

LESSON 101

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 5

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

1. NO LOSS WITHOUT CAUSE

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

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

2. RETENTION IS BETTER THAN RECOVERY

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

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

LESSON 102

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 6

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

1. **GOD REQUIRES PURITY BEFORE POWER**

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

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

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

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

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

There are different kinds of spirits, lying spirits, seducing spirits, spirits of error, etc. But there is only one Holy Spirit. His gifts can be split into three categories; (a) Revelation gifts, which consists of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits, (b) Inspiration gifts, which include prophecy, different kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues,

(c) The power gifts which are faith, gifts of healings, and the working of miracles.

There are three kinds of wisdom; (i) Satanic, (ii) human and (iii) divine wisdom; Satanic wisdom is corrupted wisdom. Human wisdom is at times called common sense whereas Divine Wisdom is pure and excellent.

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

LESSON 103

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 7

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

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

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

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

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT IS VARIED

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

I Kings 3:24-27; Acts 15:24-29; Matt. 22:1-22; John 8:4-11; Matt. 21:23-27; Ecc. 9:16-18; Acts 22:24-29; Acts 23:6-9; Matt. 10:18-19; Isa. 50:4; Acts 6:8-10; Acts 16:9-10.

3. THE MANIFESTATION OF THE GIFT

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

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

LESSON 104

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 8

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

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

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

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

2. GOD NEVER DOES ANYTHING WITHOUT A PURPOSE

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

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

3. HOW TO OBTAIN THE GIFT

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

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

LESSON 105

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 9

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

1a. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS IS DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL

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

1b. THIS GIFT ENABLES YOU TO SEE INTO AND HEAR IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM

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

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

2. THE GIFT IS GIVEN FOR VARIOUS PURPOSE

There are various reasons why God could give the gift of the discerning of spirits. These include, among others, (a) to give an advance warning of impending judgment, (b) to reveal the future, (c) to enable special instructions to be given before a special event, (d) to announce special happenings that has happened (e) to assure in time of grave dangers (f) to stabilize a Christian warrior (g) when there is no other way to get the message across (h) to prepare someone for a special assignment and (i) to show Divine Appreciate. Gen. 18:1-3; 17-22; Rev. 1:10-12; Luke 1:11-17; 1:26-37; Jos. 5:13,; 6:5; Jude 13:3-4; Luke 2:8-15; II Kings 6:14-17; Acts 27:21-24; II Cor. 12:2-4; 12:2-4; Acts 10:1-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Dan. 3:24-25; Acts 7:55-56.

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

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

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

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 10

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

1. THERE ARE THREE SOURCES OF PROPHECY

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

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

2. DIVINELY GIVEN PROPHECY COULD COME IN THREE WAYS

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

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

3. TRUE AND FALSE PROPHECIES CAN BE RECOGNIZED

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

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

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 11

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

1. TONGUES ARE VOCAL MIRACLES

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

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

2. THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

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

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

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 12

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

1. THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. VISIONS BELONG TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM

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

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

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 14

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

1. VARIOUS DISEASES NECESSITATES VARIOUS GIFTS OF HEALING

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

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

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

2. HOW TO OBTAIN THE GIFTS

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

3. HOW TO USE THE GIFTS

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

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

LESSON 111

SPECIAL EDITION - EXAMINE

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

1. THOSE WHO FELL INTO A PIT SHOULD TEACH OTHERS TO WATCH OUT

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

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

2. GOD IS NOT A LIAR. WHAT THEN IS HINDERING YOUR PRAYER?

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

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

LESSON 112

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 15

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

1. WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

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

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

2. RECEIVING A MIRACLE DIFFERS FROM THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

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

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

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

LESSON 113

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 16

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

1. WHY IS THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES GIVEN?

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

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

2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE GIFT

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

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

3. HOW TO USE THE GIFT:

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

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

LESSON 114

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 17

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

1. THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS ALREADY STARTED

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

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

2. MEMBERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM ARE THE TRUE RULERS OF THIS WORLD

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

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

3. OUR GOD IS A GOD OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

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

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

LESSON 115

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 18

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

1. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN MANIFESTATION LIGHT IS BORN

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

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

2. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS, THERE IS JOY: WHEN THERE IS JOY, THE HOLY SPIRIT MANIFESTS

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

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

LESSON 116

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 19

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

1. SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ONLY POWERFUL BUT ALSO BEAUTIFUL

The story starts with Peter and John going to Church. By so doing, they are following the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ who always want to go to church even though He knew every sermon in advance. The soul is like a plant needing water to grow. The church is like a river with an inexhaustible supply of water. Peter and John are vastly different people in temperament and outlook. Peter was a man of action and poor financially. John was visionary and rich. But because they both loved Jesus intensely, they naturally teamed up. The gate was called beautiful. Everything that belongs to God are beautiful too, particularly His children.

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

2. THE SINNER IS UGLY, POOR AND HELPLESS: JESUS CAN MAKE HIM BEAUTIFUL, RICH AND STRONG

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

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

LESSON 117

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 20

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

1. THE ONLY POWER THAT CAN SAVE NIGERIA IS ONE THAT CAN MAKE US ALL HOLY.

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

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

2. SPIRITUAL WARFARE CAN ONLY BE FOUGHT SPIRITUALLY

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

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

LESSON 118

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 21

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

1. WHENEVER THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES, ANGELS FOLLOW

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

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

2. THE ANGELIC CHOIR NEVER STOPS SINGING: WHY MUST WE?

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

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

LESSON 119

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 22

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

1. WHENEVER THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN MANIFESTATION THERE WILL BE VISIONS

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

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

2. WITHOUT VISIONS THERE WILL BE NO PROGRESS

God promised that Holy Spirit filled young men would see visions. This is because without visions there will be no progress and where there is no progress, destruction will result. The samples of Moses, Jacob, Abraham, Joseph, etc., shows clearly that those who will become great must have great visions. They must see what others cannot see. They must see and fasten their eyes on "The Invisible One". May God opens our eyes today. Amen.

Joel. 2:28; Acts. 2:17; Pro. 29:18; Heb. 11:13-16; Heb. 11:27; I Cor. 30:25-43; Gen. 15:1-5; Gen. 37:5-11.

LESSON 120

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 23

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt that whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation there will be joy, praise, angelic visitations and visions. We have discovered the importance of visions to progress and that where there is no vision, the people perish. Now, we want to dig deep and discover that whenever the Holy Spirit is manifesting there will be prophesy, demons will be cast out and special miracles will occur. Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Amen.

1. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES, PROPHECY FLOWS.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will show us things to come. Consequently, whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation, the curtain is drawn aside for the children of God to see into the spiritual realm. Wherever the Holy Spirit is in charge, Christians are never kept in the dark about what God aims to do; hence, prophecy flows when the Holy Spirit moves.

John 16:12-13; Ecc. 2:26; Matt. 13:11; John 16:25; Acts 11:27-29; I Thess. 5:19-20; I Cor. 14:4-5; I Cor. 14:39.

1. WHEN LIGHT FLOWS IN, DARKNESS MUST FLOW OUT. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES IN DEMONS MOVE OUT

The Holy Spirit is Light, demons are forces of darkness, Consequently whenever the Holy Spirit moves in, demons must move out since darkness must always give room to light. Whenever the Holy Spirit is moving therefore, people not only hear of His movement but they also see physical proofs of His manifestations. One of such evidences of His manifestations is the casting out of demons.

Acts 8:5-8; 16:16-18; Matt. 8:32; Matt. 9:33; 15:28; 17:18; Mark 1:26; Luke 8:2; Acts 19:12.

3. SPECIAL MIRACLES BELONG TO SPECIAL PEOPLE: HOLY SPIRIT PEOPLE

Miracles are special occurrences in the physical realm brought about by Divine interventions. Special miracles are therefore super-special occurrences. They only occur when the Holy spirit is moving among special people who are spirit-filled people.

Acts 5:14-16; Acts. 19:11-12; Heb. 13:8; John 14:12; Mark 2:17; Jer. 3:22; Luke 4:18; Hosea 6:1.

LESSON 121

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 24

INTRODUCTION: God is the source of true joy; which explains why there is joy wherever the Holy Spirit is moving. God is the miracle worker, which is why miracles accompany the movements of the Holy Spirit. Angels are Holy Spirits, which explains why angels follow wherever the Holy Spirit leads. And since God is Light and demons are forces of darkness, demons have to run when the Holy Spirit approaches. In this study we want to show that whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestations, there will be Holy fear.

1. THERE IS ALWAYS HOLY FEAR WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES

Note all fears are bad. Intact some are healthy and good. The Christians has only one person to fear and that is God. Godly fear is reverential i.e. the fear of hurting someone you love and adore. Whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation there is reverence for God. a holy fear that grips people whenever they see the demonstration of the power of the Almighty. This is always the case whenever the Holy Spirit exposes sinners and judges them. Pretenders become afraid of joining the church but earnest seekers troop in.

