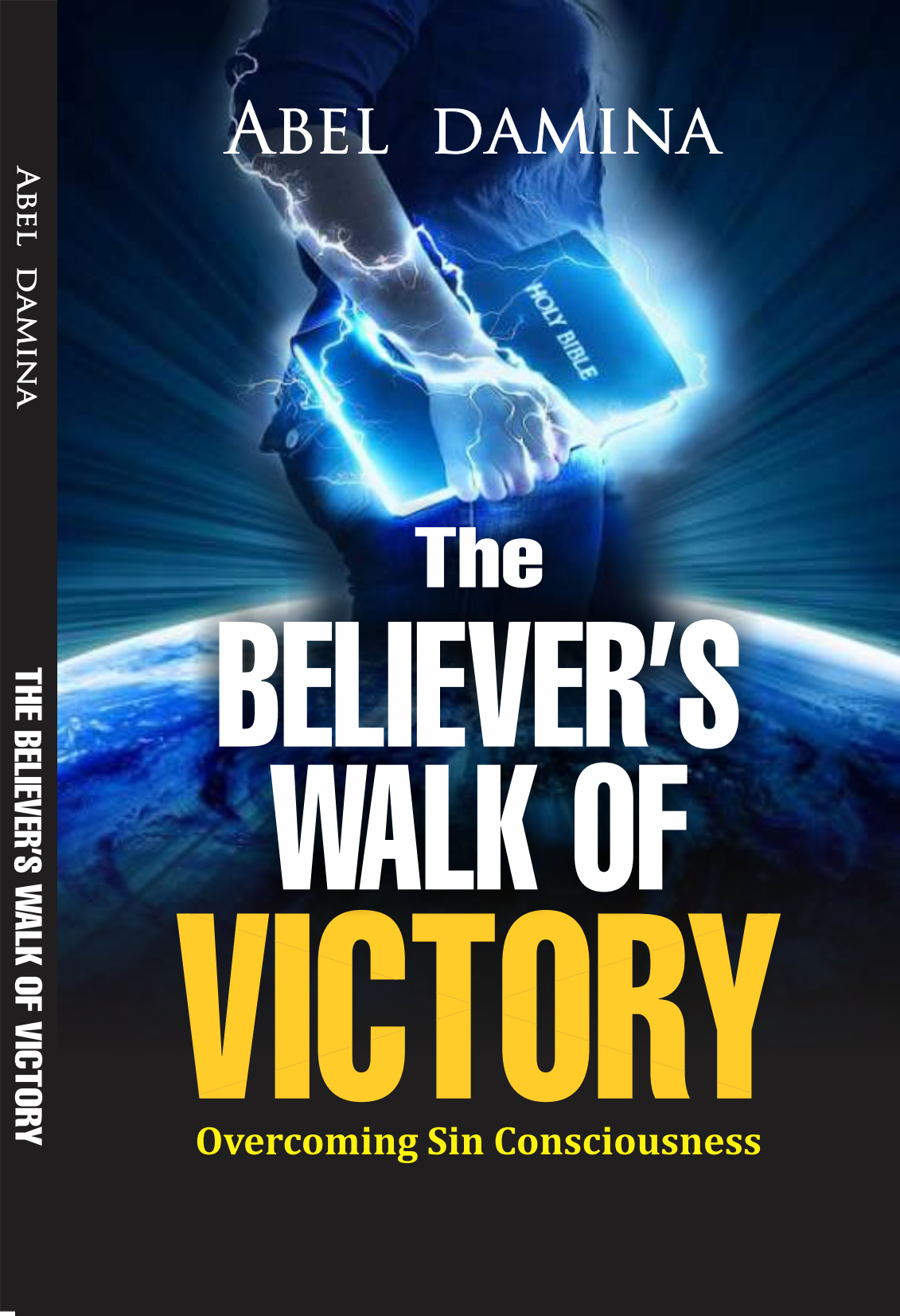
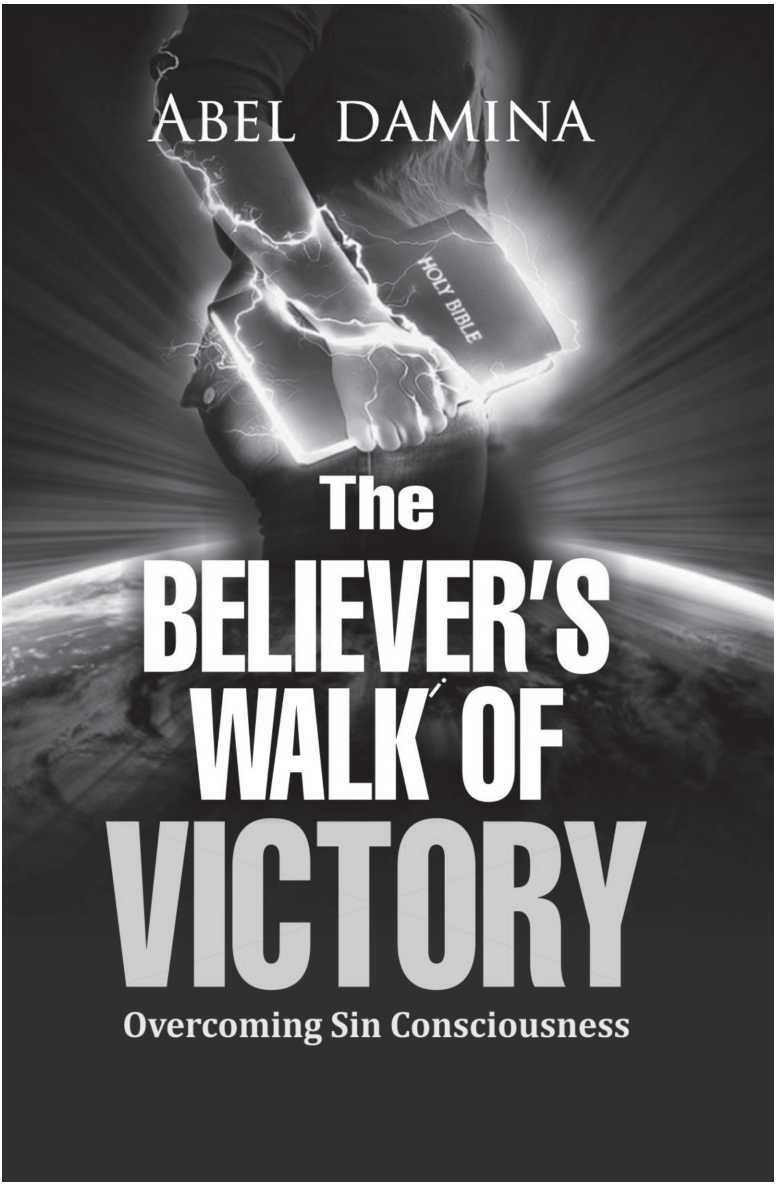


ABEL DAMINA
THE BELIEVER'S WALK OF VICTORY


ABEL DAMINA
HOLY BIBLE
The
BELIEVER'S
WALK OF
VICTORY
Overcoming Sin Consciousness

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The Believer's Walk of Victory

Overcoming Sin Consciousness

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1



Many Christians have been seduced into thinking that they must earn a right to the forgiveness of sin. They are afraid of approaching God, and are uncertain of their stand with Him. Feeling guilty, insecure, inferior, and suffering from low self-esteem, they think it is a result of their wrong doings and try to make up for it through “good works”. Even long standing believers struggle to overcome feelings of unworthiness, fear, doubt, and condemnation Satan hauls at them. The outcome is they remain beneath the standard of living God desires for them.

The truth is, God through the sacrificial and redemptive work of Jesus Christ has already made you

righteous. Nothing you can do to make you more or less righteous in God's eyes. Not everything that feels good is right, and not every message that is sensible is truth. We are not products of feelings, but of His resurrection. Living by your feelings is a sign that you are not growing in spiritual things. You must grow out of feelings into faith. When you are controlled by feelings, it is an indication that you are a sense-ruled, sense-dominated Christian, you cannot function in faith that way. You are the type referred to as "carnal". A Christian is described as carnal when he is governed by his senses(1Cor. 3:1). His senses dictate his actions, as his mind is not regulated by the word of God. Anything Satan throws at him becomes effective and cannot live in victory (1Cor. 5:7), but when you grow in grace, you walk in knowledge and not feelings.

> *"For it is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth"* 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Receiving the knowledge of God is indication that you are growing in spiritual things. Satan does his best to keep you from knowledge of God in order to keep you in bondage, but Jesus says," And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." John 8:32. The truth makes men free! When the truth makes you free, you are a free man, nothing changes that. Paul would

later write to his son Timothy, rebuking some who are, *"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."* 2 Timothy 3:7.

Jesus is the truth, the more we know Jesus, the more we are exposed to truth. There is a learning of Christ required of a believer in order to fully function in the reality of the finished work. Satan hides in the darkness of the believer's ignorance to perpetuate evil. The darker it is with a believer, the stronger his dominion over that life. To overcome the domination of the senses, you must grow in the knowledge of God. You do not know God by feeling or sight, you know God in His word. You are not what you feel, but what you know and hence believe. It is for the purpose of knowing God that God inspired the writing of the scriptures.

> *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto good works."* 2Tim. 3:16-17

To be furnished is to be equipped. The word of God equips us for every good work. It is the source of spiritual power required to effect good works. What are good works? They are works that reverse the

works of Satan. Peter says; *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."* Acts 10:38. Good works are works of dominion, they are the acts of God through us. God wants us to be mature to be able to do good works. Without the knowledge of God, we will not be effective in fulfilling the will of God on the earth.

> *"And I heard a voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death."* Rev. 12.10-11

There was the accuser, and there was the accused. The bible identified three things here that I want us to take note of.

1) The accuser of our brethren that accused them day and night before our God.
2) The accused that were accused before God day and night.

3) They (the accused) overcame him (the accuser) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.

There is an accuser on the loose, and his weapon is accusation, and he must be overcome. You cannot overlook the accuser, you must confront him and overcome him.

We need not only to overcome the accuser, we need to overcome the accusation with which the accuser accuses us. A believer that does not know this truth will live a defeated life. He will struggle in his faith life because he lacks the assurance of his salvation.

There won't be victory until we know what God did about us in relation to the accusation of the accuser. "They overcame him (the accuser) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death. They overcame the fear of death, stood their ground on the provision of the blood of Christ, and kept to the word delivered unto them. The phrase, "the word of their testimony" in that passage of the bible does not refer to the testimony people give in church services. Some of those testimonies are either exaggerated or outright lies, nobody overcomes by them. The testimony that overcomes the devil is the sufferings of Christ and His

eventual resurrection from the dead. When you do not know the provisions of the sacrifice of Jesus, when you do not know what God says about what the accuser is accusing you of, you remain vulnerable to him. You do not overcome the accuser by prayers and fasting, you overcome him by the knowledge of God.

No Condemnation

> *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Rom. 8:1

The word "accuser" or "accusation" conveys the meaning of a petition against someone by an adversary. Of course, it is obvious that God cannot be the accuser, it is to God that we plead our case. Who would God petition if He is the accuser? God is the highest authority there is, He petitions nobody about anybody or anything. He is the eternal end of all things. God is not against us, He could not be against us and still make the provision for our redemption the way He did. He did not make the provision for our salvation when we were good, He did that when we were still in sin. The bible says "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Rom. 5:8. He died while we were yet dead in sins, there was no life in us when He went to the Cross

for us (it is a blessing). But now that we are reconciled to God through the blood of Christ, it is certain that we are secured from the wrath to come. This passage of the word of God went on to say,

> *"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."* Rom. 5:10-11.

If God did not condemn us when we were dead in sins, when we were enemies, rather, He reconciled us by the death of Christ, how could He turn round to condemn us now? Christ's life is our salvation, that is our protection from the accuser and his accusation. We joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have now received the atonement. "Atonement" is an Old Testament concept that means bringing two warring parties together in an agreement for peace. It is actually written as "at-one-ment". It is a form of agreement or covenant of peace which was usually sworn over blood. The New Testament calls it "reconciliation". We received reconciliation with God through the blood of Christ. This is a stronger concept than atonement. God took an oath over the blood of

Christ to be at peace with every one that comes to Him through Christ Jesus. Now that we have been reconciled to Him by Christ, we shall be saved from the wrath to come by His life.

There is nothing the believer can ever do that God will be angry with you and reverse what He did for you in Christ Jesus. He did what He did to save you when you were in the worst state that a man could ever be. There is nothing Satan can do about this, there is no level he can push you to that you will be irredeemable, Jesus already paid the price. The worst place anybody can ever be is hell, and Jesus went there for us. He has redeemed us from it, and there is nothing worse than that. There is now therefore NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, the opposition does not have the wherewithal to judge us.

The word "condemnation" is the word that is used in legal terms to pass a verdict. It is the same as damnation. When a man is condemned, he is damned. Condemnation is the actual judgment. When the court of law condemns a man, it means he is judged as guilty, and sentenced to serve the required punishment as written in the law. So, when the bible says there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, it means there is no judgment for those that are in Christ Jesus. They have been declared by the

blood of Christ as "not guilty", so, no sentence and no punishment! There is nothing like, "God will get you!" God is not looking for you because you are not lost, you are in Christ. God already knows where you are. He is not against you, and He's certainly not looking for ways to get you.

When people do not know the word of God, they are cut off from the ways of God. Until you understand the word of God concerning salvation, you cannot think like Him about salvation. Without a full grasp of God's love, you will live your life in the shadows, and the life will have no meaning.

Freed By Righteousness

> *"And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."* Rom. 5:16-18.

One man sinned, and it brought the condemnation of death upon all men, death reigned by Adam. On the same premises, Jesus introduced righteousness into the human heart, that many shall have the justification of life by Him. Adam sinned and it condemned all men to death, Jesus obeyed, and it brought justification of life upon all men. Through righteousness, justification was imputed upon all them that believed. None of these was as a result of a direct action by you or anybody, it was Adam's action, his disobedience, that brought sin into the human race and death by sin, and that made us to be sinners. In the same way, it was Jesus' action, His obedience, that brought righteousness upon us. It is not what we did in any of these two cases, we were made sinners by the disobedience of Adam, and on the other hand, we were made righteous by the obedience of Christ. Once you are in Christ, righteousness frees you from sin.

Righteousness is a state of being right. It is a state where you are treated as someone who has not done any wrong. In that state, God treats you as though you have never sinned. When the bible says you are righteous, it is not saying your works are perfect or that there are no flaws in your life, but that God is treating you as someone who has not done wrong. If that is how God treats and relates with you, then you

must stop acting like a criminal. You will only be a pretender acting that way, and that is living a false life. If you have received Christ as Lord, then live your real life, which is, a "not guilty" life. Stop walking around and acting like a thief that is yet to be caught, stand in the boldness of righteousness and act as though sin never happened.

Righteousness is a gift, you did not earn it. It was not given to you because you stopped doing something wrong, it was given because you received the Gospel. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, when you receive the Gospel, you receive power that saves you and keeps you safe. The Gospel brings the gift of "no condemnation" into your life. That is what makes the Gospel good news. The state of "no punishment" is good news. No wrong, so no sentence, that is “good news”! That is what makes Christianity the greatest and best life to ever live. Legally, doctrinally and intellectually, there is no wrong established against you, therefore there is no condemnation and thus, no sentence. There is no judgment for a righteous man, because he's been justified by Christ. Justification is the legal word for righteousness, and it is a gift.

There are some teachings that suggest that there are certain steps to take in order to become righteous. They make altar calls for believers to come and cry on

the altar and afflict their souls, they teach foundation classes, and baptismal classes for people to attain justification, etc. While there is nothing wrong in teaching foundation classes to help young believers develop in Christ, you do not take any steps to attain righteousness, it is a gift. There are no steps to take to receive a gift! It is a gift that comes when you believe the Gospel and receive Christ into your life as Lord and Saviour. The gift of life does not require conditions to be kept, you just receive it by faith. You do not have to feel like it, you do not have to deserve it, in fact you do not deserve it; but just take it by faith. The bible says,

> *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

You were not saved by obeying some dressing codes, so you do not need any particular type of dressing code to remain saved. Salvation is the gift of God, it is the grace of God. There is no boasting, because none of us deserved it. We did not work for it, Jesus did. Isaiah says your righteousness is like filthy rags. The term "filthy rags" refers to menstrual cloth. It is a defilement under the law of Moses, it is a sin under the Old Testament. Depending on moral uprightness is a sin, it is filthy. When God looks at your works, they are filthy,

they stink. That was why God chose to redeem us by Himself and clothed us in His righteousness, so that we stink no more. All these self-made preaching is a defilement, we must depend on the work of grace and not all these man-made doctrines of wearing this or not wearing that. If dressing codes could save people, Jesus would not need to go to the Cross. Why would Christ pass through such a painful and humiliating death if dressing codes can give eternal life? The people teaching such things are grossly ignorant of God's word. Paul says; *"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"* Philippians 3:9.

Another thing we need to understand is that, righteousness is not a reward, it is not a payment for good works, or a crown for winning in a competition or something similar. It is God's gift. You do not pray for it, and you do not "faith" for it. No amount of prayer and fasting can make you righteous or holy. No style of dressing makes anybody righteous, it is the grace of God, so the bible calls it, the gift of righteousness.

Righteousness was given to secure us from judgment. The word of God says, *"In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near*

thee." Isaiah 54:14. Righteousness secures us from oppression, and protects us from fear. You will not be bold to confront the enemy if you are not established in righteousness. Whatever God did for us, it is His righteousness speaking. The bible says the righteousness of God speaks. Rom. 10:8. Redemption in the blood of Christ is the voice of righteousness, God would have to be unrighteous to undo it. Because of Christ's righteousness, we have redemption through His blood.

> *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"* Col. 1:14

Forgiveness of sins is not what God did before He saved us, it is not an answer to our prayer. Forgiveness of sins is factored in redemption. God provided that for us as part of our security after we received salvation. You were not forgiven because you confessed your sins. Confession of sins does not save anybody. Men confessed their sins in the Old Testament but none was saved. Confession of sins is not a requirement for salvation. The bible says, *"That if thou shalt confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Rom. 10:9-10. Nothing is said

about anybody confessing his sins to be saved. No one could be saved if that was a requirement, because nobody can remember all his sins to confess them in order to receive salvation. The bible does not teach that men get saved by confessing their sins. It is the confession of the Lordship of Jesus that brings salvation.

