Cor12; 8-10;

-The gifts of Revelation {Thought} – Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits.

-The gifts of Utterance {Vocal} – Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues.

-Power {Action} – Faith, Healings, Miracles.

The Holy Spirit does not use everyone in the same way. He divides to every man severally as He wills. Not everyone will have all the gifts of the Spirit in manifestation.

{Here each gift will not be explained as it has been done before at the Basics}

1Cor2: 7 The Lord commands us to eagerly desire covet or strive after these gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. Each of these gifts are given to us as tools to edify the Body of Christ. All the gifts have a valuable contribution to make to the Body. But these contributions will never be made and the growth that could have come to Christ's Body will be lost unless we learn how to cultivate these gifts within the Church.

How can these gifts be received?

Promise Acts2: 38-39;

Revelation Ga1: 17-18; Mt16: 17; {Through others having gifts}

Laying of Hands 1Tim4: 14

Bible says Covet 1Cor12: 31

Desire 1Cor14; 1

Be Zealous 1Cor14: 12

Don't doubt

Don't fear

Don't be prejudiced

Don't criticize {Acts9: 5} – You may not know who you are fighting.

Don't mimic – God has an original experience for you.

How can these supernatural gifts be cultivated?

1. Be confident that these gifts are valid & vital and given to all Christians 1Pt4: 10.
2. Pray for particular gifts 1Cor12:11; 14:3; Jas4:2;
3. Identify your gifts – by trial & error, desires, counsel of others, prophetic impartation at laying of hands.
4. Look for opportunities to exercise them – involving constant practice, risk. Mt25:14-30;
5. Study the gifts and seek training – attend meetings that train in the participation of the ‘gifts’. – Observe, exercise. – Develop friendship with those already operating in those particular gifts.
6. Don’t rely on formulas – Divine power doesn’t travel in words but in personal relationship Jn15: 5; Acts19: 13-14; Jn5: 19; - Led by the Spirit.
7. Pursue spiritual gifts for the right reason – right motive.
8. Put your confidence in Christ – in His power, goodness, not your own. Don’t try to talk God into healing someone because that sick person deserves it. No one is made whole because they deserve it, but because of the goodness of God’s Son expressed in His sacrifice for us Acts3: 12-13; Put your confidence in Christ’s goodness & ability rather than in yours or others.

The Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit are so composite that they blend like the radiant hues of the rainbow. They are distinct and yet they move through one another.

There are also nine ministries of the Church, which are given by the Spirit. 1Cor12: 28; Eph4: 11; They are:

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Apostles | 4. Evangelists | 7. Deacons |
| 2. Prophets | 5. Teachers | 8. Helps |
| 3. Pastors | 6. Elders or Bishops | 9. Governments |

The Great Commission & The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Mk16: 17 –

The ministry of the Christ was conducted in the framework of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. He did not minister on earth as God but as the Son of Man.

The infant Church in Jerusalem grew from a local group to worldwide proportions. It did not grow by natural means but by the instrument of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit identified in the Acts & Epistles.

In the life of the Apostle Paul, empires & nations bowed him through the power of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rom15; 19;

The last words Jesus spoke on earth should be a challenge to His disciples to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1. Christ rebuked the Church for two things Mk16: 14; - Unbelief & hardness of heart. These are still the two greatest evils of the Church - v/s15 – the challenge is total – the entire world, the entire gospel to the entire; population. V/s16 – Effects of accepting or rejecting truth – either saved or damned.
2. The Instruments of Warfare Mk16:17 - Cast out demons. If there were none, He wouldn’t have told His Apostles to do this.

Speak with new Tongues

Take up serpents. This is not pride or tempting God, but as in the ministry of Paul. The serpent bit him but had no ill effect. That miracle won many to Christ.

If they drink any deadly thing

Lay hands on the sick.

Casting out devils, healed of serpent bite, is the working of miracles. The sick healed is a Gift of healing in operation. Speaking with Tongues is a Gift of inspiration.

The Gifts of the Spirit will be in greater operation in these last days than ever before in history.

UNTY & FELLOWSHIP

Hos4: 6; Mk13: 12; Jer10: 21; 12:10-11; Ezek13: 3; 34:3-4, 18; Jn10: 15-6; 3Jn10: 11
Rom13: 8, 10; 15:5-7; Phil2: 2-5;

The Church has suffered through 'External Persecutions' often as result of misunderstanding & ignorance. Early believers were hunted down and killed by the Roman populace because the rumor was believed that Christians actually *ate human flesh & blood* in some sort of ritualistic worship of a man called Jesus who told them to remember Him in this way. Of course this was not true.

Then there was the *Inquisition – the 'Internal persecution'*. The Catholic Church established an ecclesiastical court of the 'Holy Office' called the 'Inquisition'. 1252 – Pope Innocent declared the 'heretics' {people who refuted the claims of the Pope} were to be crushed like venomous snakes. The Church formally approved of torture & civil authorities were ordered to burn heretics. These decrees to eliminate heretics was reinforced by, Popes Alexander IV, Clement IV, Nicholas IV, and Boniface VIII – 1254 – 1304. It was this license to kill that produced many martyrs in the Middle Ages. It is estimated that 20 million were killed during the Inquisition.

However in *Vatican II documents there is a public apology to all people for the errors of the Catholic Church.* Today there is *still 'Internal Persecution.* Catholic Christians {Born-Again} are being judged and commanded to come out of their Church by those who feel they know the truth. Catholic Christians are being accused of condoning the erroneous teachings of Catholicism by remaining in the Church. Catholic Church has been judged and condemned by Protestant brethren to the point of being called the 'Babylon' of the last days, they call it a cult They even go so far as to call the renewal a work of 'witchcraft'. Attempts have been made to resolve conflicts

A mighty work of **renewal & revival** has sprung up in the Catholic Church. Thousands are being born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, including priests nuns. They are being touched in a life changing way.

Isn't it possible for someone to know Jesus and be led to stay in the Catholic Church at the same time? Yes.

What happens to a Catholic Christian who has had a very bad experience in the Catholic Church with a lot of hurts? Should he leave the Catholic Church? Or What happens to a Catholic Christian who is very uncomfortable to remain there, finds it cold over there, finds no growth, has a conscience problem?

These need to get into a fellowship where Jesus Christ is truly being lifted up where he can grow and gain a good foundation in the Bible & in God. *It is a personal decision, which needs to be made in prayer. He needs to be sure God is telling him to leave and join somewhere else.* He needs to walk in the light God has given in him.

There are, as some one said, no Catholics, Protestants, Baptists, etc; in heaven, only born again Christians those that love the Lord.