Is. 8:13; Matt. 10:28; Rom. 11:20. I Pet. 1:17; I Pet. 2:17; Deut. 10:12; Deut. 13:4; Jos. 4:24; Acts 5:1-5; Acts 5:11-14; Acts 19:13-20.

2. GODLY FEAR AND GODLY SERVICE ARE LINKED

Only those who fear God follow Him truly. Intact Godly fear and sincere service go hand in hand because only those who fear Him can obey Him implicitly. Which is why He says that the whole duty of a man is summed up in "fearing God and obeying Him." I Sam.12-14; Jos. 24:14; I Chr. 16:30, II Chr. 19:7, Pro. 3:7; Ecc. 12:13.

3. MEN AND HOUSES OF GOD SHOULD BE REVERENCED TOO.

Anything that belongs to God must be treated with almost the same reverence that is due to God. This includes all men of God who are in His truth. They must be held in high esteem because they represent God Himself. So also must His sanctuary be revered?

Matt.10-40; Exo. 33:8; I Thes. 5:12-13; I Thess. 5:17; Heb. 13:7; Lev. 19:30; Ecc. 5:1.

4. GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

Those who fear God are always rewarded by Him. Their rewards include (1) Divine direction, (2) great goodness (3) mercy and (4) being His favourite bride.

Ps. 25:12.

LESSON 122

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART 25

INTRODUCTION: In the last study we learnt that whenever the Holy Spirit is moving there is holy fear or reverence for God. That whenever the Holy Spirit exposes sinners and judges them, pretenders become afraid and genuine seekers of God troop into the Church of the Living God. In this study, we want to show that wherever and whenever the Holy Spirit is in manifestation, it is usual to find men and women in continuous and deep prayers. Acts 4:23-31.

1. WHEN SHOULD SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIANS PRAY?

The morning is a good time to pray, to greet our father before doing anything else. However, we need Him in the afternoon and evening too. Intact we need Him most in the night time when forces of darkness are about. In short, we need to be in continuous contact with our father throughout our lives

Ps. 5:1-3; 55:16-17; Luke 6:12; 18:1-7; I Thes. 5:17; Acts. 16:13.

2. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY

Prayer is a private and intimate affair between man and God, between a child and His father. Consequently, there are steps to be taken when engaging in meaningful prayers. They are (i) withdraw yourself or draw apart (ii) totally to it (iii) be fervent (iv) pray with the Spirit as well as with understanding (v) watch as you pray, keeping on the alert for His replies (vi) pray anywhere.

Matt. 14:23; Ps. 109:4; Acts 6:4; I Cor. 7:6; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; I Cor. 14:15; Matt. 26:41; I Pet. 4:7; I Tim. 12:8.

3. FOR WHAT AND WHOM DO WE PRAY?

Some people complain that they cannot pray long because they have nothing much to pray about. Well, apart from praising God and praying for the whole world, the nation of Israel and your country, pray for the following (i) those who hate you (ii) your pastors (iii) those in trouble (iv) one another (v) your leader, physical and spiritual, (vi) all your needs (vii) the sick. Matt. 5:44; Luke 16:27; I Thes. 5:25; James 5:13; 5:16; Acts. 12:5.

4. DIVINE INVOLVEMENTS IN AND CONDITIONS FOR PRAYERS

The trinity is involved with you in your prayers. We pray to the Father, in the Name of the Son with assistance of the Holy Spirit. Beside this is the fact that Jesus prayed and is praying for you, the Holy Spirit is groaning in prayer for you and the Father delights in your prayer provided you are Holy and you do not ill-treat your wife. Above all, He has promised to regard the prayer of even a destitute.

Matt. 6:6; John 14:14; Rom. 8:26; John 14:16; John 16:26; John 17:9; 17:20; I Pet. 3:12; Pro. 15:8; James 5:16; Rev. 5:8; Rev. 8:3-4; I Pet. 3:7; Ps. 102:17; Ps. 109:25:27.

LESSON123

REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: Someone said that everyone has the opportunity of affecting the course of history in their lifetime, but few realize this and the opportunity. Intercessors praying regularly and effectively for the nation, with clean hearts, become among the greatest history makers of their generation. You too can be a history maker if you choose to be one. You do not have to be a politician to be one. You can make history on your knees. This series of studies are to show you how.

1. YOU PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT SHOULD START WITH PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

One of the reasons why we should ask God to bless us is so that we could use the blessing to evangelize the world. Moreover, God had said His house must be a house of prayer for all peoples i.e. for the whole world. Infact, the only times Jesus was openly angry was when He found this commandment of God being disobeyed.

Ps. 67:1-2; Ecc. 3:11; I Tim. 2:1-2; Is. 56:7; Mark 11:15-17.

2. THOUGH GOD HAS SUPREME AUTHORITY OVER ALL NATIONS, HE INVITES YOUR COOPERATION IN SHAPING THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

God reigns supreme over the nations. He makes nations great or destroys them as He wills. But He says that at your request. He could hand over the nations to you to do with them as you please. At least you should prevent Him from destroying the nations by interceding for them.

Ps. 47:8; Job. 12:23; Ps. 2:8-9; Eze. 22:30-31; Ps. 106:23.

3. THE GREAT MEN OF GOD OF THE PAST PRAYED FOR REVIVAL, WE SHOULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT IN OUR TIME.

We are not the first set of people to have problems. There were problems in the times of David, Habakkuk, Isaiah, Nehemiah, Daniel and Ezra to mention a few What did these men of God do? Did they fold their arms and accept problems as their lot? No they cried unto God and God answered them. God has not changed. We too should cry unto Him now.

Ps. 80:7; Hab. 3:2; Ps. 119:126; Isa. 64:13; Neh. 1:6-7; Dan. 9:4-19; Ezra 9:6-15.

4. THOUGH WE MAY FEEL ALONE AT THE TASK AND RESULTS MAY BE DELAYED, SURELY REVIVAL WILL COME ONE DAY

The prophets of old also felt the loneliness and lack of others feeling desperate enough to pray these sorts of prayers for the nations. We, like Elijah, may need seven prayers or more to bring the rain of revival but results are assured. Nations that have not previously been evangelized not only will be, but they shall declare His glory among other nations. But before you begin to pray for revival, ask yourself, are you willing to be the answer to the prayer? If God calls you to go for Him, will you go?

Is. 64:7; 37:3; Is. 66:7-9; I Kings 18:42-44; Is. 55:5; Is. 61:11; 66:18-19; Rom. 10:14-15.

LESSON 124

REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: One of the greatest promises Jesus ever made to us is in John 15:7. It is the key to answered prayers; whether for yourself, your home or your nation. It is a tremendous promise of prayer power. It is therefore, not surprising that there are conditions to be met before much unlimited powers could granted to mortal man. The conditions are two: (i) if you abide in Christ (ii) if His words abide in you. Abiding in Christ needs little or no explanation but "His words abiding in you" needs some clarification. And that is what we propose to do from this study onward. May the Lord quicken your understanding as you dig deep into His words

1. WHAT ARE HIS WORDS ?

Christ's word include (i) those the Father gave to Him to give to us, (ii) those the Holy Spirit would teach and bring to our remembrance, (iii) those He Himself opened to us from the Old Testament between His resurrection and ascensions and (iv) His new commandments.

John 17:8; 14:25-26; Luke 24:27; 24:45; John 16:25; John 15:12, 17, John 15:16; Matt. 28:18-20.

2 JESUS, IN HIS WORDS, TAUGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CLEANSED LIFE IN PRAYER

Jesus was aware that it is possible for Christians to sin. The Apostles reaffirmed it. Infact, the commonest sins in the lives of the Christians are not the sins of commissions but of omission. These include the sins of tin forgiveness and failure to do what we know to be right. We shall now consider some ways in which we commit these sins of omission and had unwillingly hindered our own prayers from being answered.

Matt. 6:9-15; I John 1:8-9; I Pet. 3:12; James 4:17; Mark 11:24-26; II Cor. 2:5-11; Matt. 5:44; I Thes. 5:18; Eph. 3:20; Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:31; Rom. 12:3; Ps. 66:18.

LESSON 125

REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: We learnt in the previous study that the two conditions for unlimited prayer powers are given in John 15:7 i.e. (i) abiding in Christ and (ii) Christ's words abiding in us. In explaining the second condition, we learnt that the words of Christ are of 4 categories i.e. those the father gave Him to give to us, those the Holy Spirit would teach and bring to our remembrance, those Old Testament scriptures which Jesus opened up to us fore His ascension and finally His new commandments. Finally we discovered that the sins most prevalent in the lives of Christians are sins of omission and that these sins hinder our prayers. In the study, we shall examine more of these sins of omission and then begin to consider how to pray revival prayers. May the Lord Himself teach us as we learn at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. FAILURE TO DO GOOD OR DOING IT HALF-HEARTEDLY IS SIN

Among sins of omission are (i) failure to take good care of our bodies (ii) careless or unclean use of our bodies even though we know that these bodies are (lie temples of the Holy Spirit (iii) slothfulness in business or daily work (iv) causing weaker Christians to fall by careless use of our liberty in Christ (v) attending services in body but not in spirit, (vi) Failure to love the brethren or the organization to which you belong whole-heartedly (vii) making money for money-sake (viii) listening to evil reports and meditating on them, and (ix) lusting.

