

701-800

DIGGING
DEEP

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THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN
CHURCH OF GOD

DIGGING DEEP

701-800

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NEHEMIAH (Part 1)

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-8

INTRODUCTION:



The remnant of Judah were in great need and in much reproach. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the gates were burned with fire. Even after the temple was finished, the walls were being built gradually and was long neglected until Nehemiah arrived at the scene to complete it. May the Lord Himself enrich us as we study this wonderful book in Jesus Name.

1. THE MAN: NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah was the cup-bearer of King Artaxertex and governor of Jerusalem after Zerubabel. The root meaning of his name is "Jehovah has consoled" He helped to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.

Neh 1:1-3, Ez. 2:1-2; I King 10:5, Neh. 2:1-9, Ez. 4:9-23, Esth. 1: 1, Ps. 8: 1, Gen. 32:29, Gen. 12:2

2. HIS CONCERN FOR HIS PEOPLE

When Nehemiah heard about the sad situation in Jerusalem he became very sad and uncomfortable. The remnants in Jerusalem were in great affliction and reproach, the wall was broken down and the gates were burned with fire. Nehemiah wept, fasted and prayed for the deliverance of his fatherland.

Neh. 1:2-4, 5-7, Deut. 6:1-9, Neh. 5:14-18, Deut. 30:1-5, Ez. 4:7-23, Isa. 63:16, Ps. 66:18-19, Est. 4:16, Zachr. 7:14, Ps. 8:3, Ps. 122:6-9, Mk. 9:29.



NEHEMIAH (Part 2)

Text: Nehemiah 2:1-6

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we started studying the book of Nehemiah by looking at the man Nehemiah and the concern he has for his people and his fatherland. Today as we continue our study of the book of Nehemiah, may the Lord richly bless us in Jesus Name.

1. NEHEMIAH'S JOURNEY AND ARRIVAL AT JERUSALEM

The same King Artaxerxes who issued a 'stop work' order during the time of Ezra, gave Nehemiah permission to go and rebuild Jerusalem with a letter of authority and a royal escort. On Nehemiah's arrival at Jerusalem, he delivered the letters accordingly and waited three days before commencing the real assignment.

Neh. 2:1-16, Prov. 16:7, Neh. 2:9-10, Zech. 4:6, I Pet. 2:9, Mt. 16:18, Jn. 10:10, Jos. 1:5-7.

2. NEHEMIAH ON INSPECTION TOUR

Nehemiah set out on the inspection tour of Jerusalem by night in the company of some men. The rulers, priests and even the Jews knew not yet his mind concerning the great assignment.

Neh. 2:12-16, Lk. 14:28-30, Mich. 7:5-7, Ecccl. 3:7, James 1:5, Gen. 37:5-11,12-36, Ps. 34:19.



NEHEMIAH (Part 3)

Text: Nehemiah 2:17-20

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series we saw Nehemiah's journey to and arrival at Jerusalem and also his inspection tour of the walls of Jerusalem. As we continue in our study of this book, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. LET US ARISE AND BUILD

After Nehemiah had encouraged the people and told them the reason why the walls of Jerusalem had to be built, they all agreed with him and said "let us arise and build".

Neh. 2:17-18, Isa. 30:6, Deut. 3:28, Jos. 5:9, Ps. 39:8, Prov. 14:34, Joel 2:19, II Sam. 7:5, Ps. 127:1, Prov. 14:1, Act 20:32, Isa. 35:3, Lk. 22:32, II Sam. 2:7.

2. THE GOD OF HEAVEN WILL PROSPER US

When Sanballat and Tobiah knew that Nehemiah and his people were serious and ready to start rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, they laughed them to scorn. But Nehemiah knew His God and gave the right answer to the enemy "the Lord, He will prosper us".

Neh. 2:19-20, Ps. 1:3, Ps. 73:12, Dan. 6:28, III In. 2, Deut. 29:9, Job 20:29, Deut. 32:9, Ex. 30:16, Ps. 135:13, Prov. 28:13.



NEHEMIAH (Part 4)

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-8

INTRODUCTION:



In the part 3 of this series, we examined how Nehemiah encouraged the people to arise and build and how he believed and prayed that the God of heaven will prosper His people for the great work. Today, as we shall proceed further in our study may the Holy Spirit Himself teach us in Jesus name.

1. THE HOUSE OF GOD MUST BE SANCTIFIED

When the work on the walls and gates was begun again, Eliashib the High Priest and the other priests joined the workers and built the sheep gate and sanctified it.

Neh. 3:1-33, Exo. 29:37 & 43, Lev. 8:10, Lev. 27:14, I Chr. 15:14, II Chr. 7:16, I Thess. 5:23, I Pet. 3:15, Lev. 11:44, I Jn. 2:5, Jn. 17:17, Jn. 17:21, Jn. 17:14.

1. YOU ALONE CANNOT DO THE WORK

The work of God is enormous. It calls for collective responsibilities and efforts. Nehemiah mobilized people and divided the work amongst groups/families to be done systematically.

Neh. 3:3-5 & 12, Mt. 9:37, Jos. 24:15, Mk. 16:15, Dan. 12:3, Eccl. 4:9, Mt. 18:19 & 20.



NEHEMIAH (Part 5)

Text: Nehemiah 4:1-9

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series we discovered that both the house and the people of God need to be sanctified for the Glory of God. We also found out that we alone cannot do the work of God as the work is too enormous, which calls for collective responsibilities and efforts; the main reason for which we have to evangelize.

As we continue in this study today, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. MOCKERY: THE ENEMY'S WEAPON OF DISCOURAGEMENT

Whenever the devil and his agents know that you are determined to do the work of God, they use mockery and ridicule as weapon of discouragement and frustration.

Neh. 4:1-9, 2:10, Jud. 1 :17-18, Prov. 14:9, Prov. 17:5, II Chi 36:16, Neh. 4:7-8, II Cor. 2:11, Hos. 4:6, Eph. 6:12.

2. PRAYER AND DETERMINATION: THE POWERFUL ANTIDOTES

Opposition to the work of God can be overcome by prayers and determination. Nehemiah's prayers against the enemy We motivated by his faith in God and his love for God's work are people.

Neh. 4:4, Jer. 18:23, II Cor. 10:3-5, Ps. 56:9, James 4:7, 11 17:20, Mt. 21:21, Lk. 17:6, Gen. 11:6, Mk. 11:24, Neh. 4:9, 17:21, Lk. 6:12, Acts 1 :14, 6:4, 12:5, James 5:16, I Pet. 4: Phil. 4:6.



NEHEMIAH (Part 6)

Text: Nehemiah 4:10-15

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we learnt that mockery and ridicule are the weapons of discouragement in the hands of the enemy and that prayers and determination of the believer are the antidotes.

Today as we continue our study in the book of Nehemiah; may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. FEARMAKES THE STRENGTH TO DECAY

The work of God requires both Physical, Soulical, and Spiritual strength. One of the strategies of Satan is to introduce fear into the lives of the believers so as to distabilise and make them lose their strength. But the Lord is always there to strengthen us.

Neh. 4:10-12, 13-14, Prov. 29:25, Heb. 2:15, Rom. 8:15-16, Heb. 13:6, II Tim. 1:7, Prov. 3:7-8, 10:27, Prov. 14:26, Ecc. 8:12, Isaiah 40:31, Ecc. 12:13.

2. THE ENEMY'S COUNSEL SHALL COME TO NOUGHT

No matter what the enemy tries against us, the promise of God for us is that their counsel shall come to nought.

Neh. 4:15, Isa. 8:9-10, Ps. 1:1, Acts 5:38-39, Acts 20:27, Ps. 33:10-11.



NEHEMIAH (Part 7)

Text: Nehemiah 4:16-23

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we discovered that fear can make strength to decay and that the counsel of the enemy against us shall always come to nought, when God is on our side. Today, as we continue in this series, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. WATCHFULNESS IS ESSENTIAL

While we work and pray, watchfulness is part of the work. The adversary is around the corner, not only prepared to steal, kill and destroy, he is also aggressively hunting for our souls.

Neh. 4:16-19, John 10:10, I Pet. 5:8, Jer. 5:26, Ps. 38:12, Ps. 91:3, Ps. 37:32, Neh. 4:9, 7:3, Mt. 24:42, Mk. 13:33, I Cor. 16:13, Col. 4:2, II Tim. 4:5, I Pet. 4:7, Ps. 141:3, Rev. 3:2, 16:15.

2. OUR GOD SHALL FIGHT FOR US

When our work for God is genuinely undertaken in faith and humility, in order to give glory to God and to advance His kingdom, using our weapons of the spirit, we can be assured that no matter how great the difficulties, OUR GOD WILL FIGHT FOR US.

Neh. 4:20, II Cor. 10:4, Eph. 6:12, I Tim. 6:12, Ex. 14:14, Deut. 1:30, II Chro. 13:12, II Tim. 4:7.



NEHEMIAH (Part 8)

Text: Nehemiah 5:1-13

INTRODUCTION:



In part 7 of this series, the Holy Spirit taught us the importance of watchfulness in the life of a soldier of the cross and assured us that God will always fight our battle for us.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord reveals more virtues to us in His word in Jesus name.

1. THE CRY OF THE POOR

God is not pleased with the rich who oppress the poor and those who covet properties of their neighbour or take advantage of others in times of trouble. God will always honour the cry of the poor.

Neh. 5: 1-13, Ps. 10:2, I Kings 21:2 & 3, II Kings 9:25-26, Pro. 28:27, Pro. 17:5, Col. 3:25, Gal. 6:7, Neh. 5:11-17, Ps. 34:6, Ps. 41 :1. Ps. 69:33. Mt. 5:3

2. THE GODLY ANGER

The anger at injustice and evil is a godly one. Absence of such anger indicates an indifference to the suffering of the innocent and the needy. However, the ungodly anger abides with the fools.

Neh. 5:6, Lk. 19:45, Ps. 7:11, Ex. 11:8, Ps. 97:10, Prov. 8:13, Job 1:1, Prov. 14:17, Ecc. 7:9, Prov. 103:8, Prov. 21:-19, Prov. 22:24, Prov. 16:32, Eph. 4:26.



NEHEMIAH (Part 9)

Text: Nehemiah 6:14-19

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series we discovered that God is not pleased with the oppressors of the poor as God always honours the cry of the poor.

Also, we learnt that ungodly anger rests in the bosom of fools. Today as we continue in our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. THE PRICE OF LEADERSHIP

Time after time, leaders have to make sacrifices to be the leaders God created them to be often, the greater the calling, the greater the sacrifice required.

Neh. 5:14, I Pet. 2:14-17, I Cor. 9:13-15, I Cor. 11:7-9, 12:13, II Sam. 9:7, I Kings 18:19, Heb. 3:5, Deut. 1:37, Gen. 39:6-9, Gen. 12:1-6, 22:1-18, Heb. 4:15, Lk. 22:44, Ph. 2:7-8, Ph. 2:9-10.



NEHEMIAH (Part 10)

Text: Nehemiah 6:1-9

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series we considered the price of leadership. Today, as we continue in our study, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach us and bless us in Jesus name.

1. THE WORK IS GREAT

God's people must have a vision of the greatness of the work to which He calls them. Even though our task or contribution as individuals may seem small, corporately as people of God, we are doing "a great work".

Neh. 6:1-3, I Chr. 29:1, Neh. 4:19, Ps. 111 :1-3, John 5:17, John 9:4, John 14:12, Mt.16:27, Rev. 2:23.

2. SATAN IS CUNNING

Satan uses his cunning devices to stop and distract believer's vision and aspiration about the kingdom. When he has tried all means and failed, he can use false rumour. But by great determination and unwavering faith in God, we shall realize God's purpose for our lives and our generation in Jesus name.

Neh. 6:1-9, Ps. 37:12, 32, Neh. 2:10,19, I Pet. 5:8, Provo 26:24-25, Jer. 51 :45-46, Ez. 7:25-26, Mt. 24:6, I Tim. 3:2, I Tim. 3:2, II Pet. 1 :15-16, I Tim. 6:12, Heb.10:23, I John 5:4.



NEHEMIAH (Part 11)

Text: Nehemiah 6:10-14

INTRODUCTION:



In our last study of the book of Nehemiah, we discovered that the work of God is great and that Satan is cunning, but with great determination and unwavering faith in God we would realize God's purpose for our lives.

Today, as we continue, May the Good Lord bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. BEWARE OF THOSE WHO GOD HAD NOT SENT

The betrayal of God and His kingdom by false prophets and brethren is one of the heaviest grieves that true servants of God sometimes have to bear. Extra care must always be taken so that we do not fall into the hands of people who claim to be working for God but in reality are agents of God's enemy.

Neh. 6:12-14, 10-11, Act 20:28-31, II Cor. 11:26, Ez. 13:17, Jer. 14:14, I Kings 18:40, Mt. 7:15-16, Gal. 5:19-21, Eph. 5:5-6, Mt. 13:24-28, 36-43, Gal. 5:22-23, Heb. 1:9, Act 26:18, I Cor. 9:19-22, Ph. 1:17, II John 9:11, I Tim. 3:3, 6:9-10, Mt. 24:24.



NEHEMIAH (Part 12)

Text: Nehemiah 6:15-19

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we examined the characteristics of false prophets and brethren, and we were cautioned to be watchful and prayerful so that we do not fall into their hands.

As we proceed in our studies today, we pray that the Holy Spirit Himself will teach us in Jesus name.

1. STARTING A RACE IS NOT ENOUGH, BUT FINISHING IT

Not all those who start a race do complete it. Many believers fall back on the way side for lack of commitment and dedication to the things of God.

Neh. 6:15, Heb.12:1, Gen. 2:1, John 5:36, John 17:4-5, I Chr. 28:20, II Tim. 4:7, Neh.4:15, Neh.5:14-19, Neh.4:6, II Cor. 8:6, II Tim. 2:3, Rom. 9:16.

2. ONLY THOSE WHO COMPLETE A RACE SHALL BE REWARDED

The prize of a race is not given to those who start the race but those who complete it well.

I Cor. 9:24, John 19:30, Phil. 2:8-10, Heb. 12:2, Acts. 20:24, II Tim. 4:8, Heb. 10:35, Gal. 6:9, Lk. 6:22-23, Eccl. 9:11.



NEHEMIAH (Part 13)

Text: Nehemiah 7:5-67

INTRODUCTION:



ast week in our study of the book of Nehemiah, we discovered that faithfulness is the price of stewardship and that the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few.

Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. WE SERVE A RECORD-KEEPING GOD

Our God is the Ancient of days. He is very good in record-keeping. Whatsoever any man does, whether good or bad has an account in heaven. He knows every detail about us. But if only we can repent from our sins and unrighteousness, the blood of Jesus Christ has the power to wipe off every bad records that may have been registered against us.

Neh. 7:5-57, Dan. 7:9, I Jn. 5:7-8, Job 16:19, Ps. 114:3, Rom. 1 :9, Mt. 12:36, Lk. 16:2, Rm. 14: 12, Rm. 4:9, Gal. 3:6, Act 17: 30, Heb. 8:12, 1 Jn. 1 :7-9.



NEHEMIAH (Part 14)

Text: Nehemiah 7:68-73

INTRODUCTION:

S In the last part of this series, we learnt that our God is good in record keeping and that the blood of Jesus Christ His Son is able to wipe off our bad records if only we repent and turn away from our sins. As we continue in our studies today, may the good Lord bless us richly in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. GIVING UNTO THE WORK.

For the work of God to advance, God requires from us not only our time and labour but also our substance. No wonder Apostle Paul said "I will very gladly spend and be spent. ..."

Neh. 7:70, II Cor. 12:15, Ps. 106:1, 118:1, Prov. 25:21, Mt. 25:35, Mt. 19:21-22, Mal. 3:10, Heb. 7:2, Neh. 4:6,16, Lk. 6:38, 2 Sam. 24:24, II Cor. 9:7, Jn. 3:16, Eph. 5:2, Jn.10:11.

2. REWARDS OF GIVING

Giving unto the work of God is a divine investment that can never fail to yield its divine dividends and interests.

Lk. 6:38, Mt. 10:41-42, Prov. 11:24-25, Acts 20:35, Mal. 3:11, Phil. 4:18-19, II Cor. 9:6, Gal. 6:7



NEHEMIAH (Part 15)

Text: Nehemiah 8:1-5

INTRODUCTION:



Last week in our study of this series, we discovered that giving to God's work is highly rewarding.