LEARNING TO LOVE PEOPLE YOU DON'T LIKE

Does God really expect us to get along with each other?

What do we do when we don't see eye to eye with leaders?

Is Biblical unity & loyalty obtainable?

How should we respond when others frustrate Or irritate us?

The true meaning of love dawns on us when we find ourselves required to love someone who has hurt us or mistreated us. The scriptures teach us that we cannot live the Christian life with integrity unless we love people when they are impossible to get along with.

God loves people, not programs or good causes. He died for people, not for the cause of world evangelism. Rom5: 8; In loving us even in our rebellion against Him, God demonstrated His acceptance of us. This '*accepting love*' motivates us to repent & return to Him, knowing that He cares & understands when we fail.

We are forgiven sinners, commissioned to communicate His kindness, mercy, hope & forgiveness. We become God's way of saying, "I love you" to a hurt & dying world. Inspire of our weaknesses & failings He trusts us to proclaim His salvation to the world Mt28: 19; Are we always worthy of His '*trusting love*'? How often have we failed Him? Yet He believes & trusts us. How much more then do we need to trust others. Love is vulnerable. As Christians we are called to believe the best of each other 1Cor13: 7;

Trusting love has the power to make people believe in themselves. It releases our true potential and turns from discouraged failures, to people of success. It releases creativity, brings freedom from striving to gain acceptance, since acceptance has already been received. It produces gratitude toward those who believe in us and wins the loyalty of hearts for a lifetime. We often find it difficult to give the person another chance. Let us not forget that God has entrusted us with the message of the Gospel. We have failed Him often yet He forgives us and is willing to give us another chance. *Trust is the key that can unlock a person's full potential.*

Throughout life people hurt us through thoughtless comments, rejection of our work or ideas and other ways that. Leave their mark on our emotions. But we are not left to ourselves without hope. God steps into each individual situation with His healing power and gives a fresh start. God's healing love is able to renew and restore our battered memories and battered situations in such a way that we no longer have to suppress our feelings of failure or carry them with us through life. God can forgive us and completely build our emotions. He is the Great Creator & Re-Creator. He creates new beginnings for us. He draws a lion behind us and forgives everything in the past. He heals the wounds we have accumulated along the way and starts us on a new path. God's love is the greatest power on earth today. 1Jn4: 9-10;

We need to lay aside our differences and enjoy the refreshing atmosphere of spiritual unity.

When confronted with Christians who hold different views from us - check motives desires. Opinions are to be less important to us than fellowship with another brother in Christ. Many Christians have been entrenched with their own opinions that they have refused unity, which is found via the Cross.

It is not wrong to have differing opinions, but it is wrong to allow these opinions to divide us, Many churches in the western world have split on minor issues.

Questions on doctrines are important but never so important that we refuse to have fellowship with other Christians – unless they deny one of the essentials of the Christian faith.

“In the essentials let there be unity, in the non essentials let there be liberty and in all things let there be charity.”

Christian unity is built on the foundation of fellowship with other forgiven sinners; No more is required for doctrinal unity than agreement on the essentials.

The question is what are the essentials? 1Cor15: 1-5:

Christ died for our sins. He is the Christ of the O.T. scriptures, which means He is the Son of God. He was raised up on the third day and appeared to the disciples. He will come again
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Although there are other important doctrines Paul did not include in his list and some very important ‘anti-doctrines’ or heresies that he did not mention either, his list is not complete by any means, but is enough for Biblical Unity.

To attempt to manufacture Christian love & unity is ultimately to destroy it. True unity comes as a result of Christ’s work on the Cross- & in our hearts. When we accept Christ’s love & forgiveness through the Cross-, we become brothers & sisters of all those who have done the same.

Biblical Principles For Responding To Leaders When They Are Wrong:

Check your attitude 1Pt4: 5; Mt18: 21-22;

Pray for the Leader

Make sure the facts are correct Prov18: 13, 17; Deut13: 12-15; 1Tim5: 19; Mt5: 9

If there is no change, pray about confronting your leader Mt18: 15-20;

If we go to our leader and he does not receive what we have to share then we have three choices:

1. Go back with another person as a witness & reconciliatory agent
2. Wait believing God will bring changes
3. Remove ourselves from his leadership by leaving the group

But on no account are we to stay around and gossip, stirring up dissension, rebellion towards those in authority. Heb12: 14-15; Rom12; 18-19;

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

Gen2: 22 Then the lord made a woman from the rib He had taken out of man, and He brought her to the man.

Eve came to Adam on the arm of the lord Himself, in the same way that a bride today walks down the aisle of the Church on her Father's arm. {Implied}

Not only does human history open with marriage, it is also destined to climax with marriage Rev19: 6-9; From Genesis to Revelation the central theme of human history is marriage. It is God Who initiates the action and it is in Him that it comes to its climax. From beginning to end, He is totally & personally involved.

Just as the Father opened human history with a marriage, so Jesus opened His public ministry at the marriage in Cana. What prompted Him to perform His first miracle in such a setting? – He demonstrated how much He cared about the success of the wedding. He also attracted no attention to Himself. He demonstrated that in every marriage there is only one proper focus of attention, the bride & groom. He upheld the plan of marriage initiated at creation by His Father. Mt19: 4-8;

The book of Genesis brings forth 4 vitally important truths about marriage:

1. The concept of marriage originated entirely with God. It was God Who decided that Adam needed a wife. Adam was not aware of his own need.
2. It was God Who formed Eve for Adam. He alone knew the kind of mate Adam needed.
3. It was God Who presented Eve to Adam. Adam did not have to go in search for her.
4. It was God Who determined the way in which Adam & Eve were to relate to each other. Gen2:24; {Unity}

These four truths apply even today.

God created man & woman sexual beings and then after careful inspection pronounced everything 'very good' – including their sexuality.

Romance & passion are integral parts of marriage as revealed in the Bible especially in the Song of Songs. A marriage that lacks these is by biblical standards sadly incomplete.

Romance without passion ends in frustration. Passion without romance is little more than lust thinly veiled.

A successful marriage does not begin with the wedding ceremony. Its foundation is laid much later – First character development. Next in the matching of man & woman the God appointed for one another.

