



# **DIGGING DEEP 1-100**

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**THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH OF GOD**

# **DIGGING DEEP**

Outlines

**1-100**

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# BLESSED IS THE MAN

Text: Psalms 1:1

## INTRODUCTION

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

**There are three categories of blessings:-**

- a) **Physical**
- b) **Soulsh**
- c) **Spiritual**

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

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

**B. SOULISH:** blessing include among others:-

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

**C. SPIRITUAL:**

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

## LESSON 001 conts.

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

### CONCLUSION:

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

# BLESSED IS THE MAN

Text: Psalms 1:1

## INTRODUCTION

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

- A. PHYSICAL:** physical blessings are for God's children.
- (a.) Infact He intends for them to have the very best - Ps. 34:110, Ps. 103:5
  - (b.) God also promised good health to His children - Deut. 7:15, Jere. 30:17, Exo. 23:25
- B. SOULISH:** Soulsh blessings also belong to God's children.
- (a) He want us to prosper physically and soulsh - II John 1:2
  - (b) He wants us to have rest of mind - I Peter 5:7
  - (c) He is determined to give us all blessings - Matt. 6:31-33
- C. SPIRITUAL:**
- (a) Not only are we expected to be blessed spiritually, we are even encouraged to be covetous where spiritual blessings are concerned - I Cor. 12:3
  - (b) We are told to strive strongly to improve spiritually- II Pet. 1 :5-7
- Now that we know that these blessings are available to us, the next question is, how can these blessing be obtained?
- A. PHYSICAL:** physical blessings can be obtained by:-

## LESSON 002 conts.

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

### B. **SOULISH:** Soulsh blessings can be obtained by:-

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

### C. **SPIRITUAL:** spiritual blessings can be obtained by:

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

### CONCLUSION:

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

LESSON 003

**THE UNGODLY, THE SINNER & THE SCORNFUL**

Text: Psalms 1:1

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1) WHO ARE THE UNGODLY?**

Why is it dangerous to take the advice (counsel) of the ungodly?  
What do you think?

An ungodly man is someone who is not directed by God Rom. 8:14.

The advice of an ungodly man will therefore be dangerous because:

- a) He will lean on his own understanding Proverbs 3:5
- b) Yet his mind is reprobate i.e. he cannot think straight Rom 1 :28-32 .
- c) If a man is not being directed by God, then he must be directed by Satan I John 3:8-10
- d) In any case, an ungodly man cannot give a Godly advice Matt. 7:16-18.

**2) WHO IS A SINNER?** Job 25:4, Rom. 5:12. Who is nota sinner?

All those who have been washed in the blood of the lamb I John 1 :7.

If a man finds himself in the way of sinners, he should not stay or stand there but get out quickly. Why?

- a) The way of sinners is darkness and sorrow - Prov. 4: 14-19
- b) Their wicked ways will lead to their own destruction. Prov. 1:10-19

**3) WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SCORNER?**

And therefore why must we avoid them? -

- a) Pride - James4:6, I Peter 5:5
- b) Lack of love - I John 4:7-8
- c) They talk too much - Prov.3:33-34

## LESSON 003 conts.

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

### CONCLUSION:

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



LESSON 004  
**THE SAINTS**  
Psalms 1: 1-2

**INTRODUCTION**

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

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 004 conts.

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

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

3. How can I become a saint?

By becoming nothing. Gal 2: 20; Ps. 116:15; Gal 6:14

### CONCLUSION:

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

# THE TREE BY THE RIVER SIDE

Psalms 1: 3

## INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

The comparison is appropriate in the following ways

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

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

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

## LESSON 005 conts.

3. **WHAT DOES "RIVER" STAND FOR IN SPIRITUAL TERMS?**  
"River" is a symbol of spiritual blessings. Can you think of other interpretations? Ps. 36:8, Ps. 46:1-4, Rev. 22:1-2.
4. **WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THESE BLESSINGS AND BEARING FRUITS?**
  - (a) Obedience Isa 1 :19, Isa. 48:17-19,
  - (b) Continuous contact with the 'River' - John 15:5
  - (c) Understanding of things spiritual - Matt. 13:23
  - (d) Death of the old life - John 12:24
  - (e) Constant correction (trimming) by God - John 15:2.
5. **IS IT POSSIBLE TO REMAIN FRUITFUL TILL THE END OF ONE'S LIFE?** Jere. 17:7-8, Ps. 92:12-14, Deut. 34:7.  
All these passages confirm that the answer is yes.
6. **WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR REMAINING FOREVER FRUITFUL?**
  - a) Complete severance from sin and idols Hosea 14:8
  - b) Continuous waiting on the Lord Isaiah 40:31 ,  
II Corinthians 5.

### CONCLUSION:

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

# THE CHAFF

Psalms 1:4

## INTRODUCTION:

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

1. **BY WHAT OTHER NAMES ARE THE UNGODLY COMPARED?**
  - a. Children of the wicked one or tares mat. 13:38
  - b. Children of the devil John 8:44
  - c. Enemy of all righteousness. Act 13:10
  - d. Whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, boasters, covenant breakers, Rom. 1:28-31. Can think of some other names for sinners?
  
2. **TO WHAT ELSE ARE THE UNGODLY COMPARED?**
  - a. Job 21:17-20; Weak candle light, stubble, chaff.
  - b. Isa. 17:12-24; Chaff, a rolling thing before the whirlwind.
  - c. Hos. 13:1-3; morning cloud, early dew that passes away smoke out of the chimney
  - d. Mat. 3:11-12; Chaff to be burnt with unquenchable fire.
  
3. **WHY ARE SINNERS COMPARED TO CHAFF, STUBBLE, MORNING CLOUD, EARLY DEW, SMOKE ETC?**

Because they always die before their time.