I Cor. 6:19; Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 8:9; Heb. 10:25; John 13:35; Eph. 4:28; 5:16; Matt. 6:24; Phil. 4:8; I Pet. 2:11.

2. SOME STEPS TO REVIVAL PRAYERS

Revival prayers are not aimless type of prayers. They are prayers with a goal. And goals can only be reached if certain steps are taken one at a time. So you must pray systematically. Also, since effortless prayer is often fruitless prayer, you must pray fervently thoroughly, intensely and intimately.

Is. 41:21; Luke 22:44; I John 5:14; Eph. 6:18; Dent. 4:29; Matt. 6:6.

3. SOME STEPS TO REVIVAL PRAYERS (CONT'D)

Since revival brings joy, in anticipation that God will answer your prayer, pray joyfully and with excitement. Forget all previous failures in prayer; instead fight all prayer hindrances fiercely. Pray expectantly, sincerely, unselfishly, humbly and frequently. Above all, learn to fellowship with the Lord in Love.

Ps. 40:16; Phil. 3:13; Eph. 6:13-18; Matt. 8:5-8; Luke 20:45-47; James 4:3; II Chr. 7:14; Dan. 6:10; Ex. 25:22.

LESSON 126

REVIVAL PRAYERS - PART 4

INTRODUCTION: In the previous study, we began to learn how to pray revival prayers. Revival prayers must be purposeful, intense, sincere, expectant, earnest and intimate among several other things. When you pray revival prayers, you must forget past failures and press on, praying often and fighting all hindrances to prayer. Today, we want to take a close look at Mark 11:22-24 where there are several important truths concerning revival prayers. May God grant us a deep understanding of these truths in Jesus, name. Amen.

1. THERE IS A TEACHER, FOUNDATION AND STUDENT OF PRAYER

Christ is the true Teacher of all prayer. Before He left, He promised to replace Himself with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was called Rabboni i.e. Teacher of teachers and so also is the Holy Spirit who guides into all truths. The foundation of all true prayer is God Himself. Thus, how we view God determines how we pray. And of course where there is a Teacher, there must be at least a student. Anyone willing to learn can enroll in Christ's school of prayer; be he a King or a beggar by the roadside.

John 20:16; Matt. 23:8; John 16:13; Luke 1:37; Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17-27; Ps. 51:1-2; Mark 10:46-52; Ps. 34:6.

2. THERE IS A MYSTERY, DESIRE, REQUIREMENT AND PROMISE OF PRAYER

The real mystery of prayer is that God has empowered us to command a situation to take care of itself, to speak things into or out of existence. The desire of prayer is the point around which prayer revolves. The greater the desire, the more intense the prayer. The true requirement of prayer is faith. Faith in God not faith in power. The promise of God concerning sincere prayers prayed according to His will is simply that they will be answered.

Mark 16:17-18; Matt. 18:18; Ps. 122:10; Pr. 10:24; I Cor. 14:1; Ps. 107:23-30; Heb. 11:6; James 1:6-7; Chr. 20:20; John 6:28-29; Mark 9:23; John 16:24; Ex. 15:23-25; I Sam. 1:27; 7:9-10; I Kings 18:37-38; II Chr. 18:31; Acts 4:31; Ps. 91:15; Matt. 18:19.

LESSON 127

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: We read in the Bible of various types of vessels. II Tim. 2:20 tells of vessels of gold, silver, wood and earth. Surely, if all the vessels have a choice, they would prefer to be vessels unto honour. You have a choice. Which would you like to be: a vessel unto honour or dishonour? This series is to show you how you can be a vessel unto honour and how to remain so forever. May the Lord bless us even as we study at His feet, in Jesus, name. Amen.

1. A VESSEL UNTO HONOUR MUST BE UNDEFILED

A vessel unto honour must be clean at all time. It cannot afford to be defiled. And so it must know what can defile so as to be able to avoid them. Things that can defile a man come under 3 categories: (i) sins committed in the heart. Included in these list of sins are, shedding of blood, stealing, lies, immoral speaking, breach of covenant, bitterness, immoral thoughts, covetousness and all forms of idolatry.

Is. 59:3; Eze. 28:18; Is. 24:5; Mark 7:18-23; Heb. 12:15; James 3:6; Eph. 5:3-7.

2. YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN YOUR CLEANSING

Certainly, God has a part to play in making you a vessel unto honour. But you too have a part to play. To start with, you can wash in the blood of the Lamb. You can reject vain thoughts. You can say, "No", to those things that can defile you bodily and spiritually. You can draw near to God and ask Him to help you. He is willing and able to make you as white as snow. He has a fountain full of blood that can purify you absolutely.

Is. 1:16; Jer. 4:14; Acts 22:16; I Cor. 5:7; II Cor. 7:1; James 4:8; I John 3:3; Ps. 51:2; Ps. 79:9; Is. 1:18; Eze. 36:24-25; I John 1:7; Heb. 9:14; Zech. 13:1; Titus 3:5; Rev. 1:5; Mal. 3:3.

LESSON 128

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In part one of this series we learnt that a vessel unto honour must be undefiled. Also we classified the sins that can defile a man unto three categories as (i) sins committed with the hand (ii) those committed with the tongue and (iii) above all, those committed with the heart. Today, as we continue in this series we want to use another classification of sins into three other categories as (i) Sin Against ourselves (ii) Sin against other and (iii) sin against God. In this study, we shall look at the first two categories to discover how they can defile a vessel unto honour and cause its rejection. May the Lord speak to our hearts as we study at His feet in Jesus Name.

1. A MAN CAN SIN AGAINST HIMSELF

To the master of the great House, sin means the failure of a vessel to be what it can or ought to be. That is why the commonest word of sin can be translated to mean a "missing of the target" The parables of the talents, the salt that lost its savor, the fig that refused to bear fruits, etc. are illustrative examples of what the Lord considers to be sin. While men are not expected to be equal in ability or achievement, they are expected to be equal in effort. Sitting on the fence is a sin in the sight of God.

Matt. 25:14-30; Matt. 5:13; Luke 13:6-9; Mat. 7:18; 16:24-25; Rev. 3:15-16.

2. SINS AGAINST OTHERS CAN ALSO BE IN THREE CATEGORIES

(i) it is a sin to fail to respond and react to human need i.e. it is a sin either to see someone in need and remain unmoved or pass by on the other side; or to be so unaware of others as not even to see their need. i.e. it is sin to fail to pity others.

(ii) Secondly, it is sin to fail to fellowship with others because lack of fellowship is brought about by lack of love. A breach with man is a breach with God.

(iii) thirdly, it is a grievous sin to cause others to sin, to put a stumbling block in the way of others.

Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-27; Pr. 21:13; Matt. 18:21-35; Luke 15:25-32; 16:19-31; Matt. 5:43-48; 5:23; Luke 18:9-14; Matt. 18:6-7.

3. ALL SIN ARE AGAINST GOD

All sins are actually against God. But in particular, sin is deliberately doing things our own way instead of God's way. Secondly, sin is showing off, that is putting ourselves in the center of the picture in place of God. Thirdly, since God is love, all sins are sin against love, a deliberate refusal to honour the loving invitation of God, to accept what God knows is the best for us.

Ps. 51:4; Man. 4:1-11; Matt. 15:1-9; 6:1-18; 23:1-12; 22:1-10; 11:20-22; Mark 3:22-30.

LESSON 129

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: We have learnt of the various categories of sins that can defile a vessel and render it unfit for the use of the Master of the house. We have seen how the vessel can sin against himself against others and against God. In this third part, we want to discuss (i) why the vessel must be perpetually clean and (ii) how. May the Lord open our hearts to receive His words in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. WHY THE VESSEL UNTO HONOUR MUST BE CLEAN

God is the King of kings, the Supreme Being. He is the best, the greatest, the Almighty. Consequently, He uses only the best vessels of the purest gold and finest silver. Vessels unto Honour are not just to be used they are to join other saints in forming a team that will be co-labourers with God. Also, Jesus is part of them. Hence any member of the team has to be pure so as not to stain the other saints and the Lord Jesus. That is why defiled vessels are not tolerated but discarded.

Dan. 5:2; II Cor. 4:6-7; Rom. 9:21-24; Eph. 2:13; 18:22; Heb. 3:12-14; I Cor. 3:9; 16-17; I Pet. 2:5-12.