The Life of Christ Makes Righteousness Available

Our freedom in Christ is glorious, believing the Gospel takes away all the judgments. It is the life of Christ in you that makes God to treat you as though you never sinned. It brings you to a state of being right, a place where there are no wrongs imputed to you. Once again, understand that you did not merit it, it is the gift of God. You could not have been qualified by any form of commitment or good behaviour to deserve the gift of righteousness, it is all by the grace of God. The word of God says, *"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."* 1John 5:12. You cannot have the life of God and face the judgment of God. Condemnation means you have no life in you, all you have is death. The life of Christ secured us from death, and places us where we are treated as though sin did not happen. If you have the Son, you have life; and if you do not have the Son of God, you have death. It is that simple, it has nothing to do with what you did

or did not do, it has to do with the decision you made concerning Christ. Jesus says;

> *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my words, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* John 5:24

Once you have the life of Christ, you cannot come under condemnation; there is no judgment for you. You have passed from death unto life. It takes the hearing of the word of God, and believing the Gospel to pass from death to life. Jesus says, that is how you will have everlasting life. Once you hear the Gospel and you believe it, you **have** everlasting life. He did not say you will have everlasting life, He says you have it. The life of Christ exempts you from all wrongs and all judgments. Once you receive Christ, you do not have to take any steps to be right with God, no process is required of you to be free of the control of death; you have passed from death unto life. How much more could the Gospel be simpler? Just hear and believe, and you have it! This is the Gospel that makes men free. The only criterion for judgment is when men do not believe the Gospel. Jesus says, *"He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall*

be damned." Mark 16:16. No judgment or punishment for the believer in the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel is what Christ did for us, not what we did for ourselves. Paul puts it this way;

> *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received. How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and the he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some have fallen asleep. After that he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."* 1Cor. 15:3-8

This is the Gospel to be believed. Paul made most emphasis on the truth of Christ's resurrection. Christianity came out of His resurrection. No one should be in doubt of His resurrection from the dead. That is where life came from, and that is where righteousness came from. This is where all men are required to hinge their faith in order to find salvation and to live in victory. This understanding separates us from death. If you do not have this understanding, you

will never overcome the accuser, and you will live the life of torment all your life. It means what Christ did to save you has been denied you through ignorance.

Through the redemption that we have in Christ Jesus, we have been secured from condemnation. The believer is free from judgment, because he has the life of God in him. Eternal life cannot be judged. There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ. It does not cost money to be in Christ Jesus, it does not cost fasting and prayers to be in Christ Jesus; it cost absolutely nothing to be in Christ Jesus. You only need to believe and confess Christ's Lordship over your life, and you shall pass from death to life.

Bible Cure for Sin Consciousness

Many believers are defeated in the area of sin consciousness. E.W. Kenyon said, "The greatest problem of the church is not sin, but sin consciousness."

> *"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."*
> 1 John 3:19-20

The question will be; "why will your heart condemn you when the scripture says no condemnation?" *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Romans 8:1

> *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* John 5:24

Jesus said He will not come again to condemnation, so if that is God's portion for the believer clearly stated, why then does a believer's heart condemn him? The problem is many believers have been wrongly taught the doctrine of sanctification and righteousness. I was a victim of that too.

God's prescription for sin is not sinless-ness or sinless perfection. Rather, God's prescription for sin and its consciousness is righteousness. Let's examine this doctrine.

> *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but*

sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also [is] the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, [which is] by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as [it was] by one that sinned, [so is] the gift: for the judgment [was] by one to condemnation, but the free gift [is] of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)" Romans 5:12-17

Notice in the book of Romans, Paul clearly expresses the failure of man's works to measure up with the standard of God's righteousness, no matter how good they are.

The word, "entered", is the Greek word **elserchomai**. It means a foreign object, something that came from outside invaded the world, sin is not a creation of God, as you would see in Genesis chapter 1 and 2. Through

one man, sin entered into the world. “World” in the Greek, means activities or things.

> *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* James 1:13-17

God doesn’t inspire or allow sin or count sin or commission sin, but sin exists as a function of man’s will. God gave man the freedom to choose from creation. Man is a free moral agent with desire, which is a characteristic of humanity. When Adam made the choice to sin, God didn’t stop him, because he has a right to choose, but cannot control the outcome of his choice. God in His mercy, came as a man to rescue man from the consequences of his action (Romans 6:23). Jesus rescued man by paying for man’s death (Hebrews 2:9).

Justify, Justified, Righteous

> *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.* Romans 3:20-27

Pay attention to the use of the words "Justify", "Justified" and "Righteousness" in the scriptures. The discussion was about sin, sin means something that is wrong and it has not changed since Genesis. The word,

"justified" is the Greek word "**dikaioo"** it is used in the court when there is a judicial approval of someone or something. It's used when the judge, who is supposed to judge your case, takes your side, when a charge is brought against you before a judge and the judge declares in your favour, that means he has justified you.

That means the judge now defends you without defending you, even though you have a lawyer. By saying "you are not guilty as charged", he has defended you, and has come to your aid.

The word, 'justify' means to come to another's aid to approve, or to declare someone as upright or as right. That's 'justify.'

Paul used it in Romans 5:1;

> *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"* Romans 5:1

The word, "peace" is "**eirene**" in the Greek which means union with God. That's the result of justification, we are united with God.

> *"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."* Romans 5:9

Justified by his blood. There are two things, meaning you were approved because of faith, and his blood.

Notice that you are justified by a third party, his grace, his blood. So Romans 5:1 says, 'being justified by faith'. Let's see the pretext.

> *"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."* Romans 4:25

So it is faith in what he has done that justifies. Back to the meaning of the word '***dikaioo'*** It means you were justified based on legal terms, but the terms were not your terms, it was the third party that brought about that justification. That's why he said by the works of the law a man is not justified. Meaning, a third party came to your aid or stood for you, and because of that third party, you are declared approved of God.

Titus 3:7 says "*having been justified*" is one word in the Greek '**diakiothentes**,' which implies you are presently being justified, and you will always be

justified. It puts 'justified' as a present continuous tense.

Romans 5:17 says, *"...much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"* The word "gift" there is the Greek word '***dorea***,' it means it's free. There is no condition attached; it is another word for benevolence – It is free. The gift of righteousness is FREE and has NO CONDITION attached to it.

Then we have the word '*righteousness*.' The word "righteousness" is the Greek word '***dikaiosune**.'* It means 'you are right.' "***Dikaioo"*** relates to the *act*, ***dikaiosune*** relates to the *state*. Being justified by faith, justified by grace, the person God did justify is now justified. He now has righteousness, based on what Christ has done, he acquires a state or a status. **Dikaiosune** means a state of being right. It is for the state and status. In bible language, ***dikaiosune*** is used exclusively for God. Since He is the judge of all. Hebrews 12:23-24.

> *"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"* Hebrews 12:23

He is righteous, whatever he says or does is right. That's '***dikaiosune'***. We only know what is right from what God says and what is wrong from what he says; so God is called just because he is God.

> *"That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* Genesis 18:25

This was Abraham's prayer, when Sodom and Gomorah was to be destroyed and he makes that statement, 'do right' which is '***Mishpat'***. In the Hebrew language it means to acquit, or to do justice, or to do what is proper. Verse 19 *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."* To do justice and judgement or to do what is right. Why did God say that about Abraham? *"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."* Genesis 15:6

'For righteousness' – is the Hebrew word '***tsedaqah'***. ***Misphat*** in Hebrew is to do justice, to do right. It is the same word in the New Testament; "***dikaioo***" in Greek,

which means 'to justify', 'to treat as proper,' 'to deal with as right.' ***'Dikaiosune'*** in Greek is the same word with '***tsedaqah***' in Hebrew- a state of being proper or a state of being right. It is the word used in Genesis 15:6; Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as *dikaiosune*. He is seen as someone who will do right, hence, God's statement in Genesis 18:19 was in line with what he has declared him.

The reason God said '*I know Abraham, he will do right*' is because God himself is the only one who is right and has justified him. Abraham is now in a state where he will be said to do right; before he is in this state he has been acquitted as justified. How was he justified? By faith. In Genesis 18:19, God was not talking about Abraham's conduct but Abraham's faith. So righteousness is the state of a man. Righteousness is for one who has done rightly.

> *"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"* Romans 3:25

Notice how Paul builds his case.

In verse 24, he says, *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"* Being justified how? Freely! This means who is going to

justify him? God. And he is doing it without attaching conditions- freely by his grace. There has to be a legal reason for what he is doing. So he now says 'through the redemption that is in Christ.'

> *"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"* Romans 3:25

He is establishing God's conduct as proper. God did not just act on his own, there is a legal basis.

> *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."* Romans 3:26.

What he has done displays his nature of always doing right. God acquitted himself that he might be just. What is God's justification for justifying you? You can see clearly on a legal basis that what God has done is right. So justification is not a function of feeling; it is a legal issue. God has done these things on perfectly legal grounds. Righteousness is not forgiveness. It is also not pardon. It means you have been declared right; you have no wrong!

How did God do it? It is not based on what the person justified did; it was a third party action that justified the man.

> *"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."* Romans 4:5

'Dikaion' is another tense of the same word, used there for a state of being perfect. That is, the man is declared judicially as perfect. He says "to him that worketh not but believes on him that justifies the ungodly". Remember the context is a discourse on Abraham; so let me explain the word 'ungodly.'

Abraham was an ungodly man when God called him. The word 'ungodly' is the Greek word '***asebes***.' It is used for criminal, wicked, morally bankrupt people. That word is used for those who go to hell. That was what Abraham was in his conduct, yet God found a legal way of declaring Abraham righteous, acquitting him perfectly.

So, righteousness does not come from a man. It's a gift. The scripture says when you work for something; it's no more a gift but a debt. But when something is of grace, it is not a reward for good work. But many of us grew up with wrong understanding, that righteousness

is a reward for consistent church attendance and good conduct. It is a wrong mentality. God justified the ungodly. Again, how does God justify the ungodly?

> *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* – Romans 5:6

Christ died for the ungodly. That's the basis on which God "***diskaiosune"*** or "**dikaioo**" the sinner. A third party has paid for the wages. The wages of sin is death, someone has paid for it, and so you cannot hold it against him again. Christ died for the wicked. He did not die out of pity but rather it was a demonstration of his love. So righteousness is on very equitable terms.

> *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

'*while we were yet sinners*;' the word 'sinners' is used for rebels. The third party died to declare rebels right.

> *"What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*
> Romans 8:31-32

The word 'if' is used for 'since' or as a rhetorical question in Romans. '*Since God be for us*.' 'Be for us' is the Greek word ***dikaioo*** that is if God has justified you, what can stand against you?

In verse 32, the phrase 'spared not,' is a word used for just judgement, like giving somebody over for judgement.

> *"For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee."* Romans 11:21

Let's see the usage of the word in other scriptures.

> *"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;" 2*Peter 2:4-5

He that allowed judgement to be used on son, '*spared not his own son*' means; what is supposed to happen to the ungodly happened to his own son. His love is the motivation, but the act of justifying us was the righteous act, a perfectly legal action. He that spared not his own son, but delivered him,' the word

“delivered up”, means to hand over to, a term used for betrayal, when someone gives you up to your enemy.

It is the same word used in Matthew 18:34 ‘gave him up to those who will torment him’, Matthew 27:26- ‘he delivered him up be crucified, Romans 1:28- to hand over to torment, or to a tormentor. God did not deliver Jesus to himself; he gave him up to (death) his enemy. Jesus did it as an act of his will.

> “*And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”* Ephesians 5:2

The betrayal as an act of his will, notice the love is past tense, it’s not an emotion, it is not an experience, it is a fact that produces experiences for us. He gave up himself, normally used for giving to an enemy.

> *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”* Hebrews 2:14-15

He submitted himself to death, which is the power of the devil.

> *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* Romans 8:32

'*...freely give us all things,*' is "**charizonmai**" in the Greek, it is used for something that is favoured. That is, '*shall he not favour you*'- you are only a beneficiary of the justification- you are not a party. God's attitude to sinners is favour. God does not use sin, he does not tempt with sin, and he does not overlook sin. He favours the sinner on perfect legal grounds. How? By the death of his son Jesus.

The favour a man enjoys at the point he received Jesus is the favour he enjoys forever, because the sacrifice is once and forever. Right actions are good, but right actions don't justify, nothing about a man is right. David even knew better in the Old Testament said;

> *"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"*

> *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* Mathew 26:28

Remission in the Greek is '***aphesis***,' meaning 'to take it away' and 'no record of it.' the blood of Jesus is a permanent solution to sin. It takes away sin from our relationship with God. Sin can never break the relationship man has with God, because sins has been paid for.

> "*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*
> Luke 24:47

The gospel is remission of sins: so righteousness is a gift of God's justification. That is, God did what was right to justify you. Notice Paul's use of words, '*While we were yet sinners, Christ died.*' It has nothing to do with you. That is why we are beneficiaries of it today. He paid for sins forever. He stood into eternity and paid for sins. Righteousness therefore is a gift of God's justified act. We are righteous because of God's righteous act.

> *"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"* Hebrews 1:3

The word “purged” means to clear out. He purged our sins.

> “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”* Hebrews 8:12

‘I will remember no more.’ That’s the word. Remission, because he purged our sins.

> *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* Hebrews 9:14

> *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.”* Hebrews 10:1-2

Have we been purged of our sins? But he says those who are purged should have no conscience of sins.

> *"From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool."* Hebrews 10:13

Jesus died in our place. So when the guilty man has been punished, he is no longer guilty. God, based on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has justified the sinner, so we look at Romans 3:23 and 24. "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"*

He begins to explain who he has made the propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare the remission of sin or things that are past by the forbearance of God. He says that He might be just and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus Christ. So He states some things very clearly.

First, the Law has declared that everybody is a sinner so what does he do? He became flesh and dwelt among us and put the punishment of sin on Jesus.

> *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"* Romans: 8. 31.

"Spared not" is used for giving someone over to judgement "Gave him up" is to leave for betrayal or handing him over to tormentors, God is not one who torments, Jesus was handed over to death; who had the power of death? The devil had the power of death.

> *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."* Ephesians 5:2.

He offered Himself

> *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* Ephesians 5: 2.

The reason why a lot of congregation preach sin consciousness is because they are not talking about the sacrifice of Jesus. If you talk about the sacrifice of Jesus long enough you will break the hold of sin consciousness over the congregation, the sacrifice of Jesus is the answer; and so we said righteousness is a gift made available to you by faith, you don't attain it, you receive it.

> *"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."* Romans 4:25.

Righteousness is by faith and is also a gift. *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."* Romans: 8:13

The death of Jesus grants favor on the sinner so you are a favored of God.

> *"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."* Ephesians 1:6.

> *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"* 1 John 2:1.

Advocate is the Greek word "**Parakletos".** It means one who is your helper, who stands for you, who speaks for you. To take away wrath or anger or the sin that you committed, so Jesus takes away the wrath and anger against the sin we committed by His death

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2.

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."
1 John 3: 5.

To "**take away sin**", means remission, that is, to drive away. Sin can never come between God and the man who is a believer, never! It can't break the relationship, it can't affect it because Jesus Christ has suffered for sin forever.

Your Heart, Your Conscience is Your Making

We begin to deal with the word "conscious of sin", why would your heart condemn you? it's not the Holy Spirit who does that. The heart has nothing to do with the spirit. God is greater than the heart. Let us establish the word heart and conscience. Conscience is your own doing, own making, you are responsible for your conscience. Conscience is "**Sundesis"** in the Greek which means a persisting notion in your mind, something that stays long in your mind. A view that stays long in your mind. Paul begins to explain how a man forms his conscious.

"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled." 1 Cor. 8:4-7.

We know that an idol is nothing is this world and that there is no other God but one **"Ginosko" (the Greek word)**- which means we are aware by experience, we know that there is nothing like idols in this world. Look at verse 7 again. Does an idol exist? Some people have a consciousness of idols. The word conscious is consciousness that means you can be conscious of what does not exist, because of wrong teaching.

Conscious- A persisting notion, so your conscious is defiant because you think of what does not exist. The

Bible has told us that Jesus has been punished for your sins.

"Ginosko" means experimental knowledge, - the man that has a knowledge of idols is a function of his experience, the doctrine he is exposed to. You are the owner of your conscience. That's why the scripture says,

> *"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."* Hebrews 13:9.

Diverse and strange doctrines

You are the one who establishes your heart yourself, you have to fix your thoughts yourself, if you read the word stay with it, let your heart be established with Grace, you are the one that will unlearn what you have learned, Grace is freely given.

> *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."* Hebrews: 10:12.

Full assurance (some of us are partly assured): not partly, today you hear about what Christ has done, tomorrow something else. You hear Moses in the morning and Christ in the afternoon. Your mind is not stable.

An evil conscience is a result of sin consciousness. Example, you cannot pray until you confess your sin. You need to assure your heart, continually of your righteous state in Christ. How do you assure your heart?

> *"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."* Hebrews 1: 3

Jesus purged our sin and sits on the right hand of the majesty on high.

> *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."* Hebrews 2:9.

We see how Jesus tasted death for every man.

> *"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."* Hebrews 3: 1.

Consider - to thoughtfully think about someone.

> *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God; let us hold fast our profession."* Hebrews: 4:14.

He is our high priest.

> *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"* Hebrews 5: 8

Eternal – something that doesn't end.

> *"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."* Hebrews 6:19.

Anchor of the soul: What makes a ship to rest, what makes our soul to rest where our righteousness is

concerned. Jesus is the anchor of our soul who went behind the veil for us; that should make our soul rest

> *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that comes unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* Hebrews 7:25

Uttermost means once and forever. Seeing means something you do yourself.

> *"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens"* Hebrews 8: 1

He is there on our behalf.

> *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* Hebrews 9: 14.

> "*But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath*

perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10: 12-14

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. 9. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein." Hebrews 13:8

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant." Hebrews 13:20

He is the perfect offering, the perfect sacrifice. Jesus ministry to you is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is called the great shepherd of the sheep. The believer is to fix his focus on two things; fix your thoughts on **His office** and **His work for us.** In your worship, it's scripture, the written word, that should come to your mind. If you don't know the written word you can't look unto Jesus.

2



In this book, we are dealing with the subject of the accuser and his accusation. It is crucial to unmask the spirit behind the accusations that we face every day. Accusation is one major way Satan uses to put us on the defence in order to take advantage of us. Through accusations, we become wearied and give up on our faith. In this life, accusation is an everyday affair; you hardly do what is right in the sight of men. The spirit behind accusation is desperate in fault finding; he seeks to bring condemnation even on things that are not significant. As a believer, there is no way you live that the accuser leaves you alone, he is a despot and wants to find fault at any given time. He is at work twenty four hours a day, seeking someone to devour.

The bible says he accused the brethren day and night. He has no break time, always digging for evidences against us to throw at our face through which he hopes to bring conviction and eventually bring damnation.

Accusations will never cease to be, you just need to know how to deal with them. Satan has no authority over you, he cannot condemn you, he can only accuse you, and expect you to accept his side of the story, and condemn yourself. When you submit to his accusations, you arm him against yourself, because whatever he has to use against you, is what he gets from you. You need to know, that the enemy is not armed, Jesus dispossessed him of the weapon of his authority that he trusted in. Jesus says, *"When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when the stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."* Luke 11:21-22. Jesus, the stronger one has already overcome him, and removed from him, the armour wherein he trusted. Satan is not armed, he has no weapons to depend on other than deceit. The Church need to realise this truth, and take charge in this life.

Satan is desperate, his time is short, so he is even more committed in ruining the human race than when he began in the Garden of Eden. He sees faults in

everything, and he uses them to throw darts into our minds concerning our salvation in Christ. There are men yielded to the devil to serve the purpose of accusations all over the place, he's on his last lap and thus has more than doubled up on his efforts to destroy the faith of many.