No man is complete by himself. Every man needs companionship. To meet this need God ordained marriage. Marriage is the closest & most intimate form of companionship possible between two people. It is so close, in fact, that the two actually become one. {Intercoursing, intertwining}. It is a blood covenant which is cut! {Hymen rupture}

There are four attitudes to cultivate for those entering God's plan for marriage:

Your attitude toward marriage

Requirements: Reverence & Humility. Read & meditate on Eph5: 25-32;

Your attitude toward yourself

A sense of self worth & self-acceptance is necessary. It lies in the love, & discipline received from parents. If we have not learned to love ourselves, as the second of the two Great Commandments, we have nothing to offer to our neighbour insecure people are difficult to live with. This is one main reason for the breakdown of many marriages & other close relationships. These insecure people cannot rest in a relationship, but are in continual need of something to bolster their self-esteem. Yet nothing suffices for long. Such people do not know how to receive love and therefore cannot give it. You must remember you are a new creation 2Cor5: 17; and act like one. You are accepted 'in the beloved' no longer an orphan. You need to cultivate an ever-expanding realization of what we have become in the family of God. To achieve this requires long hours spent meditating or gazing on the mirror of God's Word. By doing this we are transformed into the same image from glory to glory 2Cor3: 16-18;

Your attitude toward other people

A major factor to determine your attitude toward the mate God has appointed for you. Many are self-centred people, who fail to realize that the more they talk about themselves the stronger they make the bars of their own prison.

There are two basic causes of broken or unhappy marriages – lack of consideration, lack of insensitivity in one or both partners. This in turn leads to a breakdown in communication. Together they act as a lubricant that can keep two people flowing together in harmony with one another.

Your attitude toward your parents. Eph6: 1-3; {that it may go well with you}

You may disagree strongly with them on some matters yet maintain a respectful attitude towards them. To honor your parents in this way is also to honor God Himself Who gave this commandment. Obedience is an act, submission is an attitude.

In a situation where a young Christian decides that to obey parents would be to disobey God, he can still maintain an attitude of submission. He can say to his parents, "In this case, my conscience does not allow me to do what you ask of me, but I respect and honour you." This itself could bring a change in the parent's attitude. Submissiveness paves the way for God to intervene, while stubbornness shuts Him out. In other cases obedience to parents stands. The attitude is very important. {Do unto others, as you would like others to do unto you}.

Seven guidelines to follow:

1. Ps119: 105 – Obedience to God's Word will keep you on the path that leads to the marriage He has planned for you.
2. 1Jn1: 7 – If we do not cultivate fellowship with other believers, with whom are we to have fellowship? There is only one alternative, with unbelievers. The Bible strongly warns against this 2Cor6: 14-15; - We cannot afford to establish the close relationships that are appropriate with believers. *It is always wrong for a Christian to marry a non-Christian.*
3. Rom8: 14 In order to become God's children, we must be born again of His Spirit. Then in order to become mature sons of God, His Spirit must lead us.

How are you to find your marriage partner? – Be led by the Holy Spirit. He alone knows who & where the person is whom God has appointed as your mate. You must learn therefore how to allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. For this there are two key words – Dependence & sensitivity.

First, acknowledge your total dependence on the Holy Spirit. Without His guidance you will miss God's purpose. Seek His direction in every situation & every decision, small and great.

Second, cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. He is gentle and He speaks with a 'still small voice' if your ears are not tuned to Him, you will not hear Him. {When seeking guidance for a marriage partner, I often prayed, "Lord bring the right person, in the right way and at the right time to get married to me." And it did happen that way}

It is not enough that you pray. You must also allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in the ways that can be simple or dramatic or supernaturally. {Explain nudges, etc.}

4. Prov4: 23 ----- *guard your heart*" Whatever rules your heart will determine the course of your life. The heart is central to human personality & decisive to human destiny. You need to guard your heart, particularly those impulses & emotions relate to sex.

Guard it against unbiblical & anti Christian standards, fantasy, because you will come to the point where it is hard to distinguish between fantasy & reality. And when it comes to marriage you will have formed an unreal, subjective image of the person who is to be your mate.

This can effect you in two ways. First, the mate God has appointed for

You may not correspond with the image of your fantasy and you will be unwilling to accept His choice. Or, you may impose then image of your fantasy upon a real person and marry that person – only to discover after marriage that the real person is totally different from the one you imagined and not the one God selected for you at all.

First discover the mate God has chosen for you. Then release your emotion toward that person.

5. Isa64: 4; - Be prepared to wait if God requires you to. God uses waiting to work out various purposes in our lives. It tests our faith, purifies our motives, and builds character to maturity. Jas1:3-4;
6. Prov12: 5, 15; The importance of cultivating right attitudes & blessing of parents. This provides a foundation on which to build success in every area of life, especially in marriage. You need to seek the counsel of godly men such as pastors, church leaders older than you in years & faith. Such have traversed the road that lies ahead of you. They know its snares & dangers.

7. Prov18:22; 19:14; In these proverbs two truths are intertwined:
 First, it is the Lord Who bestows the gift of a prudent wife
 Second, this gift is a mark of His special favor on the one who receives it. If you want the Lord to give you the kind of mate you need, you must diligently cultivate the lord's favor. His satisfaction must be your highest ambition.

Man's Preparation for Marriage:

Your success as head of you family will depend on your relationship to Jesus Jn5:19; 14:9-10
 1Cor13: 7-8; Jer31:31;

Tenderness goes hand-in-hand with romance. Study the Song of Songs several times.

Romance is a quality that makes exciting & enjoyable.

Self giving Eph5: 25;

Bible teaching Eph5: 25-26; 6:4; - read biblical books, cassettes, correspondence courses, seminars etc. Concentrate on such books as Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Hebrews.

Intercede, meditate, personal prayer, bible study, involvement at prayer meeting.

The function of the physical head in relation to the rest of the body takes three forms – receiving input from every area of the body, making decisions, giving direction. Similarly as the head of the home. So you need sensitivity, wisdom, character, responsibility & faithfulness.

Woman Prepares for Marriage:

Prepare to be a helper Gen2: 18; Prov31: 10-31;

Cultivate your relationship with the Lord Rom12: 1-2; Give God your best time. Pray, praise, worship. Read Bible before you pray. Keep a prayer list. Be willing to learn. Be willing to serve. Be willing to adjust to your husband's priorities. 1Pt3: 5; 1Cor11: 3;

Learn to intercede & pray for others. Trust God.

Learn proper care of your body – nutrition, exercise.

Set your goals, establish your priorities

DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

Why has divorce become so prevalent among Christians?

1. The wrong view of marriage in which the Church has abandoned the standards of God & scripture. In their place it has embraced those of the world.
2. Inadequate preparation for marriage,

It was never God's intention for marriage to end in divorce. Traced to its source, divorce is always a result of a man's departure from God's ways & standards. But that is no justification however for treating the divorced in ways that are arbitrary or unscriptural Mt23: 4; 'Divorce is evil' the Church has declared, 'so we will impose the same penalty on both parties. We will forbid them both to remarry.' Here the Church has refused to acknowledge distinction between the innocent & guilty party. This penalty seems more severe than a period of physical imprisonment.