2. THE CLEANSING PROCESS COULD BE PEACEFUL OR PAINFUL: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

In the cleansing process, no stain, no matter how small, (be it physical, soulish or spiritual), is allowed. The purifying process might be fiery and painful, but the end justifies the means. However, if you will not allow the word to do it, the fire will.

I Cor. 5:6-8; II Cor. 7:1; I Pet. 1:22; 1 Pet. 1:2-7; I John 3:1-3; Acts 9:15-16; II Tim. 3:16-17; Is. 1:25.

3. HOW TO STAY CLEAN

If you wish to remain perpetually clean for the Lord and be a permanent vessel unto honour, the following are some of the steps to take (i) study the Word (ii) memorize it. (iii) do it (iv) Be separate from the world (v) stay clear of anything that is "Not too bad" (vi) do not go back to your old friends (vii) beware of the following (a) pride (b) questioning Divinely appointed authorities (c) envy (d) strife (e) railing (f) evil surmising (g) disputing (h) wrong ideas of godliness, (i) desire for quick wealth. Above all, if you are clean, watch-out; if you had fallen, get up and flee the danger zone. The refiner is ready now, if you are.

Ps. 119:9, 11, Is. 52:11, Jer. 15:19; I Tim. 6:3-11; I Cor. 10:12-14; 6:15-18; Mal. 3:3.

LESSON 130

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 4

INTRODUCTION: In part three of this series, we learnt that vessels unto honour must be perpetually clean because they are a part of a team of saints with Jesus Christ as the Captain. Consequently, defiled vessels can neither be tolerated nor indulged. They are promptly discarded. To reach the clean stage, there are two routes: the fiery route of trials and the gentle route of the Word of God. Out of these two, you are free to choose one. In this part of the study, we want to continue our study on how vessels unto honour are chosen and why, John 15:16; May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus' Name, Amen.

1. VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE CHOSEN BY THE MASTER

The vessels unto honour are chosen by the Master Himself and not by voting. That is why the other vessels envy them. This point about the Master choosing His own vessel of honour is clearly illustrated in the story of Jacob and Esau. We must also note that some vessels after spending some time with the Master may break or get spoilt and be discarded. May this never be our lot in Jesus Name. Amen.

John 15:19; Acts. 1:23-25; 9:10-15; Rom. 9:10-16, 21; I John 4:10, 19, John 6:70; John 13:18

2. YOU ARE BORN TO BREED, SAVED TO SERVE

The privileged and powerful position of the chosen ones imposes a heavy responsibility on them: that of service. They dare not fail to serve because no greater woe can befall a man than to be once chosen and then cast aside. Having served satan for so long and so much in the past, is it not only fair that we now serve Him who saved us with all our strength, time and resources?

Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:5; Rom. 15:15-16; I Cor. 9:16-18; Gal. 1:15-16; Eph. 2:8-10.

3. VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE THE "GO-BETWEENS" BETWEEN THE MASTER AND OTHERS

The vessels unto honour are the links between the Master and the other vessels. They are His ambassadors. He reveals Himself to them and they in turn reveal Him to the others. Consequently, just as the vessels on the Master's table are not only to serve the Master but also His guests so also are Christians expected to witness to others in addition to worshipping God.

Acts 10:40-42; Luke 6:13; Acts 22:12-15; John 20:21-23; John 21:15-17; Is. 49:1-3; Jer. 1:5-7; Matt. 28:18-19; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47-49.

LESSON 131

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 5

INTRODUCTION: The previous lesson taught us, we learnt that the vessels unto honour are chosen by the Master Himself. They are chosen to serve both the master and his guests. They are the "go-between" between the Master and all others. And if they should fail to perform, they are promptly discarded. Now, we want to learn more of the responsibilities of these vessels and their effects on others. May God quicken our understanding as we study at His feet. Amen.

1. THE LORD JESUS IS A GLORIOUS KING: NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF HIM

There is no earthly reason to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of Kings and because we belong to Him. We are kings too. We are, in fact, the most powerful people on earth. Consequently, we have no one to fear. Instead we should be strong and teach people what we know about Christ and encourage them to teach others also. Because we are not just to have spiritual children, our spiritual children should be encouraged to have their own too.

II Tim. 1:7-11; 2:1-3; Tit. 1:5; John 15:8; Pro. 11:30-31; Is. 27:6; Is. 55:10-13.

2. THE LORD HAS A SPECIAL LOVE FOR CHILDREN: HE WANTS THEM SAVED TOO

We must not forget that children can eat with the Master of the House even when adults may not be able to come near. Consequently, vessels unto honour must realize their responsibilities to children too. We can tell them that the problems facing our Nation today is caused by our fathers failure to heed the warnings of God. Consequently, we need to learn from their mistakes and follow Christ now. We must also realize that we cannot stay with our children forever, but the word of God will stay with them whether or not we are around.

Ps 78:2-8; 147:3-4; Zech. 1:2-6; Rom. 15:1-4; I Cor 10:11; II Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 11:3-5; II Pet. 1:12-15; 3:1-12.

3. VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE ALWAYS FEW: BUT THEIR IMPACTS CAN BE TREMENDOUS

The vessels unto honour are always few, just a remnant, but their effects are always great; like those of dew and rams. Everyone needs them and they just have to work like a team because none of them can single-handedly do all there is to do. God needs them too.

Mic. 5:7; Rom. 1:14; Acts 20:26-28; 1Cor. 3:12-18; Gen. 18:17-19; Ps. 71:17-18; John 14:12-14, 16:23-24; Matt. 21:22.

LESSON 132

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 6

INTRODUCTION: We learnt in our last lesson that we do not need to be ashamed of Jesus Christ because He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Consequently, we should boldly declare His glorious saving power to all men. Also, we learnt that He has a special love for children and He wants them saved too. Consequently, we must not limit our efforts to adults only but must actively participate in children ministries, in this study, we want to know how to identify vessels unto honour and how God treats them. May God quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. VESSELS UNTO HONOUR ARE EASY TO RECOGNIZE

Vessels unto honour are easy to know. They are zealous people with the law of God written in their hearts and with a deep sense of their own unworthiness to be used of God. Examples of men of God like Moses, Gideon, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist and Paul illustrate clearly the characteristics common to all vessels unto honour. They know that they are merely vessels and can do nothing on their own.

Titus 2:14; Heb. 8:10; Ex. 3:11; Jude 6:15; I Sam. 9:21; 18:18; I Kings 3:7; Is. 6:5; Jer. 1:6; Matt. 3:14; John 3:27; II Cor. 2:15-16; 3:5; Ps. 127:1.

2. GOD HANDLES HIS VESSELS WITH CARE BECAUSE HE KNOWS THEY ARE FRAGILE

Every Master of the house knows that the vessels on his table are not likely to be plastic or wood. There are likely to be china and glass, useful but fragile. God knows also that His vessels unto honour are fragile, so He handles them with care. He regarded them as peculiar treasure preferred above all others. So he treats them with special care, guiding them like flock. Whenever they need help He is near at hand to offer assistance.

I Cor. 1:25-27; James 2:5; Ps. 103:13-18; Ex. 19:5; Deut. 26:19; I Pet. 2:5-10; Ps. 4:3; Ps. 46:1-2.

3. GOD'S WORK CAN ONLY BE DONE BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

No one can do the work of God successfully without the Spirit of God. By His Spirit you can obtain the ability to rebuke sin, the wisdom for judgment and the strength to deal with the enemy anytime he knocks at the gate. If you only will have faith and learn how to wait on God, the strength, power and ability, which you need to do even the impossible, will be given you.

Zech. 4:6; Mic. 3:8; Is. 28:5-6; Dan. 11:32; Heb. 11:33-34; II Cor. 12:9-10; Ps. 8:2; Is. 40:31.

LESSON 133

VESSEL UNTO HONOUR - PART 7

INTRODUCTION: In our last study we saw that the Master chooses fragile vessels cleans them and fills them with His Spirit and turns them round to use them to confound those who think they are mighty, wise or important. Also because they are fragile. He handles His vessels with tender care. Now, we want continue our Study as we learn something about the invitation of the Master to all vessels to come forward for choice. May God make everything clear to us as we study in Jesus' name Amen.

1. OUR GOD IS IMPARTIAL: HE INVITES ALL TO BECOME VESSELS UNTO HONOUR

In order to be fair to all, the Master is always inviting everyone who cares to come unto His table. Since the days of Noah, he has been issuing invitations to all. He sends the invitation to all men through men. Not everyone will accept the Master's invitation but if you do, you too will soon-fce passing the invitation on to others. The whole world must of necessity be invited because many must be called before the few would be chosen that will be chosen.

Is. 45:22; Rom. 10:12; Rev. 7:4-9; II Cor. 5:20; Is. 6:8; John 7:37-38; Rev. 3:20; Rev. 22:17.