Illustration

When you wear expensive clothes, someone is out there to accuse you of wasting money on clothes when you could have given the money to the poor, and when you wear rags, some others say you are broke, that your faith is not producing any result. When you marry early, they say you rushed into marriage when you could have waited to be mature before venturing into that great union, and that because of that, you do not have the wisdom to take charge of your home. If you marry late, they say you are marrying at old age, that you must have had character issue or inferiority complex. If you love your wife, they say your wife is controlling you, and you are only serving her purpose in life, if you try to exert authority at home, they say in this modern world, a man has no dominion over his wife, they are equal partners in marriage. There is no end to accusation, because the spirit behind is a fault finding spirit.

Accusation comes in different forms and shades but the purpose is the same, its aim is to bring condemnation into your life. We must know how to assure our hearts and overcome the feelings of condemnation. We must identify the accuser and know how to deal with him and his accusations. Your freedom in Christ will be tampered with if you are not fully equipped with the knowledge of God. Satan will not leave you alone, you are in constant warfare but it is a battle you engage in to maintain your place in Christ. We are not fighting with Satan, Jesus defeated him for us, we do not have to fight him, but we are fighting the good fight of faith. *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called, and has professed a good profession before many witnesses"* 1Tim. 6:12. It is a good fight because the result of the fight is known, we already won! We have eternal life, the enemy cannot reverse that or take it away.

The call of faith is the call to eternal life, we answered the call and have professed a good profession concerning eternal life. We are fighting the lies that Satan throws on our minds to dissuade us from what we have been called unto. That is the fight, it is the fight to maintain our ground of faith. We cannot succeed in keeping Satan at bay without a good understanding of our salvation in Christ. This book is a

tool to equip you with the proper knowledge to maintain your ground of faith. The accuser will not keep you under with his accusations when you fully get exposed to the teachings of God's word in this book. This is why the teaching ministry becomes necessary in these end times. The believer must be fully equipped with the right knowledge in order to be successful against the wicked one.

A lot of believers are living under intense stress and even in depression, because they are under constant guilt and condemnation. The enemy has put them under intense accusations, and they are barely holding on. The fear that they might, not make it in life, after all, because of the way they feel. Their works in the flesh has practically kept them in prison. They do not see themselves in the light of God's word, they judge themselves by the words of Satan. But we are not what Satan says, WE ARE WHAT GOD SAYS! Satan tries to block our understanding of God's word to keep us away from the truth. When your mind is not regulated by the word of God, you become a subject of his accusations. You must step up your life by building up your word level, you must de-educate yourself from the ways of the world, and develop your spirit in the things of God.

The only way to deal with the accuser is to have the right knowledge of your salvation in Christ. You are not a sinner saved by grace, that is Satan's slogan. You cannot be saved and still be a sinner, you cannot be both. If you are a sinner, you are a sinner, what you need to do is to receive Christ into your heart and get born again. Once you are born again, you are no longer a sinner, you are a saint, a new creation in Christ with NO PAST! (2Corinthians 5:17). You must start to act and talk as the new creation that you are in Christ, that is how to get over things spiritually. Satan depends on accusation as one of his lethal weapon to keep believers on the defence and eventually defeats them, so he keeps them emotionally connected to their mistakes. That keeps them where they lack assurance of their salvation and thus, do not enjoy their relationship with God. To overcome this, the believer must be equipped with the knowledge of God for everyday living. Until we know how to deal with accusation, it will be impossible to be successful as believers on earth.

The Accuser And His Accusation

The word "accuse" was used thirty times in the bible. It is from the Greek word, "**diabolos"** also used for Satan, or devil. It is also the same word used as "diabolical" which means prone to slander or being slanderous. It

refers to someone that makes charges to bring down (destroy) others. "**Diabolos"** literally means a slanderer or a deceiver, or a false accuser. It is also used as a metaphor for a man that opposes the cause of God, a man that sides with the devil or acting the part of Satan. To accuse therefore is to lay blame on someone with the intention of having him sentenced to punishment; to charge someone with a fault or offence or to charge with an offence judicially or by public process. The intention of accusation is to destroy someone. All these describe the exact nature of Satan. Once in the bible, the word "**diabolos**" was used in reference to demons. Satan, which means slanderer or deceiver, is the accuser of the brethren, that is his job. 2 Tim 3:3, Titus 2:3.

> *"And I heard the loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."* Rev. 12:10.

This was inference to Christ triumph in His resurrection, when He defeated them; principalities and powers, and made a show of them openly triumphing over them in it. *"And having spoiled all principalities and powers, he made a show of them*

openly, triumphing over them in it." Col. 2:15. He disarmed them and took them captive. The next thing Paul says is, "Let no man therefore judge you..." The accuser of the brethren has been disarmed and spoiled; no man should therefore judge you. Lots of believers think and act as though Satan has not been defeated, they ascribe to the devil what he does not possess. Some believers cry in prayers and even beg demons to leave. The assumption is that demons have tremendous powers so we cannot really face them. This is the lie Satan wants us to believe, but Satan has no power over the believer!

The day Jesus was raised from death, he triumphed over sin and death. The last Adam had undone the works of the first Adam. Jesus has taken His position as the resurrected Lord over His Church, Satan cannot UNDO WHAT JESUS HAS DONE Jesus has purified heaven by the sacrifice of Himself.

The word "accuse" is never used by the judge, it is used by the opponent. The word "accuse" or "accuser" also in the Greek is "**kategoros**". That word means to accuse someone with an intention of condemning him, it also means a prosecutor. A prosecutor in the law court is not the judge, he can prosecute but has no authority to condemn. "Kategoros" which literally means accuser is a name given to the devil by the

rabbis. It conveys the meaning of verbal attacks or verbal assaults. It is used symbolically as something that hits like a bullet. Accusation always comes in words. Jesus used the Greek word "kategoros" several times in the Gospels, and it was also used about Jesus in relation to the Jews response to His ministry while on earth.

> *"And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find and* ***accusation*** *against him."* Luke 6:6-7.

> *"And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might* ***accuse*** *him."* Matt. 12:10.

> *"And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which hath a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him."*
> Mark 3:1-2.

These scriptures are in reference to the same situation. The scribes and Pharisses sought means by which to accuse Him. They thought to provoke Him to do what would go against the law of the sabbath based on their interpretation to find an occasion of launching a verbal attack on Him. The Greek word "kategoros" was used here. Another scripture that this word was used is in the book of Luke 23:2-3. "And they began to accuse him, saying, *"We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caeser, saying that he himself is Christ a King."* In Pilate's response to them, he said,

> *"And Pilate, when he hath called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverted the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:"* Luke 23:13-14.

The leaders of the people: the chief priests, and the leaders of the Jews brought these verbal assaults against Jesus before Pilate, who was the Roman governor in Israel at the time. They thought to pitch Him against the Roman authority in order to be seen as being against the government and have Him punished

by death. All the devil was after was to get Him out of his way. These religious leaders were just being used by evil spirits. After Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, the bible says he left Him for a while. *"And when the devil had ended up all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."* Luke 4:13. Satan came back in the skins of Pharisees, and Sadducees, and Lawyers, and as many of the leaders of the people that could make themselves available to him. They were all his mouth piece, throwing accusations against Jesus at every given opportunity.

Another time Jesus directly used the word "kategoros" was in connection to Israel's response to the law of Moses.

> *"Do not think that I will accuse to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"* John 5:45-47

When Jesus said Moses was their accuser, He did not mean that Moses was there with God accusing them. He did not mean that Moses as a person was their accuser, that would be a misrepresentation of what He was saying, there is no other scripture that holds that

view in the New Testament. Also, Moses did not play the role of Satan at anytime. He as a person was certainly not the accuser of the Jews. We can only understand this fully when we take a closer look at what Jesus was actually saying.

To understand this within the context of what Jesus was saying, we must understand what He meant by "Moses" in that scripture. "Moses" was used in place of "the law", he signifies the law. He was not talking about the person of Moses. Jesus was referring to the writings of Moses. What Jesus said is "there is one that accuseth you, even Moses", He said that in reference to the law of Moses. He was saying the law of Moses brings a legal case against them before God. In other words, Jesus was saying that the law of Moses was their accuser. He was saying that the writings of Moses was against them because they did not believe nor obey what Moses wrote.

The law of Moses was their accuser before God, it held them guilty for not believing what was written in the law. Jesus is not a fault finder, He is not looking for errors in people's lives to condemn them, because He did not come to run a ministry of condemnation on earth, and He still does not run any. He came to a world that was condemned by sin to set it free from the judgment of death. Jesus told them that the laws that

they so much trusted was against them because they did not obey it. Had they hearkened to the writings of Moses, they would have known and received Him.

Recall the other meaning of the word "accuse" is to prosecute. In other words, Jesus was saying that the law of Moses prosecutes them before God because they do not believe what it says. He went on to explain that Moses wrote about Him, so, it is explicit that He was talking about the writings of Moses, not the person of Moses. If they had believed the writings of Moses, they would have believed in Him. (Matt. 5:45-47). But since they did not believe in Him, it was a proof that they did not believe the writings of Moses. So, the law of Moses was their judge. In Jesus' words, the entire writing of Moses was about Him, that means, without Him, there would be no Moses (the Mosaic Law). Jesus was the reason for the Mosaic law, so Christ was the message.

Accusations are always in words, and they hit like a bullet. They are never meant to give you any chance to reason them out, they are spoken with the note of finality to cast judgment on you. Your accusers do not expect you to respond and explain yourself, their words are intended to spell final judgment on you.

> "*And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.*

> *Then said Pilate unto him, Heareth thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled."* Matt. 27:12-14

Words were spoken stoutly against Jesus before Pilate, they verbally assaulted Him with many words, but He did not answer a word against His accusers. Jesus did not explain Himself nor throw accusations on them to prove them wrong or straighten out their argument. Jesus was such a disciplined man, He understood the power of words. He could not take our place in judgment until He received our accusations upon Himself. That made the governor to marvel, he had never seen a thing like that.

Accusations

There are false accusations and there are accusations that are not necessarily false. When they accused Jesus as perverting the people, it was false. Jesus did not pervert anybody in deeds or words. Pilate soon found out that they lied. But in spite of the fact Jesus knew they were lying against Him, He did not answer them a word. Peter talked about people being accused falsely.

"Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evil doers, they may be ashamed that they falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." 1Peter 3:16-18.

This shows us a pattern of being falsely accused, Pilate acceded to that fact when he said he found no cause of death in Him. *"And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him and let him go."* Luke 23:22. Jesus was falsely accused, He was falsely assaulted stoutly with words, but He did not answer. He was within the will of God not to answer His accusers. The bible says when Jesus was reviled, He reviled not. *"Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."* 1 Peter 2:23.

Jesus knew the purpose of His coming. He was not guilty of what He was accused of, but someone else was guilty, He was bearing our guilt upon Himself, so

He threatened not. If Jesus defended Himself, we would be the loser! He was not paying for the sins He committed, He did not commit any. We were the beneficiaries of His suffering. He committed Himself to the will of the Father, the righteous judge.

Now, Peter tells us in the scripture I quoted above that when you are accused falsely, and they speak evil of you, they will be ashamed as an evidence of your good manner of life that they are lying against you. This shows that we could be accused falsely, the same way Jesus was accused falsely. He did not say we should defend ourselves when falsely accused, he said Jesus was falsely accused in the same manner. Based on those false accusations, He was put to death, but was quickened by the Spirit when He was raised from the dead. He did that so that He would receive our accusation, which would be genuine, and in so doing receive our punishment to free us from eternal judgment. He did that to procure our salvation. But not all accusations are false. There are accusations that are not false, but every accusation has one objective, to bring condemnation.

The Case of the Woman Caught In Adultery

> *"And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken taken in adultery; and*

when they had set her in the midst, They said unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:3-11

This woman was not falsely accused, she was caught in the very act of adultery. The scribes and Pharisees are Moses' employees, so to speak, they were the

defenders of Moses and the law. They knew the Torah and interpreted the law. A Pharisee knows the law of Moses, the Psalms and the major prophets by heart. One would not qualify as a Pharisee until all is known. So these were not ordinary people. They did not need to consult the Torah to know the exact punishment this woman deserved. They studied Moses so well that they were like the walking law. To authenticate and give legal backing, and establish a doctrinal case against this woman before Jesus, they quoted from the law. There was an actual sin, she was caught right in it, there was a core evidence against her and there was a law backing her execution. They considered Jesus as a Rabbi, so they provided a legal stand in the law on her case before Jesus to nail that woman, so that she could be sentenced.

At this point, this woman was already condemned to death by stoning based on the position of the law, but someone without sin would have to pass that verdict on her. She was guilty by the law of Moses. Her accusers were not ordinary people, they were doctors of the law, when they catch you, you are caught, and when the nail you, you are nailed. They quoted from Deuteronomy 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22 to back up their accusation. The people accusing this woman did not just throw stones on people, they had hard facts on this woman's case, but they must back it up

with what the law said. *"Without the law, no act is a sin. For it to be a sin, they must show the position of the law. The bible defines sin as the transgression of the law. "Whosoever committed sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* 1John3:4. Unless your action transgressed the law of Moses, you did not sin. This woman was certainly not falsely accused, there was a guilty verdict hanging on her head.

Why did these people need to bring this woman to Jesus? These are accusers, they accused the woman, and brought her to Jesus in order to use her case to accuse Jesus for breaking the law of Moses should He not ask them to stone her. Why didn't they judge the woman according to their law since she was caught in the very act? They were not just after that woman, they needed not to bring her to Jesus, they knew the position of the law and what they law prescribed in dealing with the case of adultery. There were loopholes in their case although because the position of the law was that both of them should be brought to justice but they brought only the woman. Secondly, the woman that should be treated like that must have been betrothed to someone, but that woman was not. This was a case of adultery or even fornication. They actually faulted the law by not considering these two positions of the law.

These people desperately wanted to find something to accuse Jesus of, it was a trap they were setting for Jesus. They knew Jesus would not condemn that woman, they never saw or heard Him condemn anybody, so they thought Jesus would tell them the woman was not guilty and they would find cause to accuse Him of breaching the law of Moses. But if in any case Jesus passed a verdict of condemnation on her, they would say He did not show her mercy, therefore He was not the Christ and Israel should not believe in Him. The cardinal point of messiahship was to pardon sin, so if He failed to do that, He would not be considered the Messiah. They were out to find fault with both Jesus and the woman.

Jesus acted as though He did not hear them, He stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger. He just ignored them, but they thought they had gotten Him on a corner and continued to ask Him. Jesus then lifted up Himself and told them that anyone of them that was without sin, let him cast the first stone, and He again stooped down and wrote with His finger on the ground. They understood the law that none of them was without sin. They understood from the writings of Isaiah that there was no one righteous man. For Isaiah said "*Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and before time, that we may say, He is righteous? yea, there is none that*

sheweth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words." Isaiah 41:26. Again Isaiah said, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one on his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* Isaiah 53:6. With these and many other writings in the law of Moses, it was obvious that none of them could cast a stone against that woman.

The only person that has the right to judge or condemn another person is the person that has no sin. So Jesus asked of anyone of them that was in position to condemn that woman to be the first to cast a stone against her. They were all convicted by their conscience and walked away one by one beginning from the oldest to the youngest. They could accuse, but they could not condemn. Even when they accused Jesus, they could not condemn Him, they had to take Him to Pilate who had the civil authority to condemn. The accuser does not condemn, all he does is to accuse. The only person qualified to condemn this woman was Jesus, He was the only one without sin. Had Jesus not known the law by Himself, He would not have gotten out of that.

When you come before the law court, it is the law that will either condemn you or set you free. Every lawyer in the court room will cite the law, they would quote

from the law and the previous judgments to argue their case, but only the judge has the power to pronounce a guilty or not guilty verdict. Only the judge will pass the sentence according to his knowledge of the law, he could as well temper justice with mercy. The lawyers and the accusers do not decide the sentence, the judge has the prerogative to do so. You are not judged and sentenced based on people's feelings or bias, you are judged by the law. You can feel emotional in a court room and weep, but it won't change the position of the law, because the law is not subject to your emotions. You beg the judge, your loved ones can join you in begging and weeping in the court, even the entire people in the court can join you in begging the judge; but all of that won't change anything. The judge does not go by his emotion, he goes by the law. No matter how emotional he feels about you, he will judge the case on its merit. There is no sentiment in the court room, it's justice that matters.

Hence, if you do not understand the legality of redemption, you will stay bound forever. You will never be sure of anything until you know that you were saved based on justice that was meted on Christ. Satan will always seek to push you into doubt over the legality of your redemption, that is how he can make you shift from your standing in faith into feelings. He

wants to drive you with guilt until you lose your ground of faith, and start to doubt your salvation in Christ. When Satan came against Jesus on the mountain of temptation, he did not expect to lose, there would be no need for the temptation if he knew he would lose the case. It was after Jesus' baptism in water by John, after the heavens opened and God declared Jesus as His beloved Son, in whom He was well pleased, ending it by saying "hear ye him". The first thing Satan did was to throw a dart on His identity. He tried to cause Him to doubt His identity and to feel God neglected Him. He tried to challenge His power, and asked Him to command stones to turn into bread to prove He was the Son of God.

It's not that Jesus could not have commanded stones into bread, but if He did, He would have obeyed Satan, not God. If Jesus wanted bread, He needed to hear from God not Satan. Jesus was hungry when he came, he struck at the time that Jesus could fall and struck at the point of His need. Jesus told him that if He needed bread, He would get it from God speaking to Him. He told him that he lives by the words that proceeds from the mouth of God. At the end of his attacks on Jesus, he began to quote from scriptures to validate his temptation. Satan is always on legal ground to bring accusations. Satan does not guess his way around people, he presents facts, that is why your knowledge

of the word of God must be deep and precise (Philemon 6).

The scribes and Pharisees did not have frivolous accusation against this woman. She was caught in the very act. It was not hearsay or a suspicion, they had hard core evidence. They did not think that they would lose that case, to them, the judgment was sure and the verdict certain. When Satan accuses you, he presents you with the facts. If he says you stole, he will cause you to see the picture of how and when it happened. He will not guess about that accusation. Even you yourself will know that what he is saying happened; that is why Satan's accusation torments people and fills them with guilt. They pulled out the legal ground for the condemnation of this woman before Jesus, they were not in doubt of the final outcome. What these scribes and Pharisees did not know however was that they were standing right before a higher law, they were asking the highest judge in heaven and on earth, the final say concerning the matter of the law to condemn that woman. They did not consider that He had the prerogative to temper justice with mercy.

When Jesus lifted up Himself and found out that they had all gone, He asked the woman, *"Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. Jesus said unto her, Neither do I*

condemn thee: go, and sin no more." Jesus identified the scribes and the Pharisees that brought her as her accusers. But they did not have the power to condemn her. Once she called Jesus “Lord”, she received mercy from God. Jesus called her "woman", He did not call her prostitute; He called her woman. To the accusers she was an adulterer, a prostitute, but Jesus identified her by who she was and not what she did, He called her "woman". Jesus that had the power to condemn her chose not to condemn, He told her to go and sin no more.