Many religious people will be inclined to question the phrase 'innocent party' and ask - Are not both parties to a divorce guilty? Should not both parties be treated the same?

It would be unreasonable to suggest that both parties to a robbery are guilty {the one who is robbed & the robber} and should be treated the same.

Again some may ask – Does the Bible permit divorce on any grounds at all? – The answer is yes. In the time of Ezra when some of the Jews had contravened the Law of Moses by marrying women from the surrounding Gentile nations, Ezra not only permitted them to divorce their wives, he actually demanded that they do so {Ezra9-10}

To get a scriptural perspective on situations in which one party to a marriage may be released from the marriage bond, we need to consider three successive phases of God's dealings with humanity;

A) *The period before the Law of Moses:* In Israel before Moses, the penalty for adultery was death.

E.g. Judah had sexual relations with a woman he believed was a prostitute, but who was actually his daughter-in-law Tamar. Now Tamar was at that time betrothed to Selah, the youngest son of Judah. Betrothal was considered as binding as marriage itself and a breach of it were considered adultery. Three months later it was discovered that Tamar was pregnant. Judah's immediate response was to have her burnt to death Gen38: 24; when he discovered that he himself was responsible for Tamar's pregnancy, he no longer demanded her to be put to death. The death penalty imposed on the guilty party in a marriage automatically released the innocent party to remarry.

B) *The period under the Law of Moses:* - death penalty for the guilty party in adultery automatically released the innocent party to remarry Deut22: 22-24;

People often quote Rom7: 2 – 'unmarried woman bound to her husband as long as he lives' but this applies to either innocent party, as in Deuteronomy. It is both illogical & unscriptural to uphold the requirement of the Law that binds a woman to her husband for life, but to negate the requirement of the same Law that automatically sets her free through the death penalty, if her husband commits adultery. Jas2: 10; Ga3: 10;

C) *The period inaugurated by Jesus through the Gospel:* Mt5: 32; 19:9; The Greek word translated "marital unfaithfulness" is *porneia*. Traditionally, in the KJV this word has been translated 'fornication', thus limiting it to sexual sin by unmarried persons. However throughout the Greek New Testament, *porneia* is used to describe every form of illicit or unnatural sex. It includes adultery, fornication, un-chastity, homosexuality, bestiality, incest etc. 'Porneia is used in Acts15: 20, 29; 1Cor5: 1, 9-11; 10:8; 2Cor12; 21; Jude7; And Jesus sanctioned divorce {where appropriate} for any or all of these.

Thus the Law & the Gospel came to the same conclusion concerning *porneia*: it releases the innocent partner from his or her marriage obligations.

There is however a difference: Under the Law, release is provided by the mandatory death penalty imposed on the guilty partner. While under the Gospel, the innocent partner is free

either to claim the release offered through divorce or to offer to the guilty partner the alternative of forgiveness, reconciliation subject to satisfactory proof of repentance.

Is a person has obtained divorce on biblical grounds free to marry?

The language & culture of the Bible does not hint that the person is legally free only to divorce & not remarry. On the contrary, freedom to remarry is stated explicitly in both Old & New Testaments.

Under the Law, Moses says, that if a man divorces his wife legally and sends her away, she is free to become 'the wife of another man' Deut24: 1-2; Obviously Moses is not condoning adultery.

Deut24: 3-4; Moses says that if a woman's second husband divorces her and dies, her first husband is not allowed to marry her again. This means that the first marriage has been legally terminated.

In the New Testament Paul says: "Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you should marry, you have not sinned 1Cor7: 27-28; - This indicates that a person who is scripturally released from a marriage partner and later marries has not sinned.

On the human level, the issue of divorce is normally resolved in a court of law, either religious or secular. Beyond all such human decisions, however lie divine principles of justice that never vary. One such principle runs through the entire Bible – *the innocent must never be treated as guilty nor the guilty as innocent*. Deut25: 1; Prov17: 15; Isa5: 22-23; The issue of marriage break up is not quarreling, insensitivity, selfishness but porneia. Has one committed porneia and the other not?

In one sense marriage is a legal contract entered into by a vow {use clause} to keep myself to thee alone {sexual relationship}. — {Time clause} till death us do part. These two underlying clauses are tied up together and cannot be enforced separately. If one breaks use clause by porneia, the other partner is released automatically from the time clause.

1Cor7: 10-11; Deals with two believers married to each other. "Not I, but the Lord" means the lord has already taught this in the Gospels – Neither party is free to divorce each other, except for marital unfaithfulness. If they do divorce they are obligated to remain unmarried or remarry each other.

1Cor7: 12-15; A believer married to an unbeliever. "I not the lord – indicates that this was not covered by Jesus in the Gospels. First Paul places on the believing party the obligation to seek to maintain peace in the marriage and to win over the unbelieving party to faith in Christ. But when the unbelieving party rejects this approach & refuses to continue the marriage but deserts the believer then the believer is released from the marriage bond & free to enter into a new marriage

However two condition must still be met. First all the requirements of the civil law must be fulfilled and second the new spouse must be a believer in Christ.

We have dealt here with two cases, marital unfaithfulness of one partner and desertion of unbeliever to the believer because of the believer's faith in Christ. In each of these cases when all the relevant requirements have been met, the believer has the right to obtain a divorce and as a consequence also to remarry.

There are other cases of divorce not explicitly covered in the N.T. On one hand it is unrealistic to ignore it and on the other hand be dogmatic about it where the Bible is not specific – the best course to take 1Cor7: 25;

What about marital failure & divorce of the past, when they come into the salvation experience? How does God view them? – Mt12: 31 – 'every sin' includes adultery, sexual deviations etc. Acts13; 39 – Everyone is justified from every thing. 1Cor6: 9-11; Acts10: 15;
Case No.1:

Two unsaved divorcees marry, have children, and then get saved. Is it right to say "You are living in adultery, you must break up your marriage and either return to your former spouses or remain unmarried?" What would happen to the children?
 - Say, "God has given you a new start. Do your best to redeem the misspent years and be careful not to go back to your old ways."

Case No.2:

Two unsaved people marry, then divorce but not on grounds of marital unfaithfulness. After a while the man remarries and thus commits adultery by scriptural standards. Later the woman gets saved. Is she free to remarry on the grounds that her previous husband has committed adultery?