2. ACCEPTING THE MASTER'S INVITATION IS OBTAINING FREEDOM FROM DEATH

The master's table is a place of safety; vessels there are as secure as Noah was in the ark. They have the assurance of Divine protection. They dine with the Master free of charge and partake of His food that is already prepared by vessels that may never reach the Master's table. Moreover, accepting the Master's invitation is obtaining freedom from death.

Gen. 7:1; Num. 10:29; Is. 1:18; Matt. 22:4; Luke 14:17; Matt. 11:28; Eze. 33:11.

3. TO REFUSE THE MASTER'S CALL IS TO REFUSE LIFE

To reject the invitation of the Almighty is to accept an invitation to disaster and Divine rejection. If you refuse the call of God, there will be vessels for Him to use. It is you who could be the loser for it because to refuse the Master's call is simply use. It is you who could be loser for it because to refuse the Master's call is simply to refuse life.

Isa. 65:12; Is. 66:4; Jer. 7:13-16; Hos. 9:17; Matt. 22:2-10; John 5:40.

LESSON 134

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: Whenever we use the word "Church" different people think of different things as being the one referred to. Some think that the Church is a building with pews and an altar. Some think it is a denomination. Very few realize that the Church is a "Living body" an "Organism" not an organization. Fewer still know why the church is called the Body of Christ or the bride of the Lamb and how to become a member of this Body. This series, by the grace of God, shall reveal to us in depth the mysteries of the Bride of the Lamb. May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB WAS A MYSTERY

The BRIDE was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets. They knew there was to be something between the suffering and the glory of the Messiah but they did not know what, Jesus Himself merely gave a hint but did not elaborate. The mystery was first revealed to Paul. That the Gentiles were to be saved was no mystery. The mystery was that God was going to form an entirely NEW THING, composed of both Jews and Gentiles.

I Pet. 1:3-5, 10-12; Luke 10:24; Matt. 16:13-18; Matt. 13:16; Eph. 3:1-11; Rom. 5:2; 9:22-30; Deut. 29:29; Pro. 25:2; John 13:7.

2. THE BRIDE CONSISTS OF SPECIALLY CALLED PEOPLE

The word "Church" comes from the Greek word "Ecclesia" which means "an assembly of called-out ones" Hence we see that the Bride is made up of specially chosen people, people who are chosen in JESUS, out of the world. You join this "Body of Christ" through the Baptism of the Spirit. That is why there could not be anything called the Church until the day of Pentecost. That is why Paul emphasizes this Holy Spirit baptism. One reason why the Church can never die is because Christ, the head of this Body, is alive forever more.

Acts 15:13-18; Eph. 1:3-6; Eph. 1:19-23; I Cor. 12:12-13; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4, Eph. 4:4-6. Rom. 12:5, Rev. 1:18, Col. 3:4.

LESSON 135

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we saw how the Church was a mystery to the Old Testament Saints. Also, we saw that the Church, the Body of Christ, is "an assembly of called - out ones". In this study, we want to find out why the Church is called the Body of Christ, how the Bride could be related to a Temple, and so on. May God bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. WHY CALL THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST?

Some of the functions of the head are: think with the brain, supply food into the body through the mouth and keep the body alive through air supply via the nostrils. Jesus performs these functions perfectly for the Church. On the other hand, the church is expected to perform the functions of the body which include carrying the head about, executing the plans of the brain and making the head known generally.

Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:19; John 15:5; Ps. 34:8, 10; Ps. 23:1; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:17-18; Phil. 1:21; Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:11-13.

2. THE BRIDE AS A TEMPLE

The Bride, the Body of Christ or the Church is also called a Temple with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself being the Church Cornerstone. Next to Christ are the Apostles in the foundation of the Temple. The first layer of superstructure consists of 3,000 "living stones". A few days later, the next layer of 5,000 was built. The building is continuing till now. Only those who are saved between Pentecost day and the second coming of Christ will fit into this "living Temple". Will you be among?

Matt. 16:13-20; Acts 4:5-12; I Pet. 2:5-8; I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Rev. 19:9.

LESSON 136

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Matt. 16:13-20; Acts 4:5-12; I Pet. 2:5-8; I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Rev. 19:9.

LESSON 137

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In part two, we discovered that the Church is called the Body of Christ because Christ fulfills the role of a Head to a body by supplying all the needs - Physical, mental and spiritual of the Church. The Church in return is expected to fulfill the role of a body to a head by making Jesus Christ known and executing His decisions and commandments. We also saw how the Bride of Christ could be likened to a Temple with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone while other Christians are the "living stones" for the building of the Temple. In this part of the series, we shall continue our study of the Bride of the Lamb. May the Lord bless us as we do so. Amen.

1. THE BRIDE IS A VIRGIN

How the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, gets His Bride will be similar to how Adam got his own, because Jesus Christ is the second Adam. A beautiful illustration of what is going to happen can be found in the story of how Isaac got his bride. It is also interesting to note that there are 2 Brides in the scriptures: Israel is the Bride of Jehovah and the Church is the Bride of Christ. Of course the Anti-Christ claims he has a bride too.

Cor 11:12; Gen. 2:18, 21-24; John 19:33-34; Eph. 5:29- 30; Gen. 24; I Thes. 4:15-18; Is. 54:5-8.

2. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

It is essential that you note that it is going to be the marriage of the LAMB. The great event is not so much the consummation of the hopes of the Bride as it is the consummation of the plan of God for His son. arranged for before the foundation of the world. It is the greatest reward for Jesus for becoming a man. And it's a marriage that will never suffer a divorce.

Luke 17:34-36; Matt. 24:27; 24:36-39; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:11-15; Rev. 19:7-9; Eph. 1:4; I Tim. 2:5.

LESSON 138

THE SPIRITUAL MAN - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: The Bible talks of different kinds of men. There is the "Natural man" the "Regenerated man", the "Carnal Man", the "Spiritual man" etc. Now, we begin a study of the spiritual man. But in an attempt to find out who is the spiritual man, we will need to know who the other men are. May God quicken our understanding as we study in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THERE ARE TWO LINES OF HEREDITY: THE FLESH LINE AND THE SPIRIT LINE

When Jesus was discussing with Nicodemus, He made it clear that there are those who are born of the flesh and those who are born of the Spirit. Hence, there are two lines of heredity: the flesh and the spirit line. The flesh line produces the natural man whose characteristics are (i) a darkened understanding (ii) inability to receive things of God (iii) absence of any really good thing (iv) an object of the wrath of God and (v) a deceitful and desperately wicked heart (vi) inability to please God (vii) inability to change from his sinful ways unaided.

John 3:5; I Cor. 6:10; I Pet. 1:23; I Cor. 2:14; James 1:18; John 3:6; Eph. 2:1 Eph. 4:17-19; II Chr. 4:40; Gal. 5:19; Rom. 7:8; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-22; Rom. 8:8. Eph. 2:3; Jer. 13:23; Rom. 3:23.

2. THE SPIRITUAL MAN HAS A DIVINE PARENTAGE

God is the Father of the spiritual man, the human heart is the womb into which the SEED of the Word of God is dropped. The seed is vitalized by the Holy Spirit and a new nature is imparted within. This new nature cannot sin but bears fruits which are the outward evidence of what is within. The spiritual man has spiritual eyes and can see what is hidden to the natural man.

I Pet 1:23; John 3:6; I John 3:9; Col. 1:27; I John 5:11-12; Col. 3:3-4; Gal. 5:22.23; I Cor. 2:9-10; II Cor. 5:17.

LESSON 139

THE SPIRITUAL MAN - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we discovered that there are two lines of heredity: (i) the flesh line which produces the natural man and (ii) the spirit line which produces the spiritual man. We also learnt the characteristics of both the natural man and the spiritual man. In this study, we want to know how to fight (the battle between the Spirit and the flesh. May the Lord Himself teach us how to be over comers in Jesus Name Amen.

1. HOW TO FIGHT THE WAR BETWEEN THE OLD MAN AND THE NEW

When a man has just received spiritual birth, a big battle starts between the old man (the flesh) and the new man. The battle continues till death separates the flesh from the spirit.

Consequently, if you are to win, here are some hints, (i) be constantly vigilant (ii) do not repose your confidence in the flesh or fleshly things (iii) make no provisions for the flesh to fulfill its lusts (iv) feed the new nature regularly (v) walk constantly in the Spirit.

Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:14-23; 23-25; I Pet. 5:8; Gal. 6:2; Phil, 3:4; Rom. 13:14; I Pet. 2:2; Gal. 5:16.

2. THREE WAYS TO OVERCOME THE FLESH

There are 3 major ways to practically overcome the flesh. The first is by amputation. To amputate is to cut off, get rid off completely. The second is by mortification. To mortify is to cause some part of a living body to die. The third is by limitation. Therefore, whatever is in your life that need to be mortified or limited, do not spare them.

Matt 18:8-9; Pr. 10:31; Matt. 5:30; Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:5-10; Rom.8:13; Gal. 5:12; Col. 2:11; Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 12:1; I Pet. 2:11; I Pet. 4:2.