Today as we continue, may the Holy Spirit teach us and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God desires that His people to gather together for spiritual renewal and revival. Renewal and revival come from God and they are mediated through

- i. God's word
- ii. Prayer
- iii. Confession
- iv. Broken and contrite heart
- v. Turning from the sinful ways
- vi. A renewal and commitment to walk in God's will

Neh. 8:1, Heb. 10:25, Rm. 10:27, II Tim. 2:15, Prov. 15:8, Isa. 56:7, Jam. 5:16, Dan. 9:4, Rm. 10:10, PS. 34:18, 51:17, II Chr. 7:14, Rom. 12:2, II Cor. 4:16.



NEHEMIAH (Part 16)

Text: Nehemiah 8:6-9

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we examined the gathering together of the children of God as an avenue for spiritual renewal and revival.

Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy God bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. WORSHIP GOD WITH HOLY HANDS

God desires the adoration of his people and call them to worship him regularly and with Holy hands.

Neh.8:6, Ps. 29:2, 96:9, Lam. 3:41, Ps.24:3-41, I Tim. 2:8, Jn. 4:24, I Chr. 16:29, Ps. 22:3, II Chr. 20:21-22, Jos. 6:20, Isa. 1:15-16.

2. GOD'S HOLY DAY

The day of the Lord is to be kept Holy by His people. It is a day consecrated to God to serve Him in holiness.

Neh. 8:9-10, Lev. 23:24, Num. 29:1, Lev. 19:30, Ex. 20:8, Joel 2:11, Mt.12:10-12, Isa. 58:13-14.



NEHEMIAH (Part 17)

Text: Nehemiah 8:10-13

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we examined the blessings of lifting up of Holy hands in worship and the Lord's Holy day. Today as we continue our studies, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH

The joy of the Lord comes from our being reconciled with God and the presence of His Spirit in our lives. It is maintained by the assurance that our sins have been forgiven and that we are restored to fellowship with God and live in harmony with His will. This is the joy of salvation which;

- a. Acts as a fortress to guard a believer from troubles and temptations of each day.
- b. Supplies the power (strength) and motivation to persevere in faith until the end

Neh. 8:10-13, Lk. 2:10-11, Heb.12:2, I Pet. 1 :8-9, Ps. 51:12, Isa. 55:12, Jer. 31 :13-14, Ph. 4:4, Gal. 5:22, Acts 13:52, I Thess.1 :6, Acts 13:52, I Thess. 1:6, Acts 8:8, Rm. 15:13, Jam. 1 :2-3, I Pet. 4:12-14.



NEHEMIAH (Part 18)

Text: Nehemiah 8:13-18

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we discovered that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Today as we continue our studies, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us richly in Jesus Name.

1. UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF THE LAW

The book of the law is not only to be read, it must also be understood. Proper understanding of the book unravels the hidden treasures needed for our Spiritual development and progress. Our best teacher and interpreter of the law today is the Holy Spirit.

Neh. 8:13, Ex. 19:1, Ex. 20:1-17, Rm. 7:12, Ps. 1:1-3, Jos. 1:8 Ez. 3:1-4, Prov. 14:6, Hos. 14:9, Lk. 24:45, Jn. 16:13, Ps. 119:27

2. THE SPIRITUAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

The great commission is not only a New Testament command but also part of the laws of Moses. A believer has a mandate to campaign for Jesus whose manifestos are not only good news but also truthful.

Neh. 8:14-18, Ps. 105:1-2, 145:5, Lk. 2:10-11, Jn. 14:6, 21:24 Mt. 28:19-20, Rm. 1:16, 15:19, 2 Tim. 4:2-3, Prov. 14:25, I Cor. 9:16.



NEHEMIAH (Part 19)

Text: Nehemiah 9:1-4

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we examined the essence of understanding the book of the law and our duty as believers to campaign for Christ.

Today as we continue in our studies, may the Lord open our ears of understanding in Jesus Name.

1. SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM STRANGERS

God desires the fellowship of His children who are ready to consecrate themselves unto Him and separate themselves from those things (strangers) that offend Him (God).

Neh. 9:1-3, 13:3, Gen. 12:1, 35:2-4; Jos. 24:1-5, 20-23, II Cor. 6:14-17, Jn. 15:18-19, Heb. 13:9, Jude. 11:2 . Ps. 144:7, Ps. 114:1, Zeph.1 :8, II Tim. 2-19.

2. THE CRY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The cry of the righteous is Holy unto the Lord while that of the wicked is an abomination.

Neh. 9:4, Acts 1 :13-24, 4:24,31 :33, Ps. 34:6, Isa. 3:10-11, Prov. 15:9,29, Ps. 66:18, Isa. 59:1-2, Rm. 6:1-2, Prov. 7:11, Ez. 33:11, Isa. 55:7, 1 Jn.1:7.



NEHEMIAH (Part 20)

Text: Nehemiah 9:1-4

INTRODUCTION:



Last week, we examined those things God called strangers in our lives and how we could separate ourselves from them. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit quicken our Spirit of understanding in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. THE CRY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The cry of the righteous is Holy unto the Lord while that of the wicked is an abomination. Not only that, the future of the righteous is bright while that of the wicked is bleak.

Neh. 9:4, Ps. 34:6, Prov. 15:29, Isa. 3:10-11, Jer. 31:17, Rm. 8:31, Ps. 56:9, Acts 1:13-14, 31-33, Prov. 15:9, Prov. 7:11, Ps. 66:18, Isa. 59:1-2, Rm. 6:1-2, Ez. 33:11, Isa. 55:7, I Jn.1:9



NEHEMIAH (Part 21)

Text: Nehemiah 9:5-37

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we discovered that not only the future of the righteous is bright, God also hears his cry. We also found out that not only is the cry of the wicked an abomination to God, God is angry with him everyday.

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

1. BLESS THE LORD YOUR GOD FOREVER

True believers should not only bless the Lord their God when they have just received a miracle, His praise should continually be in their mouth forever.

Neh. 9:5, I Chr. 29:10-13, Ps. 34:1, Ps. 103:1-2, Ps. 145:1, Mt. 6:13, Ep. 5:20, I Thess. 5:18.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE HIS POWER AND MIGHT

God is Sovereign, Great and Mighty. Children of God should recount and acknowledge His greatness and sovereignty so as to make themselves and humble fear before Him.

Neh. 9:6, Isa. 40:28, Ex. 14:13, 15:2, Ps. 27:1, Ex. 14:21-28, Ps. 22:4-5, Ps. 103:4, Exo. 14:23.;24, Ps. 103:6, Exo. 14:19-22, Ps. 103:1-2, Rm. 9:14-16, I Sam. 17:37, Isa. 43:2, Dan. 3:17.



NEHEMIAH (Part 22)

Text: Nehemiah 10:1-39

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we learnt that we should always praise our God at all time as we acknowledge His power and might. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Lord Himself teach us and bless us richly in Jesus Mighty Name.

1. THE COVENANT CHILDREN

A covenant is a solemn agreement between two or more people with certain obligations expected to be fulfilled by both parties. Our God is the Great, Mighty and an Awesome God who keep covenant.

The Covenant children of God stand in special relationship to God and as such expected to keep their own end of the bargain.

Neh. 10:28-29, Gen. 6:18, 9:9, 17:21, Ps. 89:3, 34, Ex. 19:2, Kings. 23:3, In. -14:14-15, Dt. 26:9-10, Ps. 119:172, He 12:24, 13:20, Neh. 10:30-32, II Cor. 6:17, Num. 18:12, II Cor. 9:6-8, Deut.18:3-5, Num.18:26, Mal. 3:10, Mk.16:15-16, II Cor. 12:15.



NEHEMIAH (Part 23)

Text: Nehemiah 11:1-36

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we examined what a covenant is, the responsibility and blessing of a covenant child of God. Today as we continue in our studies, may the Holy Spirit open our hearts of understanding to His word in Jesus Name.

1. BY CHOICE OR APPOINTMENT

The work of God suffers reproach and setback today because there are very few men (people) who are willing to surrender themselves for the 'great commission'.

But God is looking for men (and women) who are ready and willing to lay down their lives for the course of the kingdom as the "Harvest is truly plenteous but labourers are few".

Will you be one of those who will say today "Here am I oh Lord send me:"?

Neh. 11 :1-3, Mt. 9:37, Isa. 6:8, Mk. 16:15-16, Mt. 28:19-20, Ln. 15:16, Mt. 20:16, Jos. 24:15, Deut. 30:19-20, Jn, 15:13, I Ln. 3:16, 112 Cor. 8:11-12.

2. THERE IS GREAT BLESSING IN SELF SACRIFICE

There is a great blessing and reward for those who willingly yield themselves up in obedience to do the work of God.

Neh. 11 :2, I Cor. 9:17, Isa. 1:19, 2 Cor. 9:7-8, Ph. 1:14, Jud. 5:2, II Chro. 17:16, I Chro. 29:6-9, II Sam. 22:47-50, I Pet. 5:2-4.



NEHEMIAH (Part 24)

Text: Nehemiah 12:44-47

INTRODUCTION:

In the last part of this series, we learnt that our offering unto the Lord should not just be regarded as the usual or routine process, it must be sacrificial, purposeful and also from the heart with joy and rejoicing.

Today, as we continue in our study, may the Lord Himself teach us and give us the grace to be the doers of His word not the hearers alone in Jesus Name.

1. THE PRIEST'S PORTION

The office of the ministering priest is a special one ordained by God. Children of God should not only recognize and respect this office but also bless it. By so doing they are indirectly blessing themselves.

Ex. 19:5-6, Lev. 8:1-6, 10:12, Num. 8:14-16, Jer. 1:5, I Pet. 2:9, Rev. 1:6, Ps. 105:15-15, II Kgs. 2:23-24, Gen. 14:18-20, I Sam. 9:7-9, Mt. 10:40-42.

2. GOD'S TREASURERS

God is looking for diligent and faithful treasurers. Those who are ready to spend the money of God for God and those who will be able to render proper account of whatever is committed into their hands.

Neh. 12:44, Mt. 6:19-21, II Cor. 12:15, Prov. 3:9, II Cor. 9:7, I Cor. 4:2, Mt. 26:10-16.



NEHEMIAH (Part 25)

Text: Nehemiah 13:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

S In the last part of this series, we considered what the Priest's portion was and the qualifications for being a God's treasurer. Today, as we continue in our study, may the Holy Spirit Himself teach and bless us through His word in Jesus Name.

1. CAUSES OF CURSES

Curses are terrible while blessings are pleasant and desirable. No rational person wants a curse but everybody wants blessing. However, curses would not just come without a cause. There are curses of the law, curses from Satan and his hosts, parental or ancestral curses, self-imposed curses and curses from God and His servants. Neh. 13:1-2, Prov. 26:2, Deut. 28:15, Gal. 3:10-11, Rm. 3:23-28, Gal. 3:13, Num. 22:6, 23:19-23, Job 3:1-8, Prov. 18:21, Jer. 17:5, Lev. 20:9, Exo. 20:5-6, Mal. 2:2, 3:8-9, Isa. 44:26-27, II Kgs. 2:24.

2. FROM CURSES TO BLESSINGS

Whatever is the cause of curses, they can be changed to blessings with the power of the living God who had redeemed us from the curse of the law through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son. But you have your own parts to play:

- * Come to Jesus the Redeemer.
- * Confess, repent from your sins and retribute your ways.
- * Renounce and break the curses with prayers and fasting

NEHEMIAH (Part 25) (Cont'd)

- * Pay your vows.
- * Witness for Christ
- * Sow seeds of blessings.
- * Remain ever obedient to God.

Deut. 23:5, Gal. 3:13, Jn. 1:12, I Jn. 1:7-9, Acts 3:19-21, Lk. 19:8, Mat. 21:21-22, Mk. 9:29, Deut. 23:21-23, Eccl. 5:4-6, Lk. 6:38, Prov. 11:24-25, Dan. 12:3, I Pet. 1:15, Heb. 12:14.

CONCLUSION

God has given every man the freewill to choose between curses and blessings. Choose blessings and not curses. Deut. 11:26-29.



NEHEMIAH (Part 26)

Text: Nehemiah 13:3-11

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we examined the causes of curses and how curses could be turned to blessings.

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

1. SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE MIXED MULTITUDE

God desires that His people separated from the mixed multitude in order to put a barrier between them (God's people) and the wicked practices of the unbelievers, worldly values and the ungodly customs of our society. Failure to do this will result to the loss of God's presence and all the good He has purposed for us.

Neh. 3:3, Ex. 12:38, Num. 11:4, Deut. 7:2-4, Hos. 7:8-10, Gen. 12:1, II Cor. 6:14-18, Jn. 17:15-16, I Cor. 5:9-11, II Thess. 3:6-15, Rm. 16:17-18, I Jn. 4:1, Mt. 18:15-17, Jer. 23:38-40, Jam. 4:4.

2. NEVER GIVE SPACE TO THE ENEMY

It is a dangerous thing to harbour the enemy. The kingdom bound children of God should always go angry with everything and anything that will bring insult to the name of their God and His holiness.

Neh. 13:7, 4:7-8, 13:1, 10:28-30, 13:5, II Chro. 29:3-5, Jn. 2:14-16, I Jn. 2:15, Rm. 12:2, 9, Gal. 1:9, Heb. 1:9, Gal. 6:1.



NEHEMIAH (Part 27)

Text: Nehemiah 13:12-31

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we learnt that we should separate ourselves from the mixed multitude and never to give Space the enemy in our lives.

Today, as we will be concluding the series, may the Lord bless us richly through His word in Jesus Name.

1. GOOD OR BAD TESTIMONY

Testimony is the proofs (witness) of a believer's faith. It is also of his weapons to overcome the adversary. God can testify of you people can give testimony about or against you and you can testify of God's goodness. But the question is, Do you have a good or bad testimony?

Neh. 13:15, 21, I Jn. 5:9-12, I Cor. 1:4-6, II Tim. 1:8, I Tim. 2:5-7, Rev. 12:11, Acts 1:8, 18:5, II Kgs. 17:13-18, Gen. 18:19, Job 1:8, Mt. 3:17, Dt. 8:19, Isa. 59:12.

2. GOD NEVER FORGETS

Our God is the best custodian of records. Whatever a man do whether good or bad, He never forgets. He rewards and judge according to the work of man.

However, if we would turn to Him and turn away from sin, our iniquity and sins will He remember no more.

Neh. 13:29, Amos 8:4-7, Rev. 18:5, Amos 2:9-13, III Jn. 9:11, Is. 43:25, 49:15, Ps. 9:12, Heb. 6:10, Rev. 2:5, II Chro. 7:14, Heb. 8:12.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA: A FRIEND IN NEED (1)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:



One of the refreshing truths we discover in our walk with God is His closeness and the communion He shares with us on a daily basis. This communion is made more real by the support He render from time to time. He is the God who is always there. Joshua would not have become a legend if not for the support of the Lord. In realizing our dreams in life and becoming a person of significance, we need the ever-present God by our side. May we experience the richness of his friendship from today in Jesus name, Amen.

1. THE BEAUTY OF HIS FRIENDSHIP

God desires and cultivates our friendship. He made us for Himself and we are made in His image so that we can relate with Him at His own Level. Since faithfulness is part of His nature, He keeps His own part of the friendship once you become friends.

Jn. 4:23, 24; 1:12; Rev. 1:5,6; 4:11; Ps. 100:2; Gen. 1:26, 27; Tim. 2:13, Heb. 13:5,6; Jn. 21:1-6; Acts. 7:55,56; 27:22-25; Ps. 37:1-8; Isa. 43:2.

CONCLUSION:

A friend in need is a friend indeed.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA: A FRIEND IN NEED (2)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:



In our last study we learnt about the beauty of the friendship God shares with us.

Today we will need to know more about this our friend in order to appreciate Him more, praise Him more and reverence Him more.

May He teach us in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHO IS THIS OUR FRIEND?

The Bible begins with the fact that God was there from the beginning of beginnings. He is eternal by nature. He possesses all abilities because He is the greatest. Knowing the Lord as He should be known is to strike the right chord in life.

Jn. 1:1-3, Gen. 1:1, Ps. 90:2, 4, Prov. 8:22-31, Jn. 8:58, Heb. 7:3, 6:13-18, Dan. 4:1-4, 34-37, Ruth 1:15-17, 17, 4:13-17.

CONCLUSION

Our friend can be trusted because He possesses enough ability to perform His promises.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA: A FRIEND IN NEED (3)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

S In our last study, we learnt about who our friend (God) is. We now know that He is the beginning before the beginning. He is eternal and ageless, has no beginning of days and end of time.