In Jesus words, you have to be without sin to condemn anybody, or else you just have to shut up. You have no business talking about another man's sin when you are not without sin. Even if you have evidence against others, as long as you are not without sin, your evidence does not put you in the position to judge another man. Therefore, no human being is in the position to judge another human being. This woman's accusers left her alone, they could not condemn her because they were not sin-free. Their conscience pricked them, and they left one by one. Accusation does not mean condemnation though that is its target. That you are accused falsely or otherwise, does not mean you are condemned.

The Gift of "No Condemnation"

Jesus asked this woman if she was condemned by any of her accusers, but she answered and said, "No one, Lord". When she called Him Lord, she submitted to His Lordship. She would be bound by whatever verdict Jesus gave. You do not call Jesus Lord and get sentenced to death, when you call Him Lord you get salvation. Saul of Tarsus called Him “Lord” when he was confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus on a murderous mission. Jesus confronted him to stop him from his wicked act, but when he asked, "... Who are you Lord?” It was an admission of Jesus authority. Do you realise that the light that shone on him was brighter than the sun that shines in its strength? It knocked him down from his horse and blinded him. Saul of Tarsus was a smart man, he called Him Lord first before he tried to know who He was that was talking to him from the light. When this woman called Him “Lord”, it was her submission to the mercy of God. Jesus said to her, "*Neither do I condemn you...*"

What Jesus gave this woman was the gift of "no condemnation". She did not deserve it, she deserved death by stoning. It was a gift not a reward, or a reaction, or a payment. Jesus gave her "no condemnation". She was acquitted and discharged in the face of hard evidence. The grace of God set her free

irrespective of the claims against her. The gift of "no condemnation" is called righteousness. There is something else I want you to see here, when this woman stood before Jesus, she did not repent for what she did. She did not tell Jesus that she was sorry for her action even when her accusers had all left and she stood before Jesus alone. She was not sorry for her action, no promise that she would not do it again. All she did was to call Him Lord. When she did that, she walked away a free woman. Her accusers could not come back to judge her, she had been made free by the highest judge, no one could touch her again. In fact, there was no reference to that matter anymore.

This thing happened before Jesus went to the Cross and died for us. The gift of righteousness (no condemnation) was given to this woman before repentance. This is so because actually, it is the gift of righteousness that helps you to repent. Repentance is a change of mind, you are not able to change your mind until your heart is circumcised. Until you receive the life of Christ, you have no authority over your mind. Your mind rules you until your spirit is recreated in Christ. So the gift of righteousness precedes repentance. The bible says it's God's goodness that leads to repentance. "*Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not*

knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Rom. 2:4.

You are to believe in Him that justifies the ungodly. "*But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."* Rom. 4:5. That is how it works, you believe first, and God will give you the gift of "no condemnation". Righteousness removes timidity, it makes you bold. No unbeliever can stand as a threat before a believer that knows his right in the kingdom of God. When you receive the word of God, it "reboots" your life for maximum productivity. Religion feeds sin, that is what brings out the strength of sin-consciousness.

Righteousness and justification are the same thing, when you are justified, you are made righteous. It has nothing to do with what you did or did not do. That woman's works were not considered when Jesus set her free. She would not be set free if her works were considered, she was caught in the very act of adultery! But she believed the words of Jesus. What faith in the Lordship of Jesus will accomplish for you, your righteous works cannot activate same. You cannot work out spiritual things any other way but by faith in Christ Jesus.

Accusation Is Never Positive

Accusation is not for correction, it brings condemnation. The accuser does not come up with positive things about you, he brings negative things. But for him to successfully accuse you, he must be without sin. Any one that is not sinless, has no right to condemn you, all he can do is to stop at accusation. You can see why you should not give Satan any room in your life. Satan is the accuser of the brethren, but he cannot go beyond accusation. All he does is verbal assault, he cannot condemn because there is sin in him. He has to be sin free to judge anybody. Satan is sinful, he is the president and founder of sin, so he lacks the legal and moral grounds to condemn anybody. When you sin, you do not sin against Satan. Satan has no law for anybody to breach, he is lawless. He only took advantage of the law of Moses to bring men into the condemnation of sin.

You need to grasp this truth to experience true freedom. You do not sin against Satan, you sin against God. So, in the first place, Satan has no business accusing you, not to talk of condemning you. Satan has no legal jurisdiction over a believer that sins. All the demands for sin was paid by Jesus. That brought us into the family of God, he has been kicked out. When you sin, you do so within the confinement of the family,

it is a family matter. God, through Jesus, is the head of this family, and only Him can settle the matter of sin. The beauty of this is that God has settled all sin problems in Christ, He settled everything over two thousand years ago. God is not interested in the sin issue any more, He's made the blood of Jesus the propitiation for sin.

Satan really can do nothing about this, the blood of Jesus is a judge against him. All he does is verbal assaults. He reminds of your many wrong doings of the past, he uses things you did wrong years ago to confront your future. He does not even know what your future holds, he relies on your past to throw accusations against you. He tries to confront your claim of righteousness by throwing many darts into your mind over what you did wrong. That is where the battle is, it is in the mind, and you need the word of God to take authority over your mind.

> *"For though we walk in the flesh, do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, bringing*

into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:3-5

We are not fighting flesh and blood. Our weapons are not carnal, we do not fight with guns and bullets. We fight with words! The strongholds of the enemy are not some demonic structures erected somewhere, they are not some principalities ruling in some families or communities. Strongholds are thoughts and imaginations that are contrary to the provision of redemption. Satan assaults us with words, he tries to dominate our minds with words that interpret our natural life and environment. We'll only overcome him with the words of redemption. When he throws those negative words on us to control our thoughts, we renew our minds with the word of God and take authority of the thoughts of doubts and unbelief that he brings against us. That is the battle, it is fought with words, and it is a continual one. He is an accuser, words are his tools of operation. You must subject every word to the authority of Christ. He brings our works to our face, and shows us how unqualified and unfit we are to claim righteousness. He tries to drive us to the point of guilt until we are depressed.

Satan's attacks gets at you because you are untrained, when you are unskilled in the word of righteousness. When your conscience is not trained in the word of

God, Satan uses your conscience to deal with you. Your conscience once untrained in the knowledge of God can be a source of weakness in your life, it will keep you on the path of condemnation all the time. Satan will get your conscience fixed on sin, and weaken you, you will not be able to function in faith again. Your conscience, once unstable, makes you to be double minded. That breeds doubts and unbelief in your life. Sin consciousness leads to condemnation. The bible says a double minded person cannot receive anything from the Lord. James 1:6-8. A corrupted conscience will give Satan unhindered access into your mind to ruin you. You have to renew your mind with the word of redemption constantly. Satan feasts on ignorance, you do not get him off by prayers but by knowledge.

One of the reasons some unbelievers succeed in business more than believers is that they have no conscience. They do not feel guilty about anything, nothing disturbs their minds, because they are not conscious of any sin. Unbelievers do not know about Satan, they will cheat you and feel happy. They see it as being smart. I do not say their ways are the right ways, but just showing that your conscience can be trained rightly or wrongly. When you train your conscience in the word of righteousness, sin consciousness will not dominate you. This understanding sets men free, it brings peace into our minds. It's very important to

keep your mind on the word of God, because your mind is necessary for your success in life. The bible says; *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusted in thee."* Isaiah 26:3. You must keep your mind fixed on God's word. See yourself in the light of redemption, not the way others see you. Do not interpret your life on the natural lines, say what God says about you, that is the way to be righteousness conscious.

It is what Christ did that brought peace and freedom, you have to believe and accept His sacrifice in order to experience the peace of God in your life. Because we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1. The bible tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy, and find grace at the time of need. *"Let us therefore come boldly to throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Heb. 4:16. When do we need mercy? When we have done wrong! You do not need mercy until you have done what only mercy can bail you out from. Mercy is our right in redemption, so God tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace when we need mercy. If your mind is full of guilt, you will not be bold, you will be timid. When you fall into sin, it's mercy that you need, but Satan will want to use guilt to conquer you. If you do

not renew your mind concerning what Christ has done, Satan will defeat you with guilt, and ruin your life.

How does God deal with sin? We can see that in how Jesus dealt with that woman's case. God deals with sin by giving us the gift of righteousness. That was exactly how Jesus dealt with that woman's case, He gave her a gift of "Neither do I condemn you, go, and sin no more." What gift was that? It is the gift of "no condemnation"! That is the gift of righteousness. It is righteousness that declares you not guilty. Righteousness is the cure to sin-consciousness in the believer. Righteousness handles sin-consciousness, same way grace removes judgment. The accuser accuses the believer day and night, it is an ongoing battle. Until the state of a man's life is changed from sin to righteousness, he stands condemnable. In other for that not to happen, God gives him a new state of life and living, a state of being right; that is what is called righteousness. While the accuser throws his darts of accusation, God does not see them, He has already declared you "not guilty" in Christ. When you fully grasp this knowledge, your freedom will set in like never before. Once you understand that there is nothing God does for us because we deserve it, you will appreciate the love and kindness of God beyond anything.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren, he has nothing doing but accusations of all sorts. That is his full-time job. He walks about throwing accusations on people to get them over to condemnation. But he is not in position to sentence anybody, all of his efforts end at accusation. Satan is not the judge, he's not going to judge anybody because he is full of sin. He can only bark, he has no teeth to bite. If you subject your mind to the word of God, and heed the word of God to let the mind of Christ be in you, Satan will lose interest in you. He does not want you to know what Christ has done, because he cannot fight that knowledge, but if you stay in the word of the New Testament, Satan will have no interest in you. Cover your heart with the word of righteousness, that is why the bible calls righteousness a breastplate. That is what protects your heart, which is the centre of your life. Bring every thought to the subjection of Christ. That way, the accusations of Satan will not govern your life.

Remember Satan is not God, he is just an angel, a fallen angel. He is not a creator, so he does not have things that originate from him. Jesus says there is no truth in him. (John 8:44). There is nothing he has ever said that is truth. He may show you certain facts about your life, the things that you actually did in the flesh, but those things he shows you do not constitute the truth about you. That you did them does not mean they constitute

the truth about you. The truth about you is what comes from God's word, not what you did. What you did negatively was a product of a false life, that is why it is called sin. Satan does not know the truth about you, he has to get into the word of God to know that, but he has no means of knowing God's word.

The devil is ignorant. He knows. If he knew God's plans, he would not have gone on rampant killings of children in Bethlehem in search of Jesus. Even when men assisted him to know from prophecies where Christ would be born, he still did not know from the word of God that Christ would be in Egypt at the time he was on mass killing of children two years and under in Bethlehem.

Satan does not know God. The assumption many have made Satan overthrowing God only imaginary. Angels do not know the word of God, that is one reason they do not preach. They are sent to minister to men- heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:7, 14). In this dispensation, angels neither have the understanding of the gospel of grace, nor are they involved with its preaching except to act on the words spoken. That is why they look into the workings of the Holy Spirit in the Church with amazement.

"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." 1Peter 1:12.

Angels desire to look into the things of salvation. They do not know why and how God got involved with men. They are God's agents of deliverance but they do not understand the word of salvation. And how could they? How could they explain why the all righteous God will declare a sinful man not guilty? How could they unravel the mystery of redemption? They did not form part of the decision making of God about redemption, they have no part in man's creation or purpose, they were just commanded to serve man by the all wise God, that is why they are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them that shall be heirs of salvation. Hebrews 1:14.

Angels just do what God tells them to do, they hearken to the voice of His word when we speak it. Satan is an angel, he is a fallen angel. He has no wisdom, no glory, no power, no position of authority and no access to God, he is doomed. If he does not get a man to use, he remains limited. Satan is a pervert, he is a destroyer;

he does not have good thoughts, he is evil. When you let him to access you with his lies, you will end up with guilt and lose your ground of faith. Accusation is his weapon, he depends on it to bring men into condemnation. But you have the word of salvation to stand your ground in faith. Jesus is your salvation, He is your defence. Because you have been bought by the precious blood of Christ. When you depend on the blood of Jesus, you will win against all opposition. The blood of Jesus is our defence line against the forces of evil, in Christ, we triumph in all things.

Spirits use humans to function on earth, they have no material bodies, therefore have no authority to function in the material world. If you major on the person being used against you, you lose the battle. That person is just serving as the housing of the spirit in operation, you succeed only when you realise that and deal with the spirit behind the accusation. You have to learn to take authority against the spirit behind the accusation in the name of Jesus, and command him to desist from its operation. The devil will want you to focus on the human being accusing you, he will want to pull you down to the sense realm, but you don't have to fall for that. Behind all accusations are demons, and they have to be identified as the causative agents of whatever issue you are being accused of.

The issue about accusation is not whether it's false accusation or there are evidences of guilt about what you are being accused of, the issue is that Satan is the one throwing stones, and he has no authority to do so. If you consider the facts of the matter, you will become timid especially if you really did those things you are being accused of. But if you considered the truth of the matter, that is the truth that Christ already paid for all your guilt, you will bring the devil under your foot at every given time. Whatever happens, just know and believe that you are not guilty, Christ took all your guilt, He left none. You are a free man, Christ makes you free.

3



The accuser of the brethren does not come to threaten us with empty words, he is not coming on the basis of illegality, and he is not emotional. He comes against us with hard evidence, so, you can only face him with truth. The issues of redemption are not emotional issues, they have nothing to do with how you feel. They are legal issues, and it is only legal issues that will take a man to heaven or hell. Our adversary is not emotional at all, you succeed against him only when you confront him with the word of truth. How you feel about things does not really bother God or Satan.

Satan is not going to be merciful and reduce your pains or losses, if anything, he will increase them beyond

your capacity to bear so that he breaks you down. Satan is wicked, that is why you must be ready to confront him with the word of truth. The bible says, *"Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."* Psalms 74:20. If you do not respect the word of God, if you do not honour it above everything else, you will be a victim of cruelty.

We will look further into the word of God on the legality of our redemption in Christ. Some of the things I will be talking about here go contrary to religious beliefs. They may therefore upset some of our beliefs but they are perfectly in line with the revelation of the New Testament. Satan has fought Christians over the years with religion, and still seeks to deny men access to the truth that sets them free through religion. Religion is not a friend, it's an enemy. We will unlock some of these truths as contained in New Testament to the detriment of the enemy. As you read through this truths and believe the word of God for yourself, the accuser will never have a foothold against you anymore and forever. Where there is truth, Satan cannot function, he is so far from truth as the South Pole is far from the North Pole. So, when you build your life on truth, you totally cut off from Satan.

Let's not lose sight of what was spoken in Romans 8. The word of God says there that, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 8:1). The Greek word for the word "condemnation" is "**krisis**", which is the same as judgment or verdict. Christ saves and protects us from "**krisis**". When we receive salvation in Christ, we are passed from death to life (John 5:24). If we hold fast to this truth, if we do not move away from it through religious beliefs, we will never be defeated by the devil. God's word is above every other opinion. If God says there is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus, then there is truly no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. You can take that word to the bank, so to speak. You can depend on it as you depend on oxygen, it is as strong as life. If you are in Christ, there no condemnation for you! Satan cannot judge you, the world cannot judge you, and men cannot judge you. Once again, let's read carefully the words of Jesus about that.

> *"Verily. Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life."* John 5:24.

The hearing, and believing of the word of God, is required for one to pass from death to life. Once you believe God's word and act on what it says about salvation, you pass from death to life. It has nothing to do with how you feel, the word of God does not put premium on the flesh. However you feel does not justify or condemn you, it is what you believe that determines your life. When we received Christ and got born again, God did not leave a part of us under the dominion of Satan. He removed us from the kingdom of darkness, and placed us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Darkness HAS NO role in your life once you receive Christ. But Satan does not just leave like that, he still hangs around and continues to try to see whether he can control our life from without.

Secured In the Blood

It was agreed in the court of eternal justice, by the foreknowledge of God, that any time blood is offered on the behalf of the sinner, that man should be treated as though he never sinned. That was why Abraham was treated as though he did not sin one time in his life. His faith in Christ justified him from sin and its effects. Righteousness was accounted unto him for his faith (Romans 4:3, 9). Abel found favour with God on the basis of animal sacrifice according to the Old Testament. Genesis 4:4. Both Abel and Abraham

approached God based on their faith in Christ (Hebrews 11:4, 8) and that was accounted unto them for righteousness. They did not come to God on the grounds of their good works but faith in the blood of the sacrifices they made to God, which we later saw was figurative of the blood of Jesus.

From the very beginning, when Adam sinned, God clothed him with the skin of the animal. The bible says the life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). Animal sacrifices had its limitation under the old covenant, but that was where it stopped, it could not provide eternal security, it did not produce eternal life because there is no eternal life in animals. However, animal sacrifice was a shadow of what was to come, it was a type. There was no permanent solution for sins in animal sacrifice, sins were remembered yearly (Hebrews 10:1). But it provided the needed temporal solution until Christ came to permanently put away sins by the sacrifice of Himself.

Israel in Egypt were not born again people, they were inside their houses when the angel of death visited Egypt. But their door posts and lintels were marked with blood. Because of the blood of sacrifice, they were treated as righteous people. The blood on the door posts and lintels of their houses provided a protection over all of them, they were all treated as righteous

people. The blood of animal sacrifices provided a cover for them, and they were all treated as good people.

The Egyptians that died also did not die because they were sinners. What separated Israel from death was the blood of sacrifice on the door posts and over the lintels of their houses. Had the Egyptians copied Israel in making sacrifices to God and putting animal blood over the door posts of their houses, even though they were not the people of God, they would have been protected from the angel of death too. Israel was not protected because they were good people, the blood of sacrifice provided that natural security.

When Israel left Egypt and were in the desert for forty years, all types of animal sacrifices were demanded of them for their covering. The great Day of Atonement where animals were offered for the forgiveness of their sins and for their protection from the consequences of sins became an annual ritual. That is where their safety remained. Now in the New Testament, God provided a permanent solution, there is perfect eternal security in the blood of Christ. Jesus has eternal life in Himself. He said; *"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given the Son to have life in himself."* John 5:26. Because there is eternal life in Christ, what God provided in His blood has eternal effect. This understanding is

necessary because of the brutality and the injustice of religion.

Religion has tormented the Church for so long, but with a perfect understanding of the provisions of our redemption in Christ, we will not be the victims of the accuser's cruelty. The bible says; *"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."* Heb. 9:22.

Sin Has Been Judged

> *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figure of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."* Heb. 9:24-26

Jesus entered into heaven itself to appear in the presence of God for us! *"...but once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put sin away by the sacrifice of himself".* This is the core issue of our redemption in

Christ. He, Jesus, appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. To put away sin means to remit or remove sin. Jesus took sin away, so, sin does not have the power to stand as a barrier between man and God any more. There is nothing in the presence of God that can breach our relationship with Him. Sin separated man from God, it breached the relationship between man and his Creator. It was a wall so tall that no man could climb over it to relate with God. God put on flesh, came down as a man, and pulled down that wall of barrier by paying the full price of sin. He removed sin and became the mediator between man and God, by so doing, He judged sin in His flesh.