LESSON 140

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: All Christians know that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again. Acts 1:10-11. Most of them know that His second coming will be in two stages; (i) like a thief in the night to take the spotless Bride away before the tribulation starts and (ii) to return with the Bride seven years later to reign on earth for 1,000 years. Without doubt, some people will be here on earth during those 7 terrible years. Anyone who did not go with Him at His first appearing will pass through the tribulation. Be warned, brethren, do not be left behind.

1. AFTER THE RAPTURE, THERE WILL BE A WORLD CHURCH

After the rapture, Satan will endeavor to establish a worldwide kingdom with a king at its head. This satanic king has several titles among which are: (i) the Anti-Christ, (ii) the will king (iii) the lawless one (iv) the son of perdition. He will become the head of a revived form of the Roman Empire, gain control of the Western world and form an alliance with the world church. Don't be left behind if you don't want to join the world church.

II Thess. 2:6-7; I John 2:18-22; I John 4:3; 11 John 7; Dan. 11:36; II Thess. 2:3, 8
Dan.2:40-43; Dan. 7:23-25; Rev. 13:1; Rev. 17:12-13; II Thes. 2:8-12; Rev. 17.

2. THE ANTI-CHRIST WILL HAVE SPECIAL DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL

The anti-Christ will make a covenant with Israel who will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem and start sacrifices again. The only opposition to the anti-Christ at this moment will be Russia who will instigate Syria and Egypt to invade Israel. The anti-Christ will defeat Syria and Egypt but meanwhile Russia would have invaded Israel and be supernaturally defeated. Thus the power of the anti-christ would grow to the extent that he would declare that he is God and demand worship that everyone should worship him. Don't be left behind if you don't want to worship the anti-christ.

Dan. 9:27; Ew. 37:11, 14; Dan. 11:40-43; Ew. 38:1-16, 17-39; Dan. 11:45; Dan. 9:27;
Rev. 17:16; Dan 11:36-37; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8.

LESSON 141

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we learnt that after the rapture, Satan will endeavor to establish a world-wide kingdom headed by the anti-christ who will form an alliance with the world church. The anti-christ will also make a covenant with Israel who will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and start sacrifices again. Syria and Egypt will invade Israel at the instigation of Russia but the Anti-christ will defeat them. Russia will suffer a supernatural defeat and the power of the anti-christ will grow so that he will break his covenant with Israel declare that He is God and demand that everyone should worship him. In this study, we shall consider what follows next.

1. INSPITE OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF SATAN, THERE WILL STILL BE WITNESS FOR CHRIST

As soon as the anti-christ declares himself as God, another man will arise to become the high priest of the anti-Christ cult. The Bible calls him the false prophet. He will develop a highly organized religious system on behalf of the anti-christ. But inspite of all these devilish activities, there will be active witnesses for God and Christ. Many of them will be those who were lukewarm Christians now who will become red-hot for God after they have missed the rapture. They will be sorely persecuted. Israel will also rebel against the antichrist and their persecution will be so severe that the Bible calls it "the time of Jacob's trouble".

Rev. 16:13; Rev. 19:20; Rev. 13:11-18; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:7-15;
Rev. 17:6; Rev. 20:4; Matt. 25:15-20; Jer. 30:4-7; Zech. 14:1-2; Jer.30:7.

2. THE INTENSE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PERIOD WILL CAUSE ISRAEL TO REPENT AND THEN CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

Knowing that his time was short, the anti-christ will gather the armies of the world to Armageddon for a final battle. Meanwhile, the intense sufferings of the time of Jacob's trouble will cause Israel to repent genuinely and God will cleanse them. Then Christ will return again riding on a white horse and the saints will return with Him to reign for a thousand years. Will you return with Him or will you be among those who are left behind?

Rev. 16:12-16; Ps. 2:1-3; Rev. 19:19; Rev. 16:1, 12,-Zeph. 3:8; Ps. 2:4-12; Rev. 19:17-18, 21; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:4-6.

LESSON 142

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In the second part of this series, we learnt that as soon as the antichrist declares himself as God, a new man will arise to help him organize his religion. This new man is called the false prophet and through him and the world church, Christians who are left behind as well as Jew will be sorely persecuted. The sufferings of this period will be so much that Israel will finally repent and Jesus will return with His saints to wipe out the army of the antichrist at Armageddon. Then the reign of Christ for 1,000 years will start. Satan will be out of the way and Kingdom of God on earth will be wonderful, Rev. 20:1 -6.

1. THERE ARE CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE KINGDOM AND HINDRANCES TOO

To be part of those who will reign with Christ, the following are some of the conditions you must satisfy: (i) you must be born again (ii) you must have a child-like spirit (iii) you must have a forgiving spirit (iv) you must be holy and (v) you must witness all the time. The things that could prevent you from entering the kingdom include (a) Love of money (b) lack of clear-cut decision (c) you may refuse the invitation to enter (d) you may lose the opportunity to enter (e) The privilege to enter may be taken away from you (f) you may refuse to do the will of God.

John. 3:3, 5; Matt. 18:1-4, 23-25; Heb. 12:14; John 15:2,6; Luke 19:15-19; Matt. 25:15-23; Mark 10:23-25; Luke 9:61-62; Luke 14:15-24; Matt. 25:1-13; Matt. 8:11; Luke 13:28; Matt. 6:10.

2. TO ENTER THE KINGDOM IS WORTH ANY SACRIFICE

The Kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit and whoever wants to enter must submit to God's wisdom, power and mercy. Men are advised to seek the Kingdom desperately and be willing to pay any cost or make any sacrifice to enter. It is surely much better to be in the Kingdom than to be left behind. Please do not be left behind.

Matt. 5:3; I Cor. 1:27; I Cor. 1:25, 28; Ps. 25:6-7; Ps. 73:22-24; Matt. 6:33; Matt. 13:44-46; Matt. 11:12; Mark 9:43-48.

LESSON 143

SORROW OF A BACKSLIDER- PART 1

INTRODUCTION: The African has a proverb: until a woman has tried two husbands, she would not know that one is preferable to the other. Until man has tried two lives: one without Christ and the other in Christ, he would not know the difference. But what a sorrow it would be to have lived in the glorious liberty that is Christ's and then go back into the world. May it never happen to you in Jesus Name. Amen. This series of studies is to know the sorrow'-s of such a backslider.

1. THE LIFE OF SINNER IS A WRETCHED ONE: DON'T GO BACK TO IT

The life of a sinner is a wretched and terrible one. The Bible gives a graphic description of the life of a sinner and it is quite unenviable. It is a life (i) without peace, (ii) without rest (iii) full of pains (iv) full of afflictions (v) full of hardship (vi) full of tribulation (vii) full of anguish (viii) full of misery (ix) full of destructions (x) full of sorrows, etc. Besides, there is the constant dread that he will end up in hell where he will be tormented forever. If you are still a sinner, you must get out of such a life immediately. If a saved soul, do not go back to such a wretched life.

Is. 57:21; Is. 57:20; Job. 15:20; Ps. 107:17; Pi. 13:15; Rom. 2:9; Rom. 3:16; James 5:1; Ecc. 2:23; Is. 21:4; Is. 23:12; Dent. 28:67; Jude 2:15; Is. 28:15; Job. 7:3; Ps. 38:8; Rev. 14:11.

2. THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IS A GLORIOUS ONE: PLEASE JOIN US AND STAY WITH US

Contrary to the life of a sinner, the new life in Christ offers you (i) joy (ii) peace (iii) hope (iv) victory (v) comfort (vi) power (vii) royalty (viii) spiritual blessings (ix) glory etc. if you have not tested it, join us today. If you are already in it, stay with us. Don't go back to sorrow.

John 15:11; John 16:24; Rom. 15:13; Neh. 8:10; John 14:27; Is. 3:10; John 14:19; John 16:33; I John 4:4; Ps. 23:1; Ps. 34:10; Phil. 4:19; Phil 4:13; Matt. 16:19; John 14:18; John 14:1-3; I Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:3; Col. 1:27.

LESSON 144

SORROW OF A BACKSLIDER- PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the first part of this series, we examined the two lives: the one without Christ and how gloriously pleasant is the life of Christ. The difference was clear. It will be a very sad thing to go from the life in Christ to the life without Christ. May it never happen to us in Jesus' name. Amen. Now we continue with series as we search the scriptures for the real meaning of backsliding and some of its basic causes. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus' Name. Amen.

1. WHAT EXACTLY IS BACKSLIDING?

Basically, backsliding means ceasing to follow Jesus Christ. But there are other definitions of backsliding in the scriptures. For example, the following amount to backsliding in the sight of the Lord. (i) Changing a Christian decision (ii) condoning the sins of others (iii) Remembering old glories instead of achieving new ones (iv) resting on ones achievements instead of pressing forward (v) refusal to make progress (vi) loss of enthusiasm and (v) failure to make decision who would take over from oneself.