Case No.3:

Two unsaved people marry then divorce as in case no.2. After divorce, they lose contact. The woman does not know whether the man has remarried or is living with a woman who is not his wife. Then the woman gets saved. Is she free to remarry? Or must she first prove that her previous husband has committed adultery? What if she is not able to make contact with him again?

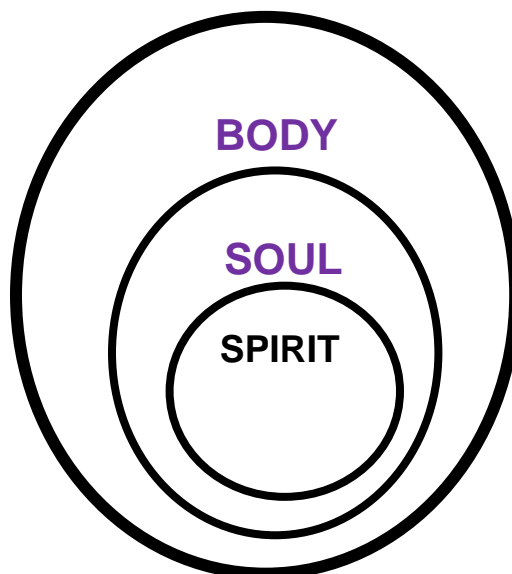
The guiding principle should be Jas2: 12-13; Isa54: 6

If through the break up of marriage you have experienced the wound of rejection, do three things:

1. Acknowledge that you are hurting to your merciful heavenly Father.
2. Put your faith for healing solely in the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus {keep saying 'By His wounds I am healed' until healing becomes more real than pain}
3. Lay down all bitterness & resentment against your former spouse and forgive. Forgiveness comes by decision not emotion. Mt6:14-15;
4. Then turn your back on the hurts of the past. Make a fresh commitment of your whole life & future to the Lord. He has a plan for you Phil3:13-14;

SECTION SIX MINISTRY

RELEASE OF THE SPIRIT



Man's spirit is referred to as the inner man, while man's soul as the outer man and man's physical body as the outermost man. Just as we are dressed in clothes, so our inward man "wears" an outward man. The spirit wears the soul & the spirit and soul wear the body.

*God intended man's spirit to be His home or dwelling place. Here God's Spirit dwells. The Holy Spirit united with man's spirit was to govern his soul. And the spirit & soul would use the body as the means of expression. The soul instead of functioning independently must become the organ or vessel for the spirit. It is *the independent action of the soul that must be destroyed*.*

The spirit makes us God-conscious. The soul makes us self-conscious. The body makes us world-conscious. You must get used to saying, "I am spirit, I have a soul and I reside in a body".

Many are in slavery because they live in their soulish realm. Our whole nature is in our soul and if nature is suppressed in one direction she will take revenge in another direction. Do not try to despise or suppress your soul, be strong in your spirit so that your soul can be won and made to serve the Lord. He has planned that our souls should have rest, which comes through His yoke {union & service}. *Through the Cross the soul becomes a useful servant.*

Q – What hindrance does the soul or outer man if unbroken cause?

The hindrance to his work is not others but himself It hinders him from using his spirit. His spirit cannot come forth. The life within, eternal life is confined, restricted, imprisoned and unable to come forth. We are unable to serve. We are unfruitful. We cannot be a blessing to His Church. We cannot expect the Word to be blessed by God through us. The spirit is inert unable to function.

What is the use of mere mental knowledge of the Bible if the outward man remains unbroken? Only the person through God can come forth is useful.

If the person is an intellectual and his outer man unbroken or slightly broken, his mind governs his work. If he is compassionate his emotions control his actions. His spirit may come forth clad in his own thoughts or emotions. The result is mixed & impure experience. The results are very poor in the persons you contact. Your best thoughts or emotions cannot make people live. Many can be brought to life only by the Spirit. You will be so wordy to convey what the Spirit is saying. While if your soul is broken you need not use twenty sentences to express what can be said in two.

We cannot abide increasingly in God, nor receive much revelation. Because our spirits are not set free we cannot evaluate or discern another even after conversing with the other for several hours. To do that our spirit must touch the spirit of another.

If our outer man is not broken, retreating into the presence of God is necessary. If broken we do not have to retreat into His presence for we are having continual fellowship with Him.

Brother Lawrence was so broken that he could enjoy continuous fellowship with God, undisturbed by his outer work of dishwashing & its disturbances. So if you are broken you can be playing with a little child yet enjoying communion with God.

We can describe a believer either as 'single' or 'dual'. With some the inner & outer man are one, with others separated. If single, he leaves God out, while in praying he turns away from his work. The 'dual' person on the other hand can do both simultaneously. He enjoys unbroken presence of God, his inward man can break forth simultaneously as a need arises and he can also do his external work undisturbed or be externally aware of things.

You find yourself always busy – religious interests, appetites, concerns, labours, likes, dislikes, inclinations, expectations, ideas, iron will confusing thoughts, mental, emotional which are exhausted cannot respond to God. This thing in hand blocks the way to spiritual usefulness. They are wasted on lesser things. As the physical strength of the outermost man is limited and he gets tired unable to do whatever else is left out at that time, so is the case of the outer man {soul}. In exhausting the {soul} strength there is nothing left to direct to others. As long as we have 'things on hand' we cannot do God's work. According to the number of things in hand strength for serving God decreases or increases.

God's spirit never bypasses man's spirit in His dealing with man. Nor can our spirit bypass the outer man. In order to touch other lives our spirit must pass through the outward man. Hence when the latter's strength is consumed by many things at hand. God cannot do His work through us. There is no outlet for the human spirit nor for the Holy Spirit Who is conveyed by the human spirit. For example the inward man must love, but he has to love through the outward man who is occupied with the thing on hand and so the inward man is deprived of its proper channel for loving. He could also have exhausted loving a few through his emotions and cannot do anymore. So also when the inward man wants to use his will it is already occupied. Without the cooperation of the outward man the inward man is handicapped.

We cannot save souls only by having the burden in our spirits, it must be expressed through the outer man also. The burden inside must be conveyed through the mouth {utterance}. When man has God's Words, God can speak. When he does not God cannot speak. The trouble is that our inward man is available to God, able to receive God's burdens, but the outward man is occupied with the thin on hand night & day that our spirit can find no outlet.

The outward man if unbroken remains the greatest hindrance to the ministry of the Word {serving people with the Word}. Such a person may feel heavily burdened with a word he feels he must communicate to the brethren. However he speaks sentence after sentence yet the inner burden remains heavy, there is a word within but you cannot utter it, here is no sense of relief. No matter how clever you are, the outer man can never substitute for the inward man. Only after the outer man is broken can the inward man find adequate thought & appropriate words.