Today, we will need to know how deep His love is to us, in order to appreciate, praise, worship and reverence Him the more, Amen.

1. HOW DEEP IS HIS LOVE TO US?

Rom. 11:33, Eph. 3:17-19, Jer 31 :3, Deut. 7:7-8, Ps. 40:2-3, Is. 43:1-4, 54:10-11, Phil. 4:19, 1 Cor. 13:26, Rom. 8:35, Jn. 3:16, James 1:2-4.

CONCLUSION:

The love of God (our friend) cannot be quantified. It cannot be measured.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA DON'T ALLOW DISTRACTIONS

Text: Joshua 1:7-8

INTRODUCTION:



aving revealed Himself to us as the only friend we can trust, the One who is committed to us not minding the situation, our response should be that of gratitude and absolute loyalty.

Distractions, or situations that could cause one to turn to the left or right are real and they present themselves everywhere.

A. TURN NOT TO THE RIGHT HAND OR TO THE LEFT

Why do people turn from the straight path? Crisis, activities, achievements and worldly pleasure are some of the reasons.

Gen. 3:1-7, 9:20-21, 16:1-4, Exo. 14:1-4, 2 Kings 19:1-7, Num. 20:1-11, Jud. 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25, Isa. 40:30, 31, Ps. 80:1-3, I Kings 20:39-40, 11:1-4, Ecc. 2:1-11.

B. BUT THOU SHALT MEDITATE

To meditate is to mutter, muse, whisper. It is a most rewarding act of worship, of spiritual renewal, of mental refreshing and of divine communion. One who meditates in the word accepts its authenticity and inspiration. To meditate in the word is to turn the word around in your inner man and thoroughly digest it until it becomes part of you. The word of God is the food for our spirit-man.

Gen. 24:63, Job, 15:14, Ps. 19:14, 77:3, 6, 12, 119:27, 97, 99, 145:5.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA THE CAPTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOST

Text: Joshua 5:13-15

INTRODUCTION:



Life, as many of us are aware, is one big battlefield. It is full of challenges, which present themselves as obstacles, attacks and various forms of hindrances. But the Captain of the Lord's hosts who is our Lord and Saviour has never lost any battle. (Gen. 18:1-14, 32:24-30, Dan. 3:24-25)

A. THE BATTLE FOR JERICHO

Jericho represents the life-long dream of the children of Israel. For more than 400 years their fathers waited for its manifestation. For 40 years, they wandered in the wilderness until the generation who thought they would inherit actually perished. Now, they were at its threshold yet it was locked against them. So it is with many of us. Jos. 6:1, Gen. 12:1-3, 25:21, 30:1, 2, Exo. 2:11-15, Ruth 1:1-5, 16-18, I Sam. 16:13, 19-23

B. WHY AND WHEN WILL HE COME?

He comes to determine who wins and who loses. He will come at the right time, not a minute too late. Jos. 5:13-15; Ps. 18:48-50; 20:7-8; 33:16-20; Pro. 21:31; Isa. 31:1, 3:1, Sam. 17:47; Jn. 11:32-35, 38-44

CONCLUSION

Relax and let Him fight your battles. He is more than able.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Text: Joshua 6: 21-23

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study we considered the visit of the Captain of the host of the Lord and the battle of Jericho. We learnt that those on God's side will always win and that our Captain will not be a minute too late.

Today we will focus attention on the execution of the battle, in order to learn some lessons about serving the Lord. May He continue to teach us in Jesus name Amen.

A. DO NOT SPARE THEM (vs. 21)

The Lord instructed the children of Israel to destroy utterly everything in the land of Canaan. This is because of their level of degradation and corruption in the land of Canaan that time. God had given them space for repentance but there was not a change (Gen. 15:16). When He commanded that they should be wiped out, He had a good reason. He did not want His people to be polluted.

Num. 21 :1-3, Deut. 7:1,2,23-26, 12:29-32,13:15-17, 20:17,18, I Sam. 15:1-23, Ps. 66:18, Col. 3:5-9, Rom. 8:12-13.

B. THE BLOOD LINE. (vs. 2:18.6:17.22)

The spies told Rahab to tie the scarlet thread by her window. This thread represented the blood line. Anyone who stayed within the blood line is saved. The Lord is reinforcing that for us today. It takes obedience to stay

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA cont.

within the confines of the Lord's commandment all the time.

Exo. 12:12, 13, Lev. 17:11-14, Matt. 26:28, Heb. 9:10, Rev. 1:5, 5:9, 12:11

C. DOING THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME (vs. 22.23).

During a battle, so many things call for attention. A war commander would have his hands full. But not Joshua. He knew what to do and when. Serving the Lord in the time of revival may leave us at the mercy of the "tyranny of the urgent". Many believers today have substituted service for devotion.

Mark 6:30-32, I Kings 20:39-40, Jn. 6:28, 29.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Text: Joshua 8:1

INTRODUCTION:

She children of Israel suffered defeat in the hands of Ai because of the son of Achan. Achan was exposed, the nation was cleansed and God was willing to work with them again. Sin always invites defeats and God's displeasure. But the decision to purge ourselves of every form of sin would bring the Lord of hosts to our side.

May He teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

A. THE DANGER OF DISOBEDIENCE

Disobedience is the first sin in the Garden of Eden and what robbed Adam and Eve their bliss. Disobedience of one man robbed the whole of Israel of victory. Achan disobeyed God by touching the forbidden thing. Joshua disobeyed by not committing his way to God. Israel disobeyed by not praying for its leaders.

Jos. 7:1, Jud. 8:22-27, 14:8-9, 16-21, 17:7-13, I Kings 11:1-7, 14-25, 26-40, Jos. 7:2-5, Jer. 17:8, Ps. 2:12b, 146:5-7, I Tim. 2:1-3, Rom. 13:1, Jer. 29:7.

B. FEAR NOT

The only people who can hear "fear not" are those on the side of God. Though there is a 'fear not' for every given day, none is meant for the enemies. Those who are not on the side of God have many things to fear.

Gen. 3:9-10, Exo. 3:6, Prov. 29:25, Tim. 1:7, I Jn. 4:18, Deut. 2:25, 11:25, Isa. 14:3, Prov. 9:1-0, Ps. 111:10, Ps. 111:10, PS. 19:9, Prov. 10:27, 14:26, 27, 19:23, Mal. 1:6, Jud. 23.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE I

Text: Joshua 8:1-22

INTRODUCTION:

Jhe Book of Joshua is full of lessons for the discerning mind. Just as the children of Israel were poised against the enemies who were more in number and entrenched, In like manner, every believer is engaged in a spiritual warfare involving spirit beings that are many, highly intelligent and organized. But our victory in Christ Jesus is assured. (I Jn. 5:19, 4:4, 5:4). May the Lord of hosts teach us today in Jesus name. Amen.

A. "ONCE BEATEN TWICE SHY"

The adage above describes the reason for the strong determination of Joshua and his people not to allow their initial experience at Ai to repeat itself. Our life does not have to be a succession of failures. Always remember that those who do not learn from their history will keep on committing the mistakes of history. Jos. 8:1-3, I Sam. 11:1-27, 12:1-14, I Sam. 13:8-14, 5:1-35, Jn. 12:3-6, Acts 1:16-20

B. RETREAT IS NOT DEFEAT

When Joshua and the army fled before Ai the second time, the people of Ai did not know they were rushing into a trap. David retreated into the wilderness to raise an army. When God is silent and it seems as if nothing is happening, He has only changed His strategy. Jos. 8:14-18, I Sam. 22:1-2, Mark 5:17.

C. LAYING AN AMBUSH

As the man of war (Exo. 15:3), God knows which method would work in every situation. To ambush an enemy is to take the enemy by surprise at a time and/or a place he is not expecting. Ambushing is premised on what are the expectations of an enemy in a given situation. The opponent then stages a surprise. Jos. 8:2-9, Judges 9:28-41, II Chro. 13:1-7.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE (2)

Text: Joshua 9: 1-27

INTRODUCTION:



Deception is a strong weapon in all warfare, but the story of the Gibeonites is a classical example of deception in spiritual warfare. The Gibeonites were afraid that their land would be taken from them and they would suffer the same fate as the people of Jericho and Ai. The Israelites were a threat to the Gibeonites just as every believer is a threat to the kingdom of Satan. The Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the Israelites, and the devil is doing that on a daily basis.

May we learn how to fight and win in Jesus name. Amen.

A. ELEMENTS OF A DECEPTIVE SITUATION

There are some traits common to all deceptions. These include the deceiver, the deceived, the relationship that subsists, the purpose of deception, the implementation, and the result.

Jos. 9:3-6, Gen. 3:1-10, 4:8-12, 27:6-46, In. 13:21-30, Lk. 22:47-48, Matt. 26:14-16, 27:3-6, Acts 1:15-20, Jos. 9:27.

Conclusion: It is dangerous to be a deceiver.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE (3)

Text: Joshua 9: 1-27

INTRODUCTION:



ast week, we learnt about the various characteristics of a deceptive situation. The Advanced Fee Fraud scam, also called "419" qualifies as a classical example of a deceptive situation. Every believer in Christ must be conscious, discerning and always sensitive to the Holy Spirit in this end-time. (Matt. 24:10-13, 24).

A. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DECEPTION?

The Bible clearly declares that God knows all things and no deceit can be hidden from Him. Whatsoever a person sows, he shall likewise reap.

Job 12:16, 15:31, 31:4-6, Prov. 18:11, 26:18-19, Ps. 37:9-10, 16, 35-37, Heb. 4:13, II Kgs. 5:20-27, Matt. 27:3-6, Acts 1:15-20, Jos. 9:27.

B. THE SEVEN BASIC RULES

The following basic rules will help you to be at alert all the time:

- i. Shun covetousness in all forms. Col. 3:5, Heb. 13:5.
- ii. Seek for counsel from men and women of integrity. Prov. 11:14
- iii. Always listen with your two ears. Jam. 1:19
- iv. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:14-16
- v. Do not justify any shady deal with the Scriptures. Isa. 61:6-10 Rev. 3:7,8.
- vi. Remember that contentment is a virtue. I Tim. 6:6-10
- vii. Let the Bible speak to your situation every time. Jam. 1:22-25.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA LESSONS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE (4)

Text: Joshua 10: 1-11

INTRODUCTION:



In our last study we learnt about deception and the seven basic rules to follow in order to avoid being deceived.

Today, we will look at God's warning about entering into covenants with people. May the Lord teach us by Himself in Jesus' name, Amen.

A. DO NOT BE IN A HURRY TO MAKE FRIENDS

Friendship is based on a high level of trust, fidelity and commitment. God is not pleased with truce-breakers, hence, every believer must think deeply before entering into covenant with people.

II Tim. 3:3, Rom. 1:31, II Cor. 6:14-18, Jer. 7:4, Job 4:17-19, Ps. 11:1, 4:5: 11, Pro. 14:29, 21:5, 29:20, Ecc. 5:2, I Kgs. 20:28-34, 42.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA BLESSING AND CURSES

Text: Joshua 9:27

INTRODUCTION:



he Bible is a complete book full of blessings for those who love God and do His will, but would not spare others of necessary curses. Though the Lord desires the best for all, He has made, some people choose curses by their lifestyle and disposition.

The Gibeonites were cursed in all their generations because they were deceitful.

A. THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ARE CONDITIONAL

The Bible is a book of promises. These promises assure us of God's blessings. But to each of them is attached a condition. Fulfilling the condition is a prerequisite for receiving the blessings.

II Cor. 1:20, Matt. 7:7-11, Mk. 11:22-26, Deut. 8:18, 28:1-2, Jos. 1:8, Jn. 7:17, Matt. 5:3-11.

B. CURSES ARE ALSO CONDITIONAL

Your life cannot attract curses except you do things that magnetize curses. Hence you have nothing to fear if you are living right.

Num. 23:7-8, 20, Prov. 26:2, Deut. 11:26-28, Jos. 6:26, 7:25, I Sam. 26:19, Prov. 3:33, Gen. 3:17, Deut. 27:20-23.



STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA THE ENEMY OF YOUR FRIEND

Text: Joshua 10:1-11

INTRODUCTION:



he military campaigns of Joshua revealed a basic principle of warfare: The enemy of my friend is my enemy. Every believer is not just a child of God, but also a friend of Jesus (Jn. 15:13-15). Whosoever makes himself the enemy of Jesus is our own enemy as well.

A. JOSHUA'S DECISION TO HELP HIS FRIENDS

The Gibeonites had entered into an alliance with Israel. This included a defence pact. Attacking the Gibeonites then is an indirect way of attacking the Israelites. v. 6-7, Deut. 32:10, Zech, 2:8, II Thess. 1:6, I Sam. 26:9, Gen. 12:3.

B. WHEN GOD GOES BEFORE YOU, YOU WILL WIN

God assured Joshua that he should not be afraid. Hearing God in times of crisis allays our fears and assures us of victory even before we are engaged in battle. v. 8, I Sam. 30:8, Jud. 20:1-48, II Kg. 19:5-7, 35-37, Act.10:1-48.

C. THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU

God is not a passive partner. Once He is committed to a life, He goes all the way to show His commitment. He released His arsenal on behalf of the Israelites against the Gibeonites. He can do the same for you today. v. 10, 11, Job 38:22-23, Ps. 18:13-14, Ezek. 38:14-18.



PRAYER UNDER OPEN HEAVENS

Text: 1 Kings 18: 36-45

INTRODUCTION:



It takes only one prayer to open the heavens but seven prayers to bring down the abundance of rain.

Therefore when the heavens are opened, it is then time for serious prayers. May God hear us as we pray from now on in Jesus name.

1. THE HEAVENS ARE OPEN: IT IS TIME TO PRAY
Under open heavens, wise people pray the prayers of thanksgiving, repentance, restitution, rededication, showers of blessings, fullness of joy and complete testimonies.

P_s.118:1-5, I_{sa}. 55:6-7, I_{sa}. 40:3-5, I_{sa}. 6:1-8, J_{oel} 2:15-27, J_{ohn} 16:24, P_s. 89: 1.4 .



POWER IN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:



his scripture reveals the last assignment that the LORD Jesus, the Messiah gave to us, His Church. It also reveals His continuing influence over the affairs of this earth and the heavens over the earth. We must take time therefore to get all the details of this private and dear assignment of the LORD so that we will be able to accomplish our divine assignment.

A. THERE IS AN ASSIGNMENT

We require power to accomplish the assignment. The reason we need power is because we will encounter stiff and sometimes frightening resistances.

Matt. 28:18, 19-20, Matt. 13:31-32, 38, Matt. 13:47-50, II Cor. 4:3-4, Jer. 51 :20-24, Jer. 51 :25, Isa. 41:13-16, Jer. 10:11.

B. A FIGHTING TEAM MUST UNDERSTAND THE OBJECTIVE

It must understand what is at stake. It must be disciplined and committed.

Lk. 10:19, I In. 4:16, Matt. 13:50, Jer. 48:10, Rev. 12:11, Ps. 119:78,95,98.

CONCLUSION

You must be salt of the earth, not only a light of the world. And do well to notice the order of what the Lord said in Matt. 5:13. God



THE POWERS OF A CHILD OF GOD

Text: Mark 16:15-18

INTRODUCTION:



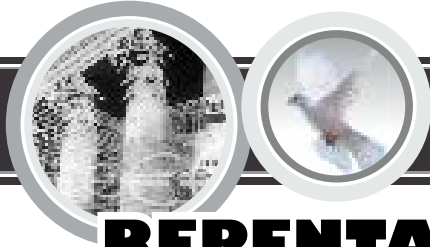
he Lord Jesus saved his disciples on the cross, died, resurrected and then ascended into Heaven leaving them behind. They were to remain and do some job dear to His heart. In order to do this job they will need security as well as Skill and Ability. All of these were encapsulated in 5 powers stated in this Scripture.

A. The Five signs are evidences of the operation of Five Powers working by the Holy Ghost.

Mk. 16:15-18, I Jn. 2:14, I Cor. 14:2-4, Mk. 11:22-23, Jn. 14:13-14, Rom. 12:14, Ps. 34:1, 30:11, Lk. 10:19, Mal. 4:3, Ps. 91:13 Heb. 9:13-14, 22. Jn. 15:5

B. Some of the Reasons why these powers will not work are easily avoidable. Hosea 4:6, Prov. 29:18, Matt. 5:3-5, Jn. 15:6, Jude. 1:20-21, Ps. 103:8

We have to be careful therefore not to play away our opportunities like Esau did because, invariably when we dispense facilities like these five powers, we end up crying tears of regret. The Lord will not give us tears of regrets in Jesus Name.



REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (1)

Text: Isaiah 55:6-7

INTRODUCTION:

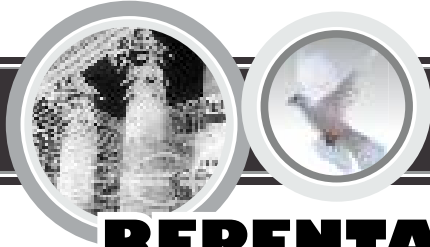


Three principal words came out strongly in God's message to us this year. They are; repentance, restitution' and rededication. We would like to study these words in some detail so as to understand them better. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name.

1. REPENTANCE

What does it mean? What are the benefits of repentance? Are there any dangers in not repenting? These and more we believe will be clear in this study.

Exo. 13:17, Jer. 18:8, Lk. 17:3-4, Eze. 33:11, Isa. 55:7-8, II Cor. 7:10, Gen. 6:6-7, I Sam. 15:10-11, I Sam. 16:1, Matt. 3:7-8, Acts 26:19-20, Eze. 18:20, Isa. 59:1, Ps. 66:18.



REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (2)

Text: Joshua 7: 10-13

INTRODUCTION:



In the first part of this series, we considered repentance. Today, as we look into restitution, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. WHEN THINGS STOP WORKING .. IT IS TIME TO FIND OUT WHY?

To retribute is to (i) find out what you are doing wrong or have done wrong and (ii) undo it.

Jos. 7:10-13, Hag. 1:5-6, Exo. 22:2-4, Exo. 22:7-12, Gen. 20:1-16, Lev. 6: 1-5, Eph. 4:25.

2. THE LAW OF HARVEST IS THE GREATEST REASON FOR RESTITUTION

Simply put, the law of harvest says whatever you sow is what you will reap. But if you uproot the tree before it can bear fruits, then there will be no harvest.

Gal. 6:7-8, Prov. 22:8, Hos. 10:12, Hos. 8:7, Acts 14:19-20, II Cor. 11:23, Rev. 22:14-15.



REPENTANCE, RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (3)

Text: Number 32:11-12 '

INTRODUCTION:

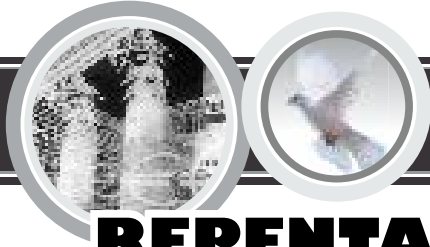


n the previous parts of this series, we had discussed repentance and restitution. Today, as we look at rededication, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS HOW YOU FINISH NOT HOW YOU START THE RACE

It is possible to follow God wholly, from start to finish. But if for any reason you had slowed down, you can always start all over again. Just be sure that you do not wait until irreparable harm had been done and that you do not trust your own ability.

Num. 32:11-12, Jos. 14:6-14, Jos. 24:15, II Kings 13:14-21, John 21 :15-19, Acts 4:18-20, Exo. 4:20, Jos. 14:7-12, Jud. 16:21-30, Num. 14:40-45, Matt. 24:13, Rev. 3:11, Zech. 4:6, Phil. 4:13.



REPENTANCE RESTITUTION AND REDEDICATION (4)

Text: Isaiah 60:1-4

INTRODUCTION:



One of the reasons why we need to rededicate ourselves to the service of the Lord is that no matter how well we are doing now, we can always do much better. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. ARISE CAN MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE

What arise means to the one dead is not the same as to the one sleeping. Surely arise means something to the one standing and another thing to someone running.

Mark 5:35-42, Matt. 25:1-7, Lk. 15:11-20, I Sam. 16:11-13, I Sam. 17:48, Isa. 40:31, II Cor. 3: 18.

2. YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN YOU ARE DOING

There is a difference between bearing fruits and bearing much fruits. There is a difference between crossing Jordan and asking the sun to stand still. You can do much better than you are doing now.

Jn. 15:2a, Jn. 15:2b, Jn. 15:5, Acts 2:41, Acts 2:41, Acts 4:4, Acts 5:14, Acts 3:1-8, Acts 5:15-16, Acts 9:32-35, Jos. 3:9-17, Jos. 10:12-14, Jn.14:12.



DIVINE CHAMPION (Part 1)

Text: Psalm 18:32-44

INTRODUCTION:



Who is a champion? How is a champion known? How much depends on him? Who then is a Divine Champion? These and several other questions will be addressed in this series. May the LORD bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHO IS A CHAMPION?

A champion is a representative of his people. Usually the best the people have to offer. Usually everything depends on him. Another definition of a champion is the one who is standing after the battle is over.

Ps. 18:32-44, I Sam. 17:4-11, I Sam. 10:21-24, I Sam. 17:8-9, Eph. 6:13, I Sam. 17:51.

2. EXAMPLES OF DIVINE CHAMPIONS

There are many examples of Divine champions. They include people like Moses, Deborah, Gideon, David, Elijah and several others. But among champions there could be champion of champions. Will you like to be a Divine Champion?

Exo. 3:1-10, Jud. 4:4-9, Jud. 6:11-14, I Sam. 17:32-37, I Kings 18:21-24, Dan. 3:14-18, Acts 5:12-14, Acts 6:5-8, I Cor. 15:41, Dan. 2: 17-23, Dan. 6: 1, Acts 6:8.



DIVINE CHAMPION PART 2

Text: Jeremiah 1:4-5

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we learnt that there are Divine champions and there are champions among champions. Today, as we continue our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. SOME ARE BORN CHAMPIONS. SOME BECAME CHAMPIONS

There are some Divine champions that are born as champions. There are some that became champions through their achievements.

Gen. 37:1-10, Exo. 2:1-10, I Kings 17:1, I Kings 18:17-18, I Sam. 16:11-13, II Sam. 23, I Sam. 22:1-2.

2. SOME HAD CHAMPIONSHIP THRUST ON THEM

Some Divine champions seemed to have become champions by force. They had, as it were, championship thrust on them. Are you a champion? What kind?

Gen. 12:1-3, Jos. 1 :1-8, I Kings 19:19, Est. 4:13-16, Luke 5:1-10.



DIVINE CHAMPION (Part 3)

Text: Psalm 27: 1

INTRODUCTION:



In our continuation of our series on Divine Champions, we will like to consider the advantages of being a Champion, why some people become Ex-Champions and the dangers of being an Ex-Champion. May the Lord bless us richly as we study in Jesus name. Amen

1. IT PAYS TO BE A CHAMPION.

There are advantages in being a Champion. Some of these advantages are fame, friends, honour, special treatment and being sought after.

I Sam. 3:19-20, Prov.14:20, II King 2:15, Acts 5:12-13, II Kings 2:19-22.

2. IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE AN EX-CHAMPION.

The Bible is full of Ex-Champions. Some lost their championship because of incomplete obedience to the One who made them champions, some fear men more than God and some loved this world more than God's Kingdom. In every case, we see that it is a very dangerous thing to be an Ex-Champion.

I Sam. 15:19-24, Prov. 29:25, Psalm 27:1, Lk. 10:17, Acts 1:16-17, Matt. 26:11-15, John 12:4-6, Col. 4:14, Philemon 23:24, II Tim. 4:10, II Tim. 2:4, I Jn. 2:15-17, Prov. 23:5, Jer. 45:5, I Sam. 18:6-8, I Sam. 16:13-14, I Sam. 17:49-51, Matt. 27:3-5.



EVANGELISM

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION:

Evangelism is called the "Heart beat of God" because it means so much to God. It was the very purpose why He sacrificed His Son, - John 3:16. This being the case, every wise child of God ought to be zealously involved in Evangelism. May God bless us richly as we study in Jesus name, Amen.

1. WHY I WANT TO EVANGELISE

A child of God should want to evangelize willingly, relentlessly and zealously. Some of the reasons for this are obedience to the Master, longevity, standing in faith, answers to prayers, etc.

Matt. 28:18-20, Luke 13:6-9, John 15:2, John 15:16, Mk. 16:15-18, Ecccl. 4:9-12, Prov. 11:30, Dan. 12:3.

2. WHAT I NEED TO EVANGELISE

There are 3 basic needs for evangelism:

? Abiding in Christ

? Power and

? Prayers.

Jn. 15:5, Phil. 4:13, Phil. 4:19, Ps. 23:6, Acts 1:8, Zec. 4:6-7, James 4:2, Jn.14:14.



EVANGELISM (Part 2)

Text: Matthew 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:



In the first part of this series, we learnt that since Evangelism is the heartbeat of God, any wise Christian will take it seriously. May God bless us richly as we continue our study, Amen.

1. THERE ARE CATEGORIES OF SONS

God has many children but they are in various categories. There are sons, sons in whom He is pleased, sons in whom He is well pleased, and sons who are also friends.

Mat. 3:16-17, John 1:11-12, Mark 3:13-15, Mark 5:35-42, Matt. 17:1-9, Matt. 26:36-38, Phil. 3:10, Matt. 26:40-41, Exo. 17:8-13, John 15:15, Ps. 103:7, John 13:21-26.

2. MARK OF DISTINCTIONS

How do we know to which category a particular son belongs? The secret is in a story the LORD Himself told us.

Matt. 21:28-32, James 1:22-25, Prov. 10:5, Luke 15:10, Isa. 1:19, II Cor. 12:15, John 4:34.



EVANGELISM (Part 3)

Text: Matthew 15:10-11

INTRODUCTION:



We have learnt that Evangelism is the heartbeat of God. That God has many kinds of children and that those whom He calls "beloved, in whom I am well-pleased" are those who take Evangelism seriously. As we continue our study today, may God bless us richly in Jesus Name, Amen.

1. THE JOY OF A CHRISTIAN IS TO BE FOREVER FULL

Since the joy of a Christian is rooted in the Lord and the Lord is constant, a Christian's joy is expected to be full, constant and forever.

I Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:4, Heb. 13:8, John 16:24, Ps. 16:11, Neh. 8:10

2. SORROW IS A DANGER SIGNAL

The joy of a Christian starts from the day of salvation and increases steadily as he shares Christ with others. But if a Christian backslides, particularly in the area of soul-winning, sorrow comes to warn him to repent soonest.

Isa. 12:1-4, Luke 2:10-11, I Pet. 1:3-8, I Thes. 2:19-20. I & *e, 15:7, Ps. 51:12, Matt. 26:69-75, II Cor. 7:10, Matt. 15:1-11, John 15:16.



EVANGELISM (Part 4)

Text: Exodus 1:7

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we saw that the joy of a Christian is embedded in the Lord and can be steadily increased as he or she wins more and more souls. Today, as we continue our study, may the Lord bless us richly in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. TO MULTIPLY, YOUR FRUITS MUST BEAR FRUITS

To be fruitful is to reproduce yourself. To increase is to make sure your fruits remain. To multiply is to get to the stage where your fruits begin to bear fruits too.

Exo. 1 :7, Gen. 1 :11-12, Gen. 1 :20-25, John 15:16, Exo. 3:15, Gen. 26:12-13, Gen. 22:15-17, Gen. 46:27.

2. GOD LOVES INCREASE, BUT HE PREFERS MULTIPLICATION

There are advantages in increase and multiplication. Some of these advantages are that God loves increase, but prefers multiplication; Also God hates barrenness seriously.

Ecc. 4:7-12, Ps. 127:3-5, John 15:26, Matt. 25:14-28, John 15:2a, Luke 13:6-9.



EVANGELISM (Part 5)

Text: I Thessalonians 5:17

INTRODUCTION:



There is nothing a Christian can do successfully without Christ. Surely you cannot win a soul without the help of the only one who can save. That is why prayer is crucial in Evangelism. May the LORD answer all our prayers today and every day in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. WHY PRAY AT ALL?

One of the first things a Christian, realizes early in his walk with God is that he has to depend solely on God if he is ever to achieve anything good. He needs an Ally who has all the powers to do all things, win all wars and supply all needs.

Jn. 15:5, Ps.121 :1-2, Ps. 62:11, Ps. 24:7-10, Jn. 14:14, Lk. 11:9-10, Jam. 4:2.

2. PRAYER IS THE KEY

Prayer is the key to solving all and every problem that we may face as a Christian: be it salvation, sanctification, Holy Spirit baptism, healing, joy, and surely soul-winning.

Rom. 10:13, I Thess. 5:23, Lk. 11:11-13, I Pet. 2:24, Jn. 8:36, Dan. 2:1-24, I Chro. 4:9-10, Jn. 16:24, I Sam. 18:6-9, Mk. 1.0:46- 52, I Sam. 1:19-20, Lk. 1 :37.



EVANGELISM (Part 6)

Text: Mark 12:18-33

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we learnt that prayer is an important key in soul winning. Today as we continue with our study, may the Almighty bless us richly in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

The most important commandment is to love God wholeheartedly. And you can demonstrate your love for God in various ways.

Jn. 3:16, Gen. 22:1-2,15-18, Mala. 1:6, Matt. 6:9, Prov. 3:9-10, Ps. 100:1-4, Ps. 108:1, Ps. 22:3, John 4:23-24, John 15:14.

2. THE ONLY OTHER IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

The only other important commandment is to love your neighbour like yourself. These two commandments are really all that matter because others are based on them.

John 14:20-21, Rom. 13:10, 2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 16:19-30



THE TRUE WORSHIP

(special Edition)

INTRODUCTION:



We should understand what it is to live in the temple of worship, performing every duty as to the Lord, most of our worship is mechanical in outward posture and routine, whereas we ought to worship the Father in the Spirit and Truth John. 4:24, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.

1. THE ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

True and acceptable worship can only be done in the heart and mind of a regenerated believer, God can not accept the worship of an unsaved person.

Philip 3:3, John 4:21-23, Acts, 10:4-6, I Cor. 2:14-16, I Cor. 1:18, II Cor. 3:14, Eph. 4:18, Heb. 5:14, Rev. 14:7, I Chr. 16:29, Psalm 96:9, Matt. 4:10.

2. THE MODE OF TRUE WORSHIP

Jesus Christ should be our hearts' love and praise in our worship. Believers should be conscious of what Christ did, remembrance of His atoning sacrifice, resurrection, ascension and His Priestly intercession should fill believers heart, the flesh should not be allowed to mar the sacred moments of spiritual worship.

I Cor. 1:29-31, I Pet. 2:9, Ps. 9:11, Heb. 13:15, Isa. 42:12, Rom. 8:1-2.5-6, I Cor. 6:15, I John 2:16.



OUR THOUGHTS AND THE GOD OF PEACE

INTRODUCTION:



he thoughts lay wires which presently convey the message, as you think so you are almost without knowing it. In this study we are going to talk on two aspects: (1) The importance of our thoughts and (2) Secret of the indwelling presence of the God of Peace, May the Lord bless us richly as we study at his feet in Jesus mighty name.

Amen.

1. IMPORTANCE OF OUR THOUGHTS

To bring the blessed dove to brood in the nest of our souls, our thoughts must be right. Though it is important because it has a reflex effect upon the whole character and because we naturally pursue our ideals.

Phi. 4:7-8, Acts 8:19-21, Prov. 4:23, Rev. 3:20, Luke 22:3-15, Prov. 23:7-9, I Chron. 22:19, Prov. 12:15, Prov. 15:28, Isa. 56:6, Matt. 15:19-20, I Cor. 6:19-20, Rom. 1:28-30.

2. THE SECRET OF THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE GOD OF PEACE

Allow the Six Angels i.e Truth, Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely, and good report to come into your soul. Give the entire control of your nature up their serene. God abides where the heart is kept free from evil thoughts.

Philip. 4:8, Prov. 12:19, Mal. 2:6, Deut. 25:15, Rom. 12:17, Col. 4:1-3, Deut. 16:20, Ps. 24:3-4, Matt. 5:8, Heb. 13:1-3, Rom. 12:10, Heb. 11:1-2.



THE PILGRIM'S ROAD SIGN

INTRODUCTION:

W

e must always remember that we are just pilgrims on this land, we are only passing through as we move towards home. In this study we want to study the Spiritual High Way Code, may the Lord bless us as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name. Amen.

1. SPIRITUAL HIGH-WAY CODE

Worldliness should be avoided because everything in this world is designed to side track us from our ultimate goal. Always stay in direct communication with your guide the Holy Spirit. Keep looking unto Jesus and study your spiritual high-way code.