Tim. 4:10; Luke 9:62; Heb. 10:38; Pr. 24:24-25; Pr. 28:4; Is. 43:18-19; Phil. 3;13-14; John 15:1-25; Re. 2:4; I Sam. 3:11-13.

2. CAUSE OF BACKSLIDING

The causes of backsliding could be many and varied. Some of which are (i) disappointment by Christian elders (ii) Satanic deceit (iii) pride of achievement (iv) evil association (v) wrong spiritual leadership and (vii) severe trial. Now, once we know our enemies, they should not be able to destroy us again if we are careful. To be fore warned is to before armed.

Jer. 9:4; .for. 17:5; Gen. 3:4-5; Gen. 25:29-33; I Pet. 5:5; Dan. 4:29-33; 1 Kings 11:4; II Sam. 11:1-5; Ex. 32:1-8; Jer. 51:30; Zech.4:6.

LESSON 145

SORROW OF A BACKSLIDER- PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In the second part of this series, we discovered that backsliding is not merely ceasing to follow Jesus Christ. Changing a Christian decision, condoning sin, remembering old glories, resting on oars, being unprogressive, loss of enthusiasm and failure to make disciples are all cases of backsliding. We also discovered that causes of backsliding include disappointment by Christian's elders, satanic deceit, pride of achievement, evil association, comfort arising from worldly success, wrong spiritual leadership and severe trials. In this study, we want to consider the sorrows of a backslider, how to cure backsliding and how to prevent it. May the Lord quicken our understanding as we study at His feet in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE SORROWS OF A BACKSLIDER ARE MANY AND VARIED

A backslider has many problems to contend with. Some of these problems are (a) a deep feeling of emptiness (b) Severe loneliness (c) Misery (d) Anxiety (e) Poverty spiritual as well as physical (f) Sickness (g) Inability to approach God and (h) inability to witness due to guilty conscience. This is so because when a backslider loses the only genuine friend in the world, he will quickly realize that there is no substitute for Christ anywhere.

Ps. 22:1,-Is. 59:1-2; Ps. 142:4; Luke 15:16; Pr. 14:15; Rom. 2:9; Ps. 51:8, 12; Is. 59:8; Amos 8:11; Jer. 5:4; Deut. 28:15-58; Ps. 51:11; 51:12-15.

2. PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

If you are a backslider and you want full restoration, you must first of all allocate where you went wrong, repent and retribute your ways. Then you can stall all over again. But surely it is better never to backslide even once. To prevent backsliding, you must be willing to lose your life in order to find it. The steps you are to take constantly include (i) Mortification of the flesh (ii) crucifixion of affections (iii) consecration of all you consider as gain (iv) separation from earthly ties and (v) living a life of absolute surrender.

Eze. 18:31; Rev. 2:5; John 3:30; Matt. 10:39; II Cor. 4:11; Gal. 2:20; John 12:24; Rom 8:13; Phil. 3:7-8, Luke 14:26; Rom. 12:1; Act. 1:8.

LESSON 146

TAKE YOUR STAND - PART 1

INTRODUCTION: Consider the traffic policeman. His most strenuous personal effort cannot stop a fast moving car. Yet, he stands firmly in the middle of the road, raises his hand and the traffic stops. In a similar manner, a Christian who takes firm stand for his Lord has authority to stop all the satanic traffic in his life, Luke 10:19. May the Lord grant us all the grace to take our stand firmly for Him as we study this series in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE POWER BEHIND US IS GREATER THAN THAT OF THE ENEMY, AND HE KNOWS IT TOO.

All powers belong to Jesus Christ and He has delegated these powers to us. The devil knows this and he trembles each time he thinks about it. If you are truly joined to Christ, then whatever power Christ has belongs to you too. Wherever the Head is must be where the body is also and Christ is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. And that is the center of power of the whole universe. The reasons why some Christians still alive a defeated lie therefore are mainly (i) lack of comprehension of this truth and (ii) a shaky stand for God.

Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22; I John 4:4; James 2:19; Eph. 1;20-21; Phil. 2:9-11; I Cor. 12:27; I Cor. 6:17; Heb. 1:13; Eph. 1;16-19; John 14:12; James 4;7; James 1:6-8.

2. THE DEVIL CAN CONTROL ONLY THOSE WHO ARE NOT STANDING FIRMLY FOR CHRIST.

Some people think the devil is in control of everything in this world, but they are wrong. He cannot control you if you are not of this world because he is the prince of this world and those in love with it. God has already destroyed the works of the devil in the lives of those who truly belong to Him. All we are required to do is stand firm in Christ and continue to reign in life with Christ. As for the devil, he is surely under our feet if we are truly for Christ.

John 15:19; John 14:30; John 2:15-17; Col. 1:12-13; Luke 10:19; Rom. 5:17; I Pet. 5:8; Eph. 4-.27; Heb. 1:13-14; Matt. 18:18.

LESSON 147

TAKE YOUR STAND - PART 2

INTRODUCTION: In the second part of this series, we learnt that we may be called upon to suffer persecution for our faith. If this happens, we must stand firm because we will not be the first or the last to suffer for our faith. And that whatever happens, we must never lose our grip on eternal life. We only need to fear the Lord and there will be nothing else to fear. In this third part, we wish to learn what standing for Christ means both in life and in death. May the Lord open our spiritual eyes so that we could see those things that pertain to our peace in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. CHRIST IS NOT ASKING YOU TO SERVE HIM FOR FREE; HE WILL PAY EACH ACT OF SERVICE YOU RENDER TO HIM

As far as God is concerned, He requires total submission from you. He wants your heart and not mere lip service. In fact, it is only by doing the will of God absolutely that you can claim to be truly related to Christ. Now, when you compare what Christ and other saints of old had done with what we are required to do today, you will know that we are given an easy task. Moreover, Christ is not asking us to serve Him for free, even though He has a right to do so. But He will still reward our efforts provided they are wholeheartedly done.

Pro. 23:26; Matt. 12:50; Eph. 6:6; John 4:34-38; Ps. 126:5-6; Ex. 23:25; Deut. 10:12; I Cor. 15:58; II Tim. 4:5; Phil. 2:12.

2. MAN IS A TRINITY: BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT. HE NEEDS MORE THAN BREAD TO TRULY SURVIVE.

Let your goal both in life and in death be how to please Christ. Do not let your search for daily bread obstruct your spiritual goal or dull your spiritual vision. Man needs more than bread to survive because he is a trinity and the one who truly survived is the one who survived after death. Death is once per person, but death is not the end of the story. It is just a new beginning. Sign a contract of total allegiance with God now and your survival here and yonder will be settled.

Phil. 1:21; Deut. 8:3; Ecc. 8:8; Ps. 23:4; Heb. 9:27; Pr. 14:32; Col. 1:27; Heb. 11:13; Rev. 14:13; Ps. 116:15; Dan. 1:8.

LESSON 148

TAKE YOUR STAND - PART 3

INTRODUCTION: In the third part of this series, we learnt that since man is a trinity of body, soul and spirit, he needs more than ordinary bread to survive. Therefore we should not allow our search for daily bread to obstruct our spiritual vision or goal. Similarly, we learnt that if we sign a contract of total submission to God like Daniel and co did, then the lions of this world and the fires of hell will not have power over us. Now, we continue our series exhorting you to take your stand against shame, fear of death and for Christ. May God bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. GOD PROMISES YOU BLESSINGS AND SONGS OF PRAISE, NOT SHAME

If you take your stand absolutely for Christ, you will be a blessed person and have no cause to be ashamed. It is unbelievers who will find Christ a stumbling block. It is blessings and songs of praise that God promises His people not shame. If you suffer for Christ's sake, that is an opportunity to praise God. In any case" you are not sure of eternal life beyond doubts until you are willing to loose your life for Christ's sake. And if you abide in Him totally, you will have no cause to be ashamed before Him when He comes again.

Ps. 119:1-6; Rom. 9:33; Joel. 1:26; Is. 50:7-9; I Pet. 4:15-16; Matt. 15:25; II Tim. 2:11; I John 2:28; Acts. 5:29-41; I John 4:15-18.

2. IF YOU SERVE CHRIST WHOLE - HEARTEDLY, GOD WILL HONOUR YOU

If you are completely for Christ, you should be bold because through Christ you have access to God. And if you are bold enough to visit God Himself, why must you be afraid of any man? Also, you do not need men's honours because if you serve Christ, wholeheartedly God Himself will honour you if your entire love is focused on Christ, the following are part of your blessings: (i) deliverance (ii) promotion (iii) answered prayers (iv) Divine presence in the day of trouble (v) honour (vi) long life and (vii) salvation.

Eph. 3:11-12; Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 10:19-23; John 12:26; Ps. 91:14-16; Ps. 40:8; Ps. 143:10.

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

Some people believe that tradition can or must be embedded into the true worship of God. This is wrong. Such people cling to a common saying that "this is not too bad". They fail to realize the fact that what is not too bad has an element of it being bad in it. You cannot serve God and mammon. God has a standard and his standard cannot be compromised.