The bible teaches that Jesus condemned sin in the flesh. *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"* Rom. 8:3. God sent Jesus for the cause of sin, that was why He came. He took on the likeness of sinful flesh for the purpose of the judgment of sin. Sin had to be judged in the flesh, that is where it finds expression. The flesh that would judge sin however must be perfect. Even when animals were offered for the atonement for sin under the Old Testament, innocent and perfect animals were required by law to be offered. You did not offer an animal with blemish on the altar of sacrifice, the sacrifice must be perfect. Jesus

was the only perfect and innocent man that could ever be since after the fall of Adam, God sent Him to deal with the issue of sin because no man could escape its dominion. He came in the likeness of sinful flesh and condemned sin in the flesh.

Sin means the transgression of the law. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* 1John 3:4. You did not commit sin if you did not break the law. The bible says, *"For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputeth when there is no law."* Rom. 5:13. Sin was not credited to any one until the law came. *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."* 1John 3:5. What qualified Jesus to take away our sins was that there was no sin in Him. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he cannot be condemned because there is no sin in Him, and thus, no condemnation in Him. Since Christ was manifested to take away sin, which He did, you cannot be talking about sin when you are in Christ. Your sins were remitted when you came into Christ. Jesus took away the verdict and the judgment of sin by the sacrifice of Himself, He took the sentence and the punishment that comes with sin.

Jesus was God trapped in time, and He came to take away sin on the behalf of the sinner. He had no sin of

His own to bear, He would not be able to judge sin if He had sin in Himself. He took our sins on Himself and bore all the consequences of sin because He was sinless, He was a perfect sacrifice. Peter says He bore our sins on His own body. *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* 1Peter 2:24. He bore our sins in His body! He actually took them. We were dead to sin, that was our condition; sin was natural with us. Nothing disturbed us when we sinned, that was our spiritual condition, sin was our spiritual heritage, we were dead in it. But Jesus took sin away and brought us into righteousness where sin has no authority.

Jesus Took Care of Sins Once And For All

> *"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."* Heb. 1:3.

He purged our sins and sat down. He is not going to purge our sins again, He has already done it! It was a once and for all thing. He sat down because He was done with the issues of sins; He did it once and it was

over. He sat down to confirm that the sin problem was over. He is no longer purging sins, He is in the highest place of authority expecting His enemies to be made His footstool. He died unto sin once and death cannot play a role in His life any more, and for ever. *"For in that he died, he died for sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."* Rom. 6:10. Sin problems cannot be solved twice, Jesus died for sin once, and that is all, He can never die for sin again. Our freedom from sin is total, nothing is to be repeated. Now He lives unto God, He is God's appointed and anointed High Priest over the Church. His triumph over sin is our freedom from sin, His spiritual condition right now is our spiritual condition.

The prophet Isaiah, in his most insightful prophecy of Jesus' messianic work, gives us a vivid description of what exactly happened. He leaves us without a shadow of doubt that Christ accomplished redemption in its fullness when He took our place in death. He was our substitute in death, and through His resurrection from the dead gave us a new life, which is His very life. This is one of the greatest records (in prophecy) of Christ's redemptive work. Isaiah says;

> *"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was*

wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every man on his way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquities of us all. He was oppressed, he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut out of the land of the living: for the transgressions of my people was he stricken." Isaiah 53:4-8

This is the complete story of His redemptive work. God laid on Him the iniquities of us all, He became the carrier of all sins. There is no sin that is yet to be paid for. Jesus became the man of sorrows acquainted with griefs; He took our sorrows and griefs. Sin is the source of all these, when He took our sins, He took everything that sin could produce. This prophecy was given years before Jesus came in the flesh. He came to fulfil that word and make men free from the dominion of sins once and for all. Remember that everything God provided through Christ is eternal; He never has to repeat it. Had Jesus been like any of us, had He not had

eternal life in Himself, He could not have been able to give us eternal freedom from sin.

We need to have a comprehensive understanding of this truth, it will separate us from all forms of defeats. Once you know that you have something, you rest your mind from the fear that people without that thing have. What happens to people that do not have what you have will not happen to you! That gives you a sense of security. Once you know what the blood of Christ has secured for you, you approach the future, and even eternity, with confidence, because you know that your future is secured in Christ. No believer should be afraid of the future, nobody in Christ should be afraid of the life after this life, we are secured in Christ. The future is not only bright but great. We need to assure our hearts with this truth, that Christ has paid the full price of sin, including going to hell for us, we have nothing to fear anymore. The worst has already happened, He has died our death, and risen again from the dead. We have eternal hope that can never be taken away from us.

When Peter quoted that prophecy in Isaiah years later, he quoted it as though it just happened. In Peter's thinking; it just got fulfilled with the resurrection of Christ, and he spoke it as though it just happened. But in the thinking of God, it hath already happened years before now. In fact, the bible said Jesus was the Lamb

of God slain from the foundation of the world. In prophecy, Jesus already died years before Peter was born, but in Peter's thinking, what was prophesied by Isaiah just got fulfilled. For us to effect the word of God in our lives, we must think and act like Peter. We must see it as something that just happened. That sacrifice paid for sins past, paid for sins present, and paid for sins that have not yet happened. It paid for sins eternally. By one sacrifice, He perfected us once and for all.

The verdict, and the punishment of sin was credited to Jesus' account, He paid the full penalty of sin. The wages of sin is death! Wherever there is sin, death is the resultant effect. When Jesus took our sins, He died. Without sin, death would have no claim on Him. The bible says, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"* Rom. 5:12. Death accesses mankind through sin, where there is no sin, there will be no death. Death used sin as its legal entrance into this world. So, if Jesus did not take our sins, He would not die. Jesus would still have been in this world in flesh and blood if He did not take our sins, it would not have been possible for Him to die or age. But in order that God gave us eternal life, Jesus had to take our place in death.

Everything that God planned for mankind was tied to the resurrection of Christ, there won't be a resurrection without death, and there won't be death without sin. For Jesus to provide full redemption, He had to accept sin upon His righteous spirit in order to remove it. Since Jesus has borne sin and all the consequences of sin, it would not be righteous for us to suffer again the consequences of sin that Jesus already suffered, would be double jeopardy. God is not unjust, on the basis of this, we can boldly declare that there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus.

The issues of redemption are not emotional issues, they are legal issues. Jesus battled with the decision of accepting our sins upon Himself. Three times He asked if there was any other way to go about it, but chose to stick to the will of God. He prayed until His sweat was blood. God did not get emotional over that and thought to change His mind. Though Jesus wrestled with that, He did not get carried away by feelings about it either, for Him to provide redemption, and to be in the will of God, it had to be done that way. Even when He cried on the Cross and asked God why He forsook Him, God did not take Him down from the Cross to free Him from death. He had to die for us otherwise we would face death and judgment for sin.

Neither God nor Jesus was emotional about our redemption, our adversary; the devil is not emotional either. When Satan attacks you, he does not feel pity over you, he will make your condition worse if you let him. Satan has no emotional attachment to anybody, not even to the people he uses. We should not be emotional about the issues of our salvation either, we must be objective and rational in the light of the legality of our redemption. Some people weep at the altar to express their emotions in relation to receiving salvation, while no one should be condemned over weeping in repentance, all those tears really do not add anything to salvation. We do not serve God with our emotions, we serve Him with our spirits. Crying and feeling sad about anything will not change that thing, it is the decision of faith that you make that has effect on your condition.

Saul of Tarsus had no time for tears on the road to Damascus, all he did was to ask a desperate question, "Who art thou Lord?" He called Him Lord before he found out who was that powerful to knock him off his horse with such brightness. I did not say this to condemn anybody for being emotional about the things of God, God gave us our emotions, He would not do so if it is evil. There is nothing wrong in expressing emotions about anything, but what I am showing us is that emotions by themselves do not meet eternal

needs. Your salvation in Christ is a legal issue not an emotional issue. We do not have to follow feelings, we must follow what is written.

> *"It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself , now to appear in the presence of God for us:*"
> Heb. 9:23-24

The patterns of things in the heavens should be purified by the blood of Christ. When God instructed Moses to build the tabernacle, He showed him the pattern that he should follow. So, the earthly tabernacle was built after the heavenly tabernacle. As the ritual of the purification of the utensils of worship went on every year in the earthly tabernacle, so were the utensils of worship in the heavenly tabernacle were purified by the blood of Christ, but this time around, it was done once and for all. In the earthly tabernacle, it was necessary to use the blood of animals, but in heaven, it was the eternal blood of Christ. Jesus did not enter a tabernacle made with hands but into heaven itself to appear in the presence

of God for us. When God accepted Him, He accepted us in Him. You need to fully grasp this truth, your life depends on this for eternity.

The morning of the resurrection, Mary was at the tomb of Jesus, she did not know that Jesus had risen from the dead. She saw an empty tomb, but thought the body of Jesus was stolen and put somewhere else. Well, the leaders of the people and the chief priests had sealed tomb to ensure that He did not rise from the dead. They actually believed He would be raised from the dead as He had said, to prevent that from happening, they sealed the tomb and put soldiers to guard the tomb securely. When Mary saw the empty tomb early that Sunday morning, she thought the soldiers probably removed the body of Jesus Christ and took it to another location. When she saw Jesus, she thought He was the gardener, and asked Him if He knew where the body of Jesus was transferred to. Jesus then called her the way only He could call her.

> *"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, your Father; and unto my God, your God."* John 20:16-17.

Immediately she knew that it was Jesus, she must have moved toward Him to embrace Him as she called Him Master. Jesus told her not to touch Him which means hold me no longer before He had not yet gone to the Father. Jesus just rose from the dead. He was yet to ascend into heaven to present Himself to God as the blood of sacrifice for sin. God needed to accept that offering before it became effective for the remission of sins. He told Mary to go and tell Peter and the brethren that, "I ascend to my Father, your Father; and my God, your God." Jesus was telling Mary that His going to His Father and His God, would make God their Father and their God. His going would transition them from servants to children.

Jesus' Blood Was Shed In God's Presence

Jesus died to validate the claim for our justification by appearing in God's presence, and by God accepting His sacrifice. By that one sacrifice, Jesus nailed sin forever. Verse twenty five of Hebrews chapter nine makes it clear that His sacrifice would not be a yearly event. This automatically removed the philosophy of confessing sins. They entered yearly into the earthly holy of holies, by the blood of animals to make an atonement for sins. The high priest would lay his hands on two different goats; one was the sin offering goat and the other the scape goat. The high priest

would lay on his hands and confess his sins and the sins of Israel on both goats, one after the other in front of the tabernacle. Through the laying on of hands, his sins and the sins of the entire nation were transferred on those innocent animals. The animals bore the consequences of those sins. The sin offering goat was killed and its blood used for the ritual that would bring a covering for sins for twelve months. The scape goat was led to the wilderness by a man dedicated for that duty and let go. The scape goat carried the sins of Israel away from them, it bore the sins of Israel and separated the entire nation from their sins for twelve months, while the sin-offering goat paid the punishment for the sins of the people. This ritual was repeated every year because it was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to permanently remove sins from men. Sins were remembered after every twelve months, so the ritual continued. Leviticus 16.

Jesus became both the sin-offering goat and the scape goat, not only for the nation of Israel but for the entire world. He paid the full punishment for sins and He took sins away from mankind. He separated us from all sins and reconciled us back to God. Jesus offered Himself once, He needed not to repeat the process like it was done when the earthly tabernacle stood. He died on earth, but His blood was shed in heaven before God.

Jesus appeared before God in heaven, He cleansed the utensils of worship in the heavenly tabernacle, and smeared His blood on the mercy seat. That was it, it settled the sin problem for eternity. In redemption, Jesus gave us eternal covering in His blood. He washed us once and for all. As I pointed above, under the Old Testament, confession of sin was a yearly event, but under the New Testament, there is no provision for that, sin was dealt with once and for all. We do not continue with the Old Testament ritual when Christ has made a better offering for sins that provided eternal redemption. Religion will not accept this thought, it will want to reason it out, but we need objective thinking; we cannot be sentimental about this. If Jesus' sacrifice cleansed us from sins once and for all, what sin are we confessing again? Is there any sin His blood did not cleanse us from in our redemption? We must base our faith on the word of God and not on religious practices that we have lived with all our lives.

Verses twenty four to twenty eight of the ninth chapter of Hebrews (Hebrews 9:24-28) gives credence to the same issue of the judgment of sin. While the earthly tabernacle stood, the ritual of the atonement went on every year. If Jesus were a continuation of that, He would have to be going through the process of the crucifixion every year. But there is a difference

between what happened in the earthly tabernacle from what happened in heaven. The high priest offered blood of animals in the earth, but Jesus offered His eternal blood for the total remission of sins in heaven. Because the blood of Jesus is eternal, it provided eternal pardon and removal of sins. The tabernacle on earth was a figure of the true tabernacle in heaven. Let's look into those verses more closely again:

> *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands (which are) the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."* Heb. 9:24-28

Jesus kept the appointment with death for us. That phrase, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die,

but after that the judgment" is not another appointment with death for men, it is the same appointment with death that Jesus kept. "Men" in that scripture were all represented in Christ. The appointment that all men were to keep with death, Jesus took our place and kept that appointment with death. Note that "death" is not just the cessation of natural life, death is separation from God. Jesus became separated from God to face the judgment of sin on the behalf of all men, once and for all. What Jesus did would have ripple effect on all men that believe in Him. The writer of the book of Hebrews continued on the same thought in the twenty eight verse and said;

> *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."* Heb. 9:28.

Jesus was once offered to bear the sins of many. He was one man bearing the sins of all men. And He actually took them, and separated us from sin. He did not only take the sins of the world upon Himself, He bore the judgment, the verdict and punishment required for our freedom from sin. He was condemned that we might not face the condemnation of sin. So therefore, there is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. There is no sin in Him

anymore, He did away with sin once and for all. There is no sin in Jesus any more, He's over with the sin issue. When he rose from the death, He did not come back with the sins He took away. When He appeared after the resurrection, He was without sin.

What happened when He took our sins is called substitution. He took our place to give us His place. He took our sins to give us His righteousness, He took our sorrows to give us His peace, He took our pains to give us His wholeness, He went to hell to take us to heaven. Whatever He did for us in His redemptive work was to give us something we could not get any other way. That is the substitution! He did all that because only He could permanently put an end to reign of the law of sin and death. Jesus separated us from sin, and dealt with sin for us. The writer continued with the same thought in the tenth chapter of Hebrews.

> *"And every priest standing daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices which can never take away sins: But this man (Christ Jesus) after he hath offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."* Heb. 10:11-14

He made reference to the daily sacrifices in the tabernacle that could not take sins away. The focus of this one time sacrifice was to permanently take away sins from men. Jesus offered one sacrifice, and that sacrifice, once and for all removed the regime of sin, it broke its power and rendered it ineffective in the lives of those that receive Christ. It ended the reign of the law of sin and death. The phrase, *"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified"* shows that the remission and forgiveness of sins has already happened once and for all. These makes the ritual of the confession of sins not to be a requirement for the problem of sins any more. To continue that ritual is the same as the continuation of the daily sacrifices offered in that tabernacle which did not take sins away. This is the legality of our redemption in Christ, there are no feelings attached. He died once, and permanently solved the problem of sin. He took sins away, and paid the required punishment for sin, so that we have peace and well-being. That is love, the mercy of God in operation.

God is the God of justice, the sin of Adam would not just go, it had to be paid for. Justice demanded that Adam paid for his disobedience. No apologies work with God, Adam could not apologise for sin and everything be alright, he had to pay for his

disobedience. Justice demanded that when you sin, you die! The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23. No apologies, anywhere sin is found, the sentence is death. The wages of sin is not apology, it is not "I am sorry", it is death, period! "I am sorry" does not work in the spiritual realm, if sin is found in you, you are sentenced to death. When you are accused and prosecuted in a law court and the judge finds you guilty, judgment is passed on you to serve your prison term, and in the case of sin, the sentence is death. No apologies are required or even accepted in a law court, it is justice. So, Adam had to pay for his sin(s).

Adam's singular action passed death sentence on all men. Jesus took on flesh, laid aside His divinity and became one of us to pay the sentence of death for sin. He felt the pains of death. When He was crucified, He felt the pains of those twelve inches nails going through His hands and feet. He was in real pains, and in agony. God did not like it, but sin must be paid for. He went through a night of torture before the crucifixion, He was beaten until His back was completely lacerated. He died the death of the sinner, and went to hell because that is the place sin takes men to. If you die in your sins, that is where you will go. But why play the fool when Christ has already paid for your sins? Why won't you let things be the way Jesus set them and be saved from eternal death?

All it takes is to receive the gift of salvation through Christ, and you will be free from all sins and their consequences. This every day confession of sins is a religious practice, it is not part of the word of God. It is a religious approach to the justice system of God, and it does not work. The legality of redemption is the death of Christ. Because Jesus has been judged for sin, no one in Christ will be judged for sin any more.

In the light of this truth, no one in Christ should be treated as a sinner. There are no sinners in Christ. We are all treated as though sin never happened. The bible says we are the righteousness of God in Christ. Jesus paid the punishment for sin, but gave righteousness to us as a gift. It cost Him His life, but righteousness is a gift for us.

God's Presence- The Believer's Right

> *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having a high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from evil conscience,*

and our bodies washed with pure water."
Heb. 10:19-22

We come into God's presence by the blood of Jesus, which is also salvation that is our legality to come before God. We expect God to treat us as though sin never existed because by the legality of redemption, there is no sin in the believer. Christ consecrated for us, a new and a living way into God's presence through the sacrifice of Himself. We need to have our hearts full of assurance of faith, that we shall find the same acceptance with God as Christ. We lose that assurance when we are sin conscious, the bible calls it an evil heart. Sin-consciousness is evil in the sight of God because it replace boldness with timidity. We have been washed by the washing with pure water, which is the word of God. Jesus says, *"Now, ye are cleaned through the word which I have spoken unto you."* John 15:3. We are clean enough to stand before God with boldness. 1Corinthians 6:11 says, "*…ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* The blood of Jesus provides us the boldness to come into the holiest place of all, the very majestic presence of our holy heavenly Father. We are to come without any sin-consciousness because there is no sin in us anymore.

> *"But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised for our justification."* Rom. 4:24-25

Righteousness was imputed to Abraham on the account of his faith in God. The same thing will happen in the life of anybody that believes on Him that raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus was delivered for our offences, He did not die for Himself, He died for us. But God raised Him from the dead for our justification. The same Jesus that died, was the Jesus God raised from the dead. He was both the Lamb and the high priest. In Christ Jesus, no believer should bear sin-consciousness because we have been perfected in Christ. Christ's blood has been shed, and that is what matters the most. Sin can never stand between the believer in Christ and God, because the blood of Christ is constantly speaking out our redemption in Christ. In God's presence therefore, there is no record of sin.

Like I mentioned earlier, Jesus died on earth, but shed His blood in heaven. The blood is not needed where sin took place, the blood is needed where justice takes place, in the presence of the judge. The blood is needed for our reconciliation with God. When Satan throws accusations against us, they do not get to God, the

blood of Christ is already there appeasing God for us. The blood of Christ is the propitiation for sins, that is why it is in God's presence. Satan, the accuser of the brethren, is no more an issue, his case is closed.

The Ministry Of Jesus

The ministry of Jesus is not the ministry of condemnation, which is where the believer comes in. He was delivered for our offences, but raised from the dead for our justification. He was not raised from the dead for our condemnation, He was raised to become our righteousness. In Christ, we cannot be damned.