In preaching the gospel people responding to correct doctrine or emotional stirring is short lived. Intellect & emotion need to be reached, but these are insufficient. Mind may reach mind, emotion may reach emotion but salvation probes much deeper. Spirit must touch spirit. Then there is a proper spiritual breakthrough with salvation.

Unfortunately many are *still treasuring the alabaster box* thinking that its value exceeds that of the ointment. As long as the shell is unbroken, not split open, the wherret cannot grow. *What is death?* It is the cracking open of the shell through the working together of temperature, humidity etc. in the soil. *Once the shell is split open, the wheat begins to grow.* So the question here is not whether there is life within but whether the outside shell is cracked open. The outer shell is our own life {soul life} while the life within is eternal life which he has given us. *Should the outward man remain unbroken the inward man would never be able to come forth.*

The first difficulty to our work is not others but ourselves. The one reason for all misunderstanding, fretfulness, discontent is that we secretly love ourselves. Many times problems arise due to our seeking a way of escape from the working of the cross.

Q – What are the *benefits* of a soul that is truly broken?

The Lord can use broken vessels. We can work for God. *The treasure within is released. The world is blessed.* Brokenness is a *way of blessing, the way of fragrance, the way of fruitfulness*, but also a path sprinkled with blood from many wounds. 2Cor4:16; The unbelievers as well as Christians are blessed. We are able to exercise our spirits. If we desire to work effectively we must realize that 'it is the Spirit which quickens'. *To let the spirit be released means that sinners may be born anew & saints may be established.* When life is communicated through the channel of the spirit those who receive it are born anew. When life is supplied through the spirit to believers, it results in their being established. Without the spirit there can be no new birth & no establishment.

Once the outer man is broken, man's spirit naturally abides in the presence of God. When the outer man is broken, outside things will be kept outside and the inward man will live continually before God. Though the outward man is engaged in conversation, the inner man is fellowshiping with God. *Knowing the presence of God is dividing the two.*

Can one whose inner workings are wrong, but whose teaching is right supply the need of the Church? To be transformed into a vessel fit for the Master's use comes only through the breaking of the outer man.

When in regeneration we receive our new spirit, we receive God's Spirit also. The moment our human spirit is raised from the state of death, we receive the Holy Spirit. *We often say that the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirit, but we find it hard to discern which is the Holy Spirit.*

Q – What methods does the Lord employ to break our outward man?

We must recognize the 'hand of the Lord' in braking our outer man. Disciplinary working of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives. Yet we fret over trifles, we murmur at small losses. Daily trials are for our greatest profit.

The Lord employs *two different methods* to destroy out outer man – *sudden destruction followed by a gradual one with some. With others, constant daily trials until one day He brings about large scale destruction.* The timing is in His han. We cannot shorten the time though we can certainly prolong it.

The 'Cross' *is the means of breaking the outer man.* The cross reduces the outer man to death. It splits open the human shell – opinions, ways, cleverness, self love, our all. The one reason for all misunderstanding, fretfulness, discontent is that we secretly love ourselves. *Many times problems arise due to our seeking a way of escape from the working of the cross.* He who has ascended the cross and refuses to drink the vinegar mixed with gall is the one who knows the Lord.

After our outward man has been stricken, dealt with and led through various *trials* we have *wounds* upon us thus allowing the spirit to emerge.

If the Lord has stricken our outward man either through the *discipline or the enlightening of the Holy Spirit*, we are able to express joy or sorrow as we inwardly dictate.

The outward man is broken through the discipline of the Holy Spirit. It is divided from the inward man by the revelation of the Holy Spirit {Heb4:12}

All that comes to us is ordered by God. To a Christian nothing is accidental.

God's Spirit does not work directly in people. He *does His work through man.* People's needs are met on the one hand by the *discipline* of the Holy Spirit in ordering their environment, and on the other hand by the *ministry of the Word.* Without the supply of the ministry of the Word, the spiritual problem of the saintys cannot be solved.

There has to be many breakings in many areas of our lives for us to attain a place of usefulness.

After *consecration* there must be a *discipline* of the Holy Spirit. It takes consecration plus the discipline of the Holy Spirit to make us vessels fit for the Master's use. *Without consecration the Holy Spirit encounters difficulty in disciplining us.* The hand of God may *touch our*

thought life. We discover our thoughts are confused, independent, uncontrolled. God will so *arrange our circumstances* as to *deal with our emotions*. He places them in situations where they dare not be too happy when elated nor too sad when depressed. They can only *depend upon the grace of God* and live by His mercy, not by their fickle emotions. *Our emotions run wild because our wills have not been dealt with.* The *root is our will*. The same is true with our *thoughts*. "Not my will but Thine be done." Phil3:3; *God will allow us to make mistake after mistake till we learn that we truly need the grace of God*

The special means of grace is the discipline of the Holy Spirit. The Cross is more than a doctrine, it must be put into practice. The way to humility is not to remind ourselves not to be proud. We must be stricken again and again – even if it means twenty times – until we are surrendered and proud no more. Through the *operation of the Cross* we shall learn to *depend upon the grace of God*. Now we understand what is 'pick up your Cross and follow Me' and self denial, dying to self.

God desires not only to break down the outward man but also to divide it so that it no longer is entangled in the activities of the inward man. God wants to divide or separate our spirit and soul. We see the two fold dealing – *Breaking down the outward man & Dividing it from the spirit*. The first is done through the *discipline* of the Holy Spirit while the latter is through the *Spirit's Revelation*. The outward man needs to be broken for the spirit to be released. But when the spirit comes forth it must not be contaminated or shadowed by the outward man. It touches upon the spirit's purity or cleanliness.

The *living Word divides* {Heb4:12}; Not only is *God's Word living* but also *operative*. *Living points to its nature*, while *operative applies to its ability to fulfill the work on man*. It is a two edged sword that *penetrates and divides*.

Joints & marrow are embedded deeply in the body. To separate the joints is to cut across the bones; to divide the marrow is to crack the bones. However to divide the soul & spirit is harder. No sword however sharp can divide them and this is done only by God's Word. 'Discerner of thoughts & intents of the heart' – "*Thoughts*" refers to what we deliberate in our heart and "*intents*" refer to our motives. *God's Word discerns what we think and what motivates our thinking. Deliverance comes from the light of God* The light shows how superficial & fleshly has been the denial of the flesh. For God has laid bare the thoughts & intents of your heart.