Matt. 5:20; I Pet. 4:16; Is. 3:16-24; I Pet. 3:3-4; John 13:34-35; John 15:14, 23; Rom. 8:35-36; I Pet. 4:16.

LESSON 149

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 1

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

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

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

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

2. A FRUITFUL LIFE IS A LIFE OF LOVE

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

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

LESSON 150

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 2

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

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

Compassion, particularly for the downtrodden, the sick and the unhappy captives of Satan, is an ingredient for a fruitful life. Love for our fellow men, as demonstrated by giving our best be it money, time, tracts, comfort etc. is another ingredient. A life of love is a life of obedience to God who commanded us to love our neighbours like ourselves. Hence it is a godly, fruitful life.

Matt. 9:36; Mark 1:40-41; John 3:16; Acts 3:b-o; John 15:13: John 15:12; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:7-12; Mark 16:15-16; Col. 1:5-8.

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

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

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

LESSON 151

FRUITFUL LIVES & FRUITFUL ONES - PART 3

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

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

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

John 15:4-6; John 15:7; Ps.16:5; Acts 4:13; Ps. 73:8; Rev. 3:20; James 4:7; Rev. 3:4; Mill. 2:6; John 15:10; I John 2:6; Amos 3:3.

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

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

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

LESSON 152

POWER OF AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

LESSON 153

I WILL REACH MY GOAL

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

1. ONCE YOU SET A SPIRITUAL GOAL FOR YOURSELF, 3 THINGS COULD HAPPEN

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

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

2. GOD IS READY TO HELP IF YOU ARE DETERMINED

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

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

LESSON 154

THE ARMY OF LORD PART 1

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

1. GOD HIMSELF CHOOSES THE SOLDIERS IN HIS ARMY

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 155

THE ARMY OF LORD - PART 2

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

1. THE ARMY OF THE LORD IS AN UNUSUAL ONE

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 156

THE ARMY OF LORD - PART 3

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

1. WORSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GOD THAN WORK

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

Ps. 22:3; John 4:23; James 4:8; Matt. 22:37-38; Luke 10:38-42; Acts 13:1-2; Zech. 14:17.

2. TRUE WORSHIP INVOLVES COOPERATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 157

THE ARMY OF LORD - PART 4

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

1. OUR SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUST HAVE RELEVANCE

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

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

2. WORSHIPPING GOD IS INCOMPLETE UNLESS YOUR BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT ARE INVOLVED

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

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

LESSON 158

THE ARMY OF LORD - PART - 5

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

1. THE RICHER MUST TAKE CARE OF THE POORER

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 159

THOU GOD SEEST ME

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

1. OUR LOOKS AS HUMAN BEING

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

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

2. GOD'S FAVOURABLE AND UNFAVOURABLE LOOKS

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

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

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

LESSON 160

FRUITFUL LIVES & FAITHFUL ONES - 3

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

1. FAITH IS THE FERTILIZER FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

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

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

LESSON 161

THE SCAPE GOAT

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English defines the word "SCAPE GOAT" as "PERSON BLAMED OR PUNISHED FOR THE MISTAKES OR WRONGDOING OF ANOTHER OR OTHERS."

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

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF OFFERING IN ISRAEL

Making offering or sacrifice to God was a very ancient practice Gen. 4:3,8:20; Ex. 10:25, and was known in Egypt and Babylonia long before the patriarchal times. Gen. 3:21; Gen. 4:3; Ex. 12:13; Lev. 1:7 Lev. 4:3-5,13-15, 22-23,27-29, Heb. 6:1-6.

2. THE SCAPEGOAT TODAY

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

Lev. 16:1-10; Is. 53:4-6; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb.] 0:8-10; Mal. 2:13; Gal. 4:9; I Pet. 3:18; II Cor. 5:77-20; I Pet. 2:24.

LESSON 162

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 1

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

1. WILL THE ALMIGHTY RE VEAL HIS MIND TO MERE MORTALS?

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

Ps. 23:1-3; Ps. 32:8 Ps. 48:14; Is. 42:16; Is. 48:17-19; John 10:4; Is. 55:8-9; Luke 1:79; Ps. 18:30; Hab. 3:6; Ps. 73:24.

2. GOD COMMUNICATES IN VARIOUS WAYS

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

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

LESSON 163

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 164

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 3

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

1. GOD ALLOWS VISIONS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

There are various reasons why God allow visions to happen.

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

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

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

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

LESSON 165

GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY

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

1. GOD'S APPROVED FAMILY.

What is the conception of God about "FAMILY"?

Has He any interest in the affairs of a family?

Yes He has, if we conform With His own standard.

a. Gen. 12:10, 2:21-24; Jer. 31:1; Gen. 18:17-19; Gen. 12:10-20;
Gen. 12:3; 28:14; Gen. 20:2-6; 26:1-5; Ps. 113:9.

b. **Husband's duty:** Pro. 5:18; Eccl. 9:9; 1 Tim. 5:8; I Chr. 29:19;
Col. 3:18-23; Eph. 6:4.

c. **Wife's Duty:** Eph. 5:21-25; Ex. 1:20; I Tim. 3:11; Pro. 31:26-28;
1 Pet. 3:1

2. THE FAMILY NOT APPROVED OF GOD.

The family who violates that age long conception of God is not a family of God. Gen. 2:24; It is one that has its root and foundation in chaos and confusion and consequently devoid of the blessing of God.

Micah 7:6; Gen. 3:6; I Tim. 2:11-13; Gen. 25:27-28; Gen. 37:3; Col. 3:18-24; James 3:2; Job 2:9; I Kings 21:1-11. 25; I Sam. 21:33; Jug. 13:19-23; II Sam. 6:20-23.

LESSON 166

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 1

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Ps. 23:1-3; Ps. 32:8 Ps. 48:14; Is. 42:16; Is. 48:17-19; John 10:4; Is. 55:8-9; Luke 1:79; Ps. 18:30; Hab. 3:6; Ps. 73:24.

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

LESSON 167

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 2

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

LESSON 168

KNOWING THE MIND OF GOD - PART 3

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

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

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

Matt. 5:7; Pro. 11:17; James 1:6-7; Acts 16:16-23; Luke 5:5; John 21:3; Matt. 25:28-29.

3. HOW TO USE THE GIFTS

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

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

LESSON 169

RISE OR FALL - PART 1

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

1. NOT THE WILL OF GOD THAT ANY SHOULD FALL

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

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

2. SOME WILL SURELY STAND FOREVER

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

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

LESSON 170

RISE OR FALL - PART 2

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

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

You surely cannot even stand if you are still indulging in sin.

Consequently, if you wish to keep rising, you must discard sinful habits, because it is only the righteous that shall flourish. Furthermore, all weight in the form of worldly allurements, worldly possessions and worldly securities must be discarded.

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

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

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

Phil. 3:12-14; I Cor. 14:1; I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 14:12; Ps. 38:9; Ps. 63:1; Ps. 3:25; Ps. 119:20, 131; Is. 26:9; Matt. 5:6; I Cor. 9:25; II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 12:4; Is. 40:31

LESSON 171

PUTTING ON THE ARMOR

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

1. THE CHRISTIAN WALK AS A WARFARE

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

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

2. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

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

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

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LESSON 173

PSALM 117

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

1. OUR GOD IS UNIVERSALLY GOOD

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

Ps. 33:5; Ps. 34:8; Nah. 1:7; I Tim. 1:12; II Cor. 12:9; II Tim. 2:1; Rom. 9:16; Tit. 3:5.

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

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

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

LESSON 174

JOHN 11 : 35

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

1. JESUS CHRIST HAS MANY REASONS FOR WEeping

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

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

2. HE WEPT BECAUSE HE LOVED

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

John 11:5, 35.--36; John 11:33; John 13:1; Heb. 13:5; Ps. 142:4; John 5:5-9; Mic. 7:5; Is. 63:9; Acts 9:3-5; Matt. 25:40; I Cor. 12:12; Eph. 5:30.

LESSON 175

SIMEON & ANNA

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

1. DIVINE REVELATIONS ARE NOT OBTAINED BY HUMAN WISDOM

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

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

2. THE PURE IN HEART SHALL SURELY SEE GOD.

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

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

LESSON 176

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 177

LITTLE SINS

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

1. LITTLE FOXES SPOIL THE VINE

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

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

2. ANYTHING NOT TOO BAD IS ALREADY BAD

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

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

LESSON 178

DEALING WITH SIN

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

1. COOPERATING WITH THE FLESH WILL SPELL DISASTER

There is no good thing in the flesh, all it wants to do is sin. Yet the wages of sin is death and anyone who cooperates with the flesh will reap the fruits of corruption i.e. curses, sorrows, and problems.

That is why he who converts a sinner saves a soul from death and serious troubles.

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

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

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

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