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

## LESSON 006 conts.

4. **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SINNERS DIES IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIFE?**
  - a. II Chor. 21:16-20; They die in disgrace and despised.
  - b. Jer. 22:18-19; Sinners die unlamented.
  - c. Eze. 7:9-10; When sinners die there are no genuine mourners, no genuine sorrow.
  
5. **WHY IS IT THAT SINNERS DIE UNMOURNED?**
  - a. Deut. 29:24-28; Because it is God who got annoyed with them so that their death is more of surprise than sorrow.
  - b. II Chor 7:19:22; Because it is God who plucked them out by the root. Their destruction is always so completed that they become as astonishment.
  - c. Ps. 52:3-7; when the righteous sees the complete destruction of the seemingly indestructible sinner he cannot really mourn.
  - d. Since their roots are also destroyed who shall remain to mourn? Prov. 2:22 Mat. 15:13
  
6. **BUT GOD IS LOVE.** Can such a gentle Father destroy so completely? II Pet. 3:3-10, Rom. 1:18.

### CONCLUSION:

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

# THE END OF THE UNGODLY

Psalms 1:5

## INTRODUCTION:

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

### 1. WHERE IS THE LAST HOME OF SINNERS?

What is their fate for refusing Christ?

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

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

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

### 3. BUT GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL AND HE IS THE ALMIGHTY.

Why doesn't He use His power to prevent anyone from going to such dreadful place as eternal fire?

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

## LESSON 007 conts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## LESSON 007 conts.

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

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

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

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

- a. Jer. 23:9-12
  - b. Eze. 34:1-10
- No exception at all.

### CONCLUSION:

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 008

# THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

Psalm 1:5-6

## INTRODUCTION:

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

- 1. On the final Day of Judgement, won't some sinners be able to dodge in and mix with the saints?**
  - a. Matthew 13:47-49 - if they dodge in they will be picked out
  - b. Matthew 25:31-33 - Goats differ from sheep any day
  - c. Luke 16:19 - There is a mighty gulf of separation
  - d. Luke 17:34-36 - Even a wife may be separated from the husband or a husband from the wife.
- 2. While we are still in this world, how can one know if he belongs to the wheat or to the tares?** Joshua 7:11-22, Isaiah 59:1-2, Hosea 5:6, II Thessalonians 2:11-12, Psalms 66:18, Isaiah 65:7. God ignores the tares, refuses to have any fellowship with them and refuses to answer their prayers. Are your prayers being answered? Are you enjoying a warm fellowship with God? Do you look forward to prayer time with joy?
- 3. How does God distinguish between the wheat and the tares in this present life?** Proverbs 10:6-7, Proverbs 10:25, Proverbs 11:5-8, Proverbs 13:21-22, Proverbs 14:32, Proverbs 14:32, Proverbs 15:8-9, Romans 2:9-10, Proverbs 11:3 God distinguishes between the wheat and tares in this present life by blessing the wheat and curse the tares. There is nothing like good luck or bad luck in this world but only blessings and curses. Which are you receiving?

## LESSON 008 conts.

- 4. What is to be the attitudes of the wheat to the tares, particularly the tares in the church of God?** What is the difference between worshipping together and fellowshiping? Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 5:9-11, II Thessalonians 3:6, I Timothy 3:1-7, Galatians 6:5, I John 1:6-7. Saints are to be separated from unholy brethren in the church we can worship together but saints don't really fellowship with sinners. One of the reasons for this being that evil communication corrupts good manners. Another reason being that light and darkness don't really mix.
- 5. What is to be the attitudes of the wheat to the tares that are outside the church?** Ezekiel 33:1-9, Ezekiel 3:17-21, Galatians 6:1. It is the duty of the saints to warn the sinners of the danger ahead but the saints themselves must be very firmly grounded on the Rock so as not to be dragged into the pit of sin.

### CONCLUSION:

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

# GOD KNOWS HIS OWN

Psalms 1:6

## INTRODUCTION:

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

### 1. HOW INTIMATELY DOES GOD KNOW HIS OWN?

- a) John 10:3 - He knows them by their individual names
- b) John 1:48 - Even in the offices or farms.
- c) Nahum 1:7 - Also in the time of trouble.

What conclusions can we draw from I Corinthians 8:3, II Timothy 2:19-20. Does he know the sinners too? Amos 9:3, Zephaniah 1:12, Jeremiah 17:10

### 2. HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT HE KNOWS YOU AND RECOGNISES YOU AS HIS OWN?

I John 2:3-5, I John 3:4, I John 3:24, I John 4:13, I John 5:9, John 15:14. If we find it easy to obey His commandment and find pleasure in doing it, then we can have the witness in us that He knows us as His own. Also a deep love towards all His children is another determining factor.

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

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

## **LESSON 009 conts.**

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

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

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

### **CONCLUSION:**

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

## ACCESS TO GOD

Text: Psalms 15:1

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

#### 1. How can I gain access into God's presence?

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

#### 2. If I am not satisfied with merely gaining access to Him, how can I get real close to Him?

Psalms 34:18, Psalms 145:18, Acts. 17:27, James 4:8, Hebrews 10:22. The conditions for nearness to God are (i) a repentant and humble heart, (ii) calling on God in truth, (iii) seeking Him earnestly, (iv) sanctification and (v) a clean conscience.

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

#### 4. What benefits are there in being near to God? .

Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 20:1, Isa. 43:2, Ps. 23:4. Some of the benefits are:

## LESSON 010 conts.

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

### 5. **If God has a sacred place in my home or heart, What do I gain?**

Joshua 18:1, II Corinthians 6:17-18. My opponents will be subdued before me and God will be father at-home to me.