How does it divide – by revealing thought & intent of heart. When God's Word comes we 'see'. Only in His light we see. Revelation enables us to see what God sees.

The *discipline of the Holy Spirit is usually a slower process*, repeated time and again perhaps for years before the point at issue is finally dealt with. Furthermore this discipline of the Holy Spirit oftentimes exists without any supply of ministry. Not so with *revelation of the Holy Spirit. This often comes swiftly within a few days or possibly a few minutes*. Under the light of God you will see in a very little time your true condition and how useless you are. Then too revelation frequently comes through the supply of God's Word. That is why

revelation of the Holy Spirit multiplies when the Church is strong and the ministry of the Word is rich. But both are essential.

Discipline is plentiful in many lives, but recognizing the hand of the Lord in that discipline is rare. Ps39:9; Has the Lord for years disciplined us, but instead of recognizing His hand, we blamed it on other people or on fate? Everything is measured by God for us. He has predetermined its time, boundary, force to break the outer man. The release of the spirit is the release of the human spirit as well as the release of the Holy Spirit.

When you are *born again* you receive the 'well of water' experience {Jn4}
 You receive new life / eternal life / salvation. This blesses you. When you are *baptized in the Holy Spirit, you receive a 'rivers experience'* Jn7:38; This blesses others. *The way is made open also for the release of the Spirit - breaking of the outer man, but the process of further breaking / dividing continues.* In as much as you allow people to contact your spirit, you allow them to contact God. The Spirit of God employs the human spirit as His carrier and through it He is brought to man,.

Everyone who has received grace has the Holy Spirit dwelling within his spirit. Whether he can be used by the Lord depends not on his spirit but rather on his outer man. The difficulty with many is that their outward man has not been broken. God's Spirit is imprisoned within it and is not able to break forth. Sometimes our outward man is active but the inward man remains inactive. The outward man has gone forth while the inward man lags behind and there is lack of blessing.

For example: *How often we can be earnestly preaching , a well prepared sound message – but inwardly we feel cold as ice. We long to stir others, yet we ourselves are unmoved.* Our mind may labour, our emotions may be energized, yet all the time one has the feeling that the inward man is observing the proceedings. In another situation the inward man is filled with zeal. He wants to shout but finds no utterance. He seems to be going round in circles. *The inward man feels like weeping, yet the outermost sheds not a tear etc. The spirit has yet to find a way to pierce the shell.*

How can you know man? –

To discern a person's spiritual condition, nature, extent of spiritual progress we must determine *whether he has said what is really in his heart and how much he has left unsaid.* We should perceive whether he is hard or humble, whether his humility is true or false.

Jesus knew all men and spoke appropriately as required to each. No physician can use the same prescription for all his patients. *You must first discern what the individual's real need is before God. For example a person gets headache but the cause may be somewhere else rather than in the head.*

In every diagnosis you must have certainty. If you feel inadequate to solve the problem, tell it to the Lord and / or get someone else more competent in that area. We must not imagine what ailments they have but discern correctly.

As the Lord's spiritual doctors we must have a thorough inward preparation. We are designed to be 'thermometers' for measuring, discerning what ails a person. The

thermometers must also have accuracy. We cannot help others to learn lessons which we have not learned before God. A proud person cannot deal with another proud person.

If you want to know what ails a person, the nature of that person will cause a certain definite impression to be felt. E.g. sadness, pride, weakness, hasty, sorrowful, depressed, haughty spirit etc. How can the spirit be spoken as hard, haughty etc? – it is because it is wrapped with the outward man, although our spirits emanate from God and are basically pure.

Q – How do you perceive a person's spirit?

If you want to know what ails a person, you need to *first recognize his most prominent feature.* It {the *impression*} will stand out and he *won't be able to hide it.* E.g. A proud person will exhibit pride. So also you can recognize people who are *sad, sorrowful, hasty, impatient, hardened, haughty, depressed, fearful etc.* We say he has a proud spirit etc. Why? Surely our human born again spirit in the normal state is not tinged with anything. *The outward & the inward man* are not divided and thus the condition of the outward man becomes that of the inward. The spirit is proud because it is clothed with the pride of the outward man. Originally the spirit is colorless but can be tainted by the outward man if the latter is not broken. Our spirit emanates from God. *Thus originally it is pure, before it is affected by the impure state of the outward man.*

To purify the spirit one must not deal with the spirit but with the outward man. The trouble lies not with the spirit but with the outward man.

The secret therefore in knowing man is by touching his spirit i.e. in sensing what he is clothed with, by sensing, by tasting or drinking of his spirit. As the spirit flows forth it reveals the nature of the outward man, for the spirit takes the color from the outward man as it flows forth.

When one is strong in a particular point it is like a thing which stands before you. To touch man's spirit we must wait till he opens his mouth & talks. Mt12:34; - His spirit is revealed by what his mouth speaks – haughty, hypocritical, jealous etc. Do not merely pay attention to what he says but especially note his spiritual condition. We really know man not by his words alone but by his spirit {what impression do you get?} Lk9:54-55;

Do not allow the topic under discussion to distract you from the spirit. *Once our own spirit has been released, we can detect the condition of the spirit of others. 2Cor5:16; We do not know man according to the flesh but according to the spirit. Jn12:24 – The grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die and if it dies it bears much fruit*

The basic teaching of the Gospels is the presence of God in one Man Jesus, while that of the epistles is God in the Church. God formerly dwelt in the Man Jesus Christ, but now God is only in the Church not in any other organization. His desire today is that He will be free to manifest Himself in the Church as He was in Christ. Any restriction or disability in the Church will limit God. This is most serious. The hindrance in each of us constitutes a hindrance to God.

Why is the discipline of the Holy Spirit so important? *Why is the dividing of spirit & soul so urgent? – Because God must have a way through us. Is God free in our lives? Unless we are*

dealt with & broken through discipline we shall restrict God. Without the breaking of the outward man the Church cannot be a way for God.

Q – What are our own preparations for knowing man?

It takes many breakings in many areas of our lives to attain a place of usefulness. In the particular thing where we have been disciplined and broken by the Holy Spirit we cannot touch another. If we haven't then we cannot supply that need in our brother. At that very point our spirit is insensitive & impotent. Our spirit is released according to the degree of brokenness. The more broken we are the more sensitive we become. *Only those who have learned can serve. Any delay in learning means a delay in serving.* You may learn ten years lessons in one year or take twenty or thirty years to learn one year's lesson.