1 Pet. 2:11-17; Ps. 39:12, 1 John 2:15-17, Matt. 4:8, James 4:4, 2 Pet. 1:4; John 16:13; Eph. 4:30; Isaiah 1:19; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:9; Acts 4:31; 1 Kings 13:8,14, 1 Cor. 10:12; Matt. 14:30; Heb. 12:2; 2 Tim. 3:16; Ps. 119:11, Ps. 107:20; Exodus 33:4.



MOVING IN GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

W

hen God is not moving according to our time schedule, we decide that we better do something to get things going: Only to end up creating many problems. In this study we want to see the danger of not waiting for God's time. May he Lord bless us richly as we study at His feet in Jesus Mighty Name.

Amen.

1. THE DANGER OF NOT WAITING FOR GOD'S TIME

Seed shall become slave, and Children from the wrong wives, taking the wrong decision which is contrary to God's will. God will choose another person and very soon God will be rejected.

Genesis 15:13-14; Gen. 21:10-12, I Sam. 13:12; I Sam. 13:8-13, I Sam. 8:5-7; Ecc. 3:1-8; Isaiah 49:8; 2 Corint. 6:2; Rom. 13:11, Ephes. 5:14-16; Isaiah 40:31; Ps. 37:5-7



THE DANGER OF FALLING INTO SIN

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:



It is far worse to sin after receiving Christ's Salvation, than to sin before knowing the Power of God to deliver us from sin. In this study we shall talk on (1) The Causes of Sin (2) The inevitable punishment of sin. May the Lord teach us as we study at his feet in Jesus mighty Name. (Amen).

1. THE CAUSES OF SIN

Through the tempter i.e. The Devil, pride leads to disobedience, satan^r standing against you, lack of knowledge about what is called sin.

I Chron. 21:1-14, II Cor. 11:3, Gen. 3:4, Matt.4:3, Prov. 13:10, Prov. 11:2, I John 2:16, Zech.13:1, John 13:2, I Peter 5:8, Hosea 4:5, II Cor. 2:11, Isaiah 50:8, Rom. 10:3, Eph. 4:18.

2. THE INEVITABLE PUNISHMENT OF SIN

God punishes sin whether it is in the King, his most anointed or the poorest servant. Because God uses you does not mean God will permit you to sin. When one backslides, he often has to pay very dearly for his sin, even though he repents.

Rom. 6:23, James 1:15, Acts 10:34-35, Ez. 33:13-15, Matt. 7:21, Joshua 7:24-25, II Kings 5:26-27, II Sam. 12:7-10



TIME

Text: Eccl. 3:1-8

INTRODUCTION:



ime is the most precious talent ever given to you and because it waits for no man, we must try to use it, for it will never come back after wastage. We pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us as we study at His Feet in Jesus Name.

THE MEANING OF TIME

The best definition that can be given to time is what you do with your time.

Luke 16:1-3; Psalm 89:47, Hos. 10:12; Rom. 13:11, I Cor. 7:39, II Cor. 6:2; Rev. 1:3, Rev. 10:6.



THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:



he story of Naboth as recorded in 1 Kings 21:1-13 is the story of a young Jezreelite who lived during the reign of King Ahab and his wife Queen Jezebel. It is not a super story but a biblical insight and truth, which every believer has one or two things to learn from. I encourage you to pay close attention to the study as the Holy Spirit of God will give you an understanding in Jesus name.

1. A REACTION TO EVERY ACTION:

In the first verse of our text, it is written that "It came to pass after these things". Certain things preceded Ahab's action. It was Ahab's first action that led to his desire for Naboth's vineyard; you must always have in mind that whatever you have done or you are doing, has a future effect.

1 Kings 20:32-34, 42-43., 2 Kings 4:9-10, 16a, 1 Samuel 2:17; 3:13-14, Pro. 22:6, Mal. 3:10-12.

2. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Naboth was said to be from Jezreel, he had a source like Jesus was said to be from Nazareth. It is important you know the land of your nativity. Ensure you know your spiritual origin where you could be attached with. Be constantly connected to heaven* your spiritual birth place, you are only located on earth for a divine assignment and so you are an alien to it.

2 Samuel 11:3, 1 Kings 17:1, Acts 9:11, 1 John 4:4-6, Jn. 8:23-24, John 15:19, John 17:14(a), Mt. 5:14, Mt. 16:15, Psalms 119:19, 1 Peter 2:11, Hebrews 3:1.



THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:



In our last study, we started a series on King Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard. We will continue in the study today. May the Spirit of the Almighty God teach you in Jesus name.

1. IN THE PALACE YET DISCONTENTED:

King Ahab was in the palace, and he had all the delights of the land at his command; the wealth of a kingdom, the pleasures of a court, and the honours and power of a throne; yet all avails him nothing without Naboth's vineyard. Discontent does not arise from condition but from the mind and most of the time it goes with deceit, lie, violence and murder.

Exodus 20:17, Ezekiel 33:31, Luke 12:15, Micah 2:2, Phil. 4:11, 2 Kings 5:21-27, Joshua 7:1, 21, Pro. 15:16, 1Tim.6:6, Heb.13:5.

2. WATCH THE STRANGE VOICE:

Ahab finally spoke out his thought concerning the vineyard of Naboth. Naboth heard a strange voice coming to him like a strange voice from the prince of the world today. The prince of the world is roaming about seeking for whom to devour, he is covetously requesting for what did not belong to him. Beware of his whisperings, beware of his sayings concerning your God's given inheritance.

Acts. 12:22, Rev. 12:10, Rev. 1:10, Gen 3:1, Mt. 4:31, Gen. 4: 1 Peter 5:8,



THE NABOTH'S VINEYARD (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:



On the second part of our study last week, we considered the danger of covetousness and a need to be careful not to yield to evil voice. As we continue in this study today, it is my prayer that every power desiring to make your vineyard a place of herbs shall fail in Jesus name.

1. REGARDLESS OF YOUR LOCATION; BE DISTINCT:

Naboth's vineyard was located at the back of Ahab's palace. You are in the world but not of the world. We are the called out ones. Naboth's vineyard distinguished him, just as the church and her worshippers that are truly living unto God is completely different.

Rev. 2:13, John 17:14-16, Hebrews 11:24-25, Eph 5:11, 2 Thes. 3:6, Daniel 1:8, 1 Samuel 2:11-12.

2. QUALITY AND THEN QUANTITY:

A careful look at Ahab's request shows that what he needed was the "yard" of brother Naboth, the land on which the vine is planted. Certainly, the vine will be uprooted; there will be no vineyard again. The yard will now become a garden of many herbs. King Ahab's emphasis were now on quantity, ephemeral and immediate satisfaction.

Judges 16:6, 2 Samuel 11:2-5, Judges 16:20, 25, 1 Samuel 28:7, Mt. 26:15, Mt. 3:3, 8-9, 1 Kings 19:18, John 10:10.



PERSONAL EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION:



One of the visions the Lord gave us is to possess the land for Him. In this study we want to consider one of the best ways of achieving this- Personal Evangelism. Evangelism is to be the preoccupation of every believer. I encourage you not to miss any of this study. May the Holy Spirit kindle the fire of evangelism in you as we study in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS EVANGELISM?:

The word Evangelism has a Greek root which means "announcing the gospel". The gospel itself means "good news". Evangelism could therefore mean "announcing the good news". The gospel is simply the message that Jesus, born of a Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, died on the cross and rose again. Faith in Him will enable a sinner to be a saint. The good news is not to be merely heard but acted upon.

Luke 2:10-11, Mt. 1:18, Mt. 2:1, Mt. 27:31-37, Mt. 28:5-6, Jn. 3:16, Is. 9:6, Rom 10:9, Jn.1:12, Acts 2: 36-37, 2 Cor. 2:15-16.

2. YOU'RE INVOLVED IN IT:

The expectation of the Scriptures is that every believer, once you have an encounter with Jesus is to be involved in the proclamation in the good news. Jesus gave the command to all the disciples and in the New Testament days, every one was involved. Every believer should be involved in taking the good news to those who needed to hear it. It is not only a minister or a clergy that should be left to it.

Mt. 28:19, Jn 5:15, Jn. 4:28-30, Mk.16:15, Acts 2:47b, Acts 9:9b-10.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: In spite of the fact that every believer is to be involved in this task, few of us are involved; what possible factors are responsible for this?



PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:



In the first part of this study, we considered the meaning of Evangelism and the need for every believer to be involved in announcing the good news. Did you personally tell somebody about the Saviour between last week and now? I encourage you to be involved in this divine assignment now. May you not be replaced in Jesus name. May His fire put you to evangelise to others as we study in Jesus name.

1. PASSION FOR SOULS:

Our involvement in Evangelism should go beyond resolutions because of the consequences of not witnessing. There is a need for us to develop a genuine passion for souls. Passion refers to emotions felt and it is the grief we feel in our hearts for people who are suffering. The soul of a person is worth a lot and the nature of God is in our soul. Obedience serves as fuel that makes an individual develop a passion for perishing souls and you need to also develop an eye that sees the crowd. You equally need to sustain the passion for these perishing souls and the key requirements to sustain it will include: Prayer and see the people in the light of God's word. Mt. 9:26, Lk 23:26, Mt. 9:36, Eph. 1:18, 2 Cor. 5:16, 2 Cor. 4:3, Eph. 6:19, Mt. 15:8.

2. EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM AND THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The good news is not to be merely heard but acted upon; the Holy Spirit however plays an important role in this process. The presentation is done by man, the Holy Spirit empowers the word; and the more reason the early apostles did not rush into presenting the gospel the moment they received the great commission, they remain until they were endued with power.

Acts 2:23, Joel 2:20, Acts 1:8, Acts 4:29-31.



PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:

In the second part of this series, we considered the relevance of passion for souls in personal evangelism; we reminded ourselves on the things to do to sustain and develop passion for souls. In our study tonight, we will be considering method to be used in informal evangelism. May His Spirit teach us in Jesus name.

- METHOD OF INFORMAL EVANGELISM: Jn. 4:4-42**
An unscheduled and unplanned setting in witnessing is referred to as informal evangelism. Often, opportunities of presenting the gospel come in our daily relationship with people; these people could be our relatives, neighbours and work place colleagues and they could be people we come across as we carry out our daily activities.
Considering an encounter of a woman with Jesus in John 4:4-42; this could be the method to adopt: A need to be in touch with unbelievers, learning to get it started, readiness to change the subject. Be prepared to make a claim for Jesus and don't forget to deal with the subject of sin.
Prepare for distraction and be ready to deal with it, present Jesus, give a challenge and give assurance.
1 Pet. 3:15, 2 Tim. 4:2a, 1 Pet. 3:15, Mt. 5:14-15, Lk 5:29,31, Jn. 4:4-7, 2 Cor. 6:14, 1 Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:15, Rm. 3:23, 1 Pet. 3:15, Rm. 6:23, Rm 5:8, 1 Jn. 1:8-10, 1 Jn 1:7, Jn 1:12, Rev. 3:20, Acts 2:37, 16:30, Pro. 28:13, 1 Jn. 1 :9, Acts 2:38.



PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Part 4)

INTRODUCTION:



We have examined a method of personal evangelism that was perfected by Jesus Christ, through which we can regularly share our faith. The method is rather informal. When personal evangelism is organised or planned, the presentation has to be formal and this is what we will be considering in the last part of our study today, may you receive a crown from Him in the last day as you become a soul winner in Jesus name.

1. NON-VERBAL PERSONAL EVANGELISM:

This will include witnessing through letter writing, video and film shows, booklets and tract distributions.

The written word has tremendous power and the distribution of the evangelistic message in the form of tracts or booklets is a very effective evangelistic strategy. These materials should be distributed carefully; with decorum that befits the Word of God, preceded with prayers and asking the Lord to empower the tracts through the Holy Spirit. Encourage the receiver to read the materials and once they are given, prayers should be focused to those that received them to read and for it to impact them. Prayers should be centred on finding a good church, people who will follow and disciple readers that decide to follow Christ. Acts 8:35, Rom.1:16, 1Pet. 4:11

2. VERBAL PERSONAL EVANGELISM:

This is best done in pairs. Those involved should note the following: prayerfully choose a theme, should be neatly and decently dressed, be courteous, present the good news in a language you will be comfortable and do a follow up.

Lk 10:1-24.



GOD'S OWN FAMILY

INTRODUCTION:



ou become a part of your human family by your first birth but you can only become a member of God's family by the second birth. God created man by His power but not every one is a child of God. (Mt.12:50). In this month of "New Identity", we will be considering God's own Family, ensure you don't miss any part as the Lord will bless you richly.

1. FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY:

One of the purposes, the Lord made man is to be part of His family. He is a God of love, He treasures relationships. He does not only desire a family, He needs it. Even though, you were formed for God's family, the only way to get into His family is by being born again into it. Your faith in Christ gives you a condition to be part of it. Eph 1:5, Gen. 2:18, 3:8, Mk 3:14, John. 1:12, 1Pet. 1:3, Gal. 3:26.

2. BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF GOD'S FAMILY:

The moment one is spiritually born into God's family, he has some astounding birthday gifts and these will include- The family Name, Privileges, Likeness, Intimate access and Inheritance.

As he grows in this family, he gets a share in family fortune. Here on earth, he receives "the riches of His grace ... kindness, patience, glory, power and mercy".

Even though in eternity he has the inheritance of getting to be with God, being completely changed to be like Christ, being freed from all pain, death and suffering, receiving a reward and being assigned position of service and having a share in Christ's glory.

GOD'S OWN FAMILY

1 John 3:1, Gal. 4:6-7, Rom. 8:29, 5:2, 8:17, Eph. 1:7, Rom. 2:4, 9:23, 11:33, Eph. 3:16, 2:4, 1 Thes. 5:10, 4:17, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rev. 21:4, Mk. 9:41, 1 Cor. 3:8, Col. 3:4, 2 Thes. 2:14.

3. IDENTIFYING WITH GOD'S FAMILY:

Healthy family has family pride; members are not ashamed to be recognized as a part of the family. Equally believers are to be publicly identified with their spiritual family.

A way to be identified with His family as commanded by Christ is to be baptized by immersion.

Water baptism for a believer is not optional and it is not to be delayed. It declares your faith in Christ, shares Christ burial and resurrection, it symbolizes death to your old life, announces your new life in Him and even your inclusion in God's family.

Mt. 28:19, Acts 2:41, 8, 16, 33, 2:38, Mk. 16:16, John 3:5, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, Col. 2:12.



GOD'S OWN FAMILY (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:



In our previous study, we were able to see that God does not only desire a relationship but He needs it and that one of the best ways to be identified with His family is water immersion (Baptism). As we go into the second part today, I pray the Holy Spirit will give you an understanding in Jesus name. Amen.

1. CALL TO BELONG:

Every believer is called to belong, not just to believe. There are no solitary saints in the Lord, we are created for community. We are put and joined together; we are connected to other believers. The church is the member of His body. However, being a member of the church means being a vital organ of a living body. You were created for a specific role. But this role can only be achieved if you are attracted to a living local church. Your discovery comes through your relationships with others. The church is indestructible, it will exist for eternity and it is God's agenda for the world.

Eph. 2:19, Lk. 5:10, Lk. 10:1, Gen. 2:18, 1 Cor. 12:12, Eph. 2:21-22, 4:16, 12:4-5, 1 Cor. 6:15, Mt. 16:18, Eph. 5:27.

2. LOVE, IN SPITE OF IMPERFECTIONS:

The moment you belong to the church, there's a high expectation but soon after, the expectation are not met, discouragement sets in and a seed of wanting not to belong to again begins to germinate. The church of old had their own imperfections and so don't expect absolute perfection; every church has its own weaknesses and problems. Divorcing your church at the first sign of disappointment might be a mark of immaturity. God has things. He wants to teach you. In spite of the imperfection; love. Acts 14:1-2, 5:1-10, 6:1, 1 Cor 1:11, Eph. 4:2-3, Col. 3:14, 1 Pet. 2:17.



PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL Part 1

INTRODUCTION:

For revival in the body of Christ to be real, it has to start from an individual. We must personally be ready for revival and renewal; it is this personal revival that will give birth to spiritual vision and according to the testimony of the Bible "Where there is no vision, the people perish". If the people of our own generation are not to perish and if the Church must be militant, then we must be ready to maintain a life of constant spiritual revival. May the Holy Spirit fire us for genuine personal revival as we study at His feet in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS REVIVAL?