> *"My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And he is the propitiation for sin: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* 1John 2:1-2

John says, "...these things I write unto you, that ye sin not..." The right place for the believer to be, is the place where he does not sin. He went on to say, "And if any man sin..." He did not say "And when any man sin..." He used the word "if" because the believer is not supposed to sin. That is the perfect place for all of us to

be in the flesh, but none of us has ever been there since Jesus rose from the dead. God knowing that even after the resurrection of Christ, man in his physical body may not attain that place of sinlessness which would be his perfect place to exercise his authority in Christ, He made a provision for him to remain in that perfect place. He says, "*And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."*

Take note of the choice of words used here. God wants to maintain us in righteousness, because that is where we can have boldness to exercise our authority in Christ. So, in case you sin, we have Jesus Christ the righteous as our advocate. That is part of the ministry of Jesus today. As our advocate, He maintains us in the position of righteousness in spite of the mistakes we make in the flesh. God closed the door against the devil in whichever way he can access us. Take note, it does not say, "*And if any man sin, let him confess and he will be forgiven."* He's already forgiven of all sins in Christ. He tells us that God already set Jesus to be the advocate general of the body of Christ when He raised Him from the dead by the glory of God. He is our advocate because of sin, He takes care of the sins we commit.

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. That phrase, "Jesus Christ, the righteous"

emphasises His qualification as the advocate. Righteousness is the cure for sin! There is no sin where there is righteousness. Because He is Jesus Christ, the righteous, He is the propitiation for sin. Later on, John wrote; "*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* 1John 4:10. We did not really choose Him, He chose us and became our Saviour from sin. After He gave us eternal life, and made us the righteousness of God in Christ, He sat down in the right hand of majesty, and assumed the position of maintaining our righteousness. That is why He is our advocate with the Father. It is not so much of what we have done or can do but what He did because of His great love wherewith He loved us.

Paul shows us in the book of Romans that Jesus is not only our advocate, He is also our intercessor. An intercessor takes our place in prayer before God. You really have nothing to worry about when Jesus, the High Priest of God over the Church, is praying for you. His prayers won't go unanswered, you can be sure of that. He is actively involved with His new office after the resurrection from the dead. One of His responsibilities is to serve the Church as her intercessor before God. It is Jesus that God sees when He looks at you. You are in Christ if you have received Jesus as Lord over your life, you are not in yourself. So,

God sees you in and through the through the veil of Christ, which is His body; He sees you through His sacrifice. Because of Christ, you are absolutely secured from all judgments.

> *"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that He is risen again, who is even at the right of God, who also maketh intercession for us."* Rom. 8:33-34.

Jesus is the one that died for us, and He is the one that justifies us. Nobody can condemn you because you have an intercessor with God. He is at the right of the Father. His authority cannot be challenged by spirits or men. Whatever prayer He makes, stands answered in heaven. Jesus is both the intercessor and the advocate. The accuser has no stand here, all in his possessions as the ground of his accusation have been fully paid for. The one that could condemn us was the one that died. He took our condemnation upon Himself and served our sentence. There is nothing anybody or spirit can use to judge us again.

An intercessor takes your place in prayer before God. He stands for you. This is a very unique and great place to be. When Jesus, the righteous, intercedes for you,

what more will you need that cannot be given you? He is at the right hand of God, the place of the highest authority, praying for us. That should make our prayers effective. Christ intercessory ministry puts us above board where Satan is concerned. The bible says; "*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he liveth to make intercession for them."* Heb. 7:25. What He does is to intercede for us, that is what He lives for! Through His intercession for us, He is able to save us to the uttermost through Christ.

Though the accuser will not give up on his accusations, he will keep throwing them at us, but we must always remember that we owe him nothing. Jesus has already settled the matter of sins once and for all. You have been bought with a price, you are God's property. Whatever happens in your life does not concern the devil, anything that is missing in you, God will fix it. You belong to God, and Jesus takes direct responsibility for your life. Your role in all these things is to believe and accept what Christ did for you.

This is where you come in, if you really believe, then you must accept what Christ's sacrifice offered you. You stand on it as your only ground of faith. You do not go about proving your righteousness by works, you depend on what He did to be the right and only work

that procured your salvation. Satan wants you to prove your innocence by your works, he wants you to present your wonderful achievements in the world of the spirit as your reason for faith. When you do that, you suffer defeats at all times. Boasting on what you have done in the flesh and what you can do spells doom for you. When you let Satan bring you to your works, he will keep you under his feet, you will be his captive. But you are not what you do, you are what Christ did. You did not die for yourself, Jesus died for you. Lay aside all these self-made philosophies and hold unto the word of God.

We are not trying to overcome the devil, he is a defeated foe. We overcame the devil in Christ Jesus two thousand years ago. We are just maintaining our ground of victory, we are maintaining what Jesus obtained for us, and we do so through the knowledge of our redemption in Christ. In the light of His ministry as our advocate and our intercessor, we refuse to be condemned. We confidently profess that Jesus died to make us righteous, so we are righteous, He died to justify us; so we are justified, He died for us to be accepted by the Father; so we are accepted by the Father. Jesus died to make us holy; so we are holy, in Him we are perfect, that is our position, so we maintain it in His name.

You Have Been Reconciled To God

Satan was not overcome by repentance, he was overcome by the blood. The blood of Jesus is our legal stand against the devil. Satan's only accusation is sin, that is the only thing he has against all of us. Man's defeat was his separation from God because of sin, that was what gave him power over man. Jesus, through His shed blood, reconciled us back to God, and that was the defeat of Satan. Reconciliation is the power of the believer. From the moment Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven to offer His blood on the mercy seat. When that sacrifice was accepted by God, it became the legal document that sealed the defeat of Satan. The reconciliation of man to God is Satan's weakness and defeat. Paul says God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.

> *"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now are we ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray thee in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."* 2Cor. 5:19-20

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself not even holding them guilty of their sins. God is not imputing the sins of the world unto them, He is not holding them to account for their iniquities. Instead, He seeks reconciliation with the sinner. This understanding baffles the mind. It is God that is looking for reconciliation with man, and has committed to the trust of those that believe in Him, the ministry of reconciliation. He has not given us the ministry of condemnation, because He does not seek the condemnation of the world, He seeks reconciliation with the world. A reconciliation has taken place in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, God wants to effect it through the believer. Christ's death has reconciled us to God, no more enmity between man and God. Nothing stands between us and God any more, we have peace with God.

Paul says, as the ambassadors of Christ, we beseech the world to be reconciled to God. In fact he is saying that if Jesus were on earth in His flesh, He would beg men to be reconciled with God. This thought is staggering to the mind! Christ to beg men to be reconciled to God after paying such a great price? The human mind cannot understand this, but that is what God's word says. There are no feelings about this, it is God's love in demonstration. You have to accept this truth irrespective of how you feel, you are reconciled to God

any time and any day. You do not have to be sorrowful over this to make it true, it is the truth. You do not have to feel forgiven before you know that you are forgiven, and you do not have to confess your sins and repent of them before you get reconciled to God. All those things are not needed. You only need to believe and accept that you have been reconciled to God by the blood of Christ.

The Blood of Jesus Speaks for You

When Satan accuses you, you do not turn to God and begin to confess your sins and repent, that will not change anything. You do not win over the accuser by constant repentance and confession of sins. It is not God accusing you of sins, it's Satan, so crying and confessing your sins to God is avoiding the enemy and shifting your responsibility to the wrong direction. In the first place, it was the devil that got you into sin, he appealed to your flesh, and you fell into his trap, and sinned; then he turns around and accuses you over what he caused. If you had control over your lusts, you would not fall to his temptations. It is lusts that drive men into sin, and it is Satan that suggests the object of lust. Satan is the one behind every act of sin! He does not force anybody into sin, because he does not have the wherewithal to do that, but he provides the object of lust which eventually entices men into sin.

Satan rules the world of darkness by lusts; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but it is of the world."* 1John 2:16. These are the three principal forces Satan rules the world of darkness with, they are the components of the world. When you open the door to lust, it entices you to sin, that is just the way it is. Feeling sorrowful and crying over it only fulfils Satan's desires. He wants you to give in into some emotions so that he takes advantage of you and keeps you in bondage. The bible never says when you sin, you should cry, confess, repent of it and feel sorrowful over it; and by that way, God will forgive you. It says if we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1John 2:1. Is there cry, confess and repent in that scripture? You need to address the accuser with the word of God, and command him out of your way. The blood of Jesus is your victory over sin and over Satan. The sacrifice of Jesus is eternally effective irrespective of whatever sin you committed.

Look at it this way, if someone took your punishment, you do not take that punishment again. All you need to put forward against the accuser is the price that was paid to exonerate you from the punishment of sin, not what you did or you did not do. Whether his accusation is false or evidential, whatever he is accusing you of

has been fully paid in Christ's death, burial and resurrection, there is nothing left to be paid for again. When it says they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, it meant they overcame him by the knowledge of what the blood of the Lamb did. It is not shouting "the blood of Jesus" that engages the power of God, that does not add anything to what happens in our lives. The blood works in heaven, and provides us with the heavenly backing for earthly triumph. Christ's blood is our security from sin, it is effective all the time, and it will remain effective for eternity.

Let's throw away what we learnt that does not line up with the word of God. You will always improve on your knowledge of God, because knowledge is progressive. You were to keep confessing your sins so that you can be forgiven, that was what you learnt and probably practiced all your life, but that knowledge is not effective, it is not the wholesome truth because that is not what the bible teaches. The forgiveness of sins is factored in redemption, it is part of the provision of salvation. It is part of your inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:7, Col. 1;14). Forgiveness does not come as a reward for good works or confession of sins, it is there everyday of life. It was provided in Christ over two thousand years ago. What constant confession of sins does to you is that it keeps the memory of sins

active in your mind, that robs you of your faith and boldness in Christ.

Take note of this, under the Old Testament, until an animal was killed, and the blood smeared on the mercy, God did not respond. God responses to the blood, not to our shouts calling on the blood of Jesus to work. The blood is already working, it is on the mercy seat in the heavenly tabernacle speaking better things for us. Fully understand the place of the blood of Christ, it will help you to rest your confidence in God. There is no part of divine operation that requires human input or participation. God does not need human help to provide salvation, so, the blood of Christ does not need to be shouted "the blood of Jesus" before it effects the will of God in heaven. Jesus' blood is effective for eternity. The bible says without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Heb. 9:22.

It is the blood of Jesus that took care of our sins, and still protects us from all judgement. It is not our prayers and everyday repentance, the blood has an assignment to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and that blood is eternally working. It does not need any re-enforcement from men for it to become effective, it is already effective. Some Christians argue about the issue of eternal security, but it is the provision of

redemption. Jesus did not save you to dump you tomorrow, He saves to the uttermost! Hebrews 7:25. In Christ, you are eternally secured.

The reason some people, especially those that are in ministry, argue with this truth is because they think that men need to play their part in redemption before it becomes effective in their lives. This is not exactly true, the only part we are involved in redemption is the part of believing that what Christ did was sufficient. When we believe and accept the finished works of Christ, there is nothing left for us to do again, we just rest on what Christ did. It is not so much of the everyday confession of sins that we practice that makes our Christian work effective, rather it makes us more sin conscious and makes our faith weak.

Some people think that when this truth is taught, people will be encouraged to sin. People sin anyway, nobody needs encouragement to sin. It is the truth that makes men free. When you lay hold of this truth, you become conscious of your righteousness, and sin will not be able to have you under its authority. Nobody is encouraging people to practice sin, you are rather to know that you have victory over sin by the sacrifice of Christ. This constant shout of "the blood of Jesus" during prayer is not a requirement for the Church.

Who really uses blood? Even under the Old Testament, it was the high priest that used blood on the Day of Atonement. Blood was not used by the people, the high priest took blood into the holy of holies and perform all the rituals needed for sins to be covered for twelve months. Under the New Testament, Jesus is our high priest, He is the one that used His blood as a propitiation for sins. The believer is not the one that should be applying blood! You cannot be the high priest over your own sins. Jesus, the righteous high priest, took His blood into the heavenly tabernacle. His blood has been accepted by the Father, and by accepting His blood, you have been accepted by the Father as well, irrespective of what you did or what you did not do.

The blood of Jesus is not your travel insurance to be covering yourself with when travelling, it is for the washing away of sins. It has taken care of sins, and because of that, you have been perfected forever. God is not asking us to use the blood of Christ, He used it on our behalf already and it has eternal effect. The blood speaks in heaven, and whatever it says takes effect both in heaven and on earth.

The bible says Jesus obtained a more excellent ministry than Moses. He is still in ministry to this hour, and He is going to be in ministry for eternity. His

present day ministry is superior to the one He did before He went to the Cross. The bible says He is the minister of the sanctuary, the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched. Jesus is actively involved with the operation of the New Testament, and He is going to be involved with it for eternity. He is the High Priest of God over the Church. What are priests ordained for? The priest primary responsibility is to deal with the issues of sins. All the daily sacrifices made by priests while the earthly tabernacle stood was to take care of the sins of the people. they had all kinds of offerings, from trespass offering to burnt offering, to peace offering, to meat offering, to wave offering etc. All the offerings had one thing or the other to do with sins.

Now, things have changed, no more daily sacrifices for sins. Jesus made one offering for sins and it fully satisfied the demand of divine justice. His blood paid for all of man's wrong doing in coming into union with Satan. He is in God's presence for us. Paul calls His office as the High Priest of God a more excellent ministry.

> *"But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if the first covenant has been faultless, then*

should no place had been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... For this the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws in their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will to them a God, and they shall be to me a people. And they shall not teach any man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I shall be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."
Heb. 8:6-12

What makes Jesus' present day ministry more excellent is the covenant under which He now functions. The Old Covenant was fault finding, it did not solve the problem of sin. It was a fault finding covenant because it had the ministry of accusation. When the law exposed faults, the accuser attacked on the basis of those faults. The law was in position to find fault, but it only found fault when the fault was there. The accuser used it against God's people effectively. If it was faultless, the bible says there would not have

been any need to replace it. God removed it because the law that operated it exposed the sins and the weakness of the people. God decided to engrave His law in the hearts of men and no longer on the table of stones. What is this law that God puts in the hearts of men? It is called love, that is the law that operates the new covenant. He shed His love abroad upon our hearts. Under this new covenant, He treats us with love.

Love is our identity with Him in this dispensation. He will right all our wrongs because of His love. He is our God and we are His people. We are identified with Him in love. The love that He loved us with and went to the Cross for us, is the same love He shed abroad upon our hearts. His mercy has removed judgment from us, so He says we will know Him on the basis of His mercies. He will be merciful to our unrighteousness, and our sins and iniquities He would not record against us (Hebrews 8:12). That is mercy! He did not say we would not have faults or commit sin, He says He will not record them against us. He has chosen to deal with us on the basis of the sacrifice of Jesus and not on our works. That is the gift of righteousness! He gives us right standing with Him, so we can stand before Him without the sense of guilt, condemnation or inferiority complex. We are not accepted because we are faultless, we are accepted on the basis of the sacrifice of Christ.

When you understand this truth, you reign in life. There is no way Satan will have upper hand over you when you live and walk in the consciousness of your redemption in Christ. We approach the Father in Jesus' name, that is what He tells us to do. You do not come in your name, your name is not good enough to be heard in heaven. It Jesus that has a name in heaven, you just do not have any! When we come in the name of Jesus, heaven gives full attention. When we mention that name in faith, spiritual forces are engaged, angels swiftly respond to the demands of faith. Jesus gave us His name in the place of His person, whatever His person can do, His name can do it. His name is not any less than His person, He is the same as His name. Because Jesus is accepted by the Father, we are accepted by the Father in His name. He gave us His name to use as our right into the presence of God. We have every legal backing to use that name, and there is no demon on earth or in hell that will stand the name of Jesus, that name is our victory over the devil.

In redemption, God through Christ, fitted us with everything that we can ever need. He did not leave anything undone. It is just like going to a car shop to buy a car. You do not buy it in parts, you buy the car with everything fitted. Redemption was a complete package; righteousness is there, justification is there,

forgiveness of sins is there, deliverance is there, eternal security is there etc. When you receive Christ, you receive the whole package. The bible says, "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."* Col. 1:14, Eph. 1:7. Everything is in the package of redemption. There is nothing that you need, and will ever need that was not covered by the sacrifice of Christ.

Sin-consciousness is the greatest undoing of believers. Many things are spiritually affected when you are conscious of sins, it robs you of your boldness, and that makes a believer timid. Just see the way believers relate with God and compare it with the way we relate with our earthly fathers. It appears we trust our natural parents more than we trust God. Compare the way you pray and the way Jesus prays, and you will see why we live in defeat. He stood right where a man was buried for four days, hear how He prayed;

> *"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou heareth me always: but because of the people who stand by I say it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a*

loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said unto them, Loose him, and let him go." John 11:41-44

Jesus approached this case with a knowing, He knew that His prayers would be answered. This is the epitome of the demonstration of divine power. This man was not only dead, but embalmed, mummified and buried. He was in the grave for four days. His body had begun to rot, and the flesh detached from the bones. The chemicals in the body of Lazarus could have killed him even if he did not really die. What would you do if they give you one of these kinds in formalin to wake it up from the dead? Jesus stood there with all confidence. His faith was not based on a vision or a prophecy, His faith was built on trust in His Father. He started by thanking the Father, because He knew God always heard Him.

See what we do in situations like this that Jesus did not do. He did not go through the Old Testament calling the names of God as revealed to the prophets. Jesus did not cry and said, "Elshaddai, Elohim, The ancient of days, The I am that I am, Jehovah Nissi, The God of Elisha etc". He needed none of those names. He said, "**Father**, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." He cried out

with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth". He did not stand there doing intercession. His confidence in God was obvious. He made just one call, and His words put back life into the body of that dead man, healed him of whatever that killed him, lifted him and put him on his feet. The man was blindfolded with a napkin, yet he came out jumping because he was bound foot and hands. See how powerful that was!

Jesus knew who He was, He walked in the consciousness of His righteousness. Jesus was a bold man, He told the Pharisees to their faces that He was without sin, yet they were dead silence. If you know who the Pharisees were, you would appreciate the boldness of Christ, and His purity. Jesus says; "... for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30. He told the people around Him that Satan had nothing in Him. Well, Satan will have to have something in you to be able to use it against you. If you are in Christ, you are a new creation, old things are passed away, and all things are become new. Satan has nothing in you either, none of his things are in you; old things are passed away! The bible says;

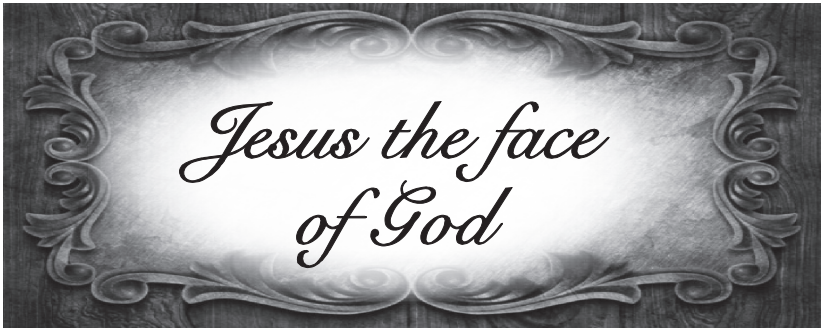
> *"But without faith it is impossible to believe him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* Heb. 11:6.