### 6. **But is it desirable to move close to holy God?**

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

### **CONCLUSION:**

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

LESSON 011

**CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY TO HEAVEN**

Text: Psalms 15:2

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1. WHY MUST BE UPRIGHT?**

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

**2. WHY IS RIGHTEOUSNESS SO CRUCIAL?**

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



## LESSON 011 conts.

### 3. WHY MUST I TELL THE TRUTH ALWAYS?

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

#### CONCLUSION:

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

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

# WATCH THAT TONGUE OF YOURS

Text: Psalms 15:3

## INTRODUCTION:

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

### 1. WITH WHAT IS THE TONGUE COMPARED?

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

### 2. WHY IS THE TONGUE DESCRIBED SO BADLY?

Why is it likened to such terrible things as the poison of a serpent, a sharp sword and fire? Can you give some reasons?

Psalms 73:8-9, Psalms 10:7, Matt. 15:11, James 3:4-5, Psalms 53:1. The tongue is compared to terrible and destructive things because of the havoc that an uncontrolled tongue can cause. Evil words cause hardships and pain, wickedness and vanity are associated with the tongue and as small as small as the tongue is, it is extremely dangerous because it is what a sinner employs while denying God.

## LESSON 012 conts.

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

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

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION:

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

## HOLD GOD IN HOLY REFERENCE

Text: Psalms 15:4

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

**2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RESPECT AND REVERENCE?** Why must we revere God?

Matthew 5:48, Hebrews 12: 14, Ephesians 5:5, Isaiah 11 :4, Job 4:9, Job 12:10, Psalms 51:1:1,4. The difference between respect and reverence is that reverence equals respect plus fear. We reference God because of His holiness, power, mercy, faithfulness and love.

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

## LESSON 013 conts.

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION:

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

LESSON 014

**VOWS SACRED, USURY FORBIDDEN**

Text: Psalms 15:4-5

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

- 1. HOW IMPORTANT ARE VOWS?** Can we defer to pay our vows? Under what conditions can vows be nullified? Number 30:9, Deut. 23:21, Matt. 5:23, Acts 17:30-31, Eccl. 5:4-5, Number 30:3-8, Number 30:9. Vows are extremely sacred and we must pay them quickly. We must not defer payment till a convenient time. A father can nullify vows of his unmarried daughter and husband can nullify the vows of his wife, but a widow and a divorcee will be held responsible for their vows.;
- 2. WHY IS GOD SO PARTICULAR ABOUT PAYING YOUR VOWS?** Psalms 119:89, Genesis 3:15, John 16:33, Jeremiah 1 :19, John 15:7, John 14:2-3. God expects His children to be like Him. When He makes a promise He will never change. He will fulfill His promise. There are many vows He made, some of which are already fulfilled, some of which are being daily fulfilled and some yet to be fulfilled. Can you name some more in each category?
- 3. ARE YOU PERMITTED TO LEND MONEY WITH INTEREST?** Can we save in the Bank and collect interest? What is the difference between the two? Lev. 15:35-37, Exodus 22:25, Ezek. 22: 12, Luke 19:23, Proverbs 22:22-23, Proverbs 88:8, Deut. 24:19-21. Lending out money with interest is strictly forbidden by God. Of course you can put money in the bank and collect interest thereon. The difference is that the bank uses your money to trade and gives you only a fraction of the gain, but does not expect you to make profit out of the need of others who come to you for help in their time of need.

## LESSON 014 conts.

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

### **CONCLUSION:**

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 015

# LOAN, GIFTS AND BRIBERY

Text: Palms 15:5

## INTRODUCTION

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

### 1. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT GOD LOANED TO US?

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

### 2. WHAT IS GOD'S STAND ON BRIBERY?

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

## CONCLUSION

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



## THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR HEAVEN

Text: Palms 15:5

### INTRODUCTION

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

1. **Who are those who cannot be moved** according to Ps. 15:5? Rom. 2:13, James. 1:22-25, John. 13:17 live for ever and be immovable are those who know what is required of them as listed in Ps. 15: and Do them. That is not hearers only, but those who put into practice what they have learnt.
2. **Can you give some reasons why saints are immovable?** Ps. 40:2, Ps. 27:5, Ps. 31:20, Job. 5:19-24, Ps. 33:18-19, Job. 31:4, Eze. 9:4-6, Dan. 7:27, Heb. 13:5-6, Ps. 55:22, Ps. 37:5, I Pet. 5:7, Ps. 37:24, Prov. 24:26, Ps. 146:8, Ps. 147:6.

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

## **LESSON 016 conts.**

### **CONCLUSION**

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 017

## IN THE BEGINNING

Text: John 1: 1

### INTRODUCTION

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

**1. Is the beginning of Jn.1:1 the same as that of Gen.1:1?**

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

**2. (a) Has God a beginning? Hebrew 7:1-3**

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

**3. (a) What other things are eternal?**

Ecclesiastes 12:7, Psalms 102:26, Proverbs 27:20;

**(b) What is your origin?** Genesis 2:7. Some of the things eternal are you, the generation of the righteous, heaven and of course hell. You originated from God.

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

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

## LESSON 017 conts.

the foundation of the world and there was great rejoicing in heaven.