The dictionary defines revival as the process of bringing something back into existence while renewal is said to mean giving new strength or energy to something. Revival in this context means divine visitation to a people which brings them from a state of spiritual apathy to a renewed and more active attention to righteousness, a powerful and widespread outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a people, God's visitation that brings changes in the spiritual and moral climate of a community; we are talking of an individual bringing back his spiritual life and receiving new strength for the master's service. Charles G. Finney, one of the greatest revivalist and evangelist once said that when he discovered that the power of God upon him was fading, he would go to the bush for a whole day to pray until the lost anointing returned. Katherine Khulmah said there is nothing as terrible in the life of a man who once had the power of God upon him but later lost it

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL Part 1

P_{s.} 85:1-13, H_{ab.} 3:1-2, E_{zek} 37:7,8, M_t 26:75, M_t 25:5, J_{ud.} 16:20,28, 1 S_{am.} 16: 14, J_{onah} 3:4-10, 1 K_{ings} 18:31-39, J_{oel} 2:28, 2 K_{ings} 23:4-20.

2. MARKS OF SPIRITUAL DECAY

When a believer begins to experience formality and insensitivity to the voice of the Spirit the following will characterise his life:

1. A mechanical spiritual life. He may still be engaged in activities but all will be in human strength. J_{ud.} 16: 20_b
2. Unprofitable, uninteresting quiet time 1 S_{am.} 28:6
3. Carnality in personal lifestyle 2 T_{im.} 4: 10
4. Loss of brotherly love and Christian confidence
5. Dissensions, jealousies and evil speaking 1 C_{or.} 3:3-5
6. Slothfulness in prayer L_k 18: 1

Conclusion: Consider who you were in the Lord when you started and measure it with where you are now, why not rise from slothfulness?



PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:



In the first part of this study, we tried defining revival and marks of spiritual decay. As we continue in the study today, I pray the Spirit of the Almighty God will awaken us from every act of slumbering.

1. **ERRORS CONCERNING PERSONAL REVIVAL:**
Ezekiel 37:7, 8 There was no life in the dry bones until breath of life came on them. The bones experienced a coming together, noise and rattling but these were not to be mistaken for true life. Equally the noise of singing and clapping, shaking of dancing and drumming, coming together in fellowship in a local Church is not to be mistaken for personal revival. The sin and flesh may come upon the dry spiritual life, yet the "skin" may cover it up. There is no revival without the breath of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 3:1 ; 5:1- 8).
2. **THE PRICE FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL:**
True personal revival comes from God through the Holy Spirit and the effects of a personal revival is response to fervent prayer of faith, spiritual refreshing like the morning dew, vision for missions, power for service, genuine repentance and conversion. God is still in perpetual search for a man whom He would put His Spirit so he can experience revival and help others to be revived. There is, however, a price to pay; which includes among others: Self denial, renewed consecration and fervent prayer with necessary confessions and restitution.

PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL (Part 2)

Ezk. 3,1:9.10, Psalm 85:6, Acts 8:4; 5:12-16, Ezk. 22:29-30, Mt.16:24, Romans 12:1,2.

CONCLUSION: Many are presently in the state of spiritual decay but this is not God's will for you. Are you ready to pay the price for true personal revival? God wants you to be the instrument with which He will revive His work at this end time; if others have paid the price, you can also do it.



PERSONAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL (Part 3)

Text: Hosea 10:12

INTRODUCTION:

In the second part of this study, we considered errors concerning personal revival and the price for personal revival. We need to remind ourselves of the fact that Christ's second coming is imminent and He will only come for a revived Church. As we go into the third part today, pay close attention as I trust the Holy Spirit to give you an understanding of His word.

PRAYER AND REVIVAL:

Matthew Henry said, 'when God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is to set them praying', Acts 1: 12-14. Successful prayers that will bring revival must have the following:

- (1) A vision for the need Ezk. 37: 1-3, Neh 1:1-3, Ps. 51:18, Ezra 9:6
- (2) React to the need Neh. 1:4, Psalm 126:5-6, Jer 3-7; this may include planning special days of personal and corporate prayers, sanctifying periods of fasting.
- (3) Intercede for the need. Ezk. 37:4-10, Neh 1:4-5, 11, Acts 4:23-24, 31-33. There is a need for intercessors to identify with their nation, community or church in admitting and confessing the wrongs done (Daniel 9: 4-14), and praying whole heartedly for divine intervention.



PERSONAL REVIVAL AND REVIVAL (Part 4)

INTRODUCTION:



In our last study, we considered the role of prayer in revival. As we continue in the study today, I encourage you to make yourself available for the end time revival. Remain blessed as we study at His feet in Jesus name.

PURITY AND REVIVAL

"Break up your fallow grounds" is heart preparation for revival. The apostles sank their differences, confessed their indignations one to another and became united before revival came. Acts 2:1,11.

God promised revival on condition that His people shall "humble themselves" 2 Chr. 7:14. Before you can therefore pray for revival your heart must be humble and contrite before God. 2 Chr. 34:1; 2; 27; 2 Kings 23:4-20; Isaiah 6:5-8.

To expect answers to revival prayers:

1. Idols must not be allowed in our hearts Ezk 14:3
2. All unforgiving spirit must be expunged Mt 18:21-35
3. Strained relationship must be amended 1 Pet. 3:7
4. Impure motives must be dealt with James 4:2
5. All unconfessed sins and restitutions must be dealt with.

CONCLUSION: To expect revival, God commands us to draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.

Heb.10:22



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

G

rowth is desired in every realm of human endeavour as it symbolises progress and self fulfilment. Life becomes static and retrogressive without growth. Spiritually; we need growth, we need to cease from being a baby Christian. As we start a study on Spiritual Growth today, I earnestly pray the God of growth will cause you to grow in Him in Jesus name.

1. THE ENEMY OF GROWTH:

God is the Author of growth, Jesus worked in concert with His Father, He did not only expect growth from us, He frowns at stagnancy but growth has an enemy - SICKNESS. It is health that brings growth; healthy living is only achievable when sicknesses have been tackled from the roots. Sin defiles, it corrupts and it's hazardous towards healthy living. What can therefore bring Spiritual healing from God is acknowledgement of spiritual defilement and consequent self purging. Gen. 1:28, Mt. 13:31-33, Mt. 25:19-21; 26-30, Is. 1:6-8, 1Sam. 15:26, 2Kings 5:27, Is. 1:16-18, Is. 55:6-7, 2Pet. 3:18.

2. THE NEED FOR CLEANSING:

God desires a fellowship with man but this could not be made possible without being cleansed from sin. Failure to cleanse ourselves separates us from both temporal and eternal blessings. God hates sin and sin attracts the judgement of God when it is not purged. God will not use a corrupt instrument to accomplish His purpose; cleansing will however restore a broken fellowship.

Heb. 1:13, Rm. 3:23, Ezk. 18:4, Rm. 6:23, Is. 59:1, 2, 1 Cor. 6:9,10, Rev. 21:8, Josh. 1:1,5, Is. 52:11.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 1)

3. THE CONDITION AND POWER FOR CLEANSING: Man-made efforts cannot effect cleansing, only God has the power to cleanse after all necessary conditions are met. He is the only one who has the power to turn a sinner to a saint. Christ death and sacrifice was for cleansing of sins and iniquity, His shed blood can turn a sinner a saint.

Recognition of your Spiritual condition and taking appropriate steps to rectify it brings about Spiritual healing. A sinner needs to acknowledge, repent, confess, forsake, believe and receive Him. A desire and thirst for cleansing must be there.

Is. 64:6, Is. 1:10-15, Is. 1:16-18, 55:6-8, Ez. 36:25-27, 15:53:4-5, Heb. 9:22, Jn 1:12, 1 Sam. 7:3-4, Ps. 51:2,7, Ps. 79:9, Rm. 3:23, Lk. 18:13, Acts 3:19, Lk. 13:3, 1 Jn. 1:19, Pro. 28:13, Jn. 3:16, 2 Cor. 5:21, Jn. 1:11-12, Eph. 2:8



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:



n the first part of our study, we considered an enemy of growth, a need for cleansing and the conditions for cleansing. As we go into the second part today, will you say there has been a measure of Spiritual growth in your life between last week and now? May you not remain in the same level as we progress in our study in Jesus name.

1. SPIRITUAL HEALTH AND GROWTH:

A child whose growth had been retarded is expected to experience rapid growth after the problem militating against growth had been removed. Equally Spiritual health is attained after cleansing. God expects us to grow in Fruitfulness into Christ, in Love, unto Perfection, in holiness, through "The Word", in grace, and the knowledge of Christ but the Spiritual law of growth is predicated on being attached to Christ.

2 Chr. 7:14, 2 Peter 3:18, Jer. 3:22, 33:6-11, Mt. 5:48, 2 Cor. 9:10, Eph. 4:15, 1 Thes. 3:12, Heb. 6:1, 1 Pet. 2:2, John 15:5

2. THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Every child of God must realize and appreciate the need to grow as growth is an evidence of freshness of Christ in the believer. To show the praises of God and be approved by Him, we must grow until we are conformed to the nature of Christ. Among the things that Spiritual growth will help to do are:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 2)

1. **M**ature and be adequately equipped for your ministry,
2. **P**revent boredom, confusion and dissatisfaction in our lives.
3. **B**e approved of **G**od, a workman rightly dividing the word of truth.
4. **H**ave desired impact in winning souls and maturing believers.
5. **B**e good examples to members of our church and thereby encourage them to grow.
6. **E**xperience a fulfilled ministry.

1Cor. 13:11, 1Pet. 2:2, 2Tim.2:15, 1 Pet. 2:9, Rom. 8:29, 1Tim. 4:12, 2Tim. 4:5-7



SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:



In our last study, we considered the need for Spiritual growth. In the study today we want to look at one of the essentials of growth. May you receive a heart of understanding in Jesus Mighty name.

1. DEVOTIONAL STUDIES: ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH

Just as children cannot grow without physical food, so also Christians cannot grow without spiritual food (the word of God). We must therefore study and meditate on the Scriptures daily in order to experience continuous growth in our lives. For real fellowship and intimacy with God, we need a quiet place, a good Bible, an aid for studying the Bible, a notebook and a pen. After reading and studying the passage, take note of important lessons, new knowledge about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, any mistakes to avoid, commands to obey, warning to heed and promises to claim and then pray on all the points. Apart from the regular devotional time in the morning and evening, sometime should be set apart each day to study the word of God.

1 Peter 2:2, Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15

2. THE 3DS FOR EFFECTIVE DEVOTIONAL STUDY

A life of discipline, diligence and determination is needed in order to grow continuously spiritually. God has given every Christian the grace to grow spiritually. Every believer must desire to grow in order to continue to enjoy intimacy with God and have a fulfilled Ministry. 1 Cor. 9:27, Prov. 10:4; 12:24, 22:29, Acts 20:22-24, 1 Cor. 2:2.



SUSTAINING YOUR NEXT LEVEL (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:



ruly, God has brought us to a new level. Many in time past had been brought to an experience of the next level but could not sustain it. In our study today, we would be considering Dt. 34:1-7 and from it we will bring out power to sustain your next level. I pray this will not be a level that will lead to your death in Jesus name.

1. GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF MAN:

Moses had walked with God faithfully before now, several miracles were performed through him but yet God's way of holiness was not compromised. "Longevity" is not God's way of keeping His promise.

Exodus 3: 1-10, 14:21; 17: 6; 24:15-18; Lev. 20:7, Lk 1:74-75, 2 Pet. 3:11, Acts 10:34-35, 2 Chr. 19:7, Col. 3:25, Ezek. 18:4.

2. ANGER: BANE OF DESTINY:

Moses had an internal adversary called anger. This robbed him of remaining at the next level. Anger can make you see the next level of blessing so close yet it will refuse you having it. To handle anger; don't let your emotion pile up until the day it will explode, submit your temperament to God. Ask daily for His help. When you come to a volatile situation, leave that scene immediately and totally blank your mind on the issue. Change the subject. Think on something else. Take time to pray in the Spirit. Make time to talk things over with the person. Ex. 2: 11-12, Ex. 34:19-20, Num. 20: 8-12, Ecc. 7:9, Pro. 37:8, 16:32, James 1:19



SUSTAINING YOUR NEXT LEVEL (Part 2)

Deut. 34: 1-6

INTRODUCTION:



In the first part of this series, we considered an internal enemy that could hinder a man getting to the next level. Our God is no respecter of any man, if you keep by His rule; He is determined to take you to the next level. As we continue in the study today, may you receive an understanding to His word in Jesus' name.

1. GOD IS CONSTANTLY FAITHFUL:

God is constantly committed to His word. Though Moses gave room for anger which led to his disobedience but in man's unfaithfulness, God will remain faithful. He is committed to every of His promise in your life. His words could absolutely be trusted, they are written for a purpose, they are to be kept and studied.

Dt. 34:4, Dt. 7:9, 1 Kings 8:56, Heb. 6:18

2. DO IT GOD'S WAY:

Considering Moses commitment to the Father's work; one would wonder why he should receive such a great punishment for his action. One important thing He is teaching us is that it is His business and He wants it done in His way and in His own method. He has different method of solving similar problem; He has new ways of doing things.



SUSTAINING YOUR NEXT LEVEL (Part 3)

Text: Joshua 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

W

e have considered four basic things in this study so far; God is no respecter of any man, Anger: Bane of destiny, God is constantly faithful and Doing it in God's way. As we round up the study today, may the lord enrich you.

1. HARD WORK: SECRET OF NEXT LEVEL

It is surprising to note that father Moses at the age of 120 could still go to mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah. He worked to the point of death, even though he was not able to physically get to the Promised land but that he could see it a far off was a new level to him. The next level to an idle man is poverty and shame.

Ex. 3:1, Ex. 17:9-12, Ex. 18: 13, Pr. 22:29, Pr.12:24, Jn. 5:17, 2 Pet. 3:14, Pr. 19:15, Zech 11:17.



CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:



n the first part of this series, we will consider God's kind of love and that love is very fundamental in our relationship with Him. As we continue with this series, May the Holy Spirit give you an understanding in Jesus' name.

1. SCRIPTURAL LOVE:

The scriptural love that can sustain the Christian life is not erotic love (EROS), nor likeness (PHILEO), but love by faith (AGAPE). It is God's kind of love.

It is the love that seeks the welfare of all, and works no ill. It seeks opportunity to do good to all, especially those of the household of faith. You have to love fervently, with a pure heart and as brethren.

1 Cor. 13:1-8, Rom. 15:2, Rom. 13:8-10, Gal. 6:10, 1 Pet. 1:22, 1 Pet. 3:8.

2. THE PREREQUISITES SCRIPTURAL LOVE:

The natural man cannot love in God's way. Newness of life in Christ, purity of life and walking in the Spirit are the basic prerequisites for scriptural love.

II Cor. 5:17, 1 Jn. 4:7-8, 16, Dt. 30:6, 1 Tim. 1:5, Rom. 8:5-8, Gal. 5:16-22.



CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:

Christ's unparalleled teaching and exemplary life centre on forgiveness and love. These two form the major building block of Christian faith and practice. God has set the example of true and genuine forgiveness by forgiving us our sins, when we come to Him in repentance. As Christ has done, He commands believers to follow in His steps.

1. CONFIRMATION OF SCRIPTURES CONCERNING OFFENCES/ HURTS

It is abundantly stated in the Scriptures that believers can offend one another even while living right in the sight of God. Some of our actions that may not come under God's condemnation may become offence to some in God's household. Some offences come when there's

1. Lack of consideration for one another
2. Continuous contention without complete knowledge
3. Careless and unguarded speeches

When we are thus offended, what must we do?

Mt. 18:15, 1 Cor. 6:1, Eph. 4:32, Lk 17:3-5. Mt. 20:24, James 3:2

2. CHRIST'S COMMAND TO THE OFFENDED

What brings joy, favour and continuity to our Christian relationship is the opportunity to experience the grace of forgiveness from Christ and also the grace to do same to those who might have offended us.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 2)

Christ has established for us scriptural principles for treating offending brethren. These principles must be carried out in the attitude and in an atmosphere of prayer, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Mt. 5:39-46, Mt. 6:12,14,15, 18:21-22, Lk 6:35-37, Rom. 12:14, 17,19-21, Mk. 11 :25-26, Eph. 4:3.



CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we considered confirmation of scriptures concerning offences and Christ's command to the offended. We will continue in this study today and I pray the Almighty God will give you an understanding heart in Jesus name.