Whenever we desire to save ourselves, in that thing we become spiritually useless. Whenever we preserve & excuse ourselves, at that point we are deprived of spiritual sensitivity & supply. *The way of service is in brokenness. The more we learn the more we can discern. How much we really possess is based upon how much God has wrought in our lives.*

We must ask the Lord not to withdraw His hand from us. The absence of spiritual understanding is due to lack of spiritual learning. The more we are dealt with the more we shall know men & things and the more we can supply the needs of others.

Q – How does the breaking of the outer man effect the following? –

Reading of the Bible: - There is not only *THOUGHT* {God's mind & inspired thought of the Bible writers} in the Bible but also the *SPIRIT* {God's Spirit}. *The world cannot understand there is Spirit in God's Word and that Spirit can be released.* The Spirit who inspires the writing of scriptures is the Eternal Spirit ever present in the Bible.

The Bible is more than words, ideas, thoughts. *The most outstanding feature is that God's Spirit is released through this Book.* When a writer, whether Peter, John, Matthew etc is inspired by the Holy Spirit, his renewed mind follows the inspired thought and his spirit is released with the Holy Spirit.

There are two basic requirements for reading the Bible.

Our thought must enter into the thought of the Bible. You must think as the writer – your thought must begin where his begins, develop as he develops, reason as he reasons, exhort as he exhorts etc. This will allow the Holy Spirit to give you the precise meaning of the Word.

An experienced person can discern another speaker even if he speaks for 10 minutes – whether he is using the Bible for his own ends or contradicts the thought of the Bible or is harmonious & united with the thought of the Bible.

To unite our thought with the thought of the Bible we need to have the outer man broken. The defect is that our thoughts have not been subdued by God. We must cease from our subjective thinking and gradually touch the mind of the Lord and follow the trend of the thought of the Bible. Not until the outward man is broken can we enter into the thought of God's Word.

Our spirit must enter into the Spirit of the Bible: It is only when our outer man is broken, that our spirit is released. It can then come out and touch the Spirit of the Bible, the Spirit who inspires scriptures, then we can understand what the Bible says. Otherwise the Bible will remain as a dead book in our hands.

Ministry of the Word: - God desires that we understand His Word, for this is the starting point of service. He desires to put a Word as a burden in our spirits so that we may use it to minister to the Church. Acts6:4;

Ministry means serving. Ministry of the Word means serving people with the Word of God. If we fail to release the Word within us it is because we are yet not broken. Once the outer man is broken, utterance is no problem. Often we are found labouring to bring forth a message. But when our outer man is broken we can effectively bring out a message in a few sentences or words.

It is mostly through the ministry of the Word that God's life & power are supplied.

Preaching the Gospel – Mental conviction, doctrinal correctness, emotional stirring is no guarantee for people receiving the Gospel. Mind may reach mind, emotion may reach emotion, but salvation probes much deeper. Spirit must touch spirit. Only when the spirit of the preacher blossoms forth and shines then sinners receive the Lord In their lives. The proper spirit is necessary to preach the Gospel. A broken man that is uneducated, but has a great burden to win souls. He may utter a few words or sentences, his spirit will come forth, people will be moved and many will be saved.

The way to preach the Gospel – *Whenever you see an 'unsaved', you must allow your spirit to be released. To preach the Gospel is purely a matter of having the outward man broken so that the inward man can flow forth and touch others. When your spirit touches another's spirit, God's Spirit quickens that spirit which is in darkness so that one may be wonderfully saved. However if your spirit is bound by the outer man, God has no outlet in you and the Gospel is blocked and we are powerless in winning souls though we may have all the doctrines memorized. Salvation comes when our spirit touches another's spirit. When our spirit is truly released souls will surely be saved.*

Once people are saved they should immediately turn from their sins, wholly consecrate themselves to the Lord and break the power of mammon. The gospel of grace and the gospel of the kingdom must be joined together.

For the gospel to be preached through us we must surrender ourselves to the Lord. Say, "Lord, I put my all on the altar. Find a way through me that the Church may also find in me a way. I would not be the one who blocks Thee and blocks the Church." As Christ fully manifested God, so must the Church.

CONSECRATION & DISCIPLINE – *For the outer man to be broken, a full consecration is imperative. Consecration is merely an expression of our willingness to be in the hands of God and it can take place in a few minutes. But this is only a gateway in the spiritual road.*

After consecration there must be the discipline of the Holy Spirit. It takes consecration & discipline of the Holy Spirit to make us vessels fit for the Master's use.

Consecration can only be according to the measure of our spiritual insight & understanding. But the Holy Spirit disciplines according to His own light. This discipline is meted out to us according to our need as seen in God's own light. He knows our need and He orders our circumstances in such a way as to bring about the breaking of the outer man. God employs whatever means He thinks effective in breaking down any stronghold over which our inward man has no control. He utilizes eternal means to decrease our outward man since the nature of the outer man & external things is similar. And this is painful. Therefore all our circumstances are ordered by God. Nothing is accidental.

Knowing that a certain external thing will affect us, he orders it several times for our education. If we murmur & complain we have failed to recognize His hand and the lessons might be repeated. This keeps us pure and walking in His pathway. This disciplining is for our good. Consecration allows the Holy Spirit to work freely

GRACE – God has been bestowing His grace upon us from the day we were saved. Grace is 'unmerited favour of God' – God working on behalf of man. There are different ways we receive grace – Prayer, listening to a message etc. However the greatest means of grace is the discipline of the Holy Spirit. What we experience daily at home or school or factory or on the road, is ordered by the Holy Spirit for our highest benefit. Messages feed us, prayer restores us. God's Word refreshes us and helping others releases our spirit.

REVELATION – Enables us to see what God sees. And this can happen at any time. It may happen while we are listening to a message or while in prayer or meditating on God's Word or in any other way God sees fit. One of the great revelations is to see ourselves in God's light.

IMPRESSION – What others sense in us is our most outstanding feature. Whatever our strongest characteristic is, it invariably will stand out and impress others, whether mental, physical, emotional, spiritual. We may be able to control our speech or action, but we are unable to restrain that which expresses our nature. What we are, we cannot but reveal. E.g. the Shunamite woman of 2Kings4 – saw Elijah and commented that he was a holy man although he had not yet worked a single miracle. This was the impression she received. What impression do we give to others? What impression do others get of us? – pride, self love, obstinacy, cleverness, eloquence, shrewd etc. Even if the impression we have is a favorable one, is God satisfied? If He is not then the Church cannot be helped, because He knows the heart.

A brother may speak of the Holy Spirit, but when he speaks he may be conveying much of himself – are others helped? It is what comes forth from us that is important.



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