When you come to God in prayer, you must believe that the Spirit of God is in you now. There is no time that you pray at a wrong time, He is the present help at the time of need. You also come with the knowing that God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. God has nothing against anybody, we all need to come to Him in confidence trusting that our petition is granted us in Christ, after all, the bible teaches that God hears and grants our petition in prayer (1John 5:14). When you are in Christ, you receive answers in Christ. All the answers are in Christ, you are where the answers are.

People come up with weird and irrelevant teachings on answered prayers. They teach steps to breakthrough, one hundred laws of financial freedom, feet washing for dominion, salt services. They ask you to bring oranges, padlocks and perfumes etc. Since when has God changed to ritual in order to answer prayers? There are not such requirements in the word of God for answered prayers. We just read one of the biggest cases Jesus dealt with, He demanded nothing from anybody. He talked to God, and called Lazarus to come forth. Even His disciples did not join Him in faith, they all wondered at the result. Jesus washed nobody's feet for dominion, nor asked for orange from anybody. If we do not step out of all these deceptions, we can never experience victory in our lives.

Overcoming the accuser is built and based on the sacrifice of Christ, but there must be an active participation of the believer in the acknowledging of what procured our salvation. We must speak out our redemption in the face of the enemy. Jesus judged sin, and freed us from its authority. So, the bible tells us that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2. God sent His Son Jesus in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, to condemn sin in the flesh. Jesus executed God's will to its fullest, He truly freed us from the law of sin and death through His death, burial, and resurrection. Christ brought us into the family of God, and in this family, we are fully secured from everything Satan can ever bring against us. We are not strangers or foreigners any more, we are members of the household of God. We are God's family, where there is no sin in us.

4



The accuser of the brethren is faceless, he plays in the shadows. Satan is never bold enough to show his identity, he always takes someone else's figure and form to deceive. He took the form of a serpent to beguile Eve, he entered Judas to betray Jesus, and he is in the antichrist deceiving the world. We are dealing with an enemy that hides his identity and camouflages someone else's identity. We are dealing with an enemy that is full of fears, and desires to transfer his fears on others in order to bring them under.

Satan knows that his time is short; he knows that the game will soon be over for him. He will be arrested by Jesus, and the whole world see the evil genius behind

the scene destroying the human race. That day, he will be banished in the bottomless pit for one thousand years. He knows it, and the very thought of falling in the bottomless pit for a thousand years scares him beyond anything, but he cannot avoid that. That is a punishment only he will serve, he will have no one to serve with him, it is a one thousand years prison term. Now, he has to hide to commit crime because he will be easily noticed if he comes out. He hides under the skin of religion, and gets people trapped in deception. Paul says;

> *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is not great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* 2Cor. 11:14-15.

Satan does transform himself as an angel of light. He is still an angel, only he is the prince of darkness, but he does transform himself as one of the righteous angels. Satan won't come to you with horns on his head and a tail, he cannot deceive anybody that way. He is a deceiver! He depends on deception to operate, so he comes as an angel of light. He has deceived thousands in visions and dreams appearing that way. People are more alert on the sense-realm, they do consider words

spoken to them by the figures the see in dreams and visions, they major on appearances of the figures they see. They are not quite aware that Satan is an angel and can also come as the light of light. He succeeds more through deception than any other way

Note also that his ministers do transform as ministers of righteousness. Satan does have ministers, some are consciously involved with him but others are doctrinally involved with him due to lack of knowledge. Do not ever forget that Satan is a deceiver, as I said earlier, he tries to go undetected. He does more harm by deception than any form of attack. He comes like a friend, and speaks like a friend. You can see that in the way he approached Eve in the garden. He is known by his subtlety. Satan does not always fight his way through, he will lose most of the time if he tries that with believers. He comes as an angel of light; same way, his ministers come as the ministers of the Gospel of Christ. He tries to indoctrinate people, because, once you influence the belief system of people, you can easily lead them captive.

Satan targets the belief system of the Church, he tries to corrupt it, and thus make it in effective. That is a scam, he infiltrates the Church through wrong and corrupt teachings; teachings that take people's attention away from Christ to demons, to laws, and

activities that look spiritual. People have been made to fast and pray for days with a promise of receiving answer, that is not in the word of God, that is fraud. Jesus never demanded fasting and prayers from any one in order to receive help. Nowhere in the New Testament was that a practice, it's deception. If you can fast and pray to have it, it is no longer by grace because it means you can work it out. Satan is a fraud, so he goes about his operation in the dark to stay unnoticed. The bible talks about doctrines of devils.

> *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heeds to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..."* 1Tim. 4:1.

A lot of ministers are engaged with the doctrines of devils, they give heed to seducing spirits. There are a lot of ministries built around the subject of demons. They teach about Satan and his works, most of which are a bunch of lies decorated with Pentecostal slogans. There is no truth in Satan! Whatever Satan tells anybody is always and consistently a lie. Deception is his language.

These so-called ministers claim to major on the subject of deliverance and demonology. When you put their practices and beliefs across the revelation of the New

Testament, they are exactly one hundred and eighty degrees away. Satan either perverts your beliefs by corrupting the information you receive or shift you from receiving any information from the word of God completely to depend on experiences. Satan's target is to deal with the belief system of people, he does everything to make sure you do not believe in the right thing. If he can stop your faith, or pervert it, he will lord it over you.

There are churches that do not have time for the proper teaching of God's word, they give thirty minutes for preaching and take three hours for deliverance. They spend hours practicing unbelief, and expect God to honour their words. God is not in such places. Where the word of God does not have the highest authority, God is certainly not there. What Jesus gave the Church is His word as contained in the New Testament, when you neglect that, you exclude God from all your activities.

Whether it is an experience in a vision or a dream that you had or someone had and is sharing it with you or in a church service, put those words across the New Testament. Do not accept things because some "big man of God" says it, check it in the word of God. No man knows God more than Jesus Christ, whatever Jesus tells us both in His teachings and practices as

contained both in the Gospels and the epistle is what we must line up with. Both Satan and his ministers do transform as God's angel and ministers spreading falsehood, thereby taking men captive. Satan, the accuser has no face, to defeat him therefore, we must engage Jesus, the face of God.

Christ The Image Of God

> *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* 2Cor. 4:3-6

If the Gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost. The evidence that you are lost is when you do not understand the Gospel. It is not that you just failed to understand it after hearing it, it is because Satan has blinded your mind; that is why you have no understanding of what the Gospel of Christ is. The god

of this world, Satan, is a disobedient spirit, he leads men in disobedience. The bible describes him in Ephesians as the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience. *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins, herein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."* Eph. 2:1-2. Satan leads in the path of disobedience because he is a disobedient spirit. He is the prince of the power of the air. The word "air" there is the Greek word "**pneuma**" which means spirit. He is the head of evil spirits, and through them run the course of this world. He blinds people's minds from accessing the Gospel of Christ, and thus they are denied access to truth. I will address this issue much broader a little later in this book.

Satan blinds people's minds from the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. Christ is the perfect imprint of the image of God. He is the reflection of God, the only access to God. This scripture says, "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." He shined that light in our hearts by the Gospel, and that brought salvation; the regeneration of the human spirit. That is the experience referred as being born again. Through the

light of the glorious Gospel, we receive salvation in Christ. That light brought illumination into our spirits, and caused us to be reborn spiritually. We gain access to the knowledge of the glory of God through Jesus Christ. This light, the Gospel, can only be seen in the face of Jesus Christ. That is to say, you cannot know God until you see Jesus Christ. Jesus is the revelation or the unveiling of God. How do you see Jesus then? He is not here in His material body, and until we see Him, we cannot connect to the knowledge of the glory of God. We see Jesus in the revelation of the New Testament. We do not see Him in pictures, we see Him in words.

> *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* 2Cor. 3:18

We behold His glory in His word. We draw our picture of Jesus as painted by the word of the new covenant. When we stay in His word, we see Him in His glory and become partakers of the same. We are changed into the image of what we behold by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ, prints the image of Christ upon our hearts. We do not see Jesus any other way but in the word of the new covenant. For us to know Him, we must stay in the word of God. It is the word of God that reveals Him, and it is the

same word that reveals in Him. When are covered by the light of His word, Satan does not have access to us, because wherever there is light, darkness cannot exist.

Anybody calling on God that has not yet known Jesus is calling on a different god. It is only Jesus that gives the expression of the knowledge of God, He is the exclusive custodian of God. No one can know God outside Jesus, because it is only in the face of Jesus Christ you can find the knowledge of the glory of God. Jesus says, *"No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, hath declared him."* John 1:18. No man has seen God at any time, and no man can see Him. Only Jesus declared Him. Whatever Jesus shows us about the Father, is what is dependable. No man, not even Moses who is considered the greatest prophet that Israel ever had, saw God. The bible says of Moses, that no prophet was raised in Israel of his caliber before and after him.

> *"And there arose not a prophet in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, In all the signs and wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land, And in all that mighty hand, and in all great terror which Moses showed in the sight of all Israel."* Deut. 34:10-12.

Moses was certainly a prominent prophet of God under the Old Testament, but he did not see God. All Moses saw were angels, not God. No man ever saw God, only Jesus declares Him. Because God is in Jesus, and Jesus is in God. This is totally a new but perfect way of knowing God. Jesus brought God to man, He was not just a man of God, He was God in the flesh. Jesus made it even more clearer when He said, *"Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father."* John 6:46. Only Jesus can show us the Father, and tells us that if we see Him, we have seen the Father. He is the manifestation of the Father. The bible teaches that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh.

> *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."* 1Tim. 3:16.

Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh. He is still God clothed in flesh and bones. This is a mystery, a great mystery, because God became a man. It is a mystery that God did not only become a man, but took men's sins upon His righteous Spirit and had to be justified in the Spirit when He rose from the dead. All the things mentioned in this scripture are a description

of what Jesus went through to procure redemption. Jesus is God! You cannot find any other God apart from Jesus, He is all of God in a human body. The bible says the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Christ. *"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."* Col. 2:9. All of the Godhead dwells in Jesus, He is the full expression of God.

> "*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, an all things by the word of his power, when he hath by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."* Heb. 1:3.

Jesus is the brightness of the glory of God, the express image of God's person. He is the sole expression of the person of God, the perfect imprint of the Father. If you do not know Jesus, you do not know God. What Jesus does is what God does. He says, *"... My Father worketh, hitherto I work"* John 5:17. He was saying that what He did was just a reflection of what the Father did. If you want to know how God works, look at how Jesus works. He never did anything apart from what the Father does, He just reflects the works of the Father, He expresses the works of God. Jesus says;

> *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just;*

because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."
John 5:30

Jesus is not all by Himself, He is not separate from the Father, He is the embodiment of God. God finds expression on earth only through Him. He says, "...as I hear, I judge", He is not an independent person, He lives in the Father and the Father in Him. There is no how anybody can get to God without Him. Some people have an idea that there is one God but many ways to get to Him. It is just not true, it's a fallacy. Without Jesus, no man can see God! In the book of John chapter fourteen, Jesus took time to show His disciples who He really is. He said to them:

"And Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me." John 14:6.

He is the way to God; the truth about God (the true God) and the life of God. No one can access any of these outside of Jesus. Without Jesus, there is no truth about God, without Jesus, you cannot get the life of God. Jesus is not one of the ways, He is the ONLY way to the Father. He is the exclusive way, the exclusive truth, and the exclusive life of the Father. He did not say He has life, He says He is the life. Wherever Jesus goes, life

goes there, there is no life outside Him. So, if it is not Jesus, it can never be God! Jesus went on to say to His disciples;

> *"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also, and from henceforth, ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet, hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me, hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."* John 14:7-10

These are great words concerning the identity of the Father. Jesus says no one can know the Father without knowing Him. He says if we know Him, we have known the Father. He is the reflection of the Father. Philip then asked, "*Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us"*. That request from Philip shows that they did not quite get what He was telling them up to that point. It is like saying, we want to see God not just you, show us the Father and we will be satisfied. Jesus had been with these people for about three years at this time, He had

shown them many things from the Father. If anyone doubted the identity of the Father, it should not be any one of them that had been around Him. He had done before them what no man did in history. He stopped the storms over the seas and calmed the troubled waters. Blind eyes opened in the very presence, He walked on the water, cleansed lepers, loosed dumb tongues, mangled and twisted bodies were untwisted right before them. Jesus called a man out of the grave four days after burial. If anybody doubt Him as God, none of the men that followed Him should. But Philip asked Him to show them the Father. This question however was very important, because without it, we would not have this very important information recorded in His answer.

There are people that want God but they do not quite want Jesus. If such people can find a way of relating with God without Jesus, they would choose to do so. Lots of people think that Jesus is not strict enough, they feel Jesus makes God too common. It did not start now, man wants to merit his salvation, he wants it to be seen as having done something righteous to attain righteousness. It's just part of man's natural inclination to brag about his success. When everything is hinged on God's grace, he is uncomfortable with that because it removes his pride. He wants his credentials to defend him, but things do not work that way with

God. Your righteousness is a filthy rag before God, you cannot meet up with the demand of God's justice based on your works. God does not want your bragging or boasting, it is all on the grace of God.

The leaders of the people of Israel felt Jesus did not conduct Himself with the seriousness of the prophets they read about, they would have loved a Jesus that would not even answer greeting from a sinner. When Jesus went to the house of a publican, they called Him a glutton and friend of sinners. They would prefer to deal with God without having anything to do with Jesus. Jesus obstructed their religious beliefs, they saw Him more like a law breaker than even a prophet of God. They could however not deny the power of God that manifested in Jesus, nor deny His holy conduct. Philip's question was a reflection of the thoughts of many. Jesus says to Philip, I have been with you for so long yet you don't know me Philip? It's like asking back; "Which Father are you asking for?" Then pulls the biggest shot against the devil when He said; "he that hath seen me, hath seen the Father." Jesus was saying to them, He is the best of God that anyone can ever see, outside Him, there is no God elsewhere.

Jesus went on to say, "Believest thou that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?" Lots of people today are even more confused about Jesus than Philip. There is a

mystery about this, and this is the mystery; Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Him. He is as much in the Father as the Father is in Him. How do you put two buckets inside one another? That is where the key of understanding God's identity lies. Jesus is as much God the Father as God is Jesus. You cannot separate Jesus from the Father. How could anyone explain this? No one can explain it, and no one is expected to explain it, we are to believe it. That was what Jesus told Philip to do, He said he should believe that He is in the Father, and the Father in Him. The Father has decided to give Himself a face in Christ Jesus, thus Jesus is the face of God.

How much of God you know is revealed in how much of Jesus you know. Jesus says; *"And this is life eternal, that they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* John 17:3. Life eternal is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom God sent. You know the true God by knowing Jesus Christ. You have no life in you without Jesus. Paul calls Jesus the image of the invisible God. "*Who is the image of the invisible God..."* Col.1:15.

Nobody's image looks different from Him, that just further explains the truth that Jesus is the express image of God. You cannot see God anywhere outside of Jesus, not even when you die and go to heaven. The

only God you will ever see and relate with for eternity is Jesus. God is inside Jesus, and Jesus is inside God.

We Are Not All God's Children

When dealing with people, know that a lot of people do not know God, they do not belong to Him. Even some of the churches we enter are not ordained by God, there is no God in some churches. Many are just religious centres, and others are satanic sanctuaries. When you look at the billboard of a church, if you know just a little of God's word, you'll know what they worship in that church. Billboards tell the story of every church. We see certain rituals being advertised, you immediately know that God is not involved with what goes on in such places.

The message that is preached in a church, identifies the spirit that controls the church. When you see things like; Salt Services, Feet Washing, Orange Services, Perfume Services (to change your smell), etc, just know that God is not in such rituals. It does not matter who practices such things, they are all a part of demonic manipulations to defraud people.

There are questions you can ask yourself that can help you know whether God is involved with a certain practice or not. We have more prophets especially in

Africa than Israel had as a nation for over two thousand five hundred years. But you can ask yourself legitimate questions that will help you know whether you are under the right atmosphere. Questions such as: Why do all these prophecies always paint the picture of gloom? Why are the prophecies about some bad things that are about to happen? Why do the prophecies end with sowing seeds as the only way out of the impending danger that the prophet paints the picture so horrifying before your face? Why do the prophets seek for one to one sessions in order to convince you to give up something precious or give up huge sum of money for your miracle? Are miracles of God for sale? When you sincerely seek to know the truth about these practices, you'll know for sure that it is a scam! God is not in such practices. Why do preachers hold unto these practices? Do they not know that it is a sin to defraud people that came to church with a sincere heart to worship God? They really do not care about God or you, they care about themselves, they are about to make merchandise of people. We are not all children of God, some people are children of Satan, and some ministers are ministers of Satan.

> *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When*

he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not, Which of you convinceth of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." John 8:44-47

Jesus met this group of religious leaders, who did everything to undermine His ministry and was very tough with them. These were people that knew the Torah by heart. They always assembled in the synagogue to defend the law of Moses. They fasted twice a week, gave alms to the poor, and kept the Ten Commandments. These were not ordinary people, they were professors and doctors of the law. By every measurement, these people could be qualified as men of God. Jesus told them to their faces that Satan was their father. Jesus told them that their father, Satan, was a murderer from the beginning, and the lusts of their father was what they would do. That their father is a liar, he abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. That, telling lies is Satan's natural language, his original language. Jesus practically told them that they were murderers and liars like their father, the devil.

These were heavy words. He asked them if any of them ever caught Him in a sin, and they were dead silence. These were critics, they could not be quiet if they had any sin against Jesus. These were people that gathered in the synagogue every week to serve themselves, but thought they were serving God. Jesus looked at these people that supposed to be "Christians" and called them children of the devil. These people were accusers, they were prosecutors working for Satan. They never saw the good in Christ, they were only mindful of the laws that they knew and practiced without any benefit. They were of the devil! They sought to find a cause to kill Jesus at every given opportunity. They wanted to catch Him by words, and use that against Him, but Jesus looked them to the face and called them murderers.

Why was Jesus so tough with these people? They did not give the word of God place in their hearts. They were religiously minded, and thought to hurt Jesus' ministry because they felt He broke their laws. The same thing holds in a lot of churches today, they are full of activities, no time for the word of God. They spend hours hearing testimonies of many things that did not even happen. They do not have place for the proper teaching of God's word. Jesus says there is no truth in such people. If people are of God, they will be interested in the word of God.

Understanding the Gospel

The key to remaining strong in the faith is in the understanding of the Gospel of Christ. It is called the Gospel of Christ because it is the testimony of Jesus. It is all about Jesus and His substitutionary work on the Cross. Paul says, *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God... But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, but unto the unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."* 1Cor.1:18-24.