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

### 5. How many beginnings are there?

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

## CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 018

# THE WORD

Text: John 1:1

## INTRODUCTION

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

1. Who is the Word? (b) How can we explain that Jesus is the Son of God? (c) How do we account for the Holy Spirit in the Trinity? How then is Jesus equal to the Holy Spirit? (a) John 1: 14, 1 John 5: 7; (b) John.6:63, Ps.119:50, Jesus is the Word of God and a man is known by His words. The Holy Spirit is the Breath of God and both the Holy Spirit and the Word quickens. The word and the Holy Spirit are the same.
2. (a) Can God's Word change? (b) Isa.40:8. Why not if not? (c) Give some of His Unchangeable Words. (a) Isa.40:8, (b) Isa.9:6, Heb. 13:8, Isa.53:5, Acts.1:8, John.9:31, God's Word cannot change because Christ, the Word, changes not and is Eternal. Some of His unchangeable Words are that we are already healed, the Holy Ghost is available for us to empower us and sinner's prayers will not be answered unless they repent.
3. (a) What are some of the results of the facts that “the Word was with God from beginning” (b) How can we know the mysteries of God? (How do we know that Holy Spirit loves Jesus? (d)How can we demonstrate our love for the Word? (a) John 14:8-11, John.9:4, John.14:24, Mat.11:27, John.17:25, John.3:35, John17,26 (b)Amos.3:7, John.15:15, I Cor.2:9-10, (b) John.14:21, Mat.5:16, John.15:8, John.4:24.

## LESSON 018 conts.

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 019

# THE WORD OF GOD

Text: John 1:1

## INTRODUCTION

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

- 1. How can we show that Jesus Christ, the Word, and God are the same?** Exodus 3:14, John 8:58, Isaiah 43:11-12, Revelation 1:8, John 17:5, I Cor. 1:24, Col. 2:2-3. They bear the same Name and have the same glory the same wisdom and knowledge.
- 2. Can you give some instances when God appeared in Word-Form?** Exodus 3:3-4, I Kings 19:12-13, Act. 3:3-4. Some of the instances are (i) in the burning bush, (ii) on mount Horeb and (iii) on the road to Damascus.
- 3. Do you consider “the Word” and appropriate description of God? If yes, why? And if not? Why not?** Job 23:8-9, Job 11:7, Deut. 32:39, Yes, the Word is an appropriate description of God. The Word is inexhaustible and God is infinite. The Word is invisible, so is God. The Word is a mystery and God is unreachable. All great decisions are expressed or executed by the written or spoken word the word comes from the hidden parts of man and God knows even the hidden thoughts of man. The Word fills the world and still resides in man, so is God.

## CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 020

## THE SAME WORD

Text: John 1: 2

### INTRODUCTION

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

- 1. What is the purpose of repetition in the scriptures? Can you give some examples of such repetitions?** Gen.41:30-32, Jos.1:6, 7, 9 18. John.3:15,16, John.6:35, 48,51. The purpose of repetition in the scriptures is for emphasis. Examples are the Lord's charge to Joshua, the need to be born again, how to obtain eternal life, who is the Bread of Life etc.
- 2. Are there any lessons for us from the repetition to Joshua?** II Cor. 10: 4, Eph. 6: 11-12, I Tim. 1: 18, I Tim. 6: 12, II Tim. 2: 4, Moses in a way, stands for Jesus and Joshua stands for us. Moses never actually took part in battle but Joshua did. Therefore, we are called to be soldiers, though our Lord did not sight wars during His life time.
- 3. What is the significance of “The Same” in John.1:2, Exo. 3: 14, John 15: 1, II: 3-4, Gal. 1: 8-9, The same means no counterfeit acceptable. In other words, there may be other jesuses, christs, ways of vines but the only acceptable one is the one who had been with the father from the beginning. This is to warn us against false religions.**
- 4. Who are the best friends of the Lord? Why?** Ps. 127:3, Mat. 19: 14, Mat. 21. 15-16. The best friends of the Lord are children. Because



## LESSON 020 conts.

they know how to praise God.

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 021

# THE CREATOR

John 1:3

## INTRODUCTION

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

- 1. Who created all things? Why are they created? Out of what they created? Who is the caretaker of the Universe?** Col. 1:16, Heb. 11:3, I Cor. 8:6 God the Father created all things through God the Son, for Son, out of nothing. All things thus created are sustained and preserved by God the Son.
- 2. Who appoints Presidents, Kings, Governors etc. and who removes them? Who invented the motorcars, radio etc.** Pro. 5:15-16, Isa. 40:22-23, Pro.8:12. The Lord Jesus appoints all in authority and removes them all will. He is also the brain behind all inventions.
- 3. Who created darkness, and evil? And benefit from sorrow?** Isa. 45:7, Jam. 1:3-4, Heb10:36, Jam. 5:7, Heb 12:5-11, The Lord created darkness and evil because without darkness light is not appreciated nor good appreciated without evil. The greatest benefits from sorrow and trials is that they teach patience and patience is very precious.

## LESSON 021 conts.

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 022

# WHO CREATED THE DEVIL?

Text: John 1:3

## INTRODUCTION

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

### **Who created the devil? Why?**

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 023

## IN HIM WAS LIFE

Text: John 1:4

### INTRODUCTION

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

#### **What human life is like compared to God's?**

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 024

## THE LIGHT (PART 1)

Text: John 1:4

### INTRODUCTION

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

#### 1. What is the colour of the brightest light?

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 025

## THE LIGHT (PART 2)

Text: John 1:1

### INTRODUCTION

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

#### **How many grades of light can you mention?**

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 025 conts.

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

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

**Star Light:** Mighty expanses of space supplied by star light.

**Pure White Light:** Represents Christians who are far gone beyond the point of no return. Almost as perfect as their Lord. Dan.12;3.

### CONCLUSION

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



## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 026

# THE LORD GOD

John 1:3-4

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 027

# THE GREAT BATTLE

Text: John 1:5

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

## Conclusion

How bright is your light? How careful are you?

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 028

## THE AMBASSADOR

Text: John 1:6

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

**The following questions will aid in our search for these deeper truths.**

When does an Ambassador become necessary? Who is an ambassador? What are his qualifications? What are his responsibilities? Who maintains an ambassador? How much is available to an ambassador of God? How much can he spread? What happens to an ambassador who creditably finished his job? What happens to an ambassador who lets down his country?