1. CASES OF COMPLETE FORGIVENESS AND LOVE TOWARDS THE OFFENDER

- (a) JOSEPH forgave his brethren Gen.45:5-15; 50:19-21
- (b) MOSES forgave the Israelites Ex. 32:4-14,31-34
- (b) DAVID forgave Saul 1 Sam. 24:1-22; 2 Sam. 9:1-13
- (c) SOLOMON forgave Adonijah. 1Kings 1:41-53
- (d) The PROPHET forgave Jeroboam. 1 Kings 13:1-6
- (e) STEPHEN forgave his persecutors Acts 7:54-60.
- (f) JESUS forgave his enemies Luke 23:34

2. EVIDENCE OF ABSOLUTE FORGIVENESS

There should be clear evidence of absolute forgiveness and love towards the offender as demonstrated by the following:

1. Records of wrong doing should not be kept. Jer. 31:34
2. Intercede for the offender to prevent God's judgement.
Num.12:1-13.
3. Restore withdrawn privileges and relationship. Prov 24:17, 29
4. Not rendering evil for evil.



CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 4)

INTRODUCTION:



From past studies, we have learnt that Love is the foundation of our Christian faith and Christian homes. The word of God says "For God so love the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Whenever this Christian treasure is manifested in the home and in the church, Christ is exalted and God glorified, and the brethren are fulfilled in their Christian calling.

IMPEDIMENTS TO LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOME AND IN THE CHURCH.

(A) IN THE HOME.

- ◆ Lack of sacrificial love, mutual trust and understanding between the couple. Eph. 5:25,22,33; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 3:1-12.
- ◆ Failure to keep to God's established standard for the home i.e. wife's submission to the husband; selfless love to the wife at all times. Ph. 2:4, Eph.5:22-33.
- ◆ Lack of respect and honour for one another. 1 Peter 3: 1-9
- ◆ Unholy, sinful behaviour- bitterness, rudeness, selfishness, adultery, unclean language. Col. 3:18,19, Eph. 4: 31,32.
- ◆ Unkind, criticism, impatience, nagging, lack of appreciation and consideration for others. 1 Cor. 7:32-34.
- ◆ Infiltration of third party, in-laws, relations. Gen. 2:24.
- ◆ Failure of husband in providing for the family. 1 Tim.5:8.
- ◆ Prayerlessness and failure to live by God's word. Mat.18:19.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 4)

- ◆ Unseen forces. Gen. 3:1-12, Luke 22:1-6

(B) IN THE CHURCH

- ◆ Gossiping, backbiting, tale bearing and spreading bad news about other brethren. Rom. 1:28-32.
- ◆ Unkind criticism, lack of love and consideration for the suffering and the afflicted. Titus 3:2, Provo 22:13
- ◆ Using personal secret revealed to the minister in preaching topic, illustrations and examples.
- ◆ Lack of Bible based hospitality and brotherly affection. False doctrine and failure to keep to the established truth. Mt. 7:15,
- ◆ Sin. Eph.5:11,12.



CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP (Part 5)

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this study, we considered impediments to love and fellowship in the home and in the Church. We will be rounding up this study today; we encourage you to ensure you do everything possible to promote love both in the Church and at home.

1. REQUIREMENTS OF LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOME AND IN THE CHURCH

There are basic factors that could create an atmosphere of love and fellowship in the home and in the Church.

These are:

- (a) Keeping Christ in the centre: The secret of true love and fellowship is union with Christ and total submission to His will. Psalm 27:1, Proverbs 3:6.
- (b) Complete obedience to God's commandment. Ps. 119: 1-3, 10-12, 16, 140; Jn. 14: 23,24; Acts 2:42.
- (c) Corporate and individual prayers affect love and fellowship. Prayers keep brethren in unity but it has to be from a clean heart. Mt.18:19, Acts 4:23-32.
- (d) Sacrificial giving, sharing and affection for one another. Love is not possessive but shares with the needy. Attendance of house fellowship, finding time for one another and staying together will be important. Acts 21:41-47, Acts 4:32-35, Jn. 3:16-18.
- (e) Partnership Evangelism. It creates an atmosphere of love and friendship among members of the same team Lk. 10:1, Mk.6:7,12; Acts 13:1-4.



JOSHUA'S GENERATION: ONE THAT IS NOT AFRAID OF CHALLENGE

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION:



God encouraged Joshua in the challenges of life and ministry. II Cor. 3:5, Phi. 4:13, Isa. 30:6. Moses generation is gone, we are in the generation of Joshua which means "Jehovah is salvation". (The same meaning of Jesus). Matt. 1:21

1. GOD'S MESSAGES OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO JOSHUA

He will be no slave to anyone and he will possess his possession and that God will be for him, He was unstoppable Joshua 1:3, Isa. 54:17, Deut. 28:13, Obadiah 1:17, Rom. 8:31, Matt. 1:23, II Cor. 10:3-5.

ii) God will expand his coast, and he will recover all the blessing God has slated for him because God will give him victory Jos. 1:4-5, I Sam. 30:8, Rom. 8:7-9, Gen. 12:1-3.

iii) God told Joshua to be strong and of good courage. You cannot face the challenges of this generation, if you are fearful. Fear God and your enemies will fear you. Joshua 1:6-7, Psalm 27:1-3, I Sam. 17:45-48, Psalm 119:63, Matt. 10:28, Psalm 23:4, Ecc. 1:12-13.

2. THE THINGS JOSHUA DID TO FACE THE CHALLENGES

i). He meditates in the word of God day and night, by doing this he will avoid spiritual dryness and be approved of God. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, II Tim. 2:15, Phil. 3:10, Daniel 11:32, John 17:17, I Thess. 4:13.

ii). He humble himself for the grace of God to abound. By this we must pray, because we need the grace to face the challenges to equip us for the race set before.

JOSHUA'S GENERATION: ONE THAT IS NOT AFRAID OF CHALLENGE

Text: Joshua 1:5

In order for us to have the shock absorber to face mountain confronting us, we should be able to perform up to the expectation God required from us. I Peter 5:5, I Cor. 15:10, Heb. 4:16, Zech. 4:7, Luke 18:1, I Thess 5:17.

CHALLENGES OF THIS GENERATION

- A) There is a lot of crimes in our society or in this generation that shows this is the end time. To help the situation as Joshua generation. We must reach the unreached with the gospel of Christ. Truly the field is ripe for harvest and failure to preach shows we are selfish II Tim. 3:1-5 Jeremiah 8:20, I Cor. 9:16, II kings 7:9, Ezek. 33:8-9.
- B) We must go from glory to greater glory. Thereby bring down Gods glory to our generation, how do we do this? With open face* sincerity, no pretence or hypocrisy and you should remove your mask II Cor. 3: 18, II Cor.3: 13.
- C) Beholding which means you must not be spiritual blind. Acts. 26:19, II kings 6:15-17, you must believe in change because you either change or decay e.g Peter said No Lord because he taught he knows better than God. Acts. 10:13-15.

CONCLUSION: God gave all it will take to Joshua and he was victorious. He is willing to do more than He did for Joshua. If only we are willing and obedient. Isa. 1: 19.



EXCEPT THE CORN DIE

Text: John 12:24-25

INTRODUCTION:



We want to look at the number one enemy of our divine liberty and how effectively it can be overcome. May the Lord Almighty teach us in Jesus Name. Amen.

1. THE NEED TO PLACE THE ADAMIC NATURE

A Christian can only be fruitful in the degree that he dies to self. What Christ requires of us is not only yielding our soul to Him for salvation, but the yielding of our complete ego that He may give us abundant life. As Christian, we have two natures, the carnal man is against the things of the spirit of God.

1 Cor. 15:36, Gal. 5:19-21, Phil. 3:7-8, Rom. 6:11, Col. 3:3, 1 Kings 13:4-6, Rom. 7:5-6, Rom. 7:23, 1 Cor. 2:13-14, Matt. 16:23.

2. THE SECRET OF VICTORY OVER ADAMIC NATURE

It is getting rid of the flesh and putting on the new man, i.e. To be crucified daily, there are three crucifixions, the body of sin must be destroyed, spiritual circumcision must be done, by these the fruits of the spirit will manifest.

Eph. 4:22-24, 1 Cor. 9:27, Gal. 6:14, Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:6, Col. 2:11, Rom. 6:18, Rom. 8:13-14, Phil. 3:3, Gal. 5:22-23.



IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 1)

Text: Psalms 16:5-11

INTRODUCTION:



od has promised 'His Presence'. It will not be out of place for us to know what are in 'IN HIS PRESENCE' and how to enjoy God's presence to the fullest this month. We will begin our study in this New Year, with taking a look at two people who enjoyed 'His Presence'. May the Lord count us worthy even today to continual enjoy 'His Presence'.

A. DAVID AS A CASE STUDY

David enjoyed His presence. No wonder he concluded as follows, that

- i. His inheritance was of the Lord. Ps 16:5a | Sam 16:4-13.
- ii. His overwhelming blessing was from the Lord, Ps 16:5b, Ps.23:5
- iii. The breakthrough he enjoyed was from the Lord. Ps. 16:6a, 1 Sam. 17:33-37,45-47.
- iv. Goodly heritage that he had came from Him. Ps 16:6b
- v. He enjoyed good counsel & guidance Ps. 16:7a- Ps 34:20 Ps. 25:15, 1 Sam 30:1-20.
- vi. He was sustained no matter the storms / challenges. Ps 16:8
- vii. His Presence' ensured him peace. Ps 16:9b, 11 c
- viii. His Presence' gave him fullness of joy. Ps 16: 11 c.

B. JOSEPH AS A CASE STUDY - GEN 39:1-23

God's presence did all the following for Joseph;

- i. In slavery, he was prosperous. Gen. 39:2-3

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 1)

- ii. God's presence made Joseph to find favour, grace & mercy. Gen 39:4-6,21 Gen 40:5-8
- iii. His presence made Joseph to be in charge and in control. Gen. 39:4-6.
- iv. God's presence also made him a source of blessing. Gen. 39:5
- v. He fulfilled the dream of his life. Gen. 41:38-43, 46, Gen. 42:6, Gen. 43:26-28.



IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 2)

Text: John 142:1-4

INTRODUCTION:



ast week, we looked at the blessings, which are in 'His Presence' using the lives of David and Joseph. The question which might be bordering our minds is 'how does He manifest 'His presence or what can we do to attract 'His Presence'? Tonight God Himself will give us insight into 'His Presence' in Jesus name. Amen.

1. THE MANIFESTATION OF HIS PRESENCE: GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Considering how God manifest His Presence we need to know that God is sovereign, the Most High and Almighty. Gen. 17; 1, Ps. 91:1, He cannot be boxed or predicted the way and manner he would show forth himself. He showed himself in several ways. Exodus 3: 1-6, Exodus 4;6-7, Exodus 12:29-31 etc.

2. PARAMOUNT IN HIS PRESENCE, HE CAN

- (i) Send His Word as a sign. Jn 1: 1, Ps 107:20, Matt 8: 13
- (ii) Manifest His Presence through 'His Presence's Carrier' 1Kings 17:8-9, 13:16,21-22. God sent Elijah to show His Presence to the Widow of Zarephath who was faced with bankruptcy, famine and the death of her son.
- (iii) Manifest 'His Presence' through Angels. Isa 63:9. There are angels of 'His Presence' that He uses to save, redeem and carry His own all the days of their life. Gen 18; 1-11, Lk. 1:5-13, 19, Matt. 28:1-6.

IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 2)

Text: Joshua 1:5

(iv) Manifest 'His Presence' through appearing physically Himself. Dan. 3:23-25, Acts 9: 1-6.

3. ATTRACTING HIS PRESENCE: DAVID'S CASE

i. You must earnestly desire 'His Presence'. Ps. 14:2, Matt. 7:7, Prov. 2:4-5, Ps. 42:1-4.

ii. Living a life of praise and worship always ushers 'His Presence' - Ps. 22:3, Ps. 42:8, Josh. 6:1 -5.

iii. A life of genuine repentance. Ps 51:1-11, Ps 39:1, 2 Sam. 11:1-4, 11, 2 Sam. 12:9-10, 13-14, 16, 24.

iv. Holy and Consecrated life. Gen. 39:6, 10-12, I Kg. 2:1-4, Prov. 23:26.

v. Sacrificial giving attracts 'His Presence'. I Kings 3:4-5, Gen. 22:1.



IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 3)

Text: John 13:16-18, 26-27, 1 Samuel 15:1-26

INTRODUCTION:

S In the course of this study, we have seen the blessings that are in 'His Presence'. We have studied some ways through which God manifests His Presence. We have dwelt on 'How to attract 'His Presence'. As we shall consider what connotes 'His Presence', what can make these things disappear or can make 'His Presence' will never depart from us in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS 'HIS PRESENCE'?

What sums up 'His Presence'? What are the evidences of 'His presence', how will you know you have a measure of 'His Presence'?

(i) HIS SPIRIT Matt 3:13-17, John 14:16-18

Through the descending and lightning of Holy Spirit upon Jesus, God announced his presence, his presence with Him. Acts 2: 1-4. Holy Spirit is a clear sign of 'His Presence' in a believer's life.

(ii) THE POWER OF GOD

What follows the Holy Spirit is the power of God. Acts 1:8, Micah 3:8. Jesus showed his abiding presence by giving his disciples power. Matt. 10: 1, Mk. 6:7, Acts 8:5-10.

(iii) ANOINTING OF GOD

This is the combination of the Holy Spirit and His Power (Acts 10:38), which show forth 'His Presence'. 1 Jn. 2:27 -28.



IN HIS PRESENCE (Part 3)

2. DISAPPEARING OF HIS PRESENCE SAUL'S AND SAMSON'S CASE Judges 16:20

From Saul's case what could be responsible are as follows:

- i. Disobedience to God's word: Judges 14:3, 1Sam. 15:3, 15-18, 26.
- ii. Covetousness: 1 Sam. 15:8-9, Col. 3:5c, 2 Peter 2:3, Heb 13:5
- iii. Deceitfulness: 1 Sam. 15:13-15, Heb. 3:5, Eph. 4:21-23.
- iv. Aiding/Abhorring of sin: 1 Sam. 15:20-22, Rom. 1:32, Ps. 50:18, Hos. 7:2-3

3. CONSEQUENCES OF ALLOWING DISAPPEARANCE OF 'HIS PRESENCE'

1. Total rejection from the Lord 1 Sam 15:35, 1 Sam 16:1.
2. Floodgates of calamities will be opened Judges 16:20-25, 30.
3. Open doors will be created for the tormentors (Satan) 1 Sam 16:14.



LIVING LIKE AN EAGLE (Part 1)

Text: Isaiah 40:31

INTRODUCTION:



he Eagle is a bird that is unique! Today as we study the holy spirit will give us understanding in Jesus Name (Amen).

1. YOU ARE UNIQUE

Everything about the Eagle is unique. For instance, before an Eagle is born, they have a small tooth on their beak and that helps them to break out of the egg. Their wings are specially designed to make them aerodynamically superior to other birds; they can build their nest at more higher elevation than other birds. As Eagles are unique from all other birds, you are also unique. You only need to identify your strength.

Ps. 139:14, 1 Pet. 2:9-10, Jn. 17:15-16, Ex. 4:10,14, Esth. 2:12-15, Mt. 3: 11, Gen. 29:32-35.

2. SO WHY NOT FLY?

Believers in Christ are intended to fly at very high altitudes like Eagles. You are designed for heavenly realms. Your new nature, with these Eagle's wing make you want to soar up high, close to Christ in heavenly realms. You've got Eagle's wings. Take an advantage of your position; through prayer and a refocusing of your mind, you will fly.

The ability to fly high will give you freedom, unique perspective of the world beneath, and the ability to view things differently.

Eph. 2:6, Phil. 4:13, Jn.15:5, 1 Sam. 17:45, Dan. 3:17



LIVING LIKE AN EAGLE (Part 2)

Text: Isaiah 40:30-31

INTRODUCTION:



In the last part of this series, we considered the fact that for you to soar on high, you must be prepared to leave your place of comfort. As we go into the second part of this series today, may the Holy Spirit teach and bless us richly in Jesus name.

1. WHAT IS YOUR DIET LIKE?

In many ways the life of an eagle parallels that of man. Eagles are careful about their diet, they go after fresh meals, bring nourishment to their body. Man is a trinity comprising spirit, soul and body. What you feed yourself with is important. To purify yourself will mean abstain from anything that will contaminate the body and spirit.