The preaching of the Cross is not just the preaching of the crucifixion of Christ. It is the preaching of the whole events that brought about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is not only about the passion of Christ but about His resurrection from the dead. It was the resurrection that brought about our justification. The preaching of the Cross is the preaching of Christ, that is where God's power is. The bible says, *"Then Philip went to Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."* Acts 8:5. Christ is the message, not some stories of human experiences. Philip preached Christ in Samaria, that was why he saw the miracles that took place. In the scripture we just read, Paul says, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. In Romans

chapter one verse sixteen, (Romans 1:16) the bible says the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel is the power of God because the Gospel is Christ.

> *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;"* 1Cor. 15:1-4

Paul explains to us the Gospel that he preached, which he first received. Because the Gospel was received by this church, they were able to stand in faith. You cannot stand on any other Gospel but the Gospel of Christ. It is Christ that makes people to stand. When you receive the Gospel, you do not need any follow up to stand. The Gospel saves you and keeps you in the state of salvation. If you are not standing in the faith, it means your believing is in vain. This was what Paul said he received and also preached. That Christ died, according to the scriptures; and that He was buried

according to the scriptures; and that on the third day He rose from the dead, according to the scriptures. Paul based his message on what is written in the scriptures not on what he heard from those that were with Christ while He was ministering on earth. It's all about Christ. If you are not dealing with Christ, then you are certainly not dealing with God.

You can always tell if you are in a wrong place, it does not have to take you months before you realise you are before a conman acting as the minister of the Gospel. Once you see titles like; "That Pharaoh Must Die", "Household Deliverance", "If The Foundation Be Destroyed, What Can The Righteous Do?" "Final Battle With The Devil" or "Operation Naked The Devil" and many such titles, your spirit will immediately give you witness that those people are conmen. When they ask you to bring stones, and oranges, and padlocks in church, you should immediately know Jesus does not need any of those things to bless you. If they ask you to fast for some days and come for some special prayers, they are setting you up to expose you to satanic oppression. God does not need works from you to get blessed.

All through the word of God, especially as contained in the New Testament, there are no such practices. These are ministers of Satan disguising as ministers of the

Gospel of Christ. Since when has God resorted to works in order to give us victory over Satan? He's already defeated the devil, if you stand in the Gospel that you heard from the beginning, the Gospel of Christ, Satan remains defeated in your life.

These strange preachings are sourced from the devil, they give us the picture of Satan that does not exist and blur the Gospel of Christ so that we do not see properly. Satan is not omnipotent, he is not in all places at all times, he is highly limited. These preachers preaching the doctrines of devils will want us to believe that Satan is so powerful that we really need to take a lot of precaution to deal with. They spread fear through their so-called prophecies, painting the future of gloom, and use that to enter people's pockets to defraud them. These are not men of God, they are spiritual touts! They neither understand the Gospel of Christ, nor are they preaching it.

Another Gospel

> *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But*

though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Gal.1:6-8

Paul calls the Gospel, the Gospel of the grace of Christ. It required no man's effort for him to be blessed by the Gospel of Christ, it is the mercy of God. But there are some that pervert the Gospel, he calls what comes out of that perversion "another gospel". Paul say such persons are accursed people. He says anyone that preaches a different Gospel from the one that he received of God, and preached, even if it's an angel from heaven that does that, he is accursed. These are heavy words! This "another gospel" is not even a gospel, it is the perversion of truth. It is the gospel of legalism. The gospel that preaches morality, human ability or self-effort; it is not the Gospel of Christ, regardless of who the preacher is. It is not who preaches what that is important, it is WHAT is preached that is important. Your spirit can recognise the word of God, when you are in a wrong place, if you are born again, you will receive a witness that clearly shows whether God is involved with what is going on or not. Your spirit feeds on words not activities, when you are being fed spiritually, you will know.

People that preach strange doctrines do not have their roots in the New Testament, they always preach from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is Christ concealed, it contains a blurred picture of Christ, you cannot really see Christ clearly through the reading of the Old Testament. Christ was not yet revealed, He was still in the womb of the Spirit. They are preaching in a concealed document, so they are totally without understanding. You cannot know God, nor the ways of God by reading the Old Testament. The prophets that wrote it did not know God by themselves, they were inspired by the Holy Ghost to write. Jesus did mention that some things that Moses taught were not so from the beginning. Any one always preaching from the Old Testament will be in error, he cannot be grasp the full picture of Christ's redemptive work. Paul says,

> *"But their minds are blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ."* 2Cor.3:14.

Until now, when the Old Testament is read, there is a veil. So, both the preacher, and the congregation come under the veil of religion. Neither the preacher, nor the congregation has any knowledge of what is being preached. It is Satan that blinds the minds of people so that they do not understand the word of God. There is

a veil covering the spiritual eyes of people in the reading of the Old Testament. You do not understand the Old Testament by reading the Old Testament, you understand it from the light of the New Testament. False teachers do not preach from the New Testament, especially the epistles because they have to be revealed to be understood. The veil that covers their hearts can only be removed when Christ is revealed. Some of these people are simply blinded by ignorance, when they turn to the Lord, the veil will be removed, and they can see clearly. But some are ministers of Satan by choice, that is who they are, they live by deception.

People change their looks to deceive others, they are not any different from the Pharisees. They wear choir robes, wear a big chain with a massive cross at the end of the chain, put on a small Jewish cap and a walking stick, then change their voice to sound anointed. If you do not look beyond the choir robes into their spirits, you will stake them to be men of God. The proof of a man of God is the evidence in his words. Satan has rebranded, we must look beyond flesh and blood to uncover him. What is inside a minister is what matters; you need the content, not the looks. Those people are some of the chief deceivers in the body of Christ, they hide behind their choir robes and long chains. The credentials of a preacher is not enough, do not be

deceived by the appearance of people. Jesus says; *"Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment."* John 7:24. Appearance can be misleading. Judge the content not the container. It is not the title of arch-bishop or whatever title that is important but the content, what comes out of the arch-bishop is what is important. Lots of these people appeal to your Psychology, if Christ is not the focus, then it is not about the Gospel, it's about another gospel.

The Gospel is the grace of Christ, the unmerited favour of God through Christ. It is all built on the finished work of Christ. God is giving us what we do not deserve. His provisions in redemption are as contained in the epistles. The people engaged with another gospel do not know God, and if you do not know the Gospel of Christ, you will be a victim of another gospel, preaching another Jesus by the power of another spirit.

> *"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."* 2Cor. 11:4

There is another gospel, another Jesus, and another spirit. It is clear that when people call the name

"Jesus", it is not always the Jesus that went to the Cross for us that they call. You can always tell by the message preached whether it is Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God, or another Jesus. There are people in certain churches under demonic spells but do not just know it. They dress every Sunday and go to a place that they think is a church, and there, they are bewitched. Once you are not in the grace of Christ, you are in another gospel, and thus under subjection to foreign spirits. The Gospel that is preached determines the spirit that operates. That people fall and roll on the floor, vomiting and manifesting all kinds of things is not a proof that the Holy Spirit is involved, it could be another spirit. What determines the manifestation of spirits is the message preached. Spirits act on words, whatever word that is spoken invokes the operation of spirits that manifest. All manifestations of spirits are not of God, they manifest in the shrines too, and all manifestations of spirits are similar. The preaching of Christ brings about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, every other preaching brings evil spirits into manifestations.

Christ Is the Light of the World

The whole world lies in darkness, only Jesus brings light to the world. If you have no Christ, no matter how long you have been in a church, you are in darkness to

this hour. Jesus gives your life a meaning. God could not deliver the world from the grip of sin and death until He became a man. Only God could solve that problem Himself. He came, demonstrated how man was created to be, and took his place in death to bring him to his original state of living, free from the controlling power of sin. He became the only light on our horizon, and without Christ, all men are lost. Christ brought God to man, and gave us understanding, that we might know God through Him.

> *"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."*
> 1John 5:20

Jesus gave us understanding that we may know the true God. Jesus Christ is the true God, and eternal life. That is the understanding that Christ brings into the hearts of men. The world would not know God without this understanding, the world could not be saved without Jesus Christ. In Christ dwells the true God, and eternal life. God's life is in Christ, you cannot have eternal life until you receive Christ into your heart. Jesus is the face of God, He shows exactly who the Father is and how He works. All you will have about

will be a heart full of guesses until you receive Jesus into your heart. There are no other ways around, if you do not have Christ, you have no life in you.

Under the Old Testament, God was not really known, and Satan was also not known. Because people did not know God, and Satan played in the shadows, people concluded every supernatural act (good and bad), as an act of God. It is in the New Testament, through the words of Jesus, that you will truly see and know clearly the works of Satan. Christ brings everything to light, because He is the light. Jesus says;

> *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: but I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly."* John 10:10.

Jesus makes it clear as to who brings death, He calls him the thief. Satan is the thief, he is the one behind all oppressions, he is the author of sickness and diseases. You won't quite see it clearly like this in the Old Testament. In the reading of the Old Testament, it looks like sometimes, God afflicts people, or at least allow certain sufferings, to teach His people a lesson. Even though a number of believers still want to accept this view, they do not consider that they won't do that to their own children. Nobody will afflict his children

with sickness and disease to teach them a lesson, no right thinking father will allow afflictions and pains on his family to teach them any lesson. Thinking that God would do that to His children would show that we are a better parents than God. Jesus shows us in practical terms that it is Satan, the thief, that steals, kills, and destroys.

In the book of Acts, we see more explanation on this. *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."* Acts 10:38. God anointed Jesus to heal all that were oppressed of the devil. Satan is the oppressor with sickness and disease, and Jesus, through the anointing of the Holy Ghost, reversed all Satan's works. For God to put sickness on people, He has to employ the devil, and they do not relate. Satan is filthy, he cannot come before God. Sickness and disease is a demonic oppression, and Jesus came to set people free from the oppressions of the devil.

The revelation of Jesus opens our eyes both to know God and also to know about Satan. It is through Jesus that we know that God is good, and also know that Satan is totally evil. The bible says, *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me, shall not walk in darkness, but shall*

have the light of life " John 8:12. When you come to Jesus, you come under the protection and cover of the light of life. John says of Jesus to be the light that shines in darkness, and the darkness could not comprehend it. Your whole life comes into a new lease of being when you receive Christ as Lord and you are rightly taught the word of God, He becomes your life, and you become full of light. That protects you from the power of darkness, for darkness cannot handle light.

The Legality of Redemption

In bringing this book to a close, I want to refocus us on the legality of our redemption in Christ. The accuser does not come without his proofs; we cannot confront him without proofs either. Until our understanding is perfect and broaden, we might not be able to stand the accusations of the accuser. Only Jesus suffered for sins and paid the full price of sin, we are beneficiaries of His work of grace. Understanding our redemption is crucial in dealing with the accuser. Remember, the accuser is not the judge, he is a prosecutor. His accusations might always be frivolous, he may be armed with facts. But whatever facts he's armed with, he is not the judge, so he cannot pronounce any sentence on anybody. The judge is on our side, He paid the penalty already; the accuser is not bringing any new thing on his table, the case has been decided

before his verbal assault. Let's get back to the beginning to build the case that guarantees our freedom in Christ.

The very first instruction God gave man in the book of Genesis is the only instruction God gave him for eternity. God did not give him a set of rules to keep, He told him what to do to maximise his productivity to be fruitful, to multiply, to replenish the earth, to subdue it, and to exercise dominion. God did not tell him anything about Satan, Satan would only be a minus in his life if he gave him the chance. All God demanded of him was to live in obedience. If he disobeyed, he would have unpleasant results. It wasn't God that would be hurt by his disobedience, it was the man that would hurt himself if he listened to someone other than God.

> *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of God and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* Gen. 2:16-17

Adam was free to eat of every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There was the tree of life in the garden also, and it was not forbidden. He was to eat of that tree but he did not. Adam went contrary

to the word of God, he listened to a foreign spirit and sinned. God told him that if he ate of that tree, he would die; he ate and he died. The New Testament tells us the name of the sin that Adam committed, it calls it "disobedience".

> *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* Rom. 5:19.

What brought death into the world was the sin of disobedience. Disobedience is not a sin committed in ignorance, you were not in disobedience if you did not know about something being wrong and you did it. It shows that Adam had the full knowledge of what he was to do and not to do, but he did what he wanted. He chose to consciously and blatantly go against the commandment of God. His eyes opened, that was the after effect of his disobedience. God does not condole sin, He does not associate with sin, but the big question is, why did God not punish him? Here was God, He came calling on Adam. Why?

When you read through all the account of God's dealing with Adam after the fall, two things became very clear. One is that Adam did not repent, nor apologise for his action. Secondly, God was not angry

that Adam disobeyed Him and brought death upon himself and generations yet unborn. There has not been a crime committed by man more than what Adam did. He committed global genocide, mass murder. Adam just rebelled against the God of justice, but God did not even rebuke him. Two reasons come to mind: first, God did not create him to be a robot, He gave him the right of choice. He made a terrible choice though, but he acted within the right, he was created with the right to make choices. Secondly, God had a plan to redeem man so that He could still maintain relationship with him. It was not after the sin of Adam that God figured out what to do, everything was factored in his creation. Was Adam's action punishable? Yes, it was rebellion, a treasonable offence. The penalty of his action was death. So, death sentence was passed on him, from the very instant he went against the word of God, he died. But God had a plan in place, a plan to protect him for making the wrong choice.

Adam was temporarily freed until a permanent solution was provided in Christ. There was the legality of God maintaining a relationship with Adam after his sin. From the beginning of the world, God treated man with mercy and grace based on FAITH. We see same scenario in the offerings of Abel and Cain. Abel brought the right offering, but Cain brought the wrong offering.

Abel came on the basis of animal blood, but Cain came on the basis of his personal efforts. Cain was rejected because he brought the wrong kind of offering. The account in Genesis 4 limits our knowledge of what happened. It is in the Epistle that we see that Abel's offering was by faith.

> *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."* Heb. 11:4

Abel obtained a witness that he was righteous. On what basis was he considered righteous? Did he commit any righteousness? Were they not both sinners? They were both sinners absolutely, but Abel offered his sacrifice based on faith, not works on that basis, God treated him as a righteous man. Cain did not offer by faith, so God did not treat him as a righteous man, only blood could atone for sins. Cain had no protection from Satan, so, Satan entered him, and he killed his brother. To be righteous is to be without guilt. Abel's sacrifice was figurative of the sacrifice of Jesus.

After the flood, Noah offered blood, (Hebrews 11 tells us it was his faith in Jesus) and God set up a rainbow in

the sky as the seal of the covenant of protection over him and generations after him. Abraham offered animal blood, and God accounted that unto him for righteousness. God treated Abraham right because he offered animal blood. It is about blood, not the actual sinner. God treated Abraham as a righteous man because he did not come on the premise of works but grace. God instructed Abraham to make specific offering of animal blood, he did, and that was it. God accounted that to him for righteousness. As we read through the story of Abraham, we can see the trend of things from the beginning. God never changes, whatever intentions and visions He had in the beginning is still the intentions and visions he has today.

> *"And Abraham believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness... And God said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece against another, but the birds divided he them not."* Gen. 15:6-10.

Those were the offerings God demanded of him, which he offered and God came down to walk in the midst of

the pieces of his sacrifice. Abraham did not always do what was right, he lied in Egypt and in Gerrar. He told the same lie, and never repented of any. But God dealt with him right on the basis of animal sacrifice, figurative of his faith in Jesus. In Romans chapter four, we understand that God did not treat Abraham on the basis of his works. Abraham was never the right person God should have used in man's judgment, he was a moon worshipper. God was never a part of his thinking, but grace chose him. What was remarkable about him however was that he was an obedient man, he did whatever God asked him to do. He did not argue with God or take excuses, he acted out whatever he was instructed to do.

> *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it accounted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to*

whom the Lord will not impute sin."
Romans 4:3-8

Abraham believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. It did not say he did anything to merit righteousness, it would no longer be grace if that were that were the case. No one did you a favour for paying you for your labour. Abraham would then have had a reason to brag about his righteousness. If you have to pay something to merit righteousness, it is no longer a favour, you paid for it; but you did not have what to pay for the debt of sin that you owed, none of us had, thus none of us could ever had paid. Abraham did not work for it either, he just believed God, and obeyed Him. Abraham believed in the righteous God that justifies the ungodly.

One peculiar thing about the Old Testament folks was their faith in Christ as seen in Hebrews 11. When Paul quoted David on what he said about the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputes righteousness without works, he did not say "blessed is the man who will not sin", he said, blessed is the man unto whom the Lord will not impute sin. He is blessed because, though he is not sinless, God will not hold him accountable for his sins. Why? Because He has already held Jesus accountable for all sins. God would not charge two people guilty on the same crime, He could not put all

our sins on Jesus, and turn round to hold us guilty of the same. There is no justice system that works that way.

We can see the trend of things from the very beginning; Abel's offering was received, and he was treated as a righteous man on the basis of animal sacrifice. Noah was treated right and protected in a blood covenant on the basis of animal sacrifice. Abraham was treated as a righteous man on the basis of animal sacrifice. Israel in Egypt was protected from death, and treated right on the basis of animal sacrifice. Animal sacrifice became a daily and annual ritual to atone for sins for Israel in the wilderness. Animal blood was the basis for righteousness. Jesus says of His blood to be the blood of the New Testament which was shed for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28). No need for animal blood again, the sacrifice of Jesus is sufficient.

Jesus is the down payment for sins, He's over with that. You are now in the position of "no condemnation". Satan has no right to throw accusations of sins against you, though he throws them anyway. Satan obeys no laws; natural or spiritual, he is law breaker. But if you have received Jesus as Lord, you are a free man. You are free from shame, guilt, and from all other oppressions of Satan. You are legally free of all things,

but you must be actively involved in the declaration of your freedom in Christ. Satan does not want you to think that you are free from the authority of sin, he wants you to think that you are still a sinner. Do not listen to him, he has not told the truth in his life, he is a liar and a murderer from the beginning. He lies to you because he wants to put you in a position that he will either kill you or destroy you. The Gospel of Christ sets you free!

The knowledge of who you are in Christ sets you free! It must be believed and affirmed always! What the word of God says about us is our reality. There is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus.

OVERCOMING SIN CONSCIOUSNESS

- **Are you born again but struggle with sin, guilt, condemnation and inferiority complex?**
- **Are you struggling to gain confidence and enjoy the victory Jesus obtained for the Church?**
- **Are you struggling to get answers to prayers and exercise your God-given authority over Satan and his works?**
- **Are you searching for genuine answers to questions like, how could God love me with all my wrongs? How can I possibly expect to receive anything from the Lord? I don't merit it, I am not good enough!**
- **How to handle accusations –real and imagined.**

This book is filled with strategic doctrinal revelation. Dr. Abel Damina shows you how, not to fight for victory, but from victory, and live beyond all the fiery darts of defeat the devil throws at you in accusation! This is a must-read for all believers!



Dr Abel Damina is the founder and president of Abel Damina Ministries International and CEO of Kingdom Life Network (KLN) - A Christian satellite TV channel covering Africa, America, Canada, and parts of Asia. He is the Senior Pastor of Power City International, a multifaceted, multicultural, and multinational Gospel Centre where thousands meet weekly to worship God. He is also President of International Covenant Ministers Association (ICMA), a body that provides covering and ministerial resources for Ministers of the Gospel globally.

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