Whenever a king wants to get a job done in another country but could not go himself, he sends an ambassador. John.6:38, therefore an ambassador is someone “who is sent” Isa.48:16, John.20:21.

To be an ambassador one must have an intimate knowledge of who sent him John.7:28-29, one must know the laws of his home country. II Tim. 2:25, one must be rid of all hindrances II Tim.2:20-26, Isa.6:1-8.

**The responsibilities of an ambassador include:**

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

## LESSON 028 conts.

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 029

## THE WITNESS

Text: John 1:7

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 030

## THE WITNESS Part 2

Text: Psalms 1:7

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## PREGNANT WITH JESUS

John 1:8

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **LESSON 031 conts.**

### **CONCLUSION**

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



## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 032

# THE BURNING TORCH

Text: John 1:9

## INTRODUCTION:

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

**Our questions for tonight are as follows:-**

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

**There are two ways the light can lighten a man.**

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 033

## THAT I MAY KNOW HIM Part 1

Text: John 1:10

### Introduction

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

**But first of all let us ask the following questions:**

1. Was there a time when Jesus was not on earth?
2. When has he been in the world?
3. Can you say precisely when He has been in the world before He was born in Bethlehem?
4. From the above, what can we learn about the coming of Christ?
5. When is He, Is Jesus far from us?
6. Where is Jesus presently?
1. **Only once was Jesus not in the world as mentioned in Psalms Ps. 90:2.**
2. **He has been in the world before the world existed Gen. 1:4**
  - a. He came in the form of Melchisedec Heb. 7:1-3, John 8:56-58
  - b. He was in the burning bush. Ex 3:1-6.
  - c. He was the Captain of Hosts that appeared to Joshua Jos. 5:13-15
  - d. He was the Rock that followed the Israelites. I Cor. 10:1-4
  - e. He was the Rock that killed Goliath I Sam. 17:45-47.
  - f. He was the fourth man in the fiery furnace. Dan. 3:24-25.

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 034

## THAT I MAY KNOW HIM Part 2

### JOHN 1:10

#### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Emmanuel	-	Isaiah 7:14,
Wonderful	-	Isaiah 9
King	-	Isaiah 32:2, Matthew 21:5
Divine Servant	-	Isaiah 42:1, Mark 6:2
Army of the Lord	-	Isaiah 53:1, Isaiah 11:3
Divine Evangelist	-	Isaiah 63:1, Luke 19:10,
Illuminator	-	Isaiah 9:2
Liberator	-	Isaiah 42:7
Burden Bearer	-	Isaiah 53:4,
Sin Bearer	-	Isaiah 53:6,
Intercessor	-	Isaiah 53:12,
Son of Man	-	John 13:31,
Bright and Morning Star	-	Revelation 22:16
My Bridegroom	-	Ephesians 5:23.

#### CONCLUSION

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

## FAVOURITES OF THE ALMIGHTY

Text: John 1:11

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 036

# THE DIVINE VISITOR

John 1:11

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Jesus died on the day of Passover because He is the Passover Lamb of God. John 1:29.

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

## CONCLUSION

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

## THE REJECTED CORNERSTONE

John 1:11

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION:

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

## THE PROBLEM OF WEALTH

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

## THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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



## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 040

# WEALTH IS NO SIN

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 041

# GENEROSITY – PART 1

## INTRODUCTION:

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

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

2. The giving of the Lord is not only generous but constantly too. What is the lesson to us His children. Deut. 11:13-15, Gen. 9:12-15, Job 5:10, Gen. 1:2, Jer. 31:3, John 10:28, Deut. 8:18, Luke 11:13, Eph. 4:11, Romans 12:4-6, I Cor. 12:4-11, James 1:17

3. The Lord expects us to be generous to Him, to His people and to the poor – Exod. 35:5, I Chron. 29:9, Malachi 3:8-9, Mark 12:41-44, Deut. 15:7-8, Matt.5:42, Luke 10:35, Rom.12:13, Gal. 2:10, 6:10, II Kings 6:22, Prov. 25:21-22, Isa. 58:7, I Tim. 6:17-19, Heb.13:16.

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

## GENEROSITY – PART 2

### INTRODUCTION:

In the first part of generosity, we learnt that:

- a) The Lord Himself is generous in all ways including mercy, goodness, loving kindness etc.
- b) The Lord is not only generous, but constantly so and
- c) The Lord expected us to be generous also:
  - i. To Him
  - ii. To His people who are in need and
  - iii. To those who are sincerely poor, including our enemies.

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

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

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

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

## BLESSINGS IN WORKING

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## THE BLESSING OF PERSONAL PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## THE BLESSING OF PERSONAL DISCIPLINE PART 1

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

**THE BLESSING OF PERSONAL  
DISCIPLINE PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

## THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

- a) **Praise**, - Psalms 9:11, Psalms 67:3, Hebrew 13:15, Revelation 19:5
- b) **Singing** – Psalms 81:1, Ephesians 5:19, Revelation 5:9, Revelation 5:19
- c) **Rejoicing** – Psalms 107:22, Philippians 4:4, Isaiah 12:6
- d) **Glorifying** – Revelation 5:12, Revelation 7:12, Luke 2:20
- e) **Thanksgiving** – Psalms 100:4, Colossians 3:15, I Thessalonians 5:18
- f) **Listening** – Ecclesiastes 5:1, Isaiah 55:3, John 5:25,
- g) **Doing** – Matthew 5:16, I Corinthians 10:31, Hebrew 13:16.

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



## THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD – PART 2

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

1. **Since Christ is the High Priest and we are priest too**, it follows that we share His responsibilities, doing His works and extending His ministry. Consequently, we shall share His blessing and reward also. Galatians 3:29, Romans 8:17, Titus 3:7, 17, Galatians 4:7, Philippians 2:15, I John 3:1, I Thessalonians 5:5.
2. **Priests are special people.** They are higher in honour and authority than ordinary people. This is more so when they are royal priests, because then, they are real power being on the throne. Exodus 19:5, Deut. 14:2, Deut. 26:19, Psalms 29:11, I Samuel 12:22, I Cor.1:26.
3. **As Priests, they normally wield tremendous powers;** not necessarily directly in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm. However, since spiritual laws are superior to physical laws those who understand and operate spiritual laws control the physical realms also. Ephesians 6:12,, II Corinthians 10:4, I Samuel 17:46, Hebrews 4:12, Revelation 12:11, Matthew 18:18.

## THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD – PART 3

### INTRODUCTION:

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

#### The Men we shall study are:

- a) **Moses** – Num. 14:11-21, Deut. 9:24-29, Exodus 32:30-32, Exodus 33:1-3, 12-17
- b) **Nehemiah** – Nehemiah 1:1-11, Nehemiah 2:9-10
- c) **Daniel** – Daniel 9:1-24
- d) **Samuel** – I Samuel 15:10-11, I Samuel 12:23
- e) **Deborah** – Judges 4:1-9, Judges 5:20-21
- f) **Esther** – Esther 4:10, 5:3, other include
- g) **Hezekiah** – II Chronicles 30:13-20,
- h) **Ezra** –

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

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

LESSON 050  
GOOD WORKS

INTRODUCTION:

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

1. **Good works are essential additions to Salvation for several reasons:**
  - a) They demonstrate the faith of the believer – James 2:17-18. We are of course not ignorant of those who are pretenders who “do good” while living in sin.
  - b) Certainly, good works are the will of God for us – Luke 10:37, Eph. 2:10, Titus 3:1, James 1:27.
  - c) Good works are acts of service to the Lord – Matt. 25:32-36, Col. 1:13, II Timothy 2:21
  - d) Good works aids the ministry of our Lord, i.e. Evangelism, particularly because lack of good works might frighten people from accepting the gospel – Matt.5:16, Luke 10:36, Acts 9:36, I Peter 2:12, I Peter 3:1-2.
  - e) Good works aid the spiritual advancement of the believer – Mark 10:13, John 13:14, I Cor. 9:6-15, I Timothy 5:25, I Timothy 6:18, Titus 2:7, Titus 2:11-13, 3:9.
2. **Good works are accessed on the Day of Judgement and are divinely rewarded** – Matt.26:6-13, Matt.10:42, Luke 6:35, Rom. 13:3, Rom. 14:10-12, Gal. 6:10, I Tim.6:18, Hebrews 13:16.

## LESSON 050 conts.

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

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

## WE NEED A REVIVAL PART 1

### INTRODUCTION:

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

1. **Who needs a revival?** When can I know that I need a revival? There are several danger signs along the pilgrims pathway that can warn him of the need for a revival. Some of them are:
  - a) When you pray less than before – I Thess 5:17, I Tim.2:8, James 5:13,16
  - b) When you do not study the Word as before – Jos. 1:8, Deut. 17:18-19, Ps. 1:1-2, I Chron. 22:12-13, Prov. 3:1-4.
  - c) When you sleep too much – Prov. 6:9-11, Prov. 20:13, Psalms 13:3-4
  - d) When you are depressed or sad – John 14:1, Ps. 30:5, Ps. 34:19, II Cor. 4:17
  - e) When little things begin to offend you – John 15:5, Jer.10:23, John3:17, II Cor. 3:5.
  - f) When your love for material wealth is overriding your longing for spiritual wealth, I John 2:15-17, Heb. 11:24-25, Gal. 6:14, II Tim.2:4.
  - g) When you overeat – Prov. 23:21, Phil.3:19, I Kings 12:19-20, I Tim. 5:6
  - h) When you easily become impatient – Eccl.7;8, Heb.10:36, James 1:4
  - l) When you begin to talk too much – James 1:26, Eccl. 3:7, Prov. 17:27
  - j) When you faith grows weak – Ps. 27:1, Isa. 43:2, Ps. 66:10-12
  - k) When you worry over little things – Matt. 6:25-34, Ps. 56:22, I Pet. 5:7

## WE NEED A REVIVAL PART 2

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 053

## WE NEED A REVIVAL PART 3

Text: Psalms 1:3

### INTRODUCTION:

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

1. A true spiritual revival is a time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Once a community has cleansed itself from idols and sins, the Holy Spirit moves in – Isaiah 32:16, Micah 3:8, Joel 2:23, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 6:8.
2. The Holy Spirit moves in as showers of early and latter rain, refreshing and in good measure – Joel 2:23, James 5:7-8, Acts 3:19, Luke 6:38, Luke 24:49
3. The power of the Holy Spirit is imparted to the revived Christian then overflow to the needy human as streams into the desert land is 35:1-10, John 7:8, Luke 6:19, John 7:38-39.
4. As a result of mighty demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, many sinners begins to flock in to the fold of God – I Cor. 2:4, Ps. 80:7, Acts 2:41, Acts 9:35, Acts 11:21.

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

## WE MUST HELP THE POOR PART 1

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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



## WE MUST HELP THE POOR PART 2

### INTRODUCTION:

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

1. **The Bible says those who help the poor shall be blessed indeed** – Ps. 41:1, Prov. 28:27, Isa. 58:6-11, Matt. 10:42, Luke 12:32-34, Dan.12:3, Matt.25:23, Luke 6:35, Rom.2:10, Eph. 6:8, John 4:36, Colossians 3:23-25.
2. **Several other blessings are listed in the scripture.** Some of such passages are – Prov. 29:14, Jere. 22:16, Prov. 19:17, Matt.19:21, Prov.14:21.
3. **The greatest reward of all is God himself.** To have Him as your reward is surely more than anything else in the world – Gen. 15:1, Isa.62:11, Revelation 22:12, II Timothy 4:8, I Peter 5:4.

## DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 1

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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

**DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1. Talking about prophecy, there are two types:**

- a) Direct, which is readily recognized and
- b) Indirect, which is blended with inspired preaching. There are also two major functions of prophecy:
  - i. Directive i.e. Specific instructions about a course of action –Acts 13:1-2 and
  - ii. Imperative i.e. By the laying on of hands and prophesying, the Holy Spirit imparts certain gifts or specific calling on the believer, I Tim.4:14. Hence, prophecy is not evil even though it may be abused – I Cor.14:1,22,39.

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

- i. The Holy Spirit Jere 1:9, II Sam. 23:2, Acts 19:6, Acts 21:11,
- ii. Evil and lying spirits, I Kings 22:20-22, Isa. 8:19-20, Matt. 8:29, Acts 16:17, and
- iii. The human spirit, Jere.23:16. It is important to note that God is against false prophets and warns us to beware of them, Jere. 23:31-32, Deut. 13:5, Deut. 18:20, Isa. 9:15, Jer. 2:8, Jer. 14:14, Ezek.22:28, Hosea 9:7, Micah 3:5, Zephaniah 3:4, Zechariah 13:3, Matthew 7:15, 24:11, Mark 13:22.

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

- i. Fulfillment – Deut.18:21-22,

## LESSON 057 conts.

- ii. Accompanying conditions – II Chronicles 7:14
  - iii. Agreement with the word of God – I Cor. 13:8-9, with Isaiah 40:8
  - iv. Public acknowledgement – I Corinthians 14:29,
  - v. Confirmation of something God has already told you – Acts 13:2,
  - vi. Spiritual witness – Rom 8:16,
  - vii. The purity of the vessel of prophecy, i.e. the life (holy or unholy) of the person prophesying
  - viii. The Spirit of the message – Revelation 19:10, Jesus is never unnecessarily harsh – Matthew 23:37-39, and
  - ix. The burden of the Lord – Isaiah 1:19-20.
4. **Just a prophecy for your consideration and meditation** – Isaiah 21:11-12

## DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 3

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DIVINE GUIDANCE PART 4**

**Text: Psalms 1:3**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

ii. There are false dreamers

iii. There are false dreams through the influence of Satan

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 060

## PSALM 8 PART 1

Text: Psalms 8:1

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 061

## PSALM 8 PART 2

Text: Psalms 8:2

### INTRODUCTION:

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

1. **God prefers to deal with “babies” than with the so-called “adults”.** He always reveals deep mysteries to babies” not to the academic giants. For example, praise is the greatest weapon in the hand of any Christian and it is babies who know how to use this weapon most. God strategy of war consist simply in choosing the despised and the weak to launch a surprise attack on His enemies, Matt.11:25, 21:16, Luke 10:21, Psalms 84:4-7, I Corinthians 1:27-28, II Corinthians 20:22, 31:2.
2. **True strength, unfailing strength, ever increasing strength comes from the Lord and only those who praise Him constantly have it.** Those who think they are strong will fall, but those who fall back on the Lord in their weakness shall exchange their weakness for the strength of the Lord. Our God always turns defeat into victory, death into life, darkness into light the defeated into victor. Human extremely in weakness is God's opportunity to demonstrate His own might strength – Isa 40:28-31, Amos 5:5-9, II Cor. 12:9-10, Psalms 4:4, 46:10, Amos 5:8-9, II Samuel 22:33, Psalms 28:8, Psalms 73:26, Exodus 11:7.
3. **When God decides to help you, He has ways you cannot dream of.** He has the ability to immobilize your enemies till He has fully established you. A good example is the testimony of Rehab, the harlot. You must remember that you cannot win the



## LESSON 061 conts.

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 062

## PSALM 8 PART 3

Text: Psalms 8:3

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

## LESSON 062 conts.

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 063

## PSALM 8 PART 4

Text: Psalms 8:4

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

## LESSON 063 conts.

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 064

## PSALM 8 PART 5

Text: Psalms 8:5

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

## LESSON 064 conts.

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 065

## PSALM 8 PART 6

Text: Psalms 8:6-9

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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



## LESSON 065 conts.

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 066

## THE NEW LIFE

Text: Psalms 8:6-9

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

## LESSON 066 conts.

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

**WHY GOD CHOSE YOU PART 1**

**Text: Psalms 8:6-9**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

- (i) fruits of repentance as evidence of your turning away from sin
- (ii) fruit acceptable to God, the type of fruit that those who had died with Christ and had arisen with him can bear
- (iii) fruit of the Holy Spirit which is in goodness, righteousness and truth and
- (iv) souls for Christ, Matthew 3:8-9, Romans 7:4, Romans 6:22, Hebrew 12:11, Matthew 13:8, Philippians 1:11, II Corinthians 9:10, Philippians 4:17, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:9-10.

## LESSON 067 conts.

- 3. In order to be able to bear fruits for Christ, there are certain conditions to be satisfied.** These conditions include
- (I) being in perpetual contact with Jesus Christ who is the living water
  - (ii) understanding Jesus fully, because He is the word of God
  - (iii) Being dead to the old life,
  - (iv) constant spiritual polishing and
  - (v) abiding permanently in Jesus Christ the Lord – Psalms 1:1-3, Matt.13:23, John 1:1, John 12:24, John 15:2, John 15:5, Philippians 4:13.

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

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

- (I) is a sign of worldliness
- (ii) a sign of misuse or disuse of talents
- (iii) disappoints the Master
- (iv) leads to Divine judgement and
- (v) ends in final rejection Matthew 12:22, Luke 13:6, Luke 19:20, Matthew 3:10, Hebrews 6:8, John 15:6.

**THE CRUCIFIED LIFE PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

## LESSON 068 conts.

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

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

**THE CRUCIFIED LIFE PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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



## LESSON 069 conts.

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

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

**LOVE NOT THE WORLD PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 070 conts.

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

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

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

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

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

### 3) LUST IS A DESTROYER, RUN FROM IT

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

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

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

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

**LOVE NOT THE WORLD PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1) WEALTH WITHOUT CHRIST IS WORTHLESS:**

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

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

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

## **LESSON 071 conts.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 072 conts.

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

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

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

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

**THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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



## LESSON 073 conts.

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### LESSON 074

## THAT I MAY KNOW HIM PART 3

Text: Psalms 1:3

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 074 conts.

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

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

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

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

## INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 075 conts.

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

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

### **3) ONLY THOSE WHO ARE PERFECT CAN DWELL IN HEAVEN**

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1) JESUS ALWAYS REVEALS HIMSELF TO ANY PERSISTENT SEEKER:**

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 076 conts.

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

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

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

**HANDS ON THE PLOUGH PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1. IT IS POSSIBLE TO BACKSLIDE, BUT IT IS DANGEROUS TOO:**

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

**2. GOD DOES NOT TREAT BACKSLIDING LIGHTLY: HE CALLS IT "SHAMING MY SON, DESPISING MY HOLY SPIRIT:**

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



## LESSON 077 conts.

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

**HANDS ON THE PLOUGH PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 078 conts.

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

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

**1) SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN THE EASY WAY:**

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

**b) GOD HAS A TIME LIMIT WHICH HE EXPECTS BACKSLIDERS TO REPENT:**

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

## LESSON 079 conts.

### **2) DIVINE JUDGEMENT ON BACKSLIDERS ARE EXECUTED FOR ALL TO SEE:**

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

### **b) ONE OF THE HORRORS OF BACKSLIDING IS THAT IT REDUCES A MAN FROM KING TO BEAST:**

One of the borrows of backsliding is that those who used to feed on the Living Bread now feed on ashes. They that used to partake of the King of kings table now eats beside the gutters amidst the stench of human and animal refuse. They become a shadow of their former glorious self, like a beast without wisdom or knowledge. Isaiah 44:20, Lamentation 4:5, Hosea 12:1, Ps. 73:22, Rom. 6:19-20.

### **3) WHEN A BACKSLIDER COMES TO HIS SENSES HE WILL REALISE THAT HE IS A PRISONER:**

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

## THE PEACE OF GOD

Philippians 4:7

### INTRODUCTION:

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

#### 1) TRUE PEACE COMES ONLY FROM THE TRIUNE GOD

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

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

#### 2) IF YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL WANT PEACE YOU MUST SATISFY CERTAIN CONDITIONS:

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

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

## LESSON 080 conts.

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

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

## THE JOY OF THE LORD

Philippians 4:7

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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



## LESSON 081 conts.

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

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

## THE LOVE OF GOD

Philippians 4:7

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 082 conts.

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

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

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

## THE MERCY OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 083 conts.

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

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

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

## THE GLORY OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 084 conts.

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

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

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

## THE POWER OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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



## LESSON 085 conts.

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

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

## THE WISDOM OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 086 conts.

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

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

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

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

**CURSES AND BLESSINGS PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

## INTRODUCTION:

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

### **1) THREE (3) NOTABLE CURSES: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES:**

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

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

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

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

## INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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



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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 2**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

**SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 3**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

**2) YOU CANNOT BE CLOTHED WITH GOD AND SINS SIMULTANEOUSLY:** In order to put on the ability of God, we must first put off certain things. These include among others (i) lusts of the flesh, (ii) lies, (iii) anger, (iv) wrath, (v) malice (vi) blasphemy and (vii) filthy communications. Initially, there may be some hardships encountered in the putting off process and as a result of it. However, after a while, as we gain more experience in the Lord, we become stronger, more stable, more settled, more perfect and more victorious. Then with our new-found ability of God, we can pull down strongholds of Satan in our lives, cast down wrong imaginations and pride, capture and hold captive any desire to disobey our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph.4:22-25, Rom.13:14, Col.3:8-10, I Pet.5:8-10, II Cor.10:4-5, Judge 16:24:25.



## LESSON 093 conts.

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

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

**SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS PART 4**

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

## LESSON 094 conts.

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

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

## STEPS TO GREATNESS

### INTRODUCTION:

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

#### 1. GOD'S DESIRE FOR YOUR LIFE

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

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

#### 2. HE CALLS YOU TO A LIFE OF SEPARATION

The first step to greatness as seen in the case of Abraham is "SEPARATION. It is a pre requisite to his choice and calling to greatness. He demands for identification. To prevent contamination so that he might be able to accomplish His purpose. He requests that we be separate from the heathens, Evil doers and associations.

Ex. 33:16: Jos. 23:7, Neh. 10:30,1, II Cor. 6:12-18. Neh.13:3, Ps11 :9:115,Isa.52:11 ,Eph.5:11 ,Thess.3:6.ITim.6:5.

#### Examples of those who complied and the results.

Dan. 1 :8.3:15-16, 3:30, Dan.6:10.6:22,28, Gen.13:1.24:35

INTRODUCTION:

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

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

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

## LESSON 097 conts.

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



**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

## LESSON 098 conts.

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

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

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

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