II Cor. 7:1, I Thess. 5:23, I Jn. 3:3, I Cor. 1:8, Num. 13:32, II Cor. 6:17-18

2. BUILDING A NEST

The eagle builds up her nest in a high place, higher than the nest of other birds. The reason for this is threefold; Protection from enemies, to provide a good perspective of their environment and to give them a good launching pad for soaring. The eagles' nest building project takes a great deal of time and attention and it is a lifelong project, because it is her place of security and rest, much effort and resources is committed. Our sure foundation by which we can be protected is the word of God. The word of God will provide protection from the enemy, give a unique perspective of the world around us and give us a launching pad to soar. Ps. 119:114, Pro. 30:5, Isa. 40:8, Mt. 4:4, Heb. 4:12, Ps. 119:16.



LIVING LIKE AN EAGLE (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION:



In the second Part of this series, we considered efforts made by eagles to put up her nest and the importance of a believer's nest (Word of God) to him. As we conclude this study today, I pray the Holy Spirit of God will cause you to soar in the midst of your storm in Jesus Name.

1. SOARING ABOVE THE WINGS OF ADVERSITY

As the Eagle approaches a storm at the front, it lock its wings into such a position as to allow the force of the buffeting wind to lift it up, the forward motion of the wind striking the wings at just the right angle to cause the uplift. The force of the wind is deflected harmlessly downwards by those magnificent wings, allowing the bird to soar to new and greater heights. A time of adversity will come; they are things that ultimately make you successful. God's Promise is there for you.

Jn. 16:33, 2 Tim. 3:12, Is. 43:2, Ps. 66:12, Gen. 12:9-10, Ex. 2:14,23, Mt. 2:13-14, Jn. 15:5, Col. 3:3.

2. A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE:

Eagles are birds of the light. They hunt by day; they fly by day and feed by day. They are remarkably clean birds and it shows they have high standards. They want the best in life, To fly with the eagles, you must be committed to excellence.

Gen. 17:1, Zech. 3:4, Mt. 5:48, Gen. 29:17-18, Lk 15:22, Est. 2:2, 1 Sam. 24:24.



SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 1)

Text: Prov. 6:16-23

INTRODUCTION:



he things that God hates, must be avoided. As we begin today a series on seven things that the Almighty God hates, the grace to distaste them, Lord will give unto us. Amen.

1. A PROUD LOOK: WHAT DOES IT ENTAILS?

The state of the heart dictates the countenance Proverbs 15: 13, A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance. Therefore we can say; A proud look is a product of a proud heart. The Scripture gives insight into a proud look. Psalms 18:27, Ps 101:5. A proud look means high look. This is position where a person thinks he is above the status of others or things. Esther 1:10-17, Queen Vashti lost her position as a result of this.

ii. A proud look is having haughty eyes. Prov. 16:18, Ps. 13: 1. This is a state when one believes he is better than others and thereby carries this around. Do you know that there are division / grouping in the church today? Do we know that there are people who could not relate to other because they believe they are better spiritually or physically? God distastes this. Paul showed to us what we should be 1 Cor. 9: 16-27.

iii. A proud look means having loft eyes Isaiah 2: 11, 17. This is the state or behavior of a Christian when and where he feels, he is worthier than others. Have you had a Christian saying "By my spiritual level, I should have been made a Deacon or Deaconess or I should have been made this or

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 1)

Text: Joshua 1:5

that", God regards this as loft eyes before Him. Moses, Dathan, Abram's case. Numbers 16:1-3, 7,12-14, 29-33.

Results of a Proud Look

- i. The imagination of the proud are always scattered Lk. 1:51, Ps. 33:10
- ii. A proud look distances God from a man Ps. 138:6
- iii. Destruction & down fall await a proud man Ps. 16: 18, Esther 1:19

2. ALYING TONGUE

God hates this because it speaks contemptuously against the righteous Psalm 31: 18. This tongue speak deceitful words. Ps. 120:2. This tongue lies to get his emotional feeling done. Gehazi was a perfect example. 2 King 5:1, 10,15-16, 20-27. He got leprosy as a result of lying tongue.

3. HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD

These are hands that kill the dreams and visions of others. A classical example is Joseph's brothers Gen 37:18-20. Lord hates such people. Their end is always disastrous. Esther 7:10, Curse does not leave such. Gen 4:11-12.

CONCLUSION

If we have involved in any of the above, I think it is time to pray for mercy, so that Heaven will not pass us.



SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 2)

Text: Prov. 6:16-23

INTRODUCTION:



Last week we looked at three of the seven things that God hates. 'A proud look', 'a lying tongue' and 'the hands that shed innocent blood' were examined. We shall be considering today four other things that God distastes. Every area that Devil has been using to short change us, the Lord will reveal them tonight in Jesus name.

1. A HEART THAT DEVISETH WICKED IMAGINATIONS

God speaks specifically about two things here. Our heart and its imaginations. Gen 6:1-7, God had a good plan for human race. He wanted us to multiply and dominate the earth. But all of a sudden discovered that the imaginations of the heart were evil and wicked. It repented and grieved God. He decided to kill man. God hates the hearts that is the source of wicked thoughts and imaginations. The question is, what flows out of your heart Matt. 12:34, Prov. 4:23, God warns that we watch our heart with all diligent. Gen. 37: 18-20.

2. FEET THAT BE SWIFT IN RUNNING TO MISCHIEF

God mentions feet here, in other words He means our legs. Where does your leg carry you to? Is it to the company or location of righteous or evil ones? Psalms 1: 1. Do you walk in the counsel of ungodly or sit among the scornful. Who are your bosom friends? Who are the people that you visit or visit you? God hates feet and legs that run into the fold of mischievous people.

3. A FALSE WITNESS THAT SPEAKETH LIE

We have dealt extensively with a lying tongue in the part 1.

SEVEN THINGS THAT THE LORD HATES (Part 2)

Scripture however mentioned a false witness which we need to consider. Acts 1:8, The Lord said we shall be his witness. The question is what kind of witness are you?

Are you a witness of the truth or Evil?

A witness can only testify in two ways

- (I) By his appearance:- Does your appearance witness Christ in truth Luke 3:8, Matt 7:16. Does it show you as a false or true witness? Just a look at your life and appearance, does it show the true representation of Christ?
- (ii) By, the word that proceeds out of his mouth:- The word that proceeds from your mouth always, are they seasoned with salt? Col. 4:6, Matt. 12:37. The word we speak determines what witness that wear. God distaste a false witness.

4. HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG THE BRETHREN

God hates people who cause quarrel and strifes among brethren. These people operate in the church by comparing one brethren to the other in terms of gifts, talents or grace the Lord gives to individuals. Matt 25:15, 1 Peter 4:11. These ones also go behind backbiting others. Psalms 15:1, 3, 34:1, 3-14. Their aim is to scatter God's fold. Pro. 25:23. No wonder, Paul expressed fear as regards this behaviour. 2 Cor 12:20. Romans 1:30-32 God therefore pronounces judgment that they are worthy of death.

CONCLUSION:- Let us pray that the Lord should give us a new heart because all these deeds are from our heart. Ezekiel, 18:3, 1 John 3:3, Ezekiel 36:26.



GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 1)

TEXT: Isaiah 61: 13; Matt. 11 :28- 30

INTRODUCTION:



Jesus gracious invitation comes to "all that labour and are heavy laden" with the troubles of life and the bondage/dominion of sins. The expectation is for all to come to Jesus, surrender unto him, so we can be free from all insurmountable burdens; live a life of peace and His Holy Spirit to guide through the journey of life Jn. 14:26.

2. MEANING OF SALVATION

Salvation means "deliverance", "bringing safely through", "keeping from harm". In Old Testament, God revealed Himself as the one that saves His people. Also, in the New Testament, it is described as "the way" or road that leads through life to eternal fellowship with God in Heaven. This road of salvation must be walked to the very end. Ps. 27:1; Deut. 26:8; Matt. 7:14; Jn. 14:6; 2 Pet. 2:21.

2. STEPS TO SALVATION

For us by God's grace through His Son, Jesus Christ based on His death (Rom 3:2. There is only one way to Salvation. Christ Jesus is the only way to the Father God. Salvation is provided 4), Eph. 2:8 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Hence, a sincere repentance is required for a true Salvation to take place; which must be backed by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jn. 14:6; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8; Eph. 3:17; Acts 20:21; Rom. 4:16.



THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION:



e started on this study last week and dwelt on two key areas the meaning of salvation and steps to salvation. In conclusion, we noted that the road to salvation must be walked to the very end. It is my prayer that none of us journey half-way. We will all make it to heaven in Jesus mighty name.

1. THE THREE STAGES OF SALVATION

God freely offers us eternal life in Jesus Christ. To make it to eternal life there are three fundamental stages: The past stage of salvation the personal experience by which, we as believers receive forgiveness of sins and pass from spiritual death to spiritual life; from the power of sin to the power of the Lord; from the dominion of Satan to the dominion of God. The present stage of salvation saves us from the practice as dominion of sin, filling us with the Holy Spirit.

The future stage of salvation

- (i) Deliverance from the coming wrath of God;
- (ii) Our sharing the divine glory and receiving the resurrected or transformed body
- (iii) Receiving rewards as faithful overcomers. This future salvation is the goal toward which all Christian strive.
Acts 10:43; Rom. 4:6-8; Rom. 6:17-23; Acts 26:18; Mat. 6:9; John 14:18-23; Rom. 6:1-14; Acts 2:33, 38, 39; Eph. 5:18; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Eph. 6:11-16 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Thes. 5:8-9; Rom. 13:11-12; Rev. 19:9; Rom. 5:9; 1 Cor. 3:15-19.



THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 2)

3. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Every Christian desires to have assurance of salvation, that is, the certainty when Christ returns or death comes, he/she will go to be with the Lord Jesus in heaven. We have assurance of eternal life if: we believe on the name of the son of God; we honour Christ as Lord of our Lives and sincerely seek to keep His commandments; we love the Father and the Son rather than the work we overcome the influence of the world.

1 John 2:3-5; 3:24; 5:2; John 8:31; 1 John 2:15; 1 John 2:29; 3:8; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 1:1; 1 John 3:2-3; John 14:1-3.



THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 3)

Text: Ps. 62: 1-2,6: 8; Heb 3:12

INTRODUCTION:



Salvation is a life-long journey and must be patiently and carefully walked to the end in order to earn the reward. As identified in our discussion of last week, a crucial aspect of the journey is the second phase, where we must defend and protect this gift of God. Just as Naboth refused to sell his inheritance (1 Kings 21:2-3); our Salvation must not be traded or sold.

1. SUSTAINING YOUR SALVATION Luke 9:62

It is very dangerous to lose or drift away from the gift of salvation, because forgiveness might not be possible. The sustenance of our salvation should be of paramount importance to every believer. Accordingly, we need to emphasize on the following: (a) Obedience; (b) Perseverance/Longsuffering in faith; (c) Fellowship; (d) Draw closer unto God and let the realities of God's heavenly kingdom becomes greater than realities of this world; (e) Crucify the flesh.

Heb. 6:4-6; Deut. 29:18-21; 1 Sam. 2:25; 3:11-14; 16:1; Ex. 22:20; 1 Sam. 15:22-23; Rev. 21:8; Mat. 7:21; Eph. 6:18; Col. 1:11; Phil. 1:5-6; 1 John 1:3-4; Heb. 7:19,25; 11:6; Jos.1:8; Rom. 8:6-8; Gal. 5:19-21

2. RETRACING YOUR STEP

God has the right to do as He pleases with individuals and nations. He has the right to reject a nation/individual if they/he disobeys and the right to show mercy if they repent, retribute, return to God and cry to heaven for His mercy. Ps. 51:1-12; Luk. 15: 11-24; 19:8; 2 Chr. 7:14; Ex. 22: 1-14.



THE GOOD TIDINGS OF SALVATION (Part 4)

Text: Psalm 61:1.2

INTRODUCTION:



he angel said unto them, fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luk. 2:10). The birth of Jesus, Christ, the greatest event in human history, is synonymous with Salvation and represents the utmost gift from God to mankind. It is therefore the desire of Christ that every believer exhibits/demonstrates the blessings/benefits of salvation.

1. SALVATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES

Salvation is not a Greek gift but a Heavenly gift with divine assignments/responsibilities. Christ, the saviour worked, He therefore enjoins every believer to work. These "greater works" include (a) preaching the gospel to the poor, the meek, and the afflicted; (b) healing and binding up the spiritually and physically sick and broken hearted; (c) breaking the bonds of evil and proclaiming liberty from sin and satanic dominion and (d) opening the spiritual eyes of the lost that they might see the light of the gospel and be saved. Jn. 5:17; 14:12; Matt. 11:5, 28; 28:19-20; Mk. 16:17-18; Luk 9:2; Matt. 10:1; Luk. 4:18

2. THE CHALLENGES

As a believer, your faith in Christ will be tried, you will face persecution and rejection. We need not be deterred, because Jesus said "these things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." 1 Pet. 1:7; Acts 13:50; 2 Thes. 1:4; Luk. 9:22; John 16:33; Acts 27:22; Matt. 28:20.



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 1)

TEXT: Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 1:8.

INTRODUCTION:



The Holy Spirit is probably the least known member of the Godhead. There is a said lack of knowledge about Him even within the church. Yet we are in the age of the Holy Spirit - Jn. 14:16 and the time of the latter rain Zech. 10:1. Therefore, we need to know as much as possible about the Holy Spirit.

(A) WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead and He is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. The Bible calls Him God Acts 5:3-4; He possesses the characteristics that God alone has such as eternal nature Heb. 9:14, Omnipotent Ps. 139:7-10, Omniscient 1 Cor. 2:10-11, Omnipotent Luk. 1:35; He is associated with the Father and Son on equal status Matt. 28:19 and He is essentially active in God's plan of redemption. Jn. 16:8, Jn. 3:5-6.
2. The Holy Spirit is a Person and not a thing or forces. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal power or influence like electricity or some other forms of power which can be switch on and off at will. To show that He is a person, personal pronoun is used for Him. Jn. 14:16; 14:17; 15:26; 16:13-14 and He possesses the basic characteristics of personality such as intellect, sensitivity and will the expressions of His personality includes ability to feel Eph. 8:26, teach Jn. 14:26, exercise His will 1 Cor. 12:11, forbid Acts 16:6, work miracles Acts 19:6 and could be grieved Eph. 4:30.
3. This is the age of the Holy Spirit. He is the "other" comforter who has taken the place of Jesus Jn. 14:16. The season of His outpouring was predicted in the Old Testament while the fulfillment is in the New Testament. Joel 2:28-29, Eze. 36:27, Isa. 44:3, even Christ was filled Lk. 4:18.



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 2)

TEXT: Jn. 14:16-17, Jn. 16:7-11

INTRODUCTION:

In our last study on this topic, we established the fact that Holy Spirit is God with defined personality, not just a force or a thing. We concluded that this is the age of the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact the place of the Holy Spirit in the church today cannot be overemphasized. The way an individual relates with Him will go a long way to determine fulfillment in life and ministry of such a person. We shall look at some vital roles. He plays in the life of believers and in the church of Christ today.

The works of the Holy Spirit in Believers/Church

1. He brings us to salvation: The Holy Spirit convict, reprove and convince unconverted people about sin, righteousness and judgment - Jn. 16:8-11, He produces conversion and regeneration Titus 3:5, Eph. 2: 1, Jn. 6:63. He liberates us from the power of sin and death, so we can be Holy Rom. 8:2 and He gives us an inward assurance of salvation Rom. 8:16, 1 Jn. 5:6, 1 Jn.5:8.
2. Holy Spirit empowers believers Acts 1 :8: He guides us into all truth Jn. 16:13, In. 8:37, He teaches us all things Jn. 14:26, 1 Jn. 2:27, He gives life to our physical bodies Rom. 8:11 (impart life, strength, health and vigour to our bodies); He gives power for service Acts 1 :8, Acts 4:33; He empowers our prayers Jude v 20, Eph. 6:18, Rom. 8:26-27, and Inspires praise and worship to God Acts 2:11, Phil. 3:3, Eph. 5:18-19, Jn, 4:24.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER (Part 2)

3. Holy Spirit is the Director of Mission Acts 13:2-4: He send people to the place of need Acts 16:9-10, He might forbid when necessary Acts 16:6.
4. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life Gal. 5:22-23: The fruit of the Spirit cannot be produced by natural man, no matter how refined or educated he or she may be. God character is seen in us only when God the Holy Spirit lives in us who believes and that is when we can live the life of God Holiness. 1 Peter 1 : 14-16.
5. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus - Jn. 16:13-15: He testifies that Jesus is alive: Acts 5:30-32, Acts 4:31-33 and He brings a fresh understanding of the word of God thereby enhancing the believers relationship with Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 2:9,10; Jn. 16:13: