WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

GODSWORD GODSWILL ONU

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DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God the Father, Who loves us so dearly; to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is my Lord and Saviour; to the Holy Spirit of the Living God, Who is my Great Helper and Comforter; and to all those, who love the Lord Jesus Christ sincerely, and want to know and practice the Truth.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/APPRECIATION

I appreciate my Heavenly Father, Who gave me Jesus Christ − my Lord and Saviour. I thank my Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave me the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Wisdom and of Power. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for making the writing of this book possible; when I consider the strength of the teaching anointing, and when I feel it, I marvel how awesome the Anointing of the Holy Spirit is!

I acknowledge the efforts, prayers, contributions, and encouragements, in one way or the other, of my Christian brothers and sisters, who equip and are being equipped, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the Knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the Fulness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the Truth in love, grow up in all things into Him Who is the Head: Christ.

I appreciate all those who contributed positively, in one way or the other, to my Christian life, my ministry, and the writing and publication of this book. As we look forward to the Rapture of the Saints and Second Coming of our Saviour, Lord, and Master: Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God, don't lose your focus. Look unto Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith, Who for the Joy that was set before Him, endured the Cross, despising the Shame, and has sat down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God.

God did not call us to serve Him in vain, but He will reward us abundantly for the labour we have laboured in His Name. He shall also give us the Crown of Life. Remember that there is a Heaven to gain, and there is a Hell Fire to avoid. Live in total obedience to the Word of God; live in righteousness and holiness, without which no eye shall see the Lord. God bless you!

Never Say That God Said What He Did Not Say!

Jesus Christ Is Coming Very Soon: Heaven And Hell Are Real!

Let No One Deceive You: Without Holiness, No One Will See The Lord

This hymn will help keep us focused:

IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS

1. It pays to serve Jesus; I speak from my heart,
He'll always be with us, if we do our part,
There is nothing in this wide-world can pleasure afford,
There is peace and contentment in serving the Lord.

Chorus:
I'll love Him far better than in days gone by,
I'll serve Him more truly than ever before,
I'll do as He bids me whatever the cost,
I'll be a true soldier; I'll die at my post.

2. And often when I am tempted to turn from the track,
I think of my Saviour, my mind wanders back,
To the place where they nailed Him on Calvary’s Tree,
I hear a Voice saying, “I suffered for thee.”

3. There is no one like Jesus can share me today,
His Love and Kindness can never fade away,
In winter, in summer, in sunshine and rain,
His Love and Affection is always the same.
APOSTLE GODSWORD

PREFACE

The Preacher said, “For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all: that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the Hand of God. People know neither love nor hatred by anything they see before them. All things come alike to all: One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; to the good, the clean, and the unclean; to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; he who takes an oath as he who fears an oath.

“I returned and saw under the sun that − the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favour to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them (Eccl. 9:1-2,11-12)

“I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs life in his wickedness. Do not be overly righteous, nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself? Do not be overly wicked, nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time? (Eccl. 7:15-17).

“Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God. There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity” (Eccl. 8:12-14).

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2014.

INTRODUCTION

Many people wonder why bad things happen to good people. The Bible says, “There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity” (Eccl. 8:14).

The Word of God also says, “Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him.

“But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God” (verses 12 to13).

Asaph said, “Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

“For there are no pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them like a garment.

“Their eyes bulge with abundance; they have more than heart could wish. They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth.

“Therefore his people return here, and waters of a full cup are drained by them. And they say, ‘How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?’ Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches.

“Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I had said, ‘I will

speak thus,' behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.

"When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me − until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

"Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awakes, so, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

"Thus my heart was grieved, and I was vexed in my mind. I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.

"You will guide me with Your Counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory. Whom have I in Heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the Strength of my heart and my Portion forever.

"For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your Works" (Psa. 73). But there are more to these things; and let us go ahead!

So, why do bad things happen to good people? The Word of God says, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the Words of this Law" (Deut. 29:29).

You have to realize that there are many things which are hidden from us; and they are known to God. And we do not have to worry ourselves to know about many of them, especially when knowing the true nature and reason may not avail any good. We are not God; and we cannot know everything.

Yet God reveals what He wants us to know to us. The Bible says, “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the Deep Things of God.

“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the Things of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:10-11).

The Spirit of God reveals many things to us; but He reveals what God wants us to know. And you may not have to use what God told you about a situation to generalize and apply it to some other situations. If you do, you may be erring and deceiving yourself and others.

Having said that, sin is one of the reasons why bad things happen to good people. Somebody who is good in people’s eyes may have a hidden sin, which people do not know about.

In fact, it may not even be that the person has been living in that sin and hiding it from people for a long time. The person might have even fallen into the sin not long before the bad thing, problem, or disaster come upon him.

The Bible says, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the Truth. This wisdom does not descend from Above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (Jas 3:13-16).

Sin in someone’s life can cause sickness and disease. And the Word of God tells Believers to confess their sins one to another and to pray for one another that they might be healed.

In other words, if you know that the sickness was caused by (or might have been caused by) sin or disobedience, confessing the sins/disobedience to the

person (people) praying for you can lead to (or hasten) your healing.

There are things which you have to confess to God alone; and there are things which need to be confessed to others and the necessary restitutions made!

Doubt and unbelief are reasons why bad things happen to good people. Doubting God and not believing His Word can open the way for the devil to strike. The Bibles says that he who breaks the hedge the serpent will bite (Eccl. 10:8). Breaking the hedge can come in different forms.

Doubt and unbelief can also hinder the works and activities of angels concerning you, which can make the work of satan to succeed against you. The Word of God says, “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

“For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (Jas 1:6-8).

Another reason why bad things happen to good people is as a result of trial, as in the case of Job. To this end, the Bible says, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

“That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the Revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s Sufferings, that when His Glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

“If you are reproached for the Name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon you.

On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter (1 Pet. 4:12-16).

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (Jas 1:2-4).

As a Christian and Believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will pass through trials, sufferings, and persecutions, because of your faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ. But the Lord says, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33).

And Apostle Paul said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

The devil and his host do not love those who are in Christ Jesus. Therefore, they fight against them and the Plans and Purposes of God for their lives and ministries. They do this in attempt to discourage them, weaken them, make them unfruitful and unproductive, and if possible, stop their calls and ministries entirely.

But God is for us and by our side. This is why we have to know our rights and authority in Christ Jesus, and also pray fervently and effectively.

However, the Word of God says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your Rod and Your Staff, they comfort me.

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over

(Psa. 23:4-5).

“But now, thus says the Lord, Who created you, O Jacob, and He Who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

‘When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you (Isa. 43:1-2).

“In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.

“Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy.

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord (Isa. 54:14-17).

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh. 1:8-9). There are other reasons why bad things happen to good people.

EXAMINE AND JUDGE YOURSELF

Each and every one of us should both examine and judge himself, for and of anything that is contrary to the Word and Will of God in our lives and ministries. Overconfidence can make someone to err and default without his knowledge. It is possible for someone to think that he is standing while he may be sitting, or might have even fallen down.

And if we notice anything that is contrary to the Word, Will, Plan, and Purpose of God in our lives, we are to judge ourselves immediately by dealing with the issue without delay. We must remove whatever God wants us to remove and stop whatever needs to be stopped. This will require repentance, confession, decision, action, and/or discipline. Examining and judging ourselves are for our own good.

Do you know that it is possible for someone who had said, “Lord Jesus Christ, come into my life” to end in Hell, because he refused to examine and judge himself? Do you know that someone can be working in God’s Vineyard, and yet not be God’s Friend?

Do you also know that it is possible for someone to run in vain? Even many people who will make Heaven will not get the rewards that they expected, because they did not examine and judge themselves. Doing things to be seen by men and receiving rewards from men, for work done for God, can deny you your reward in Heaven.

No sin will enter Heaven; but some people, who had lived in sin and disobedience, refusing to examine and judge themselves, may not die accidentally and immediately. Some people will die in sicknesses, diseases, and other conditions that may not result to instant deaths, but give them the opportunity to repent and confess their sins.

In that case, when someone is cleansed before death, he goes to Heaven; but if he had been working for God the wrong way − as God did not intend – this leads to loss of rewards for the work done for God. Therefore, it is

important that we live our lives and carry out our ministries in such ways that we both make Heaven and also have good eternal rewards.

If we will judge ourselves, we will not be judged (1 Cor. 11:31). We have to examine, check, and judge ourselves all the days of our lives. This is very necessary for us to continue to be on the right track and path, to be at peace with God, and to be standing in the Faith.

The Word of God says, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the Faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? − unless indeed you are disqualified (2 Cor. 13:5). Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the Living God;

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:12-13). Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1).

Speaking to the church of the Laodiceans, the Lord said, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My Mouth.

“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ − and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked − I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My Voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:15-20).

He loves us and does not want any of us to perish. But we have to co-operate with Him.

Speaking to Solomon, David said, “Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the Hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the Commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever.

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever” (1 Chron. 28:8-9). God, Who searches the heart and knows the mind, wants us to serve Him with the loyal and sincere heart.

Many people call on the Name of the Lord, but they do not do what He says and commands. But it is only those who do the Will of God that will make it to the Kingdom of Heaven. The Bible says, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? (Lk. 6:46).

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the Will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that Day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?’

“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ (Matt. 7:21-23). Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the Doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim. 4:15-16).

You also need to be careful about your life and discipline your body, so that you can obey God and do the

right thing. The Word of God says, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an Imperishable Crown.

“Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:24-27). It was Paul who was speaking here. And if he could do it, we also can do it!

Because King Solomon did not examine and judge himself, but went ahead to despise and disobey the Commandment of God, he backslidded. The Bible says, “But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites –

“From the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

“Solomon did evil in the Sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise

for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

“So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, Who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.

“Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Because you have done this, and have not kept My Covenant and My Statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant’” (1 Kgs 11:1-11).

God is faithful and He will defend your cause and the things which concern you. Continue to be obedient and faithful to Him! The Word says, “Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.

“Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them away with the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!” (Psa. 125).

Relaxing in your Christian Faith and not taking spiritual things serious, brings about a turning back from the Things of God. The Bible says, “Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, and trust in Mount Samaria, notable persons in the chief nation, to whom the house of Israel comes!” (Amos 6:1).

Do not relax, and do not be at ease; until we make it into the Kingdom of Heaven, we must not relax! And when we enter Heaven, great will be our joy. Apostle Paul said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are

not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). Do not allow the devil to discourage you.

The Word says, "After the death of Moses the Servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 'Moses My Servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them − the children of Israel.

'Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea towards the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

'No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

'Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the Law which Moses My Servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

'This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

"Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 'Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, "Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the

land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess”” (Josh. 1:1-11).

And do not let philosophy, psychology, science, and human knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to deceive you and lead you to go contrary to the Way of God. The Bible says, “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Col. 2:8).

Be careful to read/study and meditate on the Word of God. The Word says, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work (1 Tim. 2:15,21).

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16). And be cleansed of (remove) anything that is against God and His Word.

Do not take the Christian Faith for granted; but work on yourself, and be committed and dedicated to spiritual things. To this end, the Bible says, “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

“To knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance Godliness, to Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to

make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

“For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-11). Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

“Resist him, steadfast in the Faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your Brotherhood in the world (1 Pet. 5:8-9). Receive My Instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold (Prov. 8:10).

“My son, fear the Lord and the king; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring? ...I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.

“When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man” (Prov. 24:21-22,30-34).

Deal with anything that can make you backslide. Small things can make someone to drift away from following the Right Ways of the Lord. The Word says, “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the Truth? This persuasion does not come from Him Who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump (Gal. 5:7-9).

“Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes (Songs 2:15). But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).

“The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from Above” (Prov.

14:14). If you choose to backslide, there are many unfavourable and harsh consequences. Remain in the Truth of God.

God knows everything about you; though you may hide it from men, yet you cannot hide it from God. The Bible says, “For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow,

“And is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His Sight, but all things are naked and open to the Eyes of Him to Whom we must give account” (Heb. 4:12-13).

Do not be hypocritical, but do what you preach and teach. The Word of God says, “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

“But we know that the Judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the Judgment of God?

“Or do you despise the riches of His Goodness, Forbearance, and Longsuffering, not knowing that the Goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the Day of wrath and revelation of the Righteous Judgment of God,

“Who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds’: Eternal Life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the Truth, but obey unrighteousness − indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

“But glory, honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the Law will be judged by the Law (for not the hearers of the Law are just in the Sight of God, but the doers of the Law will be justified;

“For when Gentiles, who do not have the Law, by nature do the things in the Law, these, although not having the Law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the Day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel.

“Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the Law, and make your boast in God, and know His Will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

“An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and Truth in the Law. You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

“You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the Law, do you dishonour God through breaking the Law? For ‘the Name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,’ as it is written (Rom. 2:1-24).

“This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim. 2:11-13).

Jesus Christ said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and

cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the Law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Matt. 23:23). We must not put our focus on outward righteousness and leave doing the things which we ought to do!

THE TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS OF RIGHTEOUS JOB

A righteous, blameless, perfect, and upright man that Job was, a day came when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan also came among them. And the Lord said to satan, "From where do you come?" So satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

Then the Lord said to satan, "Have you considered My Servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (Job. 1:6-8). But what does satan do as he goes to and fro on the earth, and walk back and forth on it? Surely the devil is not on recreation, excursion, and sightseeing. He goes about on a serious business venture!

The Word of God says, "Therefore humble yourselves under the Mighty Hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

"Resist him, steadfast in the Faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your Brotherhood in the world. But may the God of All Grace, Who called us to His Eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him

be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet. 5:6-11).

He goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But resist him, steadfast in the Faith. However, as we will see, even in his going about the earth, he does not do anything beyond the Permission (not a Command) of the Almighty God.

And God boasted about His man – Job, saying to satan, "Have you considered My Servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" So satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?

"Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your Hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your Face!" (Verses 8-11).

The devil accused Job of fearing God because of God's Blessings and Protection on him, saying that if his possessions and blessing were gone, Job would surely curse God to His Face. Someone say, "The devil is a liar!" For an ordinary man to curse God to His Face! So God said to satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power (hand); only do not lay a hand on his person."

Can you see that the devil cannot go beyond God's Permission in your life? And if God permits anything, it is because He knows that you are able to resist and withstand it. If you disappoint God, it is because you decided to disappoint Him. The Bible says, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, Who will not allow you

to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:11-13).

And remember that God Himself does not tempt anyone, though He may test you, like He did to Abraham. The Word of God says, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the Crown of Life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren" (Jas 1:12-16).

Having obtained his heart desire, he went out from the Presence of Lord. Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided them and took them away − indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly a great

wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong (Verses 13-22).

Why will someone (and only one person here) always escape to tell Job? Where were the Sabeans and the Chaldeans all this while? They were in existence; but God’s Protective Wall had been stopping their invading the property and wealth of Job. And no mysterious fire could also burn any of his sheep; neither could a great wind pull down his house to kill his sons and daughters.

His things and belongings were intact, because God protected them. If God opens your eyes to see what he protects you from, and the battles He settles for you without your knowledge, you will cry with joy! And Job said, after all these calamities: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to satan, “From where do you come?” Then satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

Then the Lord said to satan, “Have you considered My Servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

So satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your Hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your Face!” And the Lord said to satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life” (Job 2:1-6).

The devil, satan, still accused Job of sacrificing all that he had for his life. And he said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your Hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your Face!”

But notice what God said: He said, “Have you considered My Servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

Did you notice that satan enticed God against His Own man? And he was destroyed for no cause or reason. Anyway, satan went out from the Presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place − Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him.

And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each

one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head towards heaven. So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

But did the devil succeed? No, he did not succeed; for Job maintained his steadfastness in God. Even his wife told him to curse God and die; but he refused, knowing that it was foolishness to do it. And his friends – Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar – visited him to comfort him; but because of what they saw, they did not speak to him for complete seven days until Job himself broke the silence.

Job said, “Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

“For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; then I would have been at rest with kings and counselors of the earth, who built ruins for themselves, or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver; or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like infants who never saw light?

“There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor. The small and great are there, and the servant is free from his master.

“Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, who long for death, but it does not come, and search for it more than hidden treasures; who rejoice exceedingly, and are glad when they can find the grave?

“Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, and whom God has hedged in? For my sighing comes before I eat, and my groanings pour out like water. For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes” (Job 3:11-26).

Job opened his mouth and cursed the day he was born, because of the anguish of soul that he was passing through,

from the pains and afflictions which had come upon him. His friends gave him words of criticism and judgment, words of hope and encouragement, and words of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

The words of criticism given him by Eliphaz: “Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off? Even as I have seen, those who plough iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. By the Blast of God they perish, and by the breath of His Anger they are consumed” (Job 4:7-9).

Bildad said, “Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice? If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression” (Job 8:3-4).

Zophar said, “Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated? Should your empty talk make men hold their peace? And when you mock, should no one rebuke you? For you have said, ‘My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in your eyes.’

“But oh, that God would speak, and open His Lips against you, that He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For they would double your prudence. Know therefore that God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves. ...For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also.

“Will He not then consider it? For an empty-headed man will be wise, when a wild donkey’s colt is born a man. If you would prepare your heart, and stretch out your hands towards Him; if iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, and would not let wickedness dwell in your tents; then surely you could lift up your face without spot; yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear; because you would forget your misery, and remember it as waters that have passed away, and your life would be brighter than noonday.

“Though you were dark, you would be like the morning. And you would be secure, because there is hope; yes, you

would dig around you, and take your rest in safety. You would also lie down, and no one would make you afraid; yes, many would court your favour. But the eyes of the wicked will fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope − loss of life!" (Job 11:2-6,11-20).

The Words of hope, wisdom, and understanding given him by Eliphaz: "Surely you have instructed many, and you have strengthened weak hands. Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have strengthened the feeble knees; but now it comes upon you, and you are weary; it touches you, and you are troubled.

"Is not your reverence your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope? ...Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? If He puts no trust in His Servants, if He charges His angels with error, how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before a moth?

"They are broken in pieces from morning till evening; they perish forever, with no one regarding. Does not their own excellence go away? They die, even without wisdom" (Job 4:3-6,17-21).

Bildad said, "If you would earnestly seek God and make your supplication to the Almighty, if you were pure and upright, surely now He would awake for you, and prosper your rightful dwelling place. Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly.

"For enquire, please, of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers. ...While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, whose confidence shall be cut off, and whose trust is a spider's web.

"…Behold, this is the joy of His Way, and out of the earth others will grow. Behold, God will not cast away the

blameless, nor will He uphold the evildoers. He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, and your lips with rejoicing. Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing" (Job 8:5-8,12-14,19-22).

Zophar said, "Can you search out the Deep Things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than heaven − what can you do? Deeper than Sheol − what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea" (Job 11:7-9).

God also answered Job, saying, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

"Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who...." (Job 38:1-8).

And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10).

DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DESTROYER

The Bible says that the thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. But Jesus Christ came to give life and the more abundant life (Jn 10:10). The Word of God says that Jesus Christ was manifested in order to destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). The works of the

devil involve stealing from men, killing them, and destroying their life and eternity. And since we are the Offsprings of God, our work must, of necessity, include destroying the works of the devil.

The works of the devil are in demonic possession, obsession, oppression, attack, and manipulation. But no matter how the devil comes against us, we have authority and power in the Name of Jesus Christ to stop and destroy their works. The Power of the Holy Spirit is available to us in our contending against the forces of darkness. And the yoke of the enemy will be broken because (by the reason) of the anointing (Isa. 10:27).

When the Lord Jesus Christ was on the earth in His Flesh, He destroyed the works of the devil in the lives of those among whom He ministered. He knew His Mission and Vision; and He carried out His Assignment faithfully. Concerning Him the Word says, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

He went about doing good in destroying the works of the destroyer. He healed those who were oppressed by the devil. He delivered those who were possessed by demons. He did those things, and more, because God the Father was with Him by His Holy Spirit. And the Power of the Holy Spirit of the Living God is the greatest power in the whole universe and all spheres and plains of existence.

Notice that the Bible says that the reason the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, was manifested was to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus Christ is the Destroyer of the works of the destroyer and his destroyers. Jesus Christ destroys the works of the devil and his hosts. It belongs to the Lord to give life and to kill. The devil is an imitator.

The Word of God says, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him Who

is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell (Matt. 10:28). ‘Is this not laid up in store with Me, sealed up among My Treasures?

“‘Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; their foot shall slip in due time; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come hasten upon them.’ For the Lord will judge His people and have compassion on His Servants, when He sees that their power is gone, and there is no one remaining, bond or free.

“He will say: ‘Where are their gods, the rock in which they sought refuge? Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise and help you, and be your refuge. Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My Hand.

‘For I raise My Hand to Heaven, and say, “As I live forever, if I whet My Glittering Sword, and My Hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, and repay those who hate Me. I will make My Arrows drunk with blood, and My Sword shall devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the heads of the leaders of the enemy.”’

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His Servants, and render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people” (Deut. 32:34-43). Notice particularly that verse 39 says, “Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My Hand”

Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not commanded it? Is it not from the Mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed? (Lam. 3:37-38). Nothing has taken God by accident, and nothing can happen except God allows it. And when God arises, He

destroys the works of the devil. And we have also been called to destroy the works of the devil.

As God's Offsprings, we do His Will and Works, and we represent Him and stand on His Behalf. He empowers His people to do great exploits for Him. The Word says, "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Lk. 10:19).

As we destroy the works of the devil and destroyer, no harm shall come upon us − God is with us by His Spirit; and His angels surround us and minister for us!

Speaking of the heroes of faith, the Bible says, "And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

"Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens" (Heb. 11:32-34). Those heroes of faith destroyed the works of the devil. Both in the Old Testament and in the early New Testament dispensation, holy men of God contended with the forces of darkness; and they destroyed the works of satan.

The devil's works are seen in the spiritual, mental, and physical realms. And the Power of God is available to us to deal with the things that the devil plans and does – however he comes and however he operates.

He may even come pretending and trying to deceive us and make us think that he is not the one who is involved. But the Wisdom and Guidance of the Holy Spirit make us wise and victorious in our contending with the forces of darkness and power of evil spirits.

There are human agents of the kingdom of darkness who agree with the devil and do his mind. They projects

different calamities, pains, sufferings, failure, hardship, losses, and deaths against people. These ones, who are witches and wizards, do anti-God works; and we must destroy their works. We must not fear any witch, wizard, sorcerer, or agent of satan; for they are defeated foes.

To be able to destroy the works of the devil effectively, we must believe the Word of God and act in faith. You have to know and understand your inheritance, rights, and privileges in Christ Jesus. Where the word of the king is, there is power and authority. And you know that Christ Jesus has made us kings. We are gods and Offsprings of the Almighty and Great God.

And we are to live in righteousness, obedience, holiness, and Truth. We must not live in obedience to the devil. The Word of God says that he who sins is of the devil. You cannot keep on living in sin and expect to destroy the plans and works of the devil, both in your life and in the lives of others. Therefore, do not be partaker with the devil; but be a faithful Servant of God.

The Word says, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the Knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the Obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (2 Cor. 10:3-6).

Remember that the beings who fight against the Purpose, Plans, and Works of God – the devil and his devils – do not love the human race; and they hate the Christians and Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ with great passion. Therefore, do not be careless. The Bible states: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His Might.

“Put on the whole Armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not

wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

"Therefore take up the whole Armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with Truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace;

"Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the Saints" (Eph. 6:10-18).

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

Apostle Paul wrote: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4). Apostle Paul was greatly persecuted in the course of his ministry; and someone may not expect him to make such a statement. It is very important to God that His children rejoice always in Him. Think about it! The Lord, through Paul, stressed its importance by repeating it.

The devil will want us to be stressed by different kinds of things, so that he can steal our joy away from us. Have you allowed the devil to steal your joy? How did you allow him to steal it? Is it through sin and indulgence? Is it through the pursuit of this world's cares? Is it through worries, doubt, depression, or sorrow?

Jesus Christ says that no man will take our joy from us when He comes (Jn 16:22). We may or may not allow our joy to be taken away from us. The Joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh. 8:10). Depression will rob you of God's Provisions for you. That is why the devil will want you to be depressed.

But the remembrance that we have the host of Heaven on our side should keep us cheered up. God the Father is for us; Jesus Christ is with us; the Holy Spirit is in us and upon us; the Word of God is our defensive and offensive armour; and the angels of God minister for us. We should never allow anything to steal our joy from us.

The Bible says that our rejoicing should be always. This can be a major problem in a life of a Christian who is not disciplined. He may be joyful now and be depressed the next hour, only to return to being joyful the following hour.

Inconsistency could be a problem in the life of a Christian. Some will rejoice when the going is good, but will be depressed when the going seems rough. But God wants us to rejoice always; because He is our Source, and He can do all things.

The same problem is seen among Christians in other areas of their lives. Some can pray for one, two, or three hours today, but will not pray for twenty minutes tomorrow. Some may finish two chapters of Bible today and not even read a chapter for the next one week. God wants us to be disciplined in obeying His Word. We must develop patience and self-control in order to be able to please God always. Rejoice in the Lord always.

The Lord says, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). Peace and joy are connected; and in Christ Jesus we have unspeakable joy and peace. Even though we may be troubled and distressed by a lot of things

in this world, yet the confidence that we have is that Christ Jesus have overcome for us.

The Word says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7). Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thes. 5:16-19).

Do you see that your heart and mind need to be guarded? If you are not careful, the devil will cloud your heart and mind with sorrow and depression; and this will bring many negative things into your life. The Bible commands: “Keep your heart will all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23).

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What fills your heart and mind will reflect in your words and actions. Joy and sorrow are expressible, though some people try to pretend, when they claim and show what does not exist. To this end, the Word says, “Even in laughter, the heart may be sorrowful” (Prov. 14:13). But no matter how you pretend, it is only a matter of time before what you are full of inwardly will show outwardly.

Apostle Peter said, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His Abundant Mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you,

“Who are kept by the Power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

“That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire,

may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith − the salvation of your souls" (1 Pet. 1:3-9).

The Joy of the Lord is our strength. When we know and remember the Power and Greatness of our God, we have great boldness to face the devil and the world. When we know what He is able to do, and remember the things that He has done, we walk and act with great assurance and authority.

Speaking of Solomon, the Bible says, "Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, 'Long live King Solomon!' And all the people went up after him, and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound" (1 Kgs 1:39-40). Before this time, the Bible says that there was joy in Israel when David was crowned as a king.

If Solomon's enthronement could bring such joy to the people, how much more joy should there be when one soul is translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. The Word says that there is great joy among the angels in Heaven over one soul that turns to Christ Jesus. And we are kings and priests unto God. That is enough to make us rejoice.

When offerings were given for the House of the Lord, people gave abundantly. Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willing, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly (1 Chron. 29:9). When people give to God for the furtherance of His Work on earth, it brings joy to all.

And the Word says, "Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the Grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the

abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

“For I bear them witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we should receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the Saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the Will of God” (2 Cor. 8:1-5).

Continuing, Apostle Paul, said, “Therefore I thought necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudging or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:5-7).

Don’t force people to give grudgingly and unwillingly, so that there will be joy in their giving; and give them the opportunity to give willingly, so that they will give with good heart, and not for the praise of men.

In the Presence of God, there is fulness of joy. And the Presence and Joy of the Lord gives you victory over your enemies. Whatever you may be passing through for now, God will turn your captivity away as He did to Job. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Trust in God: He is faithful and able.

When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, they were like those who dream. Then their mouth was filled with laughter, and their tongue with signing. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord did great thing for them, and they were glad.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing,

shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Psa. 126). You will suffer trials, tests, tribulations, and other things for the Cause of Christ Jesus; but rejoice in Him, for He has conquered the devil and the world for you. Our sorrow shall be turned into joy.

The mighty deeds and miracles which God works among (and through) us bring joy to us and to those we minister to. When Philip preached the Gospel to Samaritans, the Bible says, “And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

“For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:5-8). Both joy and sorrow are contagious. While Godly joy and sorrow bring good and Godly results, worldly happiness and devilish sorrow encourage the activities of satan.

SPIRITUAL ATTACKS

Attacks could be spiritual, mental, or physical. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).

The spiritual controls the physical; and many of the things you see happening in your physical life come from the spiritual realm − they are projected from the spirit-ream – whether positive or negative, good or bad.

The fact that Balak hired Balaam to curse the Israelites for him, so that he might defeat them, is a sign that what is settled in spirit-realm manifests physically. The king did not just gather his warriors to fight the Israelites.

He knew they were a strong people; and he reasoned that if he would defeat them, there was a need for spiritual force, which would be in force by a curse which would be set in force by a curse and pronouncement from a spiritual voice.

Many times, human beings see things from the physical point of view, without knowing that what they see in others, or what they themselves are experiencing, are brought about by spiritual forces and powers.

This is true, both on the good side and on the bad side, on the positive and on the negative, on God's Side and on satan's side. And this is why many people fail in the battle of life – they fight physically, while their problems seem to defy solutions.

The Word of God says, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

"Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the Knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the Obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

"Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's" (2 Cor. 10:3-7).

Do you look at things according to the outward appearance or according to the reality, which is the spiritual decision and projection about the issues, conditions, and circumstances? The earlier we start looking at things from the spiritual perspective, and start fighting those things from the spiritual standpoint, the better for us!

Many unbelievers know and understand this principle more than many Believers. And this is one reason why an unbeliever may win a Believer in challenges and

confrontations. When an unbeliever confronts you, resist him in the Name, Blood, and Power of your Lord Jesus Christ.

He may not openly invite evil spirits to your recognition; but have you even asked yourself what gave him the courage to withstand a child of God. It is the devil and his devils, whether or not he is a conscious witch, wizard, satanist, cultist, or/and devil-worshipper.

When they say things, they also project spiritual forces to back them up. And if you are lukewarm or fearful, they may get at you. But if you know that greater is He Who is in you than satan and all his hosts, then you have no need to fear!

Do you know that one of the reasons why people do not submit to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is spiritual manipulation? Many people will not accept the Word of God, no matter what they hear, because their eyes are spiritually blinded.

And until that spiritual cast is removed, they will not accept what God says. Of course, the Word of God itself is anointed and has power to remove spiritual cast and blindness.

The Bible says, “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the Word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the Truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the Sight of God.

“But even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the Glory of Christ, Who is the Image of God, should shine on them.

“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ Sake. For it is the God Who commanded light to shine out of

darkness, Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (2 Cor. 4:1-7).

"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

"Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the Life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the Truth is in Jesus:

"That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:17-24).

And the devil does many of this works when men are asleep and in their dream states. Many of the things which people experience in the physical were programmed against them spiritually and settled in their dream states.

And when those things come across/upon them in the physical, they seem to be helpless against the powers and forces which are responsible for them, because they were already overcome spiritually and in their dreams.

This is why you have to rise up and pray during night periods − do not just lie down there on your bed and sleep throughout the late hours of the night and the early hours of the morning. And we are to pray always, not only during the night periods. But sensitive to the Holy Spirit's Promptings to know when to pray.

Refuse to be fearful; but be courageous and bold in the Lord your God. The parable of the wheat and tares gives us a lesson concerning the danger of sleeping without a watcher or watchers.

Of course, there are periods of time which you have to sleep; but if you are prayerful, angels will take care of those sleeping periods. However, still know that God fights for all of us – both the prayerful and the lukewarm, righteous and disobedient – because of His Love and Mercy for us.

If this was not the case, the calamities and deaths that we will be recording will go out of hand. But we also have our part to play, by being holy, obedient, believing, and prayerful, in order to make the Will of God come to pass in our lives.

The Bible says, “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

‘But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared’” (Matt. 13:24-26). Beware of your weak moments and sleeping periods!

Another thing to spiritual attacks is that the devil accuses the people of God to God, in order to withhold God’s Blessings from them, or in order to receive permission from God to try them.

He accused Job, saying, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

“But now, stretch out Your Hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your Face! (Job 1:9-11).

“Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your Hand now, and touch his bone

and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your Face!" (Job 2:4-5).

What you may be experiencing may be as a result of the devil having accused you to God. He also accuses God's people of sin and disobedience, both to God and in their minds.

The Word of God says, "Then I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the Power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

"And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time" (Rev. 12:10-12).

By the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of our testimony we overcome the devil. Whereas the devil may accuse us, yet the Blood of Jesus Christ speaks better things than the blood of Abel; and God's Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Also, the devil and his fallen angels fight against and withstand angels of God to hinder them from doing their work of ministering for and to us. All angels are not warring angels; therefore a messenger angel can be intercepted by warring fallen angels.

This is why you have to pray fervently and continually over the manifestation of God's Word and Promise to you; because the powers of darkness may put up a high level of resistance to hinder it.

I am not saying that you should be praying over and over about something in doubt. But even when God would have assured you of something, keep on thanking Him for

the fulfilment of it in expectation, and also pray against any satanic interference.

The Bible says, “In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a Message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The Message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the Message, and had understanding of the vision.

“In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

“…And he said to me, ‘O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the Words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.’ While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

“Then he said to me, ‘Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia” (Dan. 10:1-3,11-13).

As a child of God, you are God’s Property; and the angels of God keep watch over you. Whether they gather in the covens to invoke anything against you, God’s Protection is with you.

Whether they attack you in the dream, the Power of the Holy Spirit and the Love and Mercy of God will keep you. If they like, let them go to witch doctors, you are protected. However and whenever they come, He Who watches over you neither sleeps nor slumbers.

The Word of God declares: “In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near

you. Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.

“Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy.

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord (Isa. 54:14-17).

“He who dwells in the Secret Place of the Most High Shall abide under the Shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my Refuge and my Fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.’

“Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His Feathers, and under His Wings you shall take refuge; His Truth shall be your shield and buckler.

“You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

“A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

“Because you have made the Lord, Who is my Refuge, even the Most High, your Dwelling Place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

“For He shall give His angels Charge over you, to Keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

“You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. ‘Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My Name.

‘He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My Salvation’” (Psa. 91).

CURSES

Curses could come from different sources; and curses can operate in/at different areas, levels, and degrees. What is a curse? A curse is something that causes loss, trouble, harm, death, etc.

Curses are negative spiritual forces, which manifest in the spirit-realm, mental realm, emotional realm, physical realm, at financial level, at marital level, and at other levels.

Making a covenant with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses, God said, “You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God.

“You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord. If you walk in My Statutes and keep My Commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

“Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

“You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

“For I will look on you favourably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My Covenant with you. You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.

“I will set My tabernacle among you, and My Soul shall not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these Commandments, and if you despise My Statutes, or if your soul abhors My Judgments, so that you do not perform all My Commandments, but break My Covenant,

“I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

“I will set My Face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

“I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

“Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your

livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

“And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

“And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

“When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied. And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

“You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My Soul shall abhor you.

“I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas. I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.

“I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths.

“As long as it lies desolate it shall rest − for the time it did not rest on your Sabbaths when you dwelt in it. And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies;

“The sound of a shaken leaf shall cause them to flee; they shall flee as though fleeing from a sword, and they shall fall when no one pursues. They shall stumble over one

another, as it were before a sword, when no one pursues; and you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

"You shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities, which are with them, they shall waste away.

"But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt –

"Then I will remember My Covenant with Jacob, and My Covenant with Isaac and My Covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land. The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My Judgments and because their soul abhorred My Statutes.

"Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My Covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God.

"But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord" (Lev. 26:1-45). This passage of the Bible lets us know part of what blessings and curses are.

There are generational and ancestral curses, which come through family lineage. There are curses associated with individuals, groups, organizations, villages, towns, cities, and nations.

Curses can come by pronouncement or by breaking terms of agreements and covenants. Of course, curses

come from disobeying the Word of God.

The Bible says, “Just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

“And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

“For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the Book of the Law, to do them.’

“But that no one is justified by the Law in the Sight of God is evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’ Yet the Law is not of faith, but ‘the man who does them shall live by them.’

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the Promise of the Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:6-14).

The Law says, “If you do this, this will happen to you,” or, “If you do not do this, this will happen to you.” But in this period of grace, because of the Blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for us, God does not punish us immediately as in the time of the Law.

However, God can discipline or chastise us; and the devil himself can accuse us, because of disobedience/sin, which may deny us of God’s Blessings. But the Mercy of God triumphs over judgment; and He will have mercy and compassion on whom He chooses to show His Mercy and Compassion. And God will still judge and punish sinners and the disobedient when his time (time given him by God to repent) is up or when he dies.

Speaking to Abraham, God said, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:2-3). Be careful not to curse God’s child and Servant!

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God spoke to them, saying to Eve, “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” (Gen. 3:16).

And to Adam, He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

“Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Gen. 3:17-19).

This is what curse means − to find an easy thing hard and to suffer what you should not have suffered. But when Noah offered burnt offerings to God, the Lord smelled a soothing aroma.

Then the Lord said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease” (Gen. 8:21-22).

Speaking to the Israelites, Moses said, “Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the Commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today;

“And the curse, if you do not obey the Commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known (Deut. 11:26-28).

“…and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you” (Deut. 23:4b-5).

However, the Word of God says that a curse without a curse shall not stand (not work). It says, “Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not alight” (Prov. 26:2).

And telling us to guard our tongue, the Word says, “Do not curse the king, even in your thought; do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the air may carry your voice, and a bird in flight may tell the matter” (Eccl. 10:20).

CAN SOMEONE BE DEFILED BY AN EXTERNAL THING?

Is it possible for an external thing to defile someone? After the meeting of the council consisting of the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, they wrote to the Gentile Christians, saying, “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immortality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell” (Acts 15:28-29). What they were told to ignore is the issue of circumcision.

Do you notice that eating things sacrificed to idols, eating blood, and eating strangled meat, are classified with

sexual immorality? But some people use what Jesus Christ said, when He said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, blasphemies. These are things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man” (Matt. 15:16-20) to preach or/and teach that whatever a Believer puts on his or her body does not matter. But this is a lie from the devil. Notice that Jesus Christ said, “...but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

Therefore, He says, “Whatever a man eats with unwashed hands does not defile a man,” and not, “Whatever a man eats does not defile a man.” Else, why would the apostles and elders tell the Gentile Christians to abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, and from strangled meat? Certainly, this indicates that eating things sacrificed to idols, eating blood, and eating strangled meat, can defile you.

However, if you don’t know whether the thing was sacrificed to idols or the meat was strangled, eat, asking no question. But if you know, and you eat, you get defiled. Why? Because if you eat things sacrificed to idols, you are partaking of the table of idols, and therefore associating with idols. If you eat blood, you are disobeying God by eating what He tells us to avoid, saying that life is in blood.

Some people may not understand eating blood. If a cow is killed, for example, and its blood is extracted into a bowl, the blood can be cooked until it blocks or solidifies. People eat that cooked blood; and God is saying that it is evil. The Bible says, “Moreover you shall not eat any blood in any of your dwelling, whether of bird or beast. Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people” (Lev.

7:26-27). Again, we are told not to eat strangled animals. Whether it was strangled intentionally or by a trap, do not eat it.

For those who believe that they can paint their faces with lipsticks and eye-pencils, and wear weavons, artificial nails, and jewellery, without being defiled, because they are applied on the surface of the body, according to where we read in the Book of Matthew, Jesus Christ says that murders and thefts can defile a man. Did you notice that murder and thefts are also external actions? How then do they defile a man? They defile you because they go with evil thoughts and plans which are against God's Will and Mind.

The same thing goes for using those eye-pencil, lipstick, cortex, weavon, artificial nails, and jewellery, because they come from the evil thought of not being satisfied with how God made you, and accusing God of being an imperfect Creator, consciously or unconsciously. But when we know that if anyone loves even his or her life more than Jesus Christ, the person is not worthy of Him, will those women, who cannot leave those things for Jesus Christ and their souls, sacrifice their lives for Him?

In case you still doubt whether what you eat can defile you, let us hear Jesus Christ Himself: "These things says the Son of God, Who has Eyes like a flame of fire, and His Feet like fine brass, 'I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My Servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols" (Rev. 2:18-20).

When people use those lipsticks, cortex, artificial nails, jewellery, etc, they encourage the activities of satan and demons, in spreading lust waves among ministers, God's Servants, Believers, and unbelievers. Jezebelic teachings say that the use of those things does not matter; and that

kind of teaching and practice seduce the Servants of God to commit sexual immorality. You may not see some of them committing the act; but Jesus Christ tells us that lust is equivalent to adultery and fornication.

And in the place we read in the Book of Revelation, Jesus Christ Himself was angry at teaching His Servants that eating things sacrificed to idols does not mean anything. They might have said that it is an ordinary food, and whatever you eat cannot defile you, but what defiles a man is what comes out of a man.

But the Lord says, “You are listening to lies: Eating what is sacrificed to idols can defile you.” And now He says, “You have been believing satanic lies: Using those weavons, lipsticks, jewellery, cortex, and artificial nails, defiles you.”

Concerning eating things sacrificed to idols, Apostle Paul wrote: “Therefore, my beloved, flee idolatry. I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the Blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the Body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one Body; for we all partake of that one bread.

“Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the Cup of the Lord and the cup of the demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s Table and of the table of demons.

“Or do we provoke the Lord to jealously? Are we stronger than He? All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful to me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the

other's well-being. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; for 'the earth is the Lord's, and all its fulness.'

"If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. But if anyone says to you, 'This was offered to idols,' do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for 'the earth is the Lord's, and all its fulness.

"'Conscience,' I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks? Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God. Give no offence, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the Church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Cor. 10:14-33).

Observe that Paul wrote this after he had written the eighth chapter of the Book of First Corinthians to them. Of course, he did not write the first Letter that he wrote to them in chapters. So this portion of 1 Cor. 10:14-33 was written after he had written 1 Cor. 8:1-13.

That place says, "Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but One.

"For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is One God, the Father, of Whom are all things, and we for Him; and One Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom are all things, and through Whom we live. However, there

is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

"But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

"And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble" (1 Cor. 8:1-13). Notice that Paul said that idols are nothing! This is because they are the works of men. But he says that there are many gods and lords in heaven and on earth; there are evil spirits who control those idols that men worship.

And he says, "For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?" (verse 10). Somebody who sees you doing something can be made to do the wrong thing. And he says, "If food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble" (verse 13). Paul was ready to give up meat if it was going to make his brother to stumble!

And whereas he told them that "an idol is nothing in the world, and there is no other God but One" (1 Cor. 8:4), he later told them that "the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the Cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's Table and of the table of demons. Or do we

provoke the Lord to jealously? Are we stronger than He?" (1 Cor. 10:20-22).

Also, notice that Paul wrote 1 Cor. 10:14-33 after he had written 1 Cor. 10:1-13, where he used the Israel's example to tell the Believers that becoming a Believer is not the end, because a Believer can still lose his hope because of sin and disobedience. The Word says, "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.

"For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well-pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.'

"Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:1-14).

Even before this, he had spoken of himself, saying, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:27). He says, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

And he also wrote to the Roman Christians, saying, “Receive one who is weak in the Faith, but not to dispute over doubtful things. For one believes that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has received him. Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe a day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you

show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

"For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause of fall in our brother's way. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

"Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer working in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the Kingdom of God is not in eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

"Do not destroy the Work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offence. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:1-23).

In summary, God commands us to abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, and from strangled meat. If they could not defile someone, why would God command anyone to abstain from them? This tells us that it is possible for an external thing to defile someone. So when He has said (and says), "...Now therefore, take off your ornaments..." (Exo. 33:5), do just that!

The first witnesses, being the council of the apostles and elders in Jerusalem said, “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immortality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell” (Acts 15:28-29).

The second witness, being Paul said, “Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the Cup of the Lord and the cup of the demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s Table and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealously? Are we stronger than He?” (1 Cor. 10:18-22).

And the third witness, being Jesus Christ said, “These things says the Son of God, Who has Eyes like a flame of fire, and His Feet like fine brass, ‘I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My Servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols” (Rev. 2:18-20).

This was not the only church that he said something about eating things sacrificed to idols to. Speaking to the church in Pergamos, He said, “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate” (Rev. 2:14-15).

Therefore it is possible for food to defile someone in this New Testament if it is sacrificed to idols, if it is food made from blood, or if it is meat from a strangled animal. And if food can defile someone, who tells you that what you put on cannot defile you if it is worldly and against God's Will? To this end, know that lipstick, eye-pencil, weavon, cortex, artificial nails, and jewellery have the ability to defile you. Remove them and get rid of them while there is still time!

NONE OF THOSE SICKNESSES AND DISEASES

Speaking to the Israelites, Moses said, "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

"The Lord did not set His Love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty Hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the Faithful God Who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His Commandments;

"And He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. Therefore you shall keep the Commandment, the Statutes, and the Judgments which I command you today, to observe them.

“Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these Judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.

“And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.

“You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you (Deut. 7:6-15).

“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the Voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His Commandments and His Statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.

“Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

“…Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed.

“You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the Voice of the Lord your God” (Deut. 28:15-19,60-62).

There are a lot of Truths that we can learn by looking carefully into what God told the Israelites through Moses. Believers were called to be a holy people to the Lord God. The Word says, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His Own special people, that you may proclaim the Praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His Marvelous Light” (1 Pet. 2:9).

We are a holy people called out and separated to the Lord. God did not choose us because we were better than the others; but He chose us because of His Love for us. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the Propitiation for our sins. We love Him because He loved us first (1 Jn 4:10,19).

The Word says, “Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Pet. 4:10). God redeemed us from the house of bondage, having translated us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light and of His Dear Son (the Son of His Love), in Whom we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins (Col.1:13-14).

We belong to a Faithful God, Who can neither lie nor fail to fulfil His Promises. He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5). God honours His Word and Covenant; and we have a new covenant in Him through Christ Jesus.

Sicknesses and diseases came from the devil; and man fell to the vulnerability of sicknesses and diseases when man disobeyed God and fell from the position which God gave him. At first, man couldn’t have been a victim of sickness; but he disobeyed God and made himself vulnerable and susceptible to sicknesses and diseases. God does not want us to be sick and diseased.

Our spirits have been born again by the Holy Spirit of the Living God and made new creatures in Christ Jesus our Lord. The soul and mind is renewed by the Word of God, as

we hear, read, study, meditate on, and confess the Word of God.

Our bodies will be fully redeemed at the Rapture and Coming of Jesus Christ, when we will be taken to be with Lord forever. By then, sicknesses and diseases cannot afflict our bodies. But even now, our bodies belong to God – our body is the Temple of the Living God, and it belongs to the Almighty God.

However, we are on a process of perfect, full, and complete salvation and deliverance. Even though you are born again, if you do not renew your mind with the Word of God, you will still think according to the flesh and take decisions which will contradict the Word and Will of God.

The Word of God says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that Good and Acceptable and Perfect Will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

The Bible also tells us to present our bodies to God. It reads, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the Mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

If you do not present your body a living sacrifice to God, you will still live like the people of the world. This is why Apostle Paul said, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an Imperishable Crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:24-27). Even though this place is speaking of bringing your body into obedience to

the Word and Will of God, it is still applicable to sicknesses and diseases.

Yes, the Power of the Spirit of God and the anointing in the Word of God expels sicknesses and diseases from our bodies, and also give us sound health from the Almighty God. Yet, if we are going to live in health, we must also take care of our bodies.

Speaking of how the Spirit of God makes our bodies healthy and strong, the Bible says, “And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is Life because of righteousness.

“But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you” (Rom. 8:10-11).

Telling us about the power of the Word of God in giving us wellness and sound health, the Word says, “My son, give attention to My Words; incline your ear to My Sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh” (Prov. 4:20-22).

However, if we want to maintain sound health, we must be careful with how we take care of our bodies. We have to take note of what we put into our bodies from feeding; we shall also take good care of the body in taking our bathes, covering ourselves well if we are feeling cold (or in cold weather), limiting stresses, maintaining good hygienic practices, and other things. If we do not take care of our bodies, how we will maintain sound health in this world that is corrupt?

But even if any one of us falls sick, due to one reason or the other, God has made provision for our healing. The Bible says, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened (Matt. 7:7-8).

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord.

“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (Jas 5:13-16).

You can pray for yourself by asking in faith, or others can pray for you. And you may need to command that sickness or disease out of your body, and not just asking God to heal you. In effect, God has already healed us when Jesus Christ carried our sicknesses and diseases by His being beaten and scourged.

The Word of God says, “Who Himself bore our sins in His Own Body on the Tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness − by Whose Stripes you were healed” (1 Pet. 2:24). He has already borne them; therefore, confess likewise and claim your healing by faith.

The Bible says, “So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, “Be removed and be cast into the sea,” and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them’” (Mk 11:22-24).

Also, we are to minister healing to the sick and diseased by praying for them based on the Word of God and by the Anointing of the Spirit of God. The Bible says, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

“They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (Mk 16:17-18). How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him (Act 10:38).

“And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you’ (Lk. 10:9). The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor;

“He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord (Lk. 4:18-19).

So it works both ways – we receive healing from God and we also pray for the healing of others. The Early Church showed us examples. To this end, the Word says, “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.

“Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And Believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

“Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed” (Acts 5:12-16).

If God did not want the Israelites to suffer any of the diseases of the Egyptians, certainly His Will remains the same these days. But many people do not use their faith by exercising their belief in the Word of God. Many Christians

prefer to spend their money and income on medicine, hospital, and medical technology.

Many people will find it difficult to give God an equivalent of one thousand dollars, but they will readily spend (and even borrow) five thousand dollars for sicknesses and diseases in hospitals and with medical practitioners.

Is this not disappointing? Why not believe the Word of God and save yourself of unnecessary medical spendings? Even if you are not going to give the money (or part of it) to God, then use it for yourself and your family. But the devil will tell you that you will die. Is medicine stronger or more faithful than God and His Word?

However, I did not say that it is a sin to go to hospital or to buy medicine. But know also that the devil can make you poor or keep you away from becoming rich through medical spendings, either for yourself or for others.

However, when it comes to another person, if the person who is sick (or feels sick) determines that he or she is going to hospital, then you may most likely take the person to the hospital. After all, even though the person may be in the church (or is even a Christian), do you know whether he or she believes the Word of God concerning healing?

Therefore, if the person's faith is in doctors, physicians, and pharmacists, you may just have to give him/her what he/she wants. But if you yourself is the person involved, then you have to decide to either trust the Word of God and receive your healing from the Spirit of God, or to go to hospital.

However, still know that God heals people through medicine and medical practitioners. But what makes you different from the unbelievers, if every time you feel sick you go hospital like the other unbelievers? Of course, even in the hospital, God can still intervene supernaturally to heal someone beyond the normal medical healing process.

PREACHING DELIVERANCE

God sends death, loss, and destruction, by allowing the devil and his hosts to do their plans and works, because of sin, disobedience, and rebellion. Therefore, to be free and delivered from those sufferings, problems, troubles, and calamities, what is needed is repentance and turning to God.

Concerning the people of God, who went into troubles, because of their sins, the Bible says, “Then the Word of the Lord of Hosts came to me, saying, ‘Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me − for Me?

‘When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves? Should you not have obeyed the Words which the Lord proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous, and the South and the Lowland were inhabited?’

“Then the Word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of Hosts: “Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.”

‘But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the Law and the Words which the Lord of Hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets.

‘Thus great wrath came from the Lord of Hosts. Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they

would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,' says the Lord of Hosts.

'But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate' (Zech. 7:4-14).

"The Lord has fulfilled His Fury, He has poured out His Fierce Anger. He kindled a fire in Zion, and it has devoured its foundations. The kings of the earth, and all inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem –

"Because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed in her midst the blood of the just. They wandered blind in the streets; they have defiled themselves with blood, so that no one would touch their garments" (Lam. 4:11-14).

Speaking of how God delivers His people, who have sinned against Him, to their enemies, the Bible says, "Go up on her walls and destroy, but do not make a complete end. Take away her branches, for they are not the Lord's.

"For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously with Me," says the Lord. "They have lied about the Lord, and said, 'It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine.'

"And the prophets become wind, for the Word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Hosts: 'Because you speak this Word, behold, I will make My Words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.'

"Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the Lord. "It is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say. Their quiver is like an open tomb; they are all mighty men.

“And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; they shall destroy your fortified cities, in which you trust, with the sword” (Jer. 5:10-17).

But, in His Love, God sends His ministers to warn people against sin and disobedience. The Word of God says, “In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this Word came from the Lord, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the court of the Lord’s House, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord’s House, all the Words that I command you to speak to them.

“Do not diminish a Word. Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.

“And you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My Law which I have set before you, to heed the Words of My Servants the prophets whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending them (but you have not heeded), then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.”’

“So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these Words in the House of the Lord. Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, ‘You will surely die!

‘Why have you prophesied in the Name of the Lord, saying, “This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant”?’ And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the House of the Lord.

“When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the House of the Lord

and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the Lord's House. And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, 'This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.'

"Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: 'The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the Words that you have heard. Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the Voice of the Lord your God; then the Lord will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you' (Jer. 26:1-13).

"Now it was so, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

"Therefore the Anger of the Lord was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, 'Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?'

"So it was, as he talked with him, that the king said to him, 'Have we made you the king's counselor? Cease! Why should you be killed?' Then the prophet ceased, and said, 'I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice' (2 Chron. 25:14-16).

However, God Himself does not delight in the sufferings of His people; and even when He punishes them, He still plans for their restoration. To this end, the Word says, "Again the Word of the Lord of Hosts came, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of Hosts: "I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervour I am zealous for her."

'Thus says the Lord: "I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the Lord of Hosts, the Holy Mountain."

‘Thus says the Lord of Hosts: “Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.”

‘Thus says the Lord of Hosts: “If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvelous in My Eyes?” says the Lord of Hosts. Thus says the Lord of Hosts: “Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in Truth and righteousness.”

‘Thus says the Lord of Hosts: “Let your hands be strong, you who have been hearing in these days these Words by the mouth of the prophets, who spoke in the day the foundation was laid for the House of the Lord of Hosts, that the temple might be built.

“For before these days there were no wages for man nor any hire for beast; there was no peace from the enemy for whoever went out or came in; for I set all men, everyone, against his neighbour. But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,” says the Lord of Hosts’” (Zech. 8:1-17).

When the prophets spoke to Israel and Judah to repent in the lands of their captivities (the places where God had driven them to, because of their sins), it was because God wanted them to repent from their sins and evil ways, so that they might be His people in truth, so that He might deliver them, and so that they will be secure after their deliverance.

Therefore, as a preacher and minister, or as a deliverance minister, let the people know the gravity and consequences of sin and disobedience. Tell them to repent of their sins and turn to God with their whole heart, living to please Him, so that God will deliver them and keep them safe in Him.

But if all you do is to pray and cast out demons and destroy their evil works, then you are in error! What is more? The devils which you cast out, without replacing their former homes with Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God, and the Word of God, when they come back, they will come back reinforced and with greater demonic presence and works.

DRY BONES SHALL LIVE AGAIN

God brought Prophet Ezekiel to a valley that was full of dry bones, and He asked him, saying “Son of man, can these bones live?” And in the vision, the dry bones came to life again (they lived).

But according to the Word of God, the dry bones were the whole house of Israel. In other words, the dry bones represented people who were still alive. And surprisingly, the dry bones were a people of God.

The Bible says, “The Hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.

“And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ So I answered, ‘O Lord God, You know.’ Again He said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, “O dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord!

“Thus says the Lord God to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.’”’

“So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

“Also He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”’

“So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!”

‘Therefore prophesy and say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.

‘I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,’ says the Lord”’” (Ezek. 37:1-14).

The Bible says that the bones were not just dry but very dry. But when God asked Ezekiel whether the bones will live, Ezekiel was not sure that they will live, and he said, “O Lord God, You know.”

What is the hopeless situation and condition that you see in you or around you and your environment, which you think has been settled and cannot be changed? You might have asked yourself, saying, “Is it possible to turn this trouble, pain, problem, and adversity around?”

God spoke to Ezekiel and said, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones hear the Word of the

Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breathe to enter into you, and you shall live.

“I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.”’”

God says that the hopeless and adverse situation and condition that you see will receive life and become favourable for you and the people concerned. And God is not going to make them stand up like a skeleton; but He will put sinews, flesh, and skin on them before breathing on them.

When Ezekiel prophesied, as God commanded him, the bones came together, bone to bone, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, the skin covered them, breath entered them, and they lived and stood up, an exceeding great army.

When you speak according to the Word of God, and decree that things happen in agreement with the Will of God, it shall be done.

Life and death are in the power of the tongue and words. Do not expect positive things from God and speak negatively and in contradiction to what you want God to do for you.

Speaking to the Israelites, God said, “As I live, just as you have spoken in My Hearing, so I will do to you” (Num. 14:28). God counts on our words, even though, many times, His Grace and Mercy works over/for us instead of the negative things we said.

God is able to turn your condition and circumstances around for good, no matter how hopeless it may appear to be in the physical; for with God all things are possible (Mk 10:27). If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes (Mk 9:23); and with God nothing will be impossible! (Lk. 1:37).

It does not matter how many years it might have lingered; only trust in God and believe His Word. The Bible

says, “(As it is written, ‘I have made you a father of many nations’) in the Presence of Him Whom he believed − God,

“Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’

“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the Promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

“And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness’” (Rom. 4:17-22).

When Mary and Martha thought that all hope was lost concerning Lazarus, their brother, God proved to them that with Him nothing shall be impossible; and that initial Word of, “This sickness is not unto death” prevailed.

A certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His Feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the Glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the Disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

The Disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he

sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His Disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow Disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the Resurrection at the Last Day." Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who is to come into the world." And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you."

As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who

were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, “She is going to the tomb to weep there.”

Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His Feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the Spirit and was troubled.

And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!” And some of them said, “Could not this Man, Who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the Glory of God?” Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying.

And Jesus lifted up His Eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud Voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him (Jn 11:1-45).

When Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego were cast alive into the fiery burning furnace, they lived and did not die.

When Daniel was thrown alive into the lion's den, he lived and was not even hurt.

When Peter was imprisoned under heavy guard, an angel of God brought him out. When Paul and Silas were jailed, God caused an earthquake to lose them. Our God is a Good God!

The Lord God Almighty says, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jer. 32:27). There is nothing which is too hard or difficult for our God!

The prophet Isaiah said, "For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody" (Isa. 51:3).

Is it not marvelous for a wilderness to become like Eden, and a desert like the garden of the Lord? But our God is able to do much more than that! And He will do it in your life if you believe.

The Word of God says, "On the land of my people will come up thorns and briers, yes, on all the happy homes in the joyous city; because the palaces will be forsaken, the bustling city will be deserted.

"The forts and towers will become lairs forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks − until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest (Isa. 32:13-15).

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

"The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals,

where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes (Isa. 35:5-7).

“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘For your sake I will send to Babylon, and bring them all down as fugitives − the Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.’

“Thus says the Lord, Who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; they are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick):

‘Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

“The beast of the field will honour Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My Praise (Isa. 43:14-21).

“When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad. Bring back our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the South. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

“He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psa. 126).

Do not allow the devil to hold you down and stricken forever! God loves you more than you love yourself; and He cares for you more than you care for yourself. He will make a way where there seems to be no way.

The Bible says, “The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

“I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together,

“That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the Hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. ‘Present your case,’ says the Lord. ‘Bring forth your strong reasons,’ says the King of Jacob” (Isa. 41:17-21).

WATCH AND PRAY!

Speaking to His Disciples: Jesus Christ said, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41). If you do not want to enter into temptation, then watch and pray. Even though your human spirit is willing and wants to please God, yet the flesh is weak.

Why did the Lord make this Statement to them? The Bible says, “Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the Disciples, ‘Sit here while I go and pray over there.’ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

“Then He said to them, ‘My Soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’ He went a little farther and fell on His Face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’

“Then He came to the Disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, ‘What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’

“Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your Will be done.’ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

“So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same Words. Then He came to His Disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.’

“And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people” (Matt. 26:36-47).

They were in a trying period when they were supposed to be watchful and prayerful; but rather than watch and pray, they were sleeping – neither watching nor praying. According to Luke’s Report, “Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His Disciples also followed Him.

“When He came to the place, He said to them, ‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed,

“Saying, ‘Father, if it is Your Will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My Will, but Yours, be done.’ Then an angel appeared to Him from Heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His Sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

“When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His Disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, ‘Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation’” (Lk. 22:39-46).

Mark wrote: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.” But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.’

“Peter said to Him, ‘Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.’

“But he spoke more vehemently, ‘If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!’ And they all said likewise. Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His Disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’

“And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My Soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.’

“He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’

“Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’

“Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same Words. And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

“Then He came the third time and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has

come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.'

"And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders"" (Mk 14:27-43).

Notice that they continued to sleep, instead of watching and praying, because their eyes were heavy. They were feeling sleepy; and they would not help it but went ahead to satisfy the desire of the body by sleeping when they were supposed to be watching and praying.

Mark reported that even after the Lord had spoken to them and told them to watch and pray, when He returned to them again, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. They did not know what to say, and they could not help the weakness and desire of the body.

Luke said, "When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His Disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow." Did you notice that, according to Luke's Report, the Lord Jesus Christ did not tell them to pray that they may not enter temptation in one instance?

He spoke to them in the first instance, saying, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." In the second instance, He said, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

In the first instance, He told them to pray that they may not enter into temptation. In the second instance, He told them to pray lest (else) they enter into temptation. Notice also that Luke said that they slept from sorrow. They were sorrowful; and they did not know what to do, but found comfort and satisfaction in sleeping according to the desire of their flesh.

Have you ever found yourself in a problem in which you felt better eating, drinking, and sleeping than fasting and

praying? I have been there! That is what the flesh, which is weak, wants.

Even though your spirit wants to pray in such a situation, your flesh will want to weigh you down and get you weak and discouraged, so that if you are not careful and disciplined, you will not help it but to go according to the flesh.

The Bible says, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the Things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is Life because of righteousness.

“But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors − not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Rom. 8:5-14).

If you are not careful, watchful, and prayerful, your mind will take side and agree with your flesh instead of your spirit; and you will be acting contrary to the Will and Word of God.

Jesus Christ says, “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you

unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Lk. 21:34-36).

Watch and pray, lest you will not escape what is coming upon this world. Do you notice that it is necessary and needful to both watch and pray? If you do one of them and leave the other one undone, you are still likely to enter into temptation.

Peter would have really got the picture of what befell him (or what he experienced) when he did not watch and pray. He wrote, saying, “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers” (1 Pet. 4:7). The King James Version says, “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

Apostle Paul said, “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2). The King James Version says, “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”

He wrote: “Pray without ceasing,” or “Pray always (continually)” (1 Thes. 5:17). Writing to the Ephesians, Paul said, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the Saints” (Eph. 6:18).

It is very important to watch and pray. If you this, you will not only escape temptations to sin, but you will also escape many troubles, pains, problems, losses, calamites, and failures.

But what does it mean to watch? To watch is to look at and pay attention to something that is happening. It is to be careful with something. To watch is to look after someone or something, so that nothing bad happens to them.

Therefore, to pray effectively, you need to watch and monitor your circumstances and environment. It is like in

war: surveillance and information about your enemy and his plans are a major step to winning the war.

If someone thinks that his enemy is coming out against him with a machete, and he goes to fight with a machete, he may be disappointed to see that his enemy came with a gun and/or a bomb. And how will you compare a machete with either a gun or a bomb?

Also, if a nation assumes that the country they are fighting with are coming through their sea and seaports; and they put strong defensive systems in their sea-borders, they may wake up one night to see that the enemies, instead of coming through the sea, bombarded them from the air. And the defence which they put in place at the sea-borders will be useless.

The reason why many Believers do not pray effectively is because they fail to know their enemies' strategies, or that they do not know and understand the nature of the spiritual warfare. And many Christians are careless in their lives and Christian walk.

Many battles and experiences, which people face in real life, are already settled in their dream-state. This is why you have to be careful with the period of your sleep. It is not good to sleep just after eating; it is better to sleep some hours after eating (or about three hours after your last meal for the day).

This will help you to pray and also to be more watchful and alert, even in your dreams. But when you overfeed yourself and jump to the bed, you are causing problem for yourself.

Of course, whatever the devil does in someone's dream-state can still be destroyed and neutralized by prayer after waking up (or by confessing the Word of God over yourself). However, it is better not to give him an opportunity in the first place. The Bible tells us to not give a place to the devil (Eph. 4:27).

Also, even if you did not eat before sleeping, sleeping for a very long period (oversleeping) is also dangerous; because it makes you to get dull and susceptible to spiritual attacks, especially in dreams. Therefore, sleep when your body needs sleep (get adequate rest/sleep); but when the sleep clears, do not continue to be lying down sleeping unnecessarily.

Remember that the Bible says, “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.

“How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep − so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man (Prov. 6:6-11).

“Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger (Prov. 19:15). Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread (Prov. 20:13).

“I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.

“When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man” (Prov. 24:30-34).

Also, prayer is usually is easier and more fervent when you are not weighed down with food. Therefore, limit the quantity of your food intake, number of times you take food, and monitor the kinds of food which you eat at different times.

For instance, heavy and weighty food may weaken and weigh you down, especially during night periods. And

whereas it is not a sin to eat three times a day, you may decide to eat two times a day or during some days. Though your body and passion may not want it, yet it will be beneficial to you spiritually.

Watching can take the form of knowing and understanding the Word of God and the authority/power that you have as a child/son of God. It can also take the form of being sensitive to the Voice and Leading of Holy Spirit. It can take the form of denying your flesh of its passions and desires.

The Bible says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap Everlasting Life” (Gal. 6:7-8).

Prayer involves asking God for this or that, and making request, supplication, and intercession for yourself and others. It also involves speaking to (commanding) a mountain or problem to get out of your way or the ways of others. Prayer involves decreeing to destroy the works of the devil and his hosts.

The Bible says, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

“Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matt. 7:7-11).

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that

those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in Heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in Heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mk 11:22-26).

TILL GOD CLEARS THE WAY FOR YOU

Speaking to Moses, God said, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead” (Exo. 4:19). God told Moses this about forty years after he had run away from Egypt in fear of being killed by Pharaoh, for what he did in killing the Egyptian who oppressed an Israelite.

Moses was the deliverer of the Israelites. Why did God wait the whole forty-years before telling him to go back to Egypt in order to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptian captivity? For one thing, it was because those who sought to kill him were still alive.

But why did God Himself not kill those people who wanted to kill Moses earlier than the time they died, or was man going to stop or prolong God’s Plan and Purpose? God does things as He decides, though His Decision can have something to do with our actions and decisions.

When the wise men from the East, who came to visit the Child, Jesus, had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there

until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's Life are dead."

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene" (Matt. 2:13-23).

Notice that the way had to be cleared for Jesus Christ before He would be brought back to the land of Israel! But why did God not kill those men who sought to kill Him immediately, so that He and the 'parents' wouldn't have suffered the stresses they encountered in going to Egypt and leaving Egypt?

And in this case, Archelaus was still reigning in place of his father Herod. This incomplete clearance of the way made Joseph to carry Jesus Christ and Mary to the region of Galilee instead of going to Bethlehem, where the Saviour and Deliverer was expected to come from.

Elijah the Tishbite said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before Whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

Then the Word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastwards, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

So he went and did according to the Word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook (1 Kgs 17:1-6).

Notice that God told the prophet to go and hide himself. Why will the Almighty God tell his prophet to go and hide himself from an ordinary man? And after years, the Word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”

So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria (1 Kgs 18:1-2). Telling Elijah how King Ahab had carefully sought for Elijah, Obadiah said, “How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?

“As the Lord your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, ‘He is not here,’ he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.

“And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, “Elijah is here”’! And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do

not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth.

"Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here."' He will kill me!"

Then Elijah said, "As the Lord of Hosts lives, before Whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today." So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the Commandments of the Lord and have followed the baals.

'Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of baal, and the four hundred prophets of asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel (verses 9-20). Elijah was sent back to Ahab at the right time and God's Appointed Time; and he was prepared for an encounter which was going to come – the contest on Mount Carmel.

And even after the powerful and spectacular demonstration of the Power of God on Mount Carmel, when Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword, Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his

servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree.

And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God (1 Kgs 19:1-8).

Why did the angel, who fed him, not tell him to go back instead of continuing to flee for the whole forty days? Surely, angels could have protected him. Elijah was such a 'powerful' man of God, that the Bible says, "Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men.

"So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: 'Man of God, the king has said, "Come down!"' So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, 'If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from Heaven and consume you and your fifty men.' And fire came down from Heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

"Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: 'Man of God, thus has the king said, "Come down quickly!"'

"So Elijah answered and said to them, 'If I am a man of God, let fire come down from Heaven and consume you and your fifty men.' And the Fire of God came down from Heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

"Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and

fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: ‘Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.

‘Look, fire has come down from Heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight.’ And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, ‘Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.’ So he arose and went down with him to the king.

“Then he said to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Because you have sent messengers to enquire of baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to enquire of His Word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.”’

“So Ahaziah died according to the Word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken. Because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah” (2 Kgs 1:9-17).

Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, who reigned after Ahab’s death, could not catch Elijah with his warriors easily; yet Elijah ran away from Jezebel. This is not to tell you to run away from challenges, but for you to follow the Leading of the Spirit of God and act according to God’s Plan and Time.

After all, the Bible says, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him Who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s Will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father Who is in Heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in Heaven.

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to

‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My Sake will find it” (Matt. 10:28-39).

Concerning Jesus Christ Himself, the Word says, “Then after this He said to the Disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ The Disciples said to Him, ‘Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?’

“Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.’

“These things He said, and after that He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.’ Then His Disciples said, ‘Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.’ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

“Then Jesus said to them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.’ Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow Disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with Him’” (Jn 11:7-16).

Jesus Christ knew the Voice and Direction of the Holy Spirit; and though He went to Judea, no one could still catch Him until the time for His Death came. They wanted to get Him before this time; but all their efforts proved abortive, because He worked, walked, and operated by the Wisdom, Power, and Anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Why does God take interest in clearing the way for His people? And why does He, many times, wait for a long

period of time before clearing the way for His Servants, when He can clear the way immediately?

God is a Wise God, and His foolishness is wiser than men. Let us trust the Wisdom of God and follow Him diligently. We must not be faster than God; else, we will go the wrong directions.

He who believes shall not be in haste. The devil may try to make you act in haste, not because he wants you to do your responsibility and ministry, but because he wants you to make mistakes, go the wrong way, and sin against God.

The devil can also try to put the desire to be noticed and revered in you, as so to make you fall, because of pride – the very thing that destroyed him.

God may wait for a long period of time before clearing the way for you, due to different reasons. For instance, if you are going through a trial, like in the case of Job, you may not expect God to deliver you the next twenty-four hours.

And even the trials themselves are supposed to teach you many things, and also give you the reason to ponder on and consider many issues of life, Christianity, and ministry, so as to increase your wisdom and understanding.

God may tell you what He wants to do in your life. In His Wisdom, He may decide to not do it the next year, when He sees that there are things which can make you to fail or fall if He does it that next year.

Human beings walk by sight; but God knows deep things, which we may not see and understand. The devil himself may deceptively show us what we may think to be a blessing, when it is actually a curse.

For instance, after God had delivered the Israelites from the Egyptian bondage, He decided to lead them into the Land of Promise – Canaan – through a longer route for a purpose. The Bible says, “Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them

by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;

“For God said, ‘Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.’ So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt” (Exo. 13:17-18).

Apart from this, God even changed their course of journey in order to punish Pharaoh the more and bring glory to His Name. To this end, the Word of God says, “Now the Lord spoke to Moses,

“Saying: ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, “They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.”

‘Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honour over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.’ And they did so” (Exo. 14:1-4).

When the Jews sinned against God, even though God still loved them and had great plans for them, yet He decided that they would be sent to Babylon and remain there for seventy years before He would bring them back to their land.

Writing to those who were in captivity in Babylon, Jeremiah said, “Thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

“Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters − that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

“And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it;

for in its peace you will have peace.

“For thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.

“For they prophesy falsely to you in My Name; I have not sent them, says the Lord. For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My Good Word towards you, and cause you to return to this place.

“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive” (Jer. 29:4-14).

And as Daniel sought the Face of God in prayer and fasting, concerning their captivity and liberation, the angel, who was sent to him, spoke to him, saying, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

“At the beginning of your supplications the Command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy” (Dan. 9:22-24).

That God showed you something today does not mean that it must materialize the next week. There may be some

things which God will have to deal with before bringing His Plan to come to pass.

That thing may even have to do with your life, knowledge, wisdom, discipline, and level of maturity. It may have to do with the human beings whom you are connected to or linked with. It may also have to do with the plans and works of demons. But if God has said it, He will bring it to pass if you cooperate with Him.

The Word of God says, “Then the Lord answered me and said: ‘Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.

‘For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith’ (Habk. 2:2-4).

“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Pet 3:8).

The Call, Plan, and Purpose of God for your life may lead to your going to exile, as in the case of Moses, that of Elijah, and that of Jesus Christ. But during that period of obscurity, you do not have to be idle; use that opportunity to develop yourself spiritually.

It may not be a physical or locational exile. Before that period is over, you would have gone through a level of training and development. Many people misbehave, disobey God, go into sin, or follow the direction of the devil, because they are not patient or sensitive to follow God.

At the end, they mess up the Plan of God for their lives and ministries. And sometimes, they abandon their assignments, making God to go for alternative plans. Why will we disappoint God and make satan happy?

That thing, which you want and desire passionately and very much, which makes you feel that God is late, does not

want to do it for you, or does not love you that much, do you know what is going on spiritually?

If it is riches, do you know whether the riches and wealth will cause your fall if you have them now? If it is husband or wife, do you know whether God is still working on your husband or wife, preparing him/her to be a good husband/wife for you? Do not be faster than God!

ANGELS DELIVER US

Angels deliver us from troubles, problems, and dangers. In fact, many (all) of us have been delivered from big plans and works of the devil and his hosts, even without our knowledge. We give testimonies of what God has done in our lives; but the ones, which God has done for us without our knowledge, are more in number.

My brother, it is by grace, that no man should boast in the Presence of God. The Bible says, “I returned and saw under the sun that − the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favour to men of skill;

“But time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them (Eccl. 9:11-12).

“And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the Purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him Who calls), it was said to her, ‘The older shall serve the younger.’

“As it is written, ‘Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.’ What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! For He says to Moses, ‘I will have

mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.'

"So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God Who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My Power in you, and that My Name may be declared in all the earth.' Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens" (Rom. 9:10-18).

Yes, we have our responsibilities to do – we have to pray, fast, read the Bible, and obey God. However, if everything depended on our own prayers and righteousness, we would have been gone by now.

Do you know that there are times when God uses other people to pray for us, without our knowledge? And many people have actually prayed for others in tongues and groanings, by the Holy Spirit, without the knowledge of the people doing the praying.

God is constantly watching over us; and He keeps us safe from the plans and works of those who are against us. He has given His angels Charge over us to keep us in all our ways, lest we dash our feet against stones.

It is true that we may find ourselves in different kinds of troubles and problems sometimes; but some of those things come as trials of our faith, just as God permitted satan to try Job; and they also come to make us appreciate God's Deliverance and Goodness afterwards.

The Word of God says, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (Jas 1:2-4).

"My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the Name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by

the Lord − that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

"…Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord.

"And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit (Jas 5:10-11,13-18).

"Therefore humble yourselves under the Mighty Hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the Faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your Brotherhood in the world.

"But may the God of All Grace, Who called us to His Eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen (1 Pet. 5:6-11).

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts,

you double-minded.

“Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the Sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (Jas 4:6-10).

Angels deliver us from troubles, problems, dangers, and other unfavourable conditions. The Bible says, “I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.

“This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His Saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing” (Psa. 34:4-10).

Pay particular attention to the seventh verse, which says, “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” The angels of God deliver us.

When Paul and those who were with him on board were entrapped in the sea, and they had lost hope of being saved, God sent His angel to go and encourage Paul.

And He also sent angels who made sure that none of them got drowned in the sea, when they suffered shipwreck. The Bible says, “But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, ‘Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.

‘And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to Whom I belong and Whom I serve, saying, “Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.”

‘Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island’

“…But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land” (Acts 27:21-26,43-44).

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fiery burning furnace, God delivered them by going to be with them; and Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego,

“Who sent His Angel and delivered His Servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!” (Dan. 3:28).

Even when Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den, the lions refused to kill him. The Bible says, “So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions.

“But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, ‘Your God, Whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.’ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

“Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.

“And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, ‘Daniel, Servant of the Living God, has your God, Whom

you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?'

"Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.'

"Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God" (Dan. 6:16-23).

When the apostles were arrested and put in a common prison, an angel of the Lord rescued them from the prison. Concerning this, the Word of God says, "And Believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

"So that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

"Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

"But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the Words of This Life.' And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught.

"But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought" (Acts 5:14-21).

The same kind of deliverance was given to Peter when Herod was about to bring him out to those who hated him. About that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the Church.

Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the Church.

And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands.

Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.” So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”

So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying (Acts 12:1-12).

God also sent an angel to remove the large stone from the mouth of the tomb where Jesus Christ was laid. And the Lord came out of the tomb triumphantly after His Resurrection.

The Bible says, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

“And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men” (Matt. 28:1-4).

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

You must be born again; you must be born of water and of the Spirit. The Lord told Nicodemus that if a man must see the Kingdom of God, he must be born again. The Lord emphasized that for a man to enter the Kingdom of God, he must be born of water and of the Spirit. There is a great difference between being born again and being born of water and of the Spirit, even though they are related.

To be born again is compulsory to the one who would see the Kingdom of God; and if the person wants to pass the stage of seeing to the stage of entering, he must be born of water and of the Spirit. This is ‘a must’ for anyone, and does not depend on whom you are. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Whether you are the president of your country, the ambassador, or whatever you may be, makes no difference.

Whether you are a millionaire in any currency, it does not move God. You may be a university-professor or an outstanding scientist or engineer; you must be born again. Whether you are old or young, great or small, rich or poor, male or female, you must be born again. Whether you have been baptized and confirmed in your church, it makes no difference. As a matter of fact, some have been baptized and made full members of their churches, and yet are not born again.

Do you know that you can be referred to as a pastor, and yet not be born again? This reminds me of a story a minister told me of a sectional leader of one Pentecostal church who admitted that he was not born again even though he was referred to as a reverend, after God told a man of God (or the minister) to confront him. He said he entered the ministry to help his family members.

You may be referred to as a deacon, an elder, a bishop, an apostle, a church-leader, and not be born again. To be born again is to be regenerated or made a new creature by

the Holy Spirit when you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour (though some accept Christ as the Saviour of their souls but not the Lord of their lives).

That is what the Bible means when it says that if any man or woman be in Christ Jesus, he or she is a new creature, old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17).

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually and became separated from the Life of God. Man became God's enemy by disobeying God, and he lost the authority God gave him over all things. But God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world, and to pay the Sacrifice for the salvation of men from all bondages of the devil. Jesus Christ shed His Blood for the remission of our sins.

When someone acknowledges that he is a sinner who cannot help himself, and receives the Lord Jesus Christ, he is born again. With the heart, man believes to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses that he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ to salvation (Rom. 10:10). As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become children of God, even to them that believe on His Name, Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God (Jn 1:12).

The Lord Jesus Christ has made it known that He will not cast away anyone who comes to Him. No matter how sinful, dirty, immoral, or wicked you may be, once you repent and accept the Lord Jesus Christ, He will cleanse you to the extent that your sins will no longer be remembered (Isa. 43:25). Consider how wicked Saul, who later became Paul, was: but when he submitted to Jesus Christ, he became one of the most faithful early apostles.

To be born of water is to be changed by the Word of God. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God, which is the Sword of the Spirit to change you. Christ Jesus sanctifies and cleanses the Church with the washing of the water through the Word (Eph. 5:25).

We were born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible through the Word of God which lives and abides forever (1 Pet. 1:23). The Gospel that you heard and received is the Word of God, and you believed it, which made it possible for you to be born again by the Action of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit and the Word agree, and they work together. Since you were born again by means of the Gospel, you will need to continue to live your life according to the Word of God. We must neither resist God nor His Word. You will be fulfilled in life if you obey the Spirit of God and His Word.

God will not force the sinner to receive the Gospel; in the same vein, He will not force you to live according His Word. Some people, after being born again, live lives contrary to God's Word; don't expect to enter the Kingdom of God that way. And you will need to grow in your knowledge of the Word of God.

To be Born of the Spirit is to be led by the Holy Spirit. It is to follow the voice (the conscience) of your recreated human spirit. The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that this or that is right or wrong.

Following God's Spirit will help you overcome evil. The born-again experience, the regeneration of your spirit is the Work of the Holy Spirit. After being born again, you will still have to listen to His Voice if you want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

If you are tempted to lie, for instance, the Holy Spirit will speak to you through your spirit, your heart, and make it known to you that lying is sinful; if you go ahead to lie, He will not stop your voice or speech; and you would have sinned against God.

If you live your life contrary to the Spirit of God, you are heading to somewhere else, apart from the Kingdom of Heaven and of God. And it is either you spend eternity with God, or you spend it with the devil; and there is no partiality with God (Acts 10:34).

Whether you speak in tongues and prophesy, it makes no difference. No sinner will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God (Eph. 5:5).

Knowing the Terror of God, we persuade men everywhere to change their lifestyles, to change the way they live (2 Cor. 5:11). Because it is a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the Living God (Heb. 10:31); for our God is a Consuming Fire (Heb. 12:29).

I don't know what they might have told you in the church, ministry, or fellowship that you go; take the Bible and study these things for yourself, and I know you will come to agree with what the Lord has said through me.

Is it not written in the Bible that because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold? But those who endure to the end shall be saved (Matt. 24:12). That means that some will not endure to the end.

The Word of God says that Jesus Christ is coming for the Church that has no spot, wrinkle, blemish, or any such thing, but a holy, righteous, and sanctified Church (Eph. 5:27; 1 Thes. 5:23).

Even Apostle Paul, after being in the ministry for many years, and having done many mighty signs, wonders, and miracles, he said that he still brought his body to subjection so that after preaching to others, he himself will not be a castaway (1 Cor. 9:27).

The Lord Jesus Christ asked why some will call Him, Lord, Lord, and not do what He says (Lk. 6:46). Many will say to Him on that Day, "Lord, Lord, have we not done this or that in Your Name?" But He will tell them to depart from Him because He never knew them, as they were workers of iniquity (Matt. 7:20-23).

I believe they had been born again, because they prophesied and did mighty works in the Name of Jesus Christ. However, they will be rejected because they were not born of water and of the Spirit.

You cannot please God if you continue to live in sin, if you continue to live according to the dictates of your flesh, by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

All men shall give account of their lives to God; and all good and evil things shall be brought to light, including all hidden things.

What do you think of God and His Christ? Remember now your God and Creator, and obey what He tells you to do. To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is to do the Work of God; that is the very first real step to obeying Him.

THE WHOLE LIFE FROM GOD TO MEN

Jesus Christ came to give us life, to give us a more abundant life. The Riches of Christ are unsearchable. Man is made up of spirit, soul, and body; and until you have life in three of them, you have not received the whole life from God.

The life that God brought to us through His Son Jesus Christ is made available to us by His Word and by His Spirit. The Word of God is spirit, and it is life. If the Spirit of God dwells in you, He will give life to your spirit, soul, and body.

Life was brought into this earth when God spoke, because His Spirit moved upon the surface of the waters. Whatever the Lord has spoken concerning you in His Word, the Holy Spirit will bring it to pass in every area of your life.

You will have the whole life from God, spiritually, mentally, physically, and otherwise. Your marriage will not be stagnant; your finance will not be stagnant; your academics shall not be stagnant.

Your ministry shall not be stagnant; your business shall not be stagnant; your relationship shall not be frustrated; whatever you are involved in, shall receive the Life of God. Amen.

The Lord God Almighty has given us exceeding great and precious promises in Christ Jesus, and He can neither lie nor fail. We have all kinds of blessings in the Lord our God. His Divine Power has given us all things we need for life and Godliness.

But we need to actively possess these things. Confession brings possession. Therefore we must believe the Word of God, and speak or confess according to His Word, so that we may have all that He has provided for us.

Our ministry has the caption, “Whole Life Spirit-Word Ministries.” We base on what the Word of God (the Bible) says, and how the Spirit of God leads, empowers, and works.

We know that the Spirit of God inspired the writing of the Bible; therefore, the Word and the Spirit agree. The Spirit of God cannot contradict the Word of God, except where either of them is not well-understood.

Our motto says, “God’s Word Working by God’s Power is God’s Will.” God’s Word includes the written and the unwritten Word of God. The written Word of God is the Bible. Jesus Christ is the Word of God made flesh. Also, God did not stop speaking two thousand years ago, gave us the Bible, and kept mute.

No, God still speaks even now. God speaks by His Spirit’s Leading. His Spirit gives you a witness in your heart; He speaks audibly; and He can give you visions and revelations. He speaks by prophecy also.

God speaks through angelic visitations and dreams. Even, Jesus Christ can appear to you in a vision and speak with you. Jesus Christ is sitting at the Right Hand of God where He ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25).

Therefore, however you see Him, it is by vision; even if you see Him as you would see me physically. There is what is called an 'open vision' whereby your physical senses are not suspended. Of course, Jesus Christ can appear in a million places at the same time. He is infinitely powerful and great.

But, even if He decides to leave His Throne and come down to the earth to appear to someone, it is not a big deal. He is not too busy and He can appear in a million places at the same time.

Have you ever wondered how it is possible that one billion people all over the world can speak in tongues at the same time by the Spirit of God? God is very big and beyond human comprehension.

God's Power is manifested to men and in men by His Holy Spirit. And when the Spirit of God is allowed to work freely to fulfill the Word of God, God's Will is achieved.

Our vision says, "Getting Men Saved, Enjoying the Fullness of Christ's Abundant Life, Matured in Jesus Christ, Being Like Jesus Christ, Doing the Works of Christ, Pleasing God, and Prepared for Heaven."

These are almost all that Jesus Christ came for. We are committed to bringing the Will of God to come to pass in this earth.

Our mission and method include, among other things: personal and mass evangelism, preaching, teaching, demonstration, and ministration always. Then our assurance is that the Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

These things about our ministry will give you an idea or ideas about what the whole life from God is all about. We don't walk and work by the flesh or by human wisdom; rather we depend on the Spirit of God and the Wisdom of God to succeed.

To be saved, a man must believe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and confess that the Lord is his Lord and

Saviour. This is because you believe to righteousness with your heart, and you confess with your mouth to salvation (Rom. 10:10).

The Gospel or the Good News is that the Lord Jesus Christ came to save sinners. He lived as a Man in this world; and later, suffered and died to make Sacrifice for the sins of men, so that they might be delivered from sin and its effects.

The effects of sin include: separation from God, enmity with God, sicknesses, diseases, pains, sorrows, grief, poverty, hardship, failure, fear, marital problems, and things like them.

On the other hand, the word 'salvation' is from the Greek word 'soteria' and has many meanings, which include: translation from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God, forgiveness, healing, deliverance, safety, soundness, protection, success, prosperity, and the ministry of angels.

It is the 'so great salvation' (Heb. 2:3). The summary is that Christ came to deliver us from sin and the things sin brought with it.

Yes, Jesus Christ came to give us life, and so that we may have the more abundant life in every area of our lives: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, maritally, and whatever area you need help.

God cares for us. Enjoying the fullness of Christ's Abundant Life will include: forgiveness, healing, deliverance, safety, soundness, protection, success, prosperity, etc. Then the Believers should mature in Jesus Christ and not remain spiritual babies.

The Word of God (which is spiritual food), prayer (which is like breathing), evangelism & working for God (which are like exercise), righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (which are like resting), and other things will help you mature spiritually.

And we must be like Jesus Christ, in thought, word, and conduct. This will make us to be examples to the Believers (1 Tim. 4:12), and Apostle Paul said, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). Be like Jesus Christ in life and character.

Also, we must do the Works of Christ. We are continuing what He started. He says that Believers are to do the works (signs, wonders, and miracles) that He did. This will include preaching and teaching the Word of God.

We are to do even greater works than He did because, having gone to the Father, He sat at the Right Hand of God, making intercession for us; and He sent the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:1-4)) to us.

We are sons of God, and we are gods. We came out from God, because we were Born of God! As the sons of God, we are expected to be like God, Godly. As gods, we are expected to perform signs and wonders; we should cause changes and miracles by speaking forth creative and recreative words.

Also, we are to please God in every area of our lives. Enoch walked with God and pleased Him that the Lord took him away to Heaven. God requires, total and absolute consecration, dedication, and obedience. This will require faith, because without faith, it is impossible to please God.

We walk by faith and not by sight. Finally, at the point of our death or when Christ Jesus comes, we should be prepared for Heaven. If you started well, you must also end well, for it is he that endures to the end that shall be saved.

This is why you must be ready at all times, because we do not know when the Lord will come. Don’t say, “Let me commit this small sin, let me disobey God a little, and then I will confess and receive forgiveness later.” That may be when you will die or when the Lord will come.

Remember that your life is like a vapour that vanishes easily; it is like the flower that withers at sun-scorch. Also, the devil wants to destroy your life; and sin and disobedience can make that destruction possible.

This whole life came from God, and we must give Him all the glory for whatever we see in our lives, and in the lives of others. The end of all things is that the Son may bring glory to the Father, and the Son Jesus Christ does this through His Body the Church by the Holy Spirit of the Almighty and Living God.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His Love for us is still the same. If we deny Him, He cannot deny Himself. If we suffer and die with Him, we shall also reign with Him!

The righteous shall be like the tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season. Whose leaves also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Living right and pleasing God get you to remain in a good place with God, while sin and disobedience bring curse and loss.

Jesus Christ came to set you free from all the captivities of the devil. Whatever the devil might have done in your life, the Lord will destroy his works in your life.

What was God’s Original Plan for man? God created His man and gave him His Whole Life to enjoy. Even though the devil intruded into man’s life to distort God’s Plan for man, God reversed the trend by sending His Son Jesus Christ; the Lord reversed the curse of disobedience so that faithful Believers enjoy the Whole Life of God.

BE FULL OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God is God. The Word of God reveals the Mind of God to us. God works through and by His Word. The Word and the Spirit agree (1 Jn 5:8), for the holy men of God who wrote the Scriptures were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Pet. 1:21).

All Scripture is God-breathed, is inspired by God; and is profitable for Doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

We are to fight the good fight of faith. The fight of faith is to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints; the fight of faith is to strive to see that the Word and Will of God comes to pass in our lives, and in the lives of others, for faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

We must also grow from faith to faith. The Bible commands us to let the Word of God, of Christ, dwell in us richly in all wisdom (Col. 3:16). That means that we are to get soaked in the Word of God. When a sponge is soaked in water and brought out, any side of the sponge you touch, water sticks on you.

The same thing applies when we are full of the Word of God. Whatever trial, temptation, or situation we may find ourselves in, we have solution in the Word available to us, and we will overcome and succeed.

Search the Scriptures as you would search for hidden treasures, for they are costlier than gold, silver, and diamond. The place we read says that the Word of God should dwell in us, not just in any measure, but in a rich measure, in a full measure, preferably. Also, in the rich measure, it must be in all wisdom.

This is why the Bible speaks of rightly dividing the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15). To divide the Word of God aright is to apply it wisely and to interpret it the right way. This is why you have to compare Scripture with Scripture

(you have to compare spiritual things with spiritual things) (1 Cor. 2:13).

You must study the Word of God to show yourself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God (2 Tim. 2:15).

It is the Word of God in your heart and mouth that will help you succeed in life and Godliness, and overcome temptations. Make every effort to hear, read, study, meditate on, believe, and confess the Word of God.

When the devil tempted Jesus Christ, he used the Scripture, by quoting it to Jesus Christ. But he misapplied the Word, and Jesus Christ, being full of the Word of God, quoted the appropriate Word, and the devil was put to shame.

If you don’t know the Word of God, the devil will deceive you, misapplying it to you; and you will fall into temptations. The devil has no mercy. If you don’t know and apply your rights and authority in Christ, he will keep you miserable.

The Word of God is spirit and life. It will quicken your human spirit and wage your spiritual wars; it will also give life to your body and soul. The Word that you hear is spirit and it is life (Jn 6:63).

The Word of God cleanses you: spirit, soul, and body (Jn 15:3). It will build your spirit and get it to be strong spiritually. The Word is the food of the human spirit that gets him grow and matured. Desire the Word of God (1 Pet. 2:2).

The Word of God is fire that burns all things that are ungodly and satanic; it is the hammer that breaks to pieces all obstacles and hindrances (Jer. 23:29). It is the water that purifies you daily. It is truth, and God’s Truth sanctifies you to holiness, blamelessness, and spotlessness (Jn 17:17).

Go for the Word of God, because all things that you ever need in your life are in it. The source of God's Blessings is the Word and the Manifester of the Blessings of God is the Holy Spirit.

When the deacons were to be appointed, the apostles declared that anyone to be appointed must be full of wisdom, and the Wisdom of God is in His Word. That was why Stephen, who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit, was selected (Acts 6:5).

To be full of faith is to be full of the Word, because faith comes by hearing and studying the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). If you have problem with faith, just take enough time to fill yourself with the Word, and you will see faith spring up from within you with great force, frequency, and magnitude.

The Word says that the Word that goes out of the Mouth of God will not go back to Him without accomplishing the purpose for which He sent it (Isa. 55:11). Instead of His Word to fail, heaven and earth shall pass away (Matt. 24:35).

God is not a man to lie, and He cannot change His Mind (Num. 23:19). Except the condition under which He said something is changed by men, He cannot change what He said for that circumstance.

God's Thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His Ways than our ways (Isa. 55:9). Don't be wise in your own eyes, trust in the Lord, and do the right (Prov. 3:7).

If what God told you has not come to pass, don't doubt Him, but be patient in believing, for the vision is yet for an appointment time: it will come to pass and will not tarry (Habk. 2:3).

If God delays His Judgment, it is because He is full of mercy and does not want anyone to perish. However, when He casts His Judgment, He does not respect anybody.

The Word of God says that we are to prove all things, and hold on to that which is true and good (1 Thes. 5:21).

Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God, for many false teachings, ministries, and ministers are in the world today (1 Jn 4:1).

The litmus paper is an indicator that you can easily use to distinguish an acid from an alkali. In the same vein, judging by the Word of God is a good litmus-test for the good and the evil, the Godly and the ungodly. Don't be wise in your own eyes and mind. Even prophecies are to be judged (1 Cor. 14:29).

The people of God perish and suffer because of ignorance or lack of the knowledge of the Word of God (Hos. 4:6). Even though God will want to protect you, know that the devil that is fighting against you has no mercy.

God even said that He will reject some people from being His Original Intention or Plan for them, because they rejected knowledge (Hos. 4:6). If you reject Divine Knowledge, you are heading to disaster.

Don't leave the Word to serve tables (Acts 6:2). The apostles refused to do that. But preach and teach the Word of God, in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.

For the time has come when they do not endure Sound Doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they have heaped up for themselves teachers, and they turn their ears away from the truth, and are turned aside to heresies (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

The Word of God says that those that preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:14). Notice that it did not say that they must live by the Gospel; hence, Apostle Paul said that he did not use that right. But we know, from the Epistles of Paul that some churches and brethren supported him materially and financially.

Even though Apostle Paul worked, part-time, to support himself, that was God's Permissive Will and human thinking, because he said that it was better for him to die

than anyone should deny him of his boasting (or self-dependence).

I know that many people use Apostle Paul's approach as an excuse, but do they even ask themselves why they are not as effective as Apostle Paul was? The man did not labour to accumulate any wealth, for he went from places to places.

If your church or ministry can sustain you, it is best to commit your whole spirit, mind, and body to the Gospel. If you must work, let it not take too much of your time. But God will sustain you!

Jesus Christ did not work, but showed us an example that even if you are a missionary without definite sponsorship, God will feed and clothe you (and give you other needs, even wants).

Hence the Lord says that the worker is worthy of his pay, and you should carry no extra purse (Matt. 10:7-10). Yes, He told us to carry, just before He was crucified (Lk. 22:35-36). The problem is that many ministers are lazy in the ministry and they do not do the Works of Jesus Christ (Jn 14:12; Matt. 10:8).

Many times, Jesus Christ spoke to the people in parables, some of which were actual stories (because sometimes He said, "There was a certain..."). There are many things we can learn from the parables.

Martha was worried with too much serving when Jesus Christ visited her, but Mary was at the Feet of Jesus Christ listening to Him. When Martha wanted Mary to leave listening to Jesus Christ in order to help in the serving, Jesus Christ told Martha that Mary had taken that one thing which is needful, and it will not be taken away from her.

Receiving the Word of God and keeping it is more important than sacrifices. Also, half-obedience is disobedience in the Sight of God. Don't be hearers only, but be doers of the Word you hear.

There are many things many Roman Catholics don't understand concerning God and His Ways (Will); and His Word is His Will. We are not to worship angels (Col. 2:18). We are not to worship carved or drawn images (even if it is God's Image) (Exo. 20:4-5).

There is no forgiveness after death (Heb. 9:27). Mary, the mother of Jesus, herself had to believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved; she was just like any other Believer (Jn 2:4). Jesus Christ called her 'woman.'

The world is changing very fast, especially now. Many modern inventions and technologies have amazed all of us. Of course, the Lord God told us that knowledge will increase in the last days (Dan. 12:4).

The inventions in aircrafts, computers, electronics, digital communications, medicine, and many other fields are noteworthy. While many of the advancements in science and technology are great, some serve good purposes, while some serve bad purposes.

Think of the advancement in the production of weapons of war: a whole city can be wiped out within a small space of time by using weapons of mass destruction.

While computers and the television are good for the storage, processing, and retrieval of data and information, and for communication, think of the pornography that is associated with them. Many have run after the things of this world so much so that they have little or no time for God.

Many pursue after flashy cars, attractive buildings, education, and certificates, and they give their time, energy, and mind to these things, but have no time for God.

However, when I talk of a changing world, I am not talking about these inventions, even though many of them have something to do with what I am talking about.

The advancement in cosmetics which make people to paint their faces and other parts of the body that they look horrible and worldly is part of what I am talking about.

God says that we should fear Him and not to mingle with those who are given to change. Their calamity, according to God, shall come quickly (Prov. 24:21-22).

If you look at many churches today, you see a lot of worldliness among people who go to church. Even Believers are not left out; many Believers live like the people of the world. Many of them dress and appear like unbelievers.

There must be a difference between the Believer and the unbeliever. Their lives must be different; their desires and priorities must be different; and their appearances should be different.

You can't dress like a harlot and expect me to believe that you are a Christian. Man looks at outward appearance; and I am a man, even though I am not an ordinary man, I still look at outward appearance.

But you must know that God sees the outward appearance too. The Word of God says that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matt. 12:34). As a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7).

If you dress and appear anyhow before the public and you don't care about what people think of you, something is seriously wrong with you. You need to repent and change, and God will forgive you (Acts 3:19).

I tell you that God is not an American. He is not a European either. God is not from any nation, rather all men in all nations are from God, because He created and formed them. However, God is not a Father to all men.

He is a Father to those who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. If you are not born again, ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your life as your Lord and personal Saviour.

Having recognized that you are a sinner who cannot save himself, believe that Jesus Christ came to this world, died for your sins, and was raised again for your

justification (Rom. 4:25). He who comes to God, God will not cast him away (Jn 6:37).

No matter how dirty or sinful you may be, He is able to wash you and remember your sins no more (Isa. 1:18; Isa. 43:25). Don't wait till tomorrow, because you may not see tomorrow (Heb. 3:7-8).

If God is not pleased with you, He is not pleased with you. Simply because Believers in America or in London do those things do not make them right. Just as perversion in dressing is a problem in Nigeria today, the same had applied to them some years ago, even today.

After many years, some have thought that this or that is their culture, but the devil introduced those things over there some years back, even as he is doing today.

God is no respecter of persons. Whether you are an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a pastor, a bishop, an archbishop, a reverend or what, if you disobey God's Word and His Holy Spirit, you are disobedient.

Of course, because of Jesus Christ's Intercession for us at the Right Hand of the Father, God's Judgment and Punishment may not come on you now, but once the time God gave you is gone (as He gives time to everybody), God's Punishment will catch up with you.

Remember that no sinner will ever enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Eph. 5:5; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). A minister of the Gospel who lives in sin is a sinner, and all sinners will inherit Hell Fire. Many have said that many things don't matter.

What of if on the Day of Judgment, you find out that they finally mattered, and by that time, I tell you, it will be too late. Then, no matter how you repent, confess, and plead for mercy, God's Ears will not be open to your cries.

Some say that God never said that you should not drink alcohol at all, but that you should not drink it too much. But think of it, how could Apostle Paul tell Timothy to use little

wine for his stomach's sake instead of using only water if he was already drinking little?

Certainly, Apostle Paul needed to advise him to take a little for medicinal purpose since he was taking none of it, because the other Believers were not taking it. Of course, their level of medical development those two thousand years ago was crude and unrefined.

Give strong drink to those who are perishing (Prov. 20:1; Prov. 31:3-7). Medical science and technology have advanced today that you don't need alcohol, even for stomach ache.

If alcohol will make your brother to stumble, why drink it? Even, the unbelievers will doubt your repentance or faith when they see you drink or buy it.

Let the Spirit of God lead you always and don't be overcome by the lust of the flesh. Don't do something, simply because someone else is doing it. Anything not done in faith is sin (Rom. 14:23).

Some sects or groups of Christians or Believers despise some other sects of Christians, saying that the others are legalistic and conscious of the Law. Well, Jesus Christ came not to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfil them (Matt. 5:17).

They say that the others are religious. Well, inasmuch as I don't believe in religion, but in Christianity (in a life changed by the Word and the Spirit of God, because someone has accepted Jesus Christ and the authenticity of the Word of God), yet "pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this..." (Jas 1:26-27, KJV & NKJV).

You've got to know the difference between the ritual Laws which have been done away with and the moral Laws which still stand today. Rightly divide the Word of Truth!

God can neither lie nor change His Mind (Num. 23:19) God's Standard has never changed and can never change for any people. Therefore, don't deceive yourself and don't

deceive others, for we must all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give account of ourselves (Rom. 14:10-12).

Don’t be deceived by anyone (Eph. 5:6). He who does what is right is righteous just as God is righteous; he who lives in sin, he who does unrighteousness belongs to the devil (1 Jn. 3:7).

But no matter what you might have done, contrary to the Word of God, repent now and ask for His Forgiveness and He will abundantly cleanse and pardon you. Remember that there is a Heaven to gain, and there is a Hell to shun. The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

BEING FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST

When the apostles needed deacons, who were to help them in taking care of the Disciples, they required that the people to be appointed had certain qualifications. They were to be people of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit, and wisdom.

However, in many churches, many people are appointed deacons and elders, and they do not have these qualifications. Many are appointed to positions of authority in churches based on their fame, financial power, contributions to the church, age, and other human judgments.

Christians have a Wonderful Inheritance Who is the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ did not leave us helpless, He sent the Holy Spirit to us (Jn 16:7). The Lord Jesus Christ baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The Holy Spirit of God is the Manifester of God’s Power. In the beginning, when darkness covered the surface of the deep (water), the Spirit of God moved upon

the face of the water, and when God declared that anything be on earth, His Spirit brought it to pass.

Some say that the Holy Spirit is the Power of God. That is true and untrue, depending on what you mean. The Holy Spirit is a Personality; He is the Third Person in the Holy Trinity, the Three in One.

Many don't believe in the Trinity, but the Bible teaches so. Jesus Christ told the apostles to baptize the Believers in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

Apostle Paul prayed that the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with the Corinthian Christians (2 Cor. 13:14). For through Him (Jesus Christ), we both have access by one Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to the Father (Eph. 2:18).

The Lord (Jesus Christ) began the Message of Salvation which God (the Father) bears witness to with signs and wonders, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 2:3-4).

There are Three that bear witness in Heaven: the Father, the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit; and these Three are One. (1 Jn 5:7). These Scriptures and others speak of the Trinity.

Believers receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, so as to be witnesses to the Lord in their area and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). This is why the Lord Jesus Christ told His apostles not to leave Jerusalem until they are endued with power from on High (Lk. 24:49).

But many try to do the Lord's Work without being filled with the Holy Spirit, and the powerlessness in their lives and ministries is the testimony they may not even be aware of. Will a policeman, who either carries no gun or have a mark 4 gun, put fear to well-armed robbers?

When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit and filled with Him, you have all the potential power that you will ever need, and He will release His Power in your life more

and more as you obey Him, control yourself, and please God.

There are levels of anointing, and the Holy Spirit will anoint you with greater anointing as you follow His Leading and increase in your knowledge of the Lord God Almighty. Fasting will be useful.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit will be evidenced by speaking in tongues as in the Early Church. Many, instead of taking up the responsibility, instead of finding out why they have not been baptized and spoken in tongues, settle for a lower Christian life and say that everybody must not speak in tongues.

I could have settled for that also after seeking the baptism for a very long time and not receiving; but thanks to God for His Grace.

You can preach Jesus Christ, but to prove Him with the required signs and wonders, you must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Note that the apostles and the Disciples had done marvelous things (signs and wonders) when the Lord imparted His Own Anointing on them, and yet, they were to wait for the Promise of the Father (Lk. 10:1-20).

Even though the Name of Jesus Christ in your mouth, as a Believer, can work miracles and wonders, there is a great difference when the anointing is resident on you.

Peter received the revelation of Whom Jesus Christ was when he was not yet filled with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 16:13-20). That you received a revelation, a vision, or that you prayed and God answered the prayer does not mean that you have been filled with the Holy Ghost.

You can only be full of the Power of the Holy Spirit after you must have been filled with the Person of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38; 1 Cor. 2:4; 1 Thes. 1:5). There is no other way, your title or position notwithstanding.

Being full of the Holy Spirit is the door to the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1-11). After being

baptized with the Holy Spirit, you must maintain the full measure of the Holy Spirit to keep on operating in His Power the way you should.

The Ephesian Christians were told to be filled (literally, be being filled) with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). The Roman Christians were told to be fervent in spirit (be on fire in the Spirit, maintain the Glow of the Holy Spirit) (Rom. 12:11).

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will speak in tongues and to maintain the fullness of the Spirit, you will continue to speak.... This is a Biblical way, and any other way is not Biblical and cannot work.

This does not mean that God cannot use you if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit. The Disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and they spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4).

Apostle Peter said that the Gift of the Holy Spirit is for every Believer (Acts 2:38-39). The Ephesian Believers that Apostle Paul found, even though they were Disciples, had not been filled with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to God that they were filled with the Holy Spirit when hands were laid on them. Note that they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-7).

Cornelius and his household only listened and believed Apostle Peter's message, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues (Acts 10:44-48; Acts 11:13-15).

Saul (later known as Paul) was saved when he met Jesus Christ on his way to Damascus. Apostle Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him (Acts 9:1-22), and he spoke in tongues (1 Cor. 14:18).

Apostle Paul encouraged Christians to speak with tongues in their individual prayers (1 Cor. 14:4,14; Jude 1:20). Speaking in tongues helps you pray for what you and others may not know about (Rom. 8:26). Speaking in tongues will help you tame the tongue (Jas 3:8).

Don’t be afraid of receiving the wrong spirit, if you are born again and God is your Father. If our earthly parents will not give us fake or dangerous things, how much more will the Good, Loving, and Faithful Almighty God give us all good things? (Lk. 11:9-13).

Speaking in tongues is not the evidence of being born again, but of being baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. The qualification for going to Heaven is being born again, and not speaking in tongues.

When you are born again, you receive a measure of the Holy Spirit to keep you going on in your Christian life, but when you are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, you are filled with the Holy Spirit to overflowing and this leads to power for witnessing for Jesus Christ.

The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be a witness for Jesus Christ. It is to produce proofs and evidence that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and He is alive. No wonder the Lord says that Believers will do the works that He did, even greater works than them (Jn 14:12).

The Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth and show you things to come. He will remind you of what you had heard and read (Jn 16:13; Jn 14:26).

There is no substitute for the Holy Spirit. He is in-charge of the world today, and as the Christians co-operate with Him, in obedience and prayer, He will bring the Will of God to pass on the earth.

Personality, learning, certificate, title, position, fame, and money cannot substitute the Holy Spirit, because it is not by power, nor by might, but by the Spirit of the Living God (Zech. 4:6). We must live and walk in the Spirit.

There is a Pentecostal mentality. Some assume that because they go to churches that are called Pentecostal churches, they have more power or gifts in them than others, but that is not the yardstick of measurement of the Power and Gifts of the Spirit.

Some assume that because they speak in tongues, they have arrived in the Things of the Spirit, but there is so much more to the Things of the Spirit. Then some others may assume that if you are not baptized in the Holy Spirit you will not go to Heaven, but this is far from the truth.

When you are full of the Holy Spirit, and you are obedient to Him, you will be full of the Mighty Power of God. Then you will affect your generation in a mighty way and bring much glory and praise to the Almighty God. Amen.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

We are soldiers of Christ. We are a triumphant people who are to enforce the victory Jesus Christ already got for us. Do not be afraid; do not be dismayed: the Lord God Almighty is our God.

Rejoice in the Lord always; no matter the circumstance or condition you may find yourself in, rejoice in the Lord your God. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. The Presence of God goes with us; we have the Power of the Spirit! Great power has been given to us.

Realizing that you are more than conquerors is a step to entering God’s Rest. You can do all things through Christ Jesus. All things are possible by the Spirit of God.

It is not by might nor by power, but by the Holy Spirit. Whatever you bind on earth is bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is loosed in Heaven.

If God is for us, who can be against us? He Who did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s Elect? It is God Who justifies.

Who is He who condemns? It is Christ Who died, and further more has also risen, Who is even at the Right Hand of God, Who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:31-39).

In righteousness you shall be established, you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of God. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. Behold, God created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and He created the spoiler to destroy.

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Him (Isa. 54:14-17).

We are in the New Testament which is established upon better promises than the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, the Lord demonstrated His Power to show that His people are more than conquerors.

When Jacob laboured for Laban, Laban cheated him; but the Lord intervened supernaturally, so that Jacob outsmarted Laban and God restored to him the years that the enemy had cheated him (Gen. 30)

In God’s Plan, God told Abraham that his descendants will be slaves in a foreign land for four hundred years, and after that, they will come out. This came to pass in the land

of Egypt where Israelites were held in bondage for hundreds of years.

When God sent Moses to Pharaoh to tell him to let the Israelites go, Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?” As God brought different plagues to the Egyptians, Pharaoh was frightened, even though his heart was still hardened, and he gave conditions upon which they could go.

But when God slew all the firstborns of the Egyptians, they themselves had to beg the Israelites to go and the people of Israel plundered them. The enemy who stands by your way to stop you from having the inheritance that the Lord has provided for you will fall for your sake.

When the Lord told Joshua that He has given him and the people of Israel Jericho, many of the Israelites doubted the possibility of it, because they thought that they were not their match. The ten spies confessed that they saw giants in Jericho.

But thanks to God for Joshua and Caleb who believed God, and shunned the other ten spies, telling the people that they were well able to take Jericho. Can you speak differently, according to the Word of God, even when the surrounding circumstances say otherwise?

When Jericho had been circled seven times and the trumpets were blown, according to the Instruction of the Lord, the walls of Jericho crumbled, and the people captured it.

Even when the less powerful Ai defeated Israel because there was sin in their midst (make sure there is no sin in your life, for God is of Purer Eyes than to behold iniquity, and He is no respecter of persons), when they repented and removed sin from their midst, Ai fell to them.

It is only sin, disobedience, and unbelief that will hinder you from taking your inheritance in Christ Jesus. Therefore, strive to be holy, obedient, righteous, and full of faith.

Gideon had planned to go with several thousands to battle, but God told him that all he needed were three hundred men. When he went to the battle with only three hundred men, they won the battle, because the battle is the Lord's.

No wonder Sampson was a one-man army who could defeat the Philistines alone. The man's anointing functioned greatly that he could pull out the doors of the gate to the city with bare hands and carry them up a hill. One will chase a thousand, and two will chase ten thousand.

Even though Goliath had been a man of war for many years and was well armoured with offensive weapons of sword, spear, and javelin, David who had the Anointing of the Spirit of God (who had killed both a bear and a lion by that anointing), and did not have experience in warfare, used only stones and a sling to attack the mighty Goliath of Gath.

A single stone, empowered by the anointing, sank into his forehead, and the man fell flat. The Anointing of the Spirit of the Living God breaks every yoke of the devil and destroys his burdens (Isa. 10:27).

If you study the deeds and exploits of David's mighty men in 2 Sam. 23:1-39, you will come to understand that if God is for us, no man can be against us. How much more shall our exploits be when we live in the New Testament which is established upon better promises?

In the New Testament, God is for us, with us, in us, and upon us; what a great reinforcement! The hosts of Heaven are on our side.

No wonder Prophet Elisha prayed that the eyes of his servant be opened that he might know that they which were with them were more than they which were against them. The servant had only been looking at the situation from the physical point of view; but Elisha saw beyond the physical.

We are of God (we were Born of God and we belong to Him) and greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (1 Jn 4:4). Have you been afraid before? Don't be again. Had you been doubting before? Remove doubt now, and grab your strong faith.

Faith, as little as the mustard seed, will remove mountains. Remove sin and disobedience, for they block the door to the supernatural; grab holiness and righteousness, for they open the door-way of Heaven!

Be anxious for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the Peace of God which passes knowledge will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When the storm and the sea raged and roared so much that the Disciples of Jesus Christ thought they were going to get drowned, they cried for help from Jesus Christ. The Lord rebuked their unbelief and fear.

Just as the Lord commanded and the storm ceased, you too can speak peace and calmness to your circumstances in the Name of Jesus Christ, and there will be peace and tranquility. Stand still and see the Salvation of the Lord your God, for the battle is not yours but the Lord's.

All you need to do is to speak the Word in faith, and see God turn your circumstances around for your good. Peace, be still!

If you consider the life of Elijah who stopped rainfall for three and half years, and after that brought it back; who brought down fire from Heaven on three occasions: to consume his prepared sacrifice and consume the captains the king sent to fetch him with their fifties, you will know that we are more than conquerors.

Prophet Elisha healed the water of a land and healed Naaman of his leprosy. Fire couldn't even set the dresses of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego ablaze. Lions refused the meat of Daniel. God is powerful and miraculous!

God has sent, provided, and commissioned His angels to protect us. Angels are ministering spirits sent to minister for the heirs of salvation: us. You have got to learn how to put your angels to work.

Of course, there are duties of angels you don't have anything to do with. Your relationship with Jesus Christ, your life of obedience and holiness, your prayer-life and faith-life have a lot to do with how angels attend to your cause.

Considering the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ, you will come to know that our God is too much, and we, His people, are a people of signs, wonders, and miracles!

Jesus Christ walked on water, raised the dead, cast out demons, brought calmness to a raging storm on the sea, opened the eyes of the blind, and did many other mighty works. Before He left, He told His Followers that He who believes on Him shall do the same works, and even greater works (Jn 14:12).

No wonder the lives of the apostles, prophets, and Disciples of the Early New Testament time were filled with signs and wonders. The early apostles and Disciples walked with God so much that their opponents became afraid of them, because they could not deny the miracles which they performed.

Apostle Peter healed a lame man so that he walked. It even got to the level whereby Peter's shadows could heal the sick and diseased. Apostle Paul's handkerchiefs could heal the sick and drive out demons (Acts 5:15; Acts 19:11-12).

Apostle Paul commanded an opposer of the Gospel and he did not see again for a period of time. Even when the people thought that he would swell from a viper's attack, nothing happened to him so that they changed their mind and said that he was a god. They were right because we are gods (Pas. 82:1,6; Jn 10:34-35).

We have been given the Name of Jesus Christ, the Name above every other name, and at the Name Jesus Christ, every knee should bow, of those, beings, or things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.

Use that Name, and you will see wonderful changes in your circumstances. The Name of Jesus Christ is stronger than your strength, and you can accomplished more in a minute by using the Name of Jesus Christ than you can accomplish in a year by using your human strength.

No witch or wizard has any power over you, except you give them an opportunity by sin, disobedience, and faithlessness. Jesus Christ says, “Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Lk. 10:19).

He says that the purpose the Holy Spirit came upon you is to empower you to be a witness for Him. As His witness, you will have to give evidence and proof that He is alive by signs and miracles.

In this dispensation, the Lord God Almighty is for us, with us, in us, and upon us. We cannot fail because greater is the Holy Ghost that is in us than the satan that is in the world. Confront anything that confronts you, and it will certainly bow to the Name of Jesus Christ and the Anointing of the Holy Ghost.

Resist the devil yourself, and he will flee from you (Jas 4:7). Don’t wait for God to do it, because God has appointed that assignment for you. Take it up! No weapon fashioned against you shall prevail over you, for the Lord is with you.

We have Jesus Christ Who is our Great Intercessor. Jesus Christ intercedes for us at the Right Hand of the Father, and His Intercession keeps us safe, protected, and free.

We must have the rugged mentality. The Kingdom of God suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. The Church is marching on and the gates of Hades shall not prevail.

We must advance by force, and take what belongs to us in Christ Jesus. We must advance into the kingdom of the devil and take souls from there for the Lord our God.

CONFRONTING YOUR CONFRONTATIONS

All things are possible to the Believer. Christians are Offsprings of God Himself. Since the days of John the Baptist, the Kingdom of God suffers violence, and the violent take it by force (Matt. 11:12).

Turn your conditions around for good, and obtain your rights, privileges, and inheritances in Christ by confronting your confrontations. The righteousness which is of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into Heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down from Above) or, ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

But what does it say? “The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is the Word of Faith which we preach). That if you shall confess with your mouth...and shall believe in your heart...you shall be saved.

For with the heart man believes...and with the mouth confession is made.... Whoever believes on Him shall not be put to shame (Rom. 10:6-11).

We, having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, “I believed, and therefore have I spoken”; we also believe, and therefore speak (2 Cor. 4:13). You have to confront your confrontations to receive your victory.

It is not God that will do the confrontation for us. If we wait for God, we may die waiting for Him. This is why the Scripture tells us to resist the devil so that he will flee from us (Jas 4:7).

You have to resist him steadfastly in faith (1 Pet. 5:9). Don't give any place to the devil (Eph. 4:27). The devil will have the place you give him, he will occupy that place.

But the mistake many people make is to sit back and wait for God to remove the obstacles the devil has brought along their ways. Your word of faith can break that barrier. This is why God gave us the responsibility to pray.

The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit; use the Word actively, and see the Spirit of God change your circumstances for good, better, and best. Contend, earnestly, for the faith and the Word; the Promises of God are 'Yes', and 'Amen.'

No matter how long you might have been oppressed and confronted, you can still confront your confrontations and get free. Even generational curses and covenants will crumble if you confront them.

Believe the Word of God more than any person's story or idea. The Anointing of the Holy Spirit of the Living God destroys the yokes and lifts the burdens the enemy puts on people. Jesus Christ gives peace, abundant peace.

The Philistines gathered their armies together to battle with Israel. And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span (that is, 13 feet, 4 inches).

He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze (about 1941/2 ibs in weight). And he had bronze armour on his legs and bronze javelin between his shoulders.

Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels (about

231/2 ibs, counting 224 grains to the shekel); and a shield-bearer went before him.

Can you imagine this type of a devil? He was armoured very well. He had offensive weapons of javelin and spear. Bronze is an alloy metal which is very hard. Brass is a mixture of zinc and copper, while bronze is a mixture of zinc, copper, and tin. He had both well-made defensive and offensive weapons.

Added to that is that a shield-bearer went before him. If you were to fight with Goliath naturally, his shield-bearer (who could be taller than you: Goliath himself was a giant) would stop your arrow, spear, and sword, while Goliath will thrust you through with his spear or javelin.

But I don't care about the barrier, opposition, stronghold, or attack the enemy and his demons have brought along your way, to stop you from enjoying the full benefit of the inheritance you have in Jesus Christ; if you will withstand him, he will flee.

It may not take a minute, an hour, a day or a week to break that barrier and stop the attack, but if you withstand him steadfastly in faith and pray, he will bow.

There are cases and situations that you will have to add fasting to prayer for the devil's handiwork to be destroyed. The Word says that some demonic works will be broken only by prayer and fasting (Matt. 17:21).

This does not mean that you can't cast out a demon unless you are fasting, but if the anointing in your life (gained by former prayer and fasting) is not strong enough for confronting that demonic attack, then you must fast until you have a breakthrough.

However, demons bow to the Name of Jesus Christ. Sometimes, the fasting may have to take a long time of about three, seven or more days. Imagine what would have happened if Prophet Daniel had stopped praying and fasting the twentieth day.

The answer to his prayers, which was released the first day, might have not reached him. An angel who was not a high-ranking warring angel was sent to deliver the answer, but a stronger satanic spiritual wickedness in high places withstood him.

But thanks to God that Daniel did not give up, and on the twenty-first day, another angel was sent to help the other angel. This made it possible for him to deliver the answer to Daniel (Dan. 10).

Some say that fasting is not that important; well, can you explain what you mean? Jesus Christ fasted; Apostle Paul fasted; and (I don't want to go the Old Testament now) the early Disciples and Believers fasted.

The truth is that there is a level of anointing the Holy Spirit will not anoint you with if you don't fast. Whether partial fasting, fruit-fasting, juice-fasting, the fasted life, water-fasting, or dry fasting, you will fast. Of course, dry fasting or water-fasting may, sometimes, not take as long as partial fasting.

Goliath of Gath, the Philistine, intimidated Israel many days, and said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day, give me a man that we may fight together." When King Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. By this time, God had rejected Saul as a king, and the anointing that was upon him had lifted.

Maybe, it was the same anointing that lifted from Saul that came upon David, because Saul was rejected by God in chapter fifteen, David was anointed king in chapter sixteen, and here comes Goliath in chapter seventeen.

But one thing we know is that the anointing had lifted from Saul, and God had anointed David as king, even though, physically, he had not become one. But what has been settled in the spiritual realm will certainly come to pass physically, because the spiritual realm is very real.

After Goliath had terrorized Israel for forty days, the youngest son of Jesse, who had been anointed with the Power and Boldness of the Spirit of God, came to the camp of Israel and heard that thrash from the mouth of Goliath. All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were dreadfully afraid.

And David said, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the Living God?” Eliab, his oldest brother, heard him and was very annoyed with him. He would have thought in his mind, saying, “What can this proud small boy do?”

Do you know that people can judge you, and take you to be proud when you say what you can do by the Power of God through the Name of Jesus Christ? Apostle Peter said, “I give you what I have, and in the Name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk” (Acts 3:1-11).

David told Saul that their hearts should not fail because of Goliath, and that he will go and fight him. Saul said, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.” David told Saul that he had killed a lion and a bear, and he will kill Goliath also.

You see why you shouldn’t be afraid. The anointing that removed malaria, can also open the eyes of the blind. Just be dedicated to making God’s Anointing stronger and stronger in your life. All you need are the anointing and the real faith.

David declared that the Lord will deliver him. The anointing emboldened him and moved him. Saul armoured David with his armour and gave him a sword, but David could not use them. Some think that it must be done the same old way, but this is not true.

Find out the direction and the strategy God has for you, and you will conquer when you obey God. David used stones and a sling. The Philistine looked at David and

disdained him. He cursed David by his gods. But David was not moved; he knew the outcome.

David said, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts...the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you....

“That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s....”

David hurried, took out a stone, and slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead. The Philistine died and the others fled. David and Israel overcame by their God (1 Sam. 17).

The spiritual controls the physical. Stand upon the Word of God without doubting, and act: you will overcome always! No devil, demon, witch, or thing should stop you, as a Christian and a minister. Don’t make yourself stoppable.

If you are confronting your confrontations and it seems that you are not achieving your purpose, you may have to change your strategy or battle plan. That God worked a certain way to solve a problem does not mean He will always work that way. Find out from God always how you have to approach your difficult situations.

A time came in David’s life that the Amalekites invaded Ziklag, and burned it with fire, taking captives their women (wives), their sons, and their daughters.

David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. What a calamity! Have your sufferings reached that extent?

David’s two wives were taken captive. And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.

David enquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?” And He answered

him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.”

So David went, he and his men. But David pursued, even though some of them who were very weak stayed behind when they could not cross the Brook Besor.

Along the way, they found someone who had not eaten for three days and fed him. When he had got his strength back, he directed David and his men to where the invading troops were.

Then David attacked them and recovered all that they had taken away. What would have happened if David had not pursued and attacked them? He would have lost all.

What would have happened if he had not enquired of the Lord? He might have not had the courage to pursue and attack them. God knows of your losses and predicaments, and He will make a way for you.

Even the Amalekite’s servant that fell sick so that his master abandoned him (he directed David) was in God’s Plan for the whole thing (1 Sam. 30:1-20).

This was also demonstrated by Abraham when he recovered Lot. When Sodom and other cities were attacked, the invading army took all the goods of Sodom, and all their provisions, and went their way.

They also took Lot, Abraham’s brother’s son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods and departed. Then one who had escaped came and told Abraham, the Hebrew. When Abraham heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his men and pursued the captors.

Abraham armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them.

So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people (Gen. 14).

After his return, he gave tithe to Melchizedek who blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of Heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Abraham would have lost Lot if he had remained in his place comfortably and not pursued. But he refused to remain at ease, and chose rather to act; and when he acted, he brought glory to the Name of the Lord.

The Word of God says that we should occupy till the Lord comes (Lk. 19:13). To occupy is to take charge and control of what you have been given to oversee. It is to enter a place and keep control of it; for example, by a military force.

In this case, the Lord wants us to oversee and do what He has entrusted into our hands, and keep it from interference by an enemy.

Then, even if due to one reason or the other, an enemy invaded our ground and took away anything, we should pursue, overtake, and recover all. To occupy is to do the Father’s Business (the Lord’s Business).

Some reason that since their income is enough, they will be buying medicine to control the disease they are passing through, which might have been termed ‘incurable.’

Some may say, “Since I have this church or ministry, even if it is not flourishing well, at least let me maintain it.” Inasmuch as we should give thanks to God in any situation we find ourselves in, yet it is the Lord’s Will that you enjoy the fullness of His Provisions for you.

However, we must recognize that some deprivations and harsh states are brought about or allowed by the Lord Himself for different purposes.

What I am saying is that you should know when to pursue and when not to pursue. Even David enquired of the Lord and pursued when the Lord told him to pursue.

Some harsh conditions may be a test or a trial for you, and in that case, pursuing will not help matters, because it will not change it.

God told me that it is not every time that you have to bind and loose in prayers to correct a negative situation. He cited the case of Abraham whose wife was barren. Abraham prayed to God about the situation and God gave him a son, without binding and loosing (or dealing with demons).

If you study your Bible well, you will come to know that the prayer of binding and losing (or casting out demons) will not solve some undesirable conditions. For example, do you think that Prophet Jonah would have cast out that big fish that swallowed him?

His was a case of sin and disobedience, and what he needed to do to be free was repentance, confession, and mercy. Some will not come out of their conditions until their knowledge and wisdom have been developed to a level that God is satisfied.

Some will not come out until they learn humility and despise pride. You may not like the situation, but God allowed it for your own good, for your development and promotion.

There is a case in the Bible where the Israelites said, “The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s House should be built.” The Lord asked them, saying, “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this Temple to lie in ruins?”

The Lord went on, “Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put them into a bag with holes.”

The Lord told them, “Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the Temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified. You looked for much,

but indeed it came to little; when you brought it home, I blew it away.

“Why? Because of My House that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit.

“For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains...on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labour of your hands” (Hag. 1).

However, whatever the enemy, who comes not but to steal, kill, and destroy, might have taken away from you will be restored to you. But you have to pursue him and overtake him so that you can recover all.

When you believe, you speak and confess so that you can possess your possession. Confront your confrontations! Pray through; pray until you have a witness that you have prayed through.

Some prayers require fastings. You may have to do some days or weeks of night-vigils, maybe some three hours every night.

The violent takes his inheritance and possession by force. The Spirit of God lifts up a standard against the devil. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Confront the devil. God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7).

The Lord is with you, and He will never leave you. They that are with you are more than they that are against you. One angel destroyed one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrian soldiers in one night (2 Kgs 19:35).

Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you − the former rain and the later rain in the first month.

The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. So the Lord will

restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, His great army which He sent among you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you, and God's people shall never be put to shame.

Then you shall know that He is in the midst of Israel. He is the Lord your God and there is no other. God's people shall never be put to shame (Joel 2: 23-27).

Learn to distinguish when to wait on God and when to pursue and overtake the invaders and spoilers.

We must understand the strategies of the enemy, so that he will not gain an advantage over us. God's people perish because of ignorance.

We should not even give him the opportunity to strike in the first place, to take away anything from us; however, if he succeeds in depriving us of anything, we must pursue him and recover all by force.

Are you possessing your inheritance in Christ Jesus the way you should? How will you feel, if when you get to Heaven, you realize that you deprived yourself of many things the Lord purchased and provided for you?

Whatever you have lost shall be found. Whatever the enemy has stolen or robbed from you shall be found and recovered. But you have your part to play; and you know that God cannot fail to fulfil His Own Part.

The Kingdom of God suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. Don't sit back and watch the devil deprive you of God's Blessings for you without doing anything. Pursue, overtake, and recover all!

THE SPIRITUAL AND UNTOUCHABLE CHRISTIAN

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin.

He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the Things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be. So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is Life because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs - heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.

Not only that, but we also, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

The Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Now He Who searches the hearts knows what the Mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the Saints according to the Will of God.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His Purpose.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified (Rom. 8:1-30).

If God has called you, make every effort to be chosen by Him also. As a chosen vessel of His, be faithful so that you will be commended, rewarded, and glorified at last, because the end of a matter is better than the beginning.

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no Law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the Law of Christ.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will also of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap Everlasting Life.

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season, we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the Household of Faith (Gal. 5 and 6).

God tells us that we should seek those things which are Above, where Christ is, sitting at the Right Hand of God. Set your mind on things Above, not on things on the earth. For you died, when you received Christ; and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ Who is our Life appears, then we also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

As the Elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another; if

anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the Peace of God rule in your hearts, and be thankful.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one (Col. 3 & 4).

Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. Put on the new man who was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the Day of Redemption. Be imitators of God as dear people of God. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an Offering and a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the Will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Submit to one another in the fear of God. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His Might. Put on the whole Armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood; but we wrestle against principalities, against powers, and against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the whole Armour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the Saints (Eph. 4, 5, & 6).

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God Who works in you both to will and to do for His Good Pleasure.

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the Word of Life, so that your salvation will not be in vain (Phil. 2:12-16).

Learn to build up yourself spiritually; be diligent to energize your spirit. Remember that weight hinders your Christian walk, while sin entangles you to the devil and the world. The Will of God for you in Jesus Christ is that you go and sin no more.

Also, you can't serve two masters at the same time. You can't serve God and money; you can't serve God and men. Live in all good conscience toward God and men.

Remember that your body is the Temple of God; therefore don't defile it. The Saints are to be perfected; they are to get matured and established in the Lord.

There is a mystery behind knowing what to do, and not doing it. He who knows what to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. The Servant who knew his Master's Will and did not do it will be beaten with more stripes than he who didn't know.

It is the work of the devil for you to know what to do, and not do it. You can suffer unnecessarily because you refused to pray; and the devil will manipulate you in order that you do not to pray.

We know that whoever is Born of God does not sin; but he who has been Born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1 Jn 5:18-19).

Sin and disobedience is the basis through which the devil and his agents touch people. Without sin in your life, no devil nor demon, no witch nor wizard, no principal agent of the kingdom of darkness can touch you. Don't be ignorant of the devices of the devil.

It was when Adam disobeyed God that the devil touched him. The devil stole what God had given to Adam from him. And we know that the devil does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. Jesus Christ came that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly (Jn 10:10).

The purpose the Son of God was manifested is that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been Born of God does not sin, for His Seed remains in him, and he cannot sin because he has been Born of God (1 Jn. 3:1-10).

Children of God purify themselves as Jesus Christ is pure. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

Let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

Other things that can give the devil an opportunity in your life are unbelief and doubt. When you don't believe the Word of God, doubt sets in. Doubt prevents the manifestation of the Word of God in your life.

The Word of God says that he who doubts is like the wave of the sea, tossed to and fro, and that person should not expect to get anything from God. But God can neither lie nor fail to perform His Promises.

As Christians, we are untouchable beings, when we abide in Christ and in His Word. But the problem is that many Christians open a hole for the devil in their lives, and when you give him a loophole or place in your life, he will come in. He who breaks the hedge will be beaten by the serpent.

Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the Sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (Jas 4:6-10).

The devil will bring different things across your path, but whatever he throws at you, resist him and he will flee. To flee is to run away with fear.

In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. Indeed they shall surely gather, but not by God.

Whoever gathers against you shall fall for your sake. Behold the Lord created the blacksmith who blows the coal in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and He created the spoiler to destroy.

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Him (Isa. 54:14-17).

Do not fear, for the Lord is with you; be not dismayed, for His is your God. He will strengthen you, yes, He will help you, and He will uphold you with His Righteous Right Hand.

Behold, all those who were increased against you shall be ashamed and disgraced, they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish. You shall seek them and not find them; those who contend with you shall be as nothing, as a non-existent thing (Isa. 41:10-12).

Fear not, for the Lord has redeemed you, He has called you by your name; you are His. When you pass through the waters, He will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

For the Lord is your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; He gave Egypt for Israel’s ransom. Since you are precious in God’s Sight, He will honour you, for He loves you. Therefore He will give men for you, and people for your life. Fear not (Isa. 43:1-5).

The ninety-first chapter of the Book of Psalms tells us what it means to be untouchable. He who dwells in the

Secret Place of the Most High shall abide under the Shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my Refuge and my Fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His Feathers, and under His Wings you shall find refuge; His Truth shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by the day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.

Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord Who is my Refuge, even the Most High, your Dwelling Place, no evil shall befall you nor shall any plaque come near your dwelling.

He shall give His angels Charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Because you have set your love upon God, therefore He will deliver you, He will set you on high, because you have known His Name.

You shall call upon Him, and He will answer you. He will be with you in trouble: He will deliver you and honour you. With long life He will satisfy you, and show you His Salvation.

The Lord delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego from the fiery furnace of King Nebuchadnezzar. The fire had been heated seven times more as commanded by the king in his rage. The king also gave them a second opportunity to bow to the image so that they will not be burnt.

However, they maintained their steadfastness in the Lord their God and the Lord God delivered them (Dan. 3).

Don’t compromise your faith and stand because of threats, persecutions, and trials. Even if it involves your losing your life, do not love your life to death and you will have it back at the Appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord delivered Daniel from lions when he was put into the den of lions. The Lord closed the mouths of the lions so that they could not eat him up; when Daniel was brought out, it was found out that not only did the lions not touch him, there was also no wound on him (Dan. 6).

When the Jews wanted to push Jesus Christ down the cliff, the Lord turned and walked through them and passed, and they could not touch Him. An angel of the Lord came into the prison where Peter was being held and delivered him.

Paul and Silas were also delivered when they prayed and sang praises to the Lord their God. God delivered Paul from shipwreck so that he did not die through it.

Even now, the Christian who is obedient to God, who is holy, prayerful, full of the Holy Spirit, full of faith, and who is sensitive to the Leading of the Holy Spirit, is untouchable.

Neither the devil nor man can destroy him. He is above destruction; it is only by persecution, for the Sake of Jesus Christ, that he himself can decide to lay down his life for the Cause of Christ.

Witches and wizards are so afraid of that Christian that they tremble because of him. The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ protects us and speaks good things that work for our good. Dare to be untouchable!

Don’t keep the things that belong to the devil with you, so that they will not attract the devil and his works to you. Don’t live his life, so that you will not attract his presence into your life or suffer the same thing(s) God has apportioned for him!

Using contaminated things will invite the devil into your life. If you bring an accursed thing to your house, God will count your house as accursed and you will not stand before your enemies (Josh. 7:10-13). That God might have had mercy on you this far does not mean that it will always be like that. Remove the accursed thing before the devil destroys you.

That is the danger the people that carry chaplets and moulded things they call Jesus' and Mary's structures have fallen into. God said that you must not make for yourself a carved image of anything or anybody, and you shall not bow down to them (Exo. 20:4-5). That is idolatry!

Using things dedicated to the devil will contaminate you and bring heavy loss into your life. You girls and ladies that use another person's dress, powder, shoe, etc can get initiated into secret societies, especially the mermaid kingdom, by that simple act. Many of the people you see are not what they pose to be, even inside the church.

The devil walks around the clock. Many focus their minds on 12:00 a.m., 3:00 a.m., etc as when the devil will attack them; and they prepare to backfire at those times. Well, inasmuch as there are times of concentrated demonic works, know that the devil does not sleep.

Many times, just spending enough time with God will neutralize demonic works programmed against you, even without having prayed specifically against them. Yes, you will need to destroy the works of the devil, but don't give the devil three hours while you give God ten minutes.

As a matter of fact, devil's power is nothing before God's Power. If you spend two or three hours with God, only five minutes declaration after that can neutralize all the works of the devil against you. But many fear satan, demons, and witches more than they fear God. Sorry!

SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, those who had run this race before us. They succeeded and made God happy. We cannot fail God, because that will not be good at all.

If the people that went before us succeeded, we also can succeed; the God that enabled them is our God, and He cannot fail. He is all-powerful, and the host of Heaven is on our side.

The secret of successful ministry is obedience. You can't obey God fully and not be successful in ministry. But obedience presupposes foreknowledge of what to do. We know what to do in our Christian walk, in ministry, and in our present life by the Word of God and the Leading or Prompting of the Spirit of God.

Therefore, the secret of successful ministry is the Word of God and the Spirit of God. Actually, the Spirit of God inspired the writing of the Word of God, the Bible, and He also explains the Word to us, and brings it to our remembrance when we need it.

If you want to be successful (in God's Sight) in ministry, then you must make up your mind to obey God absolutely, no matter the cost or sacrifice. Whatever you may sacrifice for God and His Work, He is able to give it back to you many folds.

God did not call us to serve Him in vain. He will reward us very abundantly, both in this life, and in the life which is to come. Don't allow the devil deceive you with the temporal things of this world.

The Word of God tells us the Mind of God. The Word of God is forever settled in Heaven (Psa. 119:89). As a minister, the Word admonishes that you study the Bible to show yourself approved to God a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

To divide the Word of Truth the right way is to put every Word where it is supposed to be, and to compare Scripture with Scripture. It is to understand the Word of God clearly.

The devil misapplied the Scripture when he quoted ninety-first chapter of Psalm to Jesus Christ. Doing what the devil quoted would have amounted to testing God; but he quoted the Bible you carry.

In these days when occult men and agents of darkness carry Bible and call Jesus, you require a clear understanding of the Scripture so that you will not be led astray by fellow preachers. If you are led astray, you will also lead the people following you astray. If you lead them astray, God will hold you responsible.

Take heed to yourself and the Doctrine (the correct Doctrine); continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and them that hear you (1 Tim. 4:16).

A demon may even speak to you audibly in the Name of (as if it is) the Holy Spirit, but with the Word, you can distinguish the Voice of the Holy Spirit from the voices of devils and manipulators. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom (Col. 3:16).

When you are full of the Word of God, no trial, scandal, or persecution will weigh you down; for the Word will give you strength and direction.

As said earlier, you need the Holy Spirit to function effectively in the ministry. Without the Holy Spirit you are a failure. It is not by power, nor by might, but by the Holy Spirit of the Living God (Zech. 4:6).

Jesus Christ never intended to leave us comfortless and helpless in life and ministry. That is why He sent the Holy Spirit to us after He left for Heaven. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Helper, Counselor, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby. He is the Manifester of God’s Power.

The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ to us. He teaches us the Word and Will of God. He reminds us of what we had known before. The Holy Spirit reveals what is to come to us.

He helps our weaknesses; in prayer, the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered (or uttered in an articulate speech), of which speaking in tongues is among.

Jesus Christ, after He was filled with the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, and after being tempted by the devil (He ate nothing in those days), He returned in the Power of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit had anointed Him with the power He required to be fruitful and productive in His Ministry. You can't function any other way, except you want people to either neglect you or clap hands for you when God is not clapping for you.

Without the anointing, people will neglect your ministry, except you are keeping them with something else like traditions of men or demonic powers. I know some go to church to hear the Word of God for them, but you need the anointing to preach or teach effectively or more effectively.

If you are not prayerful, you can't be as effective in ministry as God wants you to be. Some ministers were very prayerful in the early years of their ministries, but when their ministries expanded and grew, they became too busy that they don't spend enough time with God in prayer again.

To maintain a strong anointing, you must be prayerful. No wonder the Word tells us to continue earnestly in prayer (Col. 4:2). Pray without ceasing. Men ought always to pray and not faint (Lk. 18:1).

Another booster to the ministry is fasting. As a matter of fact, there are levels of the anointing and empowerment

by the Spirit of God that you will never reach in your life without fasting.

Of course, I am not saying that you can't be in the ministry without fasting, but why will it take someone a week or two to cast out a demon, while another can cast out same demon in few seconds?

The difference is the anointing. The difference is faith. I am not necessarily saying that someone who doesn't fast to a great extent can't have a larger church or ministry than another who fasts to a great extent.

First, there are other issues a minister should address, both in his life and in the lives of those who follow him, apart from fasting. If you fast long, but live in sin and disobedience, they will hinder your ministry.

Also, if you don't study the Word to increase your knowledge of God and His Word, it will also hinder your ministry, because there are levels of anointing God will not give you if you are a novice. Second, what you may judge as being large or big by human standard may be judged differently by God.

There are different ministries: an intercessor can sustain the ministry of a traveling evangelist, though the intercessor himself may not be well-known.

Holiness will also boost your ministry. All other things being equal, the holier you are, the more God will manifest His Power and Glory through you. There is perfecting or perfection in holiness. To perfect in holiness is to mature in holiness; it is to make your life of holiness steady.

Also, sin can stop the anointing from flowing through you. This is why many started as good ministers, but when they started living in sexual immorality, pride, and covetousness, they lost the anointing, and later went after demonic powers.

Obedience and righteousness will boost your ministry as well. By obedience, I mean doing what God tells you to

do. By righteousness, I mean doing the right things at the right time.

If, for instance, you make up your mind to fast for seven days in order to minister to someone, and on the third day God tells you to go and minister to the person, obey God instead of obeying yourself.

He has the power, and the anointing is not your own. As a matter of fact, when you are filled with the Holy Ghost, you have all the potential power you need for life, Godliness, and the ministry.

But even though the potential is there, the Holy Spirit anoints people with different levels of the anointing. Why? There is a level of anointing God can give you at a certain state and that anointing will lead to your destruction: first of all, it can lead to pride, and you know that God hates pride, and will not share His Glory with another.

Secondly, there are levels of the anointing that will make satan mad, and if God gives it to you and you don't live the life of commitment and discipline required for it, satan will kill you. At any time and place, do what God tells you to do, and it will be well with you.

A minister ought to be able to tame his tongue and his emotions. Don't say anything that comes to your mind. Also, don't get depressed so that you will not get discouraged; and don't get too excited that you can't control your conduct.

You should be an example to your followers because they are watching you. Strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter. There is something you will do and their trust for you will die. You are not a church-member but a leader or an overseer, as a pastor. There are things you can do and the church will scatter in a week.

Also, relate with other good ministers. Don't relate with someone your spirit feels uncomfortable with, except for casual relationships. Don't allow the devil pull you down through your wife or your children.

Show love, compassion, and kindness to those you minister to. Don’t only receive: give also, as you are led. If you sow a little to your followers, they will be happy, and when God leads them to give you, they will be more sensitive to the Voice of God.

Avoid pride, for it destroys the minister. Be humble, patient, and diligent. Persevere, no matter what. The Christian life and the ministry require steadfastness and persistence. Operating in unity will boost your productivity and fruitfulness in the ministry.

Walk worthy of your Christian life and the calling that the Lord has called you! Run the race that the Lord has set before you with determination and commitment. Abstain from all appearances of evil.

Don’t be lazy in the work that the Lord has committed to your trust. Avoid idleness, but commit your time to the Lord’s Service and be dedicated to seeing that the Lord’s Work does not suffer in your hand.

Don’t sleep, don’t slumber in the ministry that the Lord has committed to your trust. Be zealous for the work or task the Lord has committed into your hand. Expect persecutions and sufferings in the course of the ministerial work.

Beware of covetousness and love of money. Also, beware of women: avoid lust, fornication, and adultery. Always remember your reward in Heaven, for that will give you the zeal, passion, and endurance you require for this work. Don’t be earthly minded but heavenly minded.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. What the spirit of man produces by the Holy

Spirit's Indwelling is in all that have to do with goodness, righteousness, and truth (Eph. 5:9).

When a sinner repents and gives his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, confessing Him as his Saviour, the Holy Spirit of the Living God regenerates, recreates, and makes new that person's spirit. If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature (new creation); old things have passed away, and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17).

It is the spirit of man that is born again or recreated. Man is a tripartite being who is a spirit, has a soul, and lives in a body. Your soul which is the seat of your thinking, reasoning, and emotions, is not born again but is saved or restored by the renewing of your mind with the Word of God so that you begin to think God's Way.

Then you need to present your body and its members a living sacrifice to God, holy and acceptable to Him. Present your body and its members as instruments of obedience to holiness and righteousness (Rom. 12:1-2; Rom. 6:13,19).

The human spirit of a Christian wants to please God, but his body may still desire some things that displease God. Your mind is the point of decision where you decide whether to obey your spirit or your flesh.

If your mind has been renewed by the Word of God, it will agree with your spirit to please God. Apostle Paul said he beat his body and brought it to subjection.

It was his spirit, his inward man that controlled his body, because his mind took side with his spirit. To be spiritually minded is life, but to be carnally or fleshly minded is death. The carnal mind is enmity with God, for it is not subject to God's Commandments, and can never be subject to them.

This is why those that are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh (Rom. 8:6-9). Get rid of the works of the flesh out of your life. As Christians, we are good trees; and good trees are supposed to bear good fruits.

The Presence of the Holy Spirit in the human spirit enables the human spirit to produce, among other things: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no Law (Gal. 5:22-23).

Love makes you obey God, no matter the cost, and gets you to do to others as you would have them do to you (as it will please you that they do to you, not as they will do to you). Joy makes you happy and to take pleasure in the Lord your God. No matter what may be surrounding you, you have joy in the Holy Spirit.

Peace will make you calm, removing worry and fear from you, no matter how harsh the external situations or circumstances may be. Longsuffering will make you patient in your Christian race, and to wait patiently for God's Time and Intervention. He that endures to the end will receive the promise; the same will be saved.

Kindness will make you say or do things that show you care about other people and want to help them or make them happy; you will have a compassionate feeling for people.

Goodness is the quality of being good. Being good will make you profitable and of advantage to others. Goodness has to do with actions or behaviours that are morally right or that follow the Christian Principles. Do not be weary in doing good, for in due time, you will reap your reward if you do not give up (Gal. 6:9).

Faithfulness will make you loyal and trustworthy. Integrity and honesty must be part of you. Gentleness will make you kind and careful in your character or behaviour and not at all violent or unpleasant. Self-control is the ability to behave calmly and sensibly, even when you feel very excited, angry, sad, etc.

Do not walk as the rest of the unbelievers walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the Life of God, because of the

ignorance that is in them, because of blindness of their heart; who being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus Christ.

Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil-speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Be tenderhearted and forgive others as God forgave you.

Be imitators of God, as Christians: and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and gave Himself for us. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for Saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

Walk as children of light, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. Submit to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 4 & 5). Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its

passions and desires. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Let your love abound more and more in knowledge and all discernment; approve the things that are excellent, and be sincere and without offence till the Day of Christ, and be filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:9-11).

Be like-minded with the true brethren, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but also for the interest of others (Phil. 2:2-16).

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God Who works in you both to will and to do for His Good Pleasure.

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the Word of Life.

Be anxious for nothing. Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on those things (Phil. 4:4-8).

The Foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and “Let everyone who names the Name of Christ depart from iniquity.” Flee youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from

the later, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a Servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient (2 Tim. 2:19-24).

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

He who sins is of the devil. Whoever has been Born of God does not sin, for His Seed remains in him, and he cannot sin, because he is Born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother (1 Jn 3:3-10).

Produce the Fruit of the Spirit in abundance! You have the ability, by the Holy Spirit to do so. Believers are to be like Christ (Christian); they are to be like God (Godly). Ask yourself, in every situation, what Jesus Christ would have done or what God would have you do in that same situation.

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND HOME

The Christian marriage and home ought to be different from the marriages and homes of non-Christians. The Christian marriage and home should serve as a pattern and a model to show the people of the world what marriage and home should be.

A good marriage will lead to a good home, and a good home is a product of following the Word of God and His Spirit. Marriage is based on love, faith, and obedience, and

when these virtues are abundant in any home, joy and peace will abound.

Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4). God has a pattern for the Christian home, and He has shown us how each member of the family should relate with one another.

However, a look into many Christian homes (I mean homes of born-again Believers) shows that they lag behind what God expects from them; this displeases God and makes the devil happy.

The devil fights to thwart God's Purpose on earth, but Christians have been delivered from his power and authority. Even though we have the right and power of children of God, yet the devil will have a place in our lives if we let him.

And the Word has said that we should give no place to the devil (Eph. 4:27). Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the Sight of God and He will lift you up (Jas 4:7-10).

Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your Brotherhood in the world.

Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7-9). Don't carry your burdens, but give them to the Lord. And when you have given them to Him, don't take them back from Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ tells us to watch and pray so that we will not enter into temptation, because even though the

spirit is willing, yet the flesh is weak. If you pray and don't watch, you will still fall into temptation; and if you watch and don't pray, the same thing will apply.

Many of the problems we see in Christian homes are as a result of the members not being watchful and prayerful. The spirit-realm controls the physical realm, and some don't even know it.

Many of the misbehaviours you notice in your husband, wife, or children are not just a product of the flesh, but a direct attack against you by the devil and his forces. Therefore, if you don't know the source of the problem, you may live your life fighting physically and you will achieve no true success.

Of course, there is a room for physical discipline, and there is no need for laws and commandments if there are no punishments and rewards.

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the Ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good work, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. He is God's minister to you for good.

But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake (Rom. 13:1-5).

For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour.

Owe no one anything except to love another; for he who loves another has fulfilled the Law (Rom. 13:6-8).

Therefore submit yourself to every ordinance of man (not to talk of Ordinances of God) for the Lord's Sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

As free, yet, not using your liberty as a cloak for vice, but as Bondservants of God. Honour all people: love the Brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh (1 Pet. 2:13-20).

For this is commendable: if because of conscience toward God, one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if when you are beaten for your faults you take it patiently?

But when you do well and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. But let none of you suffer as a murderer (or as the disobedient); a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him (or her) not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter (1 Pet. 4:15-16).

Those who are sinning, rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear (1 Tim. 5:20). Apostle Paul told Pastor Timothy this as a way to govern his church or churches.

Brother and sister, do not despise the Chastening of the Lord (or of anyone that the Lord has given authority over you), nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him: for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges (punishes or disciplines) every son whom He receives.

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all

have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live. God chastens us for our profit, that we may be partakers of His Holiness.

Now, no chastening seems to be joyful for the present but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Heb. 12:5-11).

Those things are applicable to husbands, pastors, and rulers. Those things are applicable to wives, children, church-members, and the country citizens.

But there are much more to this: whatever you do to your subjects or those you have authority over, should be out of love and maintenance of order, and never out of bitterness, hatred, or unforgiveness.

The Bible tells us not to lord it over the Lord's Heritage (or those entrusted to you) (1 Pet. 5:3). But you must learn to take your stand and do the right things.

Many husbands refuse to exercise authority over their homes. The result is disorder in the home. Sometimes, you will see pastor's children living ungodly lives because of lack of discipline in the home.

Train up the child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6). He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly (Prov. 13:24).

Husbands must love their wives as their own bodies. Wives on the other hand, must not become stumbling blocks to their husbands, by insulting and offensive words, because, even though many of them will not slap you, yet you make them die on the inside and get weak inwardly to do God's Assignments for them.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother. Fathers, do not

provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the Training and Admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4).

Let each husband so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband (Eph. 5:33). Wives, submit to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter towards them.

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord (Col. 3:18-20).

Wives are to submit to their husbands, contrary to their own wills. Many wives pray and fast concerning their husbands, when their problem is inadequate submission. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

Wives, be submissive to your own husbands and let them observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear (1 Pet. 3:1-7). Husbands, dwell with them in knowledge and understanding, giving honour to the wife as to the weaker vessel.

Husbands, learn to say, “I am sorry” to your wives; if you don’t kneel down for your wife, who will you kneel down for? Many wives fear their bosses at office more than their husbands: they will not disobey their bosses, but they disobey their husbands easily and talk to them anyhow.

I am talking about Believers here. As a husband, pray well and depend on God to direct you on how to manage your family. Before you accept any man or lady for a husband or a wife, take time to pray and wait on God. Don’t rush because all that glitters is not gold. There are agents of satan, even in churches.

What about divorce and remarriage? God hates divorce. What God has joined together, let no man or woman put asunder. Forgive your husband or wife of whatever he or she might have done against you, as Christ also forgave you (Eph. 4:32). Divorce has many negative adverse effects both on the husband and on the wife.

Divorce makes the children suffer what they are not supposed to suffer. If you put away your wife or husband, you are enabling the devil trap him or her in adultery, and you will answer to the Lord on the Day of Judgment (Matt. 5:32).

Even when the Bible says that “if she departs, let her remain unmarried or be joined to her husband,” we are not to live by alternatives, but by God’s Perfect Will. You know that Moses permitted the Israelites to write a certificate of divorce because of the hardness of their hearts (Matt. 19:8-9). Is your heart hardened?

PLEASING GOD

The Heartbeat of God is that all men may come to the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ, and that they obey and fear Him always. This is why we must evangelize to the ends of the world.

To please God should be your goal in life; it should be your highest priority. Why? Because this is the Whole Duty of man, and that is why man was made.

To fear God and keep His Commandments is the Whole Duty of man (Eccl. 12:13-14). To please God is to do those things that make Him happy and proud of you. If you do those things that please God always, He will never leave you, as He never left Jesus Christ (Jn 8:29).

But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of those that diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

This is to say that if you know that you will gain a lot from pleasing God, it will make you please Him so that, among other things, you will receive the reward. Of course, we have to please God because we love him, and not just because of what we can get from Him.

Jesus Christ had this attitude when the Bible says that Jesus Christ, for the Joy that was set before Him, endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God (Heb. 12:2).

Because Jesus Christ humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every other name, that at the Name of Jesus Christ every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:8-11).

Can you say, like Apostle Paul, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain?” To live for Christ is to surrender your will to His, so that, no matter how difficult His Will may seem to you, you will do it.

When you say that to die is gain, you are saying that you have lived for Christ, and if you die now, you will be ushered into Heaven by the angels of God. My brother, no one who died and went to Hell, or is cast out into the Outer Darkness, gained.

God has not called us to serve Him in vain; there are so many good things we gain by serving God and doing His Will, both in this life and in the life which is to come.

Being conscious of this will make you to do anything, and sacrifice anything (even your life) for the Name of the Lord. Christians do not love their lives to death as Christ also surrendered His (Rev. 12:11).

Another thing that you should be conscious of is that there are punishments associated with disobeying God and displeasing Him, both in this life and in the life which is to come.

Hence, Apostle Paul said that knowing the Terror of God, we persuade men everywhere to repent, for He has appointed one day when He will judge all men by Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:11).

It is a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the Living God Who is a Consuming Fire (Heb. 10:31; Heb. 12:29).

Many don’t care about God and His Christ because they don’t know what lies ahead of them. If their eyes are opened to see 10% of what they will suffer for ignoring God and His Word, they will run for their lives to save themselves from Him Who can destroy both body and soul in Hell Fire.

Whether you know of it or not, great punishment is coming on you for despising God, for he that dishonours God, God will dishonour him also (1 Sam. 2:30).

If you love the Lord, then keep His Commandments: as a proof that you love Him (Jn 14:15). Love is the Great Commandment: loving God and your fellow human beings.

To please God, you must bear fruits in your life. You must bear the Fruit of the Spirit which is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth (Eph. 5:9-10). The Fruit of the Spirit finds out what pleases the Lord.

The Fruit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no Law (Gal. 5:22-23). You must live the life of holiness and obedience to God.

Another area you must bear fruit is in the area of soulwinning. He who wins souls is wise and shall shine like stars forever. God had only One Son and He made Him a Soulwinner; but many parents will rather have it that their children are doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, business directors, and university-professors.

Well, in your own life, you must win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ, for that is why He died. Build your spirit up by the Word, by training, and by prayer, even praying in the Holy Spirit.

Walking by faith pleases God, for the righteous shall live by faith. We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). God called Abraham out of his father’s place, and he obeyed God and went, not knowing where he was going to, because he believed God and walked by faith.

Thomas told the other apostles that he will never believe that Jesus Christ has risen until he sees Him by himself. That is not faith and it displeases God. Renew your mind with God's Word and live according to the Word.

To please God, you must not love your life to death. The Saints overcame the devil by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their Testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death (Rev. 12:11).

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed striving against sin (Heb. 12:4). If you love any person or your own life more than Jesus Christ, you are not worthy of Him. You must take up your cross daily and follow Him (Lk. 9:23). Find out the Will of God for your life and follow it; don't compete with others.

To please God and make Him proud of you as He was proud of Job, you must not love the world or anything in the world. He who loves the world does not have the Love of the Father in him.

The things that are in the world are: the lust of flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The world will pass away with its entire works, but he who does the Will of God abides forever (1 Jn 2:15-17). What is there in the world that a Christian should envy?

Brethren, you have been called to liberty; only do not use your liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Now, the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, and heresies.

The list continues with: envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which the Bible declares that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God (Gal. 5:13-21).

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the Day of Redemption.

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice (Eph. 4:29-32). Crucify your flesh and its desires.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children; walk in love.

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for Saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the Wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them (Eph. 5:1-7). Set your mind on things Above, not on things on the earth. When Christ Who is our Life appears, then you also will appear with Him in Glory.

Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness. Put off all these things: anger, wrath, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man. Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another.

To please God, you must remove pride, because pride goes before destruction. Be humble always, because God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Learn to praise God always; worship and thank God, for He is worthy of our praise.

The Will of God in Christ Jesus for us is that we bring glory to Him. No matter how bad the surrounding circumstances may look like, praise and worship Him. God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Renew your mind so that you can think and judge the Way God thinks and judges. If Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Elijah, Elisha, Samuel, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jesus Christ, Peter, John, Paul, and others could please God, you too can.

Can the Lord describe you as a burning and shining light as He described John the Baptist? John was described thus because he did what God called him to do effectively; he did not love the world, but lived a separated life.

The period you spent not pleasing God is a wasted period, and the years you spent not pleasing God are wasted years. Remember that there is a Crown of Righteousness to be given to those who please God at the Coming of the Lord.

The Word of God is our reference point to know what pleases Him. Prove all things. Don’t walk and live according to your senses and reasoning!

As you please God, you are laying up treasures in Heaven, and nothing can happen to any treasure you store in Heaven. However, strive to endure to the end, so that no one takes your crown and reward.

It is the Lord Who works in you, both to will and to do according to His Will and Good Pleasure. It is not of him who runs, nor of him who wills; however, it is of the Lord who shows mercy. Therefore, be careful to give Him all the glory. You could become nothing without Jesus Christ. Life outside Jesus Christ is a mess.

One may plant, while another may water. But it is the Lord that makes His Work to grow. Therefore, both he who plants and he who waters are nothing; the One that should receive the glory is the Lord that makes His Work (the seed) to grow. And it is Him Who also gives seed to the planter, strength to the one who waters, and life to both of them.

Do not walk, sit, or stand among sinners. This is not to say that you will avoid them completely, for then, you will have to leave this world. Don’t be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

Remember that evil company corrupts good manners. Of course, you must have to preach to them so that they may be saved. Don’t be an accomplice to their evil deeds.

Your number one enemy to pleasing God is your flesh, and not the devil, the world, or anything else. Therefore, if you can subdue your flesh and its passions, you will do well in every area. If you do that and discipline yourself, then you are already a champion, because you cannot fail!

The devil has used films to corrupt the world so much. Even some so-called Christian films are not directed by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. You see a lot of nudity in many of those films, and they corrupt your mind. You may call them home-movies, but it makes no difference.

Have you not observed that even when people want to do advertisement of their products, they use seductive pictures to attract people’s attention? Some of them don’t know what they are doing, but many of them are conscious of what they are doing, because agents of the kingdom of darkness are out to corrupt people’s minds as they pass the roads.

Many spend their time in pornographic sites in the internet. Some websites will bring those seductive and destructive pictures to you by ‘force’ once you log in there. Many spend many hours watching films, but how long do they spend reading their Bibles and praying? Satan has

destroyed many children and adults through films and movies.

God wants us to be fruitful, and to produce the expected results. One area we should be fruitful in is in winning of souls. Jesus Christ is the True Vine and we are the branches. The Father, Who is the Vine-dresser, takes away every branch that does not bear fruit.

However, He prunes the branches that bear fruit, that they may bear more fruit. We are in Jesus Christ, and just as Jesus Christ bore Fruit by getting Followers and pleasing the Father, we too ought to win souls and please God.

Abide in Jesus Christ, and let Him abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in the Lord. He who abides in Him, and He in him, bears much fruit; for without Him, you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not abide in Him is cast out as a branch and is withered and burnt. The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit, so as to confirm that we are Jesus Christ's Disciples.

If we abide in Him and His Words abide in us, we will ask what we desire, and it shall be done for us. If we keep His Commandment, we will abide and remain in His Love, just as He kept His Father's Commandments and abides in His Love.

We are His Friends if we do whatever He commands us. We did not choose Him, but He chose us and appointed us that we should go and bear fruit, and that our fruit should remain, that whatever we ask the Father in His Name He may give us (Jn 15).

For us to be fruitful and productive requires that we have patience, endurance, and longsuffering. Just as different crops and trees take different periods to mature and produce fruits, so is the Christian life and the ministry.

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the Coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and the latter rain (Jas 5:7).

Jesus Christ says that if we are ashamed of Him and His Word, especially before this sinful and adulterous generation, He Himself will be ashamed of us before His Father (Mk 8:38). If we confess Him before men, He will also confess us before His Heavenly Father and before the holy angels (Matt. 10:32-33).

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever (Dan. 12:3). We must strive to win souls for the Lord no matter the cost.

Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance Godliness, to Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

For if these things are in you and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure; for if you do these things, you will never stumble; for so you will be abundantly allowed to enter the Kingdom of Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-11).

Apostle Paul, writing to the Galatians, spoke of what Apostle Peter said in another way. The Book of Galatians speaks of what the Bible translators translated as the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), even though it is actually ‘the fruit of the spirit (the human spirit).’

It is talking about what the recreated human spirit (by the Help of the Holy Spirit) produces. The fruit of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace,

longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no Law (Gal. 5:22-23).

As you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light (for the Fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them (Eph. 5:8-11). And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:24-25).

Father Abraham started as one person; God called him and as he believed God and obeyed Him, God multiplied him into a multitude as innumerable as the stars and as uncountable as the sand by the sea-shore (Heb. 11:12).

And today we are part of the offspring of Abraham through Jesus Christ. God will make great things out of anyone who trusts Him and does His Will.

Jesus Christ came alone, He followed God's Plan for His Life, and before He left for Heaven, He had got the twelve apostles and many other strong Disciples. Today, we are part of the Believers in Him; we are part of His Body (the Church) and the number of the sons brought to glory increases day by day.

This was made possible because He laid down His Life for the salvation of many. When you sacrifice for the Lord, and deny your body of its pleasures (as the Spirit leads), you can't be an ordinary person.

The early apostles and Disciples multiplied greatly, and that was God's Will for them. Apostle Peter's first preaching, brought about three thousand souls to the Lord Jesus Christ. Another preaching brought more souls (in thousands) to repentance (Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4).

The story became the same as the days went by and the number of the Disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem and many of the priests were obedient to the faith (Acts 6: 7).

Even when serious persecutions came, the Disciples preached wherever they went.

You must preach the Word (the Gospel), in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and Doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2). If you are ashamed of Jesus Christ and His Gospel, He will also be ashamed of you.

If you confess Him before men, He also will confess you before His Father and before the holy angels (Lk. 9:26). God will reward you abundantly if you win souls, because Jesus Christ gave up His Life for that purpose.

In every area of your life, be fruitful and productive. Be fruitful and productive: spirit, soul, and body. God told Adam to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.

That is still His Will for today: in finance, in health, in academics, in job, in ministry. Once you have found out God's Perfect Will for your life, work towards it and show God that He has not invested in you in vain, and He will be glad.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on Eternal Life. Flee evil things and pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness (1 Tim. 6:11-12).

Let no one despise you, but be an example to the Believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Do not neglect the gift that is in you. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Take heed to yourself and to the Doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this, you will save both yourself and those who hear you (1 Tim. 4:12-16).

You must discipline your body and bring it to subjection in order to obey God and fulfil His Purpose for your life. Run so as to obtain: if people who take part in games train hard to excel, how much more you whose engagement and investment is eternal?

Love not the world or anything in the world. Without holiness, no eye shall see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). God is of a Purer Eyes than to behold iniquity (Habk. 1:13); and only the pure in heart shall see Him.

If God turned His Face away from Jesus Christ, as He hung on the Cross carrying the sins of the whole world, who are you that God will compromise His Standards? Be holy for the Lord is holy.

And if you call on the Father, Who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear (1 Pet. 1:16-17). Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for God is no respecter of persons.

Daniel and his friends feared God and God promoted them and delivered them. The Eyes of the Lord run to and fro the face of the earth to show Himself strong on behalf of anyone, who will believe Him, obey Him and cooperate with Him. With God, nothing shall be impossible.

The Church is marching on and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. The Letters that the Lord wrote to the seven Churches tell us what He expects from us, how some of us are, and the reward He has for us.

Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns. Stop procrastination and do what you are supposed to do now. Don't wait for tomorrow, for you don't know what tomorrow will bring forth.

We are a generation of blessings. We have been blessed, and empowered to bless others. Bless and do not curse; bless those who curse you! Leave vengeance to the Lord; the Lord will avenge you.

Of course, there are times you will need to cause someone to submit to the Gospel and the Lord by God's Power as Apostle Paul did to Elymas who was distracting Sergius Paulus. There are times that you will need to put the fear of the Lord into people and judge hardened sinners (as God leads) as Peter did to Ananias and Sapphira

Beware of the relationships you keep; beware of the relationships you are involved in. Evil communication or association corrupts good manners. Also, determine to be faithful and trustworthy in any relationship you keep.

THE POWER OF FAITH

Faith makes it possible for someone to please God. Why? Because whoever comes to God must believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Faith is believing that God can neither lie nor disappoint you. God cannot fail to fulfill His Word. Instead of His Word not to come to pass, heaven and earth shall pass away (Matt. 24:35).

Faith is: “I will do this because God said I should do it.” It is: “I will not do this because God said that I should avoid it.” As a matter of fact, faith is comprehensive and embraces many things.

The study of the eleventh chapter of the Book of the Hebrews will confirm this to you. Faith is not just about receiving healings, prosperity, breakthroughs, miracles, and such things. In fact, faith is obedience to the Word of God.

Faith will make you offer a more excellent sacrifice. Your work of faith gives you certified righteousness. Faith will make you please God against all odds. Pleasing God will make you rapturable.

Believing that God exists and that He rewards diligence and faithfulness will make you please Him. Faith will make you give heed to Godly fear and Godly fear leads to righteous living.

Faith will make you obey God no matter how difficult. God can tell you to do a difficult thing, but not an impossible thing. Faith will make you not to hold on to the things of this world.

Faith will make you have confidence in God, and you will wait patiently for the fulfillment of God's Promises. Faith will make you ride above natural laws; faith will give you a tangible miracle. Faith is judging God faithful; it is believing that God cannot lie and He is able to fulfil His Word without fail.

Believing God's Word will expand and multiply you beyond your imagination and expectation. Faith is being sure of God's Promises, even though you see it afar off. It is better to die believing God than to die a sinner and an unbeliever.

Faith is comprehensive and touches all aspects of the Word of God. No part of the Word of God can be separated from faith, for faith comes by the Word of God.

Faith involves believing the Word of God, embracing it, and confessing the Word of God. When you go for the Word of God and give enough time to it, your faith will grow exceedingly. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Having faith in God makes you see yourself as a pilgrim and a stranger in this world. Faith seeks a Homeland for it is not foolish. The end of faith (real faith) is Heaven. You cannot separate faith from repentance and holiness.

Being mindful of your past and the things of this world can make you go back (withdraw from the faith-life). The things you may be proud of may be the devil offering you an opportunity to go back from God.

Heavenly Country is a better country and cannot be comparable to anything in this life, anything in this world. God is not ashamed to be called your God as you live by faith. He has prepared very good things for you.

Faith will make you offer up your most treasured asset, even your life, for God’s Sake. Whatever you may give up for God, God will give it back to you many folds and in better ways.

Faith will make you bless yourself and declare good things ahead of time. Faith will make you declare to others the things that God has spoken, and you will plan and work towards them.

Faith will make you not to fear men. You will fear and honour God, risking even your life for Him instead of following men. Faith will make you refuse to be regarded higher, against God’s Plan for your life.

You will give up fame for the Cause of Jesus Christ. Faith will make you choose to suffer affliction with God’s people and for God’s Sake.

Faith will open your eyes to the temporal and temporary nature of the things of this world. Unbelief and faithlessness will blind your eyes to everlasting and eternal realities.

Faith will open and sharpen your understanding and make you put first things first. Walking by faith will remove the authority of men from you, and no matter what, you will do the Bidding of God, for your faith will give you protection; and protection is in obedience.

You will do what men cannot do and you will live supernaturally. Faith will give you victory over your enemies, and you will see breakthroughs in tough matters. Your work of faith will save you, even when you don’t deserve it.

There is so much to faith that time and space will not permit to expose all about it and to declare what the heroes of faith have done. For by faith the elders obtained a good testimony.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. The spirit-realm

controls the physical realm; the things which happen in the physical realm have been settled in the spirit-realm, directly or indirectly.

Instead of quarreling with or fighting someone, you may just have to deal with the spirit behind him or her, which uses him or her to carry out its wishes. The enemy is behind the scene.

Faith subdues kingdoms. Faith works righteousness; it obtains God's Promises. Faith stops the mouth of lions and the devourers. Faith quenches the violence of fire, trials, and persecutions.

It will cause you to escape the edge of the sword and other weapons, even atomic, hydrogen, and cobalt bombs. Faith will make you valiant in battle and turn to flight the armies of the enemies. Faith will cause the dead to come back to life.

Faith will make you pass through persecutions, even death because you have hope for the Resurrection and the reward. Faith will make you live a separated and an abnormal life for the Sake of Jesus Christ.

Faith will make you not to regard this world and its pleasures. You can receive a good report or testimony and still not obtain a particular promise, even your desire. Faith leads to perfection.

There are great faith and small faith (Matt. 8:10); feigned faith and unfeigned faith (1 Tim. 1:5, 2 Tim. 1:5); weak faith and strong faith (Rom. 4:17-20; Rom. 14:1); Abrahamic faith and Thomas' faith (Jn 20:19-29); wrecked faith and unwrecked faith (1 Tim. 1:19).

But, however small your faith may be, if there is no doubt in your heart, you can remove mountains (Matt. 17:20). Feigned faith is a pretending faith, while unfeigned faith is a sincere faith.

Abraham was not weak in faith but strong in faith, and did not consider his own body, already dead by human standards. He did not waver at the Promise of God through

unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

He believed in hope contrary to hope, in the Presence of Him Whom he believed − God, Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

Abrahamic faith does not see and yet believes, while the Thomas' type sees before believing. Believe that the Lord shall supply all your needs, according to His Riches in Glory in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

And no matter how the surrounding circumstances may look like, believe that the Lord will supply whatever you need: spiritually, mentally, physically, financially, materially, ministerially, maritally, etc.

Wrecked faith is as a result of backsliding. Faith works by love, and without love, your great and strong faith is nothing (1 Cor. 13:2). Also, faith must be accompanied by works, for without works, faith is dead, as the body without the spirit is dead (Jas. 2:26).

Have faith in God, or rather, have the Faith of God; have the God-kind of faith: the God-kind of faith works by speaking forth into existence those things that do not exist. God calls invisible things by names as though they did exist.

Faith works by speaking and believing; you can speak with your spirit, and you can speak with your mouth. Therefore, be very careful how you speak, and what you speak. Ask, seek, and knock. He who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened to.

Jesus Christ is the Solid Rock. All other grounds are sinking sand. If you have Jesus Christ, your faith should be very strong because He can neither lie, fail, nor disappoint. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1). Faith is: believing that God exists and that His Word is true and sure. It is being confident that what the Lord promised, He will perform without failure.

Faith is obedience to the Word of God in any area, because you believe that you are committed to obey Him as your Lord and Master. Faith is acting on the Word, taking action as directed by His Word.

But faith comes by hearing the Word of God (or as Apostle Paul put it, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17). When you hear the Gospel, the Gospel tells you that Jesus Christ suffered and died for you, and that if you receive Him, He will wash away your sins and save you.

When you submit to the Gospel, you receive faith by the Gospel (the Good News or the Word of God concerning salvation); and through the faith, you are saved when you confess Jesus Christ.

Then you don’t stop at that level of the knowledge of the Word of God; you progress by hearing, reading, studying, meditating on, and confessing the Word of God; and you increase your faith through those means. The Bible says that we should be filled with the Word of Christ in all wisdom (Col. 3:16).

The Word should dwell in us richly so that our faith will be stronger. We resist the devil steadfastly in faith, and faith is our shield that protects us from all the fiery arrows of the enemy. The righteous shall live by faith.

Faith works by love (Gal. 5:6). The Word of God says that if you have all faith that you can remove mountains, but have not love, you are nothing (1 Cor. 13:2). Among faith, hope, and love, the greatest is love.

Therefore, no matter the level of faith you may be operating in, you must love: first, love God with your all, so that you can keep His Commandments; second, you must

love others as yourself, so that you can do to them as you would have them do to you, as you desire they do to you.

The Word of God commands us to have faith in God (or literally, to have the Faith of God). We ought to have absolute confidence in our God, so that even if the seas roar, though the mountains may crumble, though the earth may quake, we should never be afraid, because we are confident that the Lord is with us and will shield us.

This is why we have to obey God absolutely, because it is sin and disobedience that brings guilt.

The Faith of God is the faith that calls those things that do not exist by name as though they do exist. God Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did, told Abraham that He has made him a father of many nations, when, as yet, he didn't even have a son.

But thanks to God that Abraham, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations. And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

He did not waver at the Promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

And, therefore, it was counted to him for righteousness (Rom. 4:17-22). It was through the God-kind of faith that He created the heavens and the earth. Even though they were not in existence, God declared that they should be, and they came to be.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (Heb. 11:3).

Whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but

believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Whatever things you will ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them (Mk 11:23-24). If you have faith, and do not doubt, if you say to a mountain, “Be removed and be cast into the sea,” it will be done. And whatever thing you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive (Matt. 21:21-22).

Some people have thought that Jesus Christ went about healing anyone He wanted to heal, but this is not true. Even though Jesus Christ was anointed without measure, people received their miracles both by the demonstration of the anointing upon Him, and by the exercise of their own faith.

The woman with the issue of blood, for example, received her healing by exercising her faith, and Jesus Christ told her, “Your faith has made you whole.” He told another that he will receive if he had faith, for all things are possible to him that believes (Matt. 9:22; Mk 9:23).

When He came to His Own place, His people despised Him, saying, “Is this not Jesus whose parents and brethren we know?” Their unbelief prevented Jesus Christ from doing mighty works among them (Matt. 13:54-58; Mk 6:1-6).

Unbelief, doubt, sin, disobedience, and fear are obstacles to faith. You must get rid of those things if you are going to excel in the faith-life, because the righteous one will live by faith. Faith will keep you free from the arrows and plans of the devil; and without faith, you give the devil a place in your life.

Faith and works go together. Faith without works is dead, and works without faith is self-righteousness and cannot save you or fulfil God’s Purpose for your life.

If you believe that God will protect you and provide for you, then you must be prayerful and learn to give; and if you fail in prayer and in giving, you will be disappointed.

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble! Abraham was justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar, and by works faith was made perfect (Jas 2:19-22).

Your faith is activated by prayer and confession. With the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation (Rom. 10:10).

Whatever you believe God can do for you, pray for that: and when you ask, you receive; when you seek, you will find; and when you knock, the door will be opened to you (Matt. 7:7). Don't joke with prayer; it is one of the most important things in your life.

There is the gift of faith which the Holy Spirit imparts to a Spirit-filled Believer to help him receive a miracle from God. It is distinguished from the gift of the working of miracles in that the working of miracles works miracles actively, while the gift of faith receives miracles passively.

When Daniel was not hurt by the lions in the den, it was the gift of faith that was in operation, but when Jesus Christ commanded the waves of the sea and the wind to cease, it was the working of miracles that was in operation. But the gift of faith is given to Believers as the Spirit of God wills.

Faith is perfected through practice. It is like taking part in athletics or sports; you have to train and practice so that you can perfect in your area and be able to win the game. It is like lifting weights; you start with lighter ones, and you progress to heavier ones.

Even though you would be able to lift heavy objects in future, you wouldn't be able to lift them at the beginning. The Lord says that if you have faith as small as the mustard seed, you can remove mountains.

The practice is not necessarily to get more faith (and you need more faith; the Bible speaks of great faith), but to strengthen and activate the faith.

The elders of old, the Saints and Servants of old, received good reports or testimonies by faith. Without faith,

it is impossible to please to God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:2,6).

Abel gave to God by faith. Noah obeyed God by faith. Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.

Faith purifies the heart; the Word of God which is the truth sanctifies us; by the Word, we are made clean (Acts 14:9; Jn 17:17; Jn 15:3). There is strong faith (Rom. 4:17-20). There is weak faith (Rom. 14:1). There is shipwrecked faith (1 Tim. 1:19). There is unfeigned faith (1 Tim. 1:5).

Anything not done in faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). We walk by faith, and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). Don't deny the faith, and don't cast off your first faith. Do not err from the faith, but earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints (Jude 1:3).

Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, the Life, and the Door. He is the Way to God and anything you may desire. He is the Truth, and any other thing opposed to him is fake. Jesus Christ is the Source of life for anybody who desires life. Also, He is the Door to the Treasures of God.

POWER OVER ALL DEVILS AND EVIL

When the Lord Jesus Christ rose up from the dead, He declared that all power in Heaven and on earth has been given to Him. Now, Jesus Christ is God, and has never lost power as God (though He emptied Himself of His Divine Power before coming to the earth).

God is Lord over the entire universe, including the earth, whether it is physical, spiritual, or any other realm.

Even the devil is nothing before God, and cannot do anything without God's Permission.

When God was to send satan out of Heaven, He did not need to fight with the devil because that would have amounted to giving much credit to the devil: He only sent Archangel Michael to do the job.

All the things that the devil is doing today and all his plans, boastings, and pride are because God allowed him (God permitted him, even though He never commissioned him). When his time is up, God will put him into the Lake of Fire which burns with brimstone.

However when you (as a landlord) leases your house to somebody for a period of time, within that period of time, you don't intrude anyhow into the house, except with your tenant's permission.

This is what happened when God created man and gave him dominion over the earth and the things in it. The devil came and tempted Adam (the first man), and because Adam disobeyed God, Adam lost the dominion God gave him to the devil.

It is that dominion, and for the restoration of mankind that the Lord Jesus Christ came. You know, when man sinned, demons, pain, sicknesses, diseases, poverty, and things like them started to have effects on men.

But Jesus Christ triumphed over principalities and powers, and made a public show of them. He said, "Go therefore...." He meant that the restored man, the Church, should go in the power and authority that He collected from the devil (which was originally man's).

However, the devil will continue to operate and rule over people (except the Christians) until Adam's time is over, that is, at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This is why the devil is called the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4).

It is only Christians that have power and authority over the devil. Christ delivered us from the power of darkness

and translated us to His Kingdom, and the devil doesn't have power and authority over us.

Therefore, none of us should get entangled in sin and disobedience, so that the devil will not lord it over us. It is not a matter of who has power but who has the legal ground to use the power, because the devil's power is powerless before the Holy Spirit's Power (the Spirit that lives in us).

You will punish every act of disobedience when your obedience is complete (2 Cor. 10:6). A word is enough for the wise.

Some Believers wonder why the devil prevails over them, why they still suffer under him, contrary to the Will of God. I said, 'contrary to the Will of God,' because we will pass through persecutions, trials, tests, and temptations, and the devil is responsible for the persecutions, trials, and temptations.

However, many suffer what they shouldn't have suffered because they broke the hedge around them, and gave the devil and his demons openings.

"Behold I give to you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Lk. 10:19).

This is the Word of Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God, Who can neither lie nor fail to perform what He has said. Instead of His Word not to come to pass, heaven and earth shall pass away.

But why do the devil, his demons, and his human agents hurt and harm those who believe in Christ? It is a matter of breaking the defence.

You can let the devil have a place in you by carelessness, disobedience, compromise, unbelief, and sin. And the Word of God tells us to give the devil no place in our lives, even in the lives of our family members (Eph. 4:27).

That is why the Word says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your family” (Acts 16:31). You have authority over your family and you can command the devil, in the Name of Jesus Christ, to remove his hands from your family members.

The devil oppresses, obsesses, and possesses people through his demons. Demonic oppression involves afflicting your body with sicknesses, diseases, pains, etc. Demonic obsession involves influencing your mind so that you are pressed to feel or think a particular way. Demonic possession involves their taking over your spirit, soul, and body completely.

We have power over the devil and his works and the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

We have the power and authority to subdue things and beings that are not subject to God. God anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power, and He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him (Acts 10:38).

And the Lord tells us that we will do the works that He did; we will do greater works than those He did. The Holy Spirit was sent to us when He went back to Heaven, and the Lord sits at the Right Hand of God, where He lives to make intercession for us. We are not alone!

The Holy Spirit of the Living God, Who lives in us, is our Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Standby, Comforter, Strengthener, and Counselor. You have overcome because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

The Believers will cast out demons in the Name of Jesus Christ; they will take up serpents and won’t be harmed by them; if they drink deadly poison (witchcraft or chemical),

it will not hurt them; and they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

When the Lord sent out the twelve, they were empowered to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons (Matt. 10:7-8). We are to do the same.

The Spirit of God that came upon you is not just for speaking in tongues. It is to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind.

He came upon you to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord (Lk. 4:18-19). You carry the very Power of God!

Christians receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and they are made witnesses, who by signs and wonders, prove that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The anointing breaks every yoke and lifts every burden. The Kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

We ought to be so anointed that we can no more be yoked. We should give ourselves to consistent prayer-life, with self-discipline and self-denial, so that we will move well with the Holy Ghost.

Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of God. Whoever assembles against us shall fall for our sake. No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against us in judgment, we shall condemn.

This is the heritage of the Servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Him (Isa. 54:15,17). Live a holy and a righteous life, and no devil nor their works will hurt you! In Christ Jesus, you are secure and protected.

Surely the Lord shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His Feathers, and under His Wings you shall take refuge; His Truth shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you. Because you have made the Lord your Refuge, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels Charge over you to keep you in all your ways.

In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra. He will deliver you and set you on high. When you call on Him, He will answer you. He will be with you in trouble, deliver you, and honour you.

With long life He will satisfy you and show you His Salvation (Psa. 91). You need not fear death, for you cannot die except the Lord permits it.

The Lord has called us to contend with the forces of darkness, and pull down the strongholds of the enemy, the devil.

No matter what you may be going through, there is power to set you free, and that power and authority is available in Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. The Lord has sent us to preach deliverance to the captives. These days, seducing spirits and doctrines of devils abound.

The Anointing of God’s Spirit on you breaks every yoke of the devil and lifts the burdens of the enemy. Therefore, learn to wait on the Lord to renew your strength and increase the anointing in your life so that you can accomplish what God wants to be accomplished through you.

When the anointing in your life is strong enough, witches and wizards will run away from you. You should walk in the mountain-moving faith.

When you walk that way, no arrow the devil throws at you will succeed. Faith is the shield which protects you

from the fiery darts of the enemy. Just as Daniel stayed with the lions without being hurt, you too can stay where the power of the devil is concentrated, and yet nothing will harm you.

Learn to praise God always. Praise puts the enemy to the flight. Prayer is like throwing bomb to the camp of the enemy; they will run for their lives, and many will be destroyed thereby. However, praise brings down God's Presence, and they cannot escape God's Intention; God is fearful in praises.

The walls of Jericho fell down when God's people praised Him. In prayer, God sends angels; but in praises, God comes down to do the work by Himself. When God comes down, which devil will stand?

God will remove sicknesses and diseases from you, so that none of the diseases or sicknesses the enemy may throw at you will get you. But you must be obedient to God; you must keep a close and intimate relationship with God to be covered by Him always.

Don't be afraid while doing what the Lord has called you to do. God calls people and commissions them without leaving them helpless; rather, the Lord commissions us with power. It is the Power and Anointing of the Holy Spirit that will break every shackle, destroy every yoke, and lift every burden.

A HEAVEN TO GAIN AND A HELL TO AVOID

Heaven and Hell are real. I know many people don't believe in them. Some believe in literal Heaven but not in literal Hell. Some believe that Heaven and Hell are in this

world; what a pity! Many think that a Loving God Who is full of mercy cannot throw someone into Hell Fire.

However, they might have not considered the fact that He is not only a Consuming Fire (Heb. 12:29), but it is also a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the Living God (Heb. 10:31). God is no respecter of persons. Even though He is full of mercy, He is also the God of Justice. God is a Loving God, Who also is a Consuming Fire.

If God's Word says that there are Heaven and Hell, then they exist. God cannot lie and does not have the ability to deceive. It is the devil that lies and deceives people.

Jesus Christ told His apostles that if there were not many mansions in His Father's House, He would have told them (Jn 14:2). He went to prepare a Place for us and when He is through, He will come back to take us with Him, so that where He is, there we may be also.

Hell was not made for mankind. Hell was made for satan and his fallen angels and demons. Hell was made for them because they rebelled against God. When man disobeyed God and rebelled against Him, he put himself into the same position as them and so was destined for Hell.

It is only Jesus Christ that can save man from Hell. If you want to avoid Hell, then you must accept Jesus Christ and live to please God.

Heaven is a very good place. It is the Abode of God. Everything in Heaven is perfect. There is neither evil, sin, nor pain in Heaven. Our tears will be wiped out in Heaven. No human word can describe the beauty of Heaven.

You must do all you can to be there. It will profit you nothing if you gain the whole world and lose your own soul (Matt. 16:26). There is no devil or demon in Heaven.

Hell, on the other hand, is a very bad place. No human word can express the horror and suffering of Hell. The suffering of Hell cannot be equated to that of this world, except your are going to use an infinite relationship.

The fire of Hell does not quench and the worms of Hell do not die (Mk 9:43-48). In Hell, there is gnashing of teeth; if you enter there, you will thirst and thirst and thirst, and there will be no water to quench your thirst.

The Kingdom Of Heaven is eternal and forever, just as Hell Fire is eternal and forever. Once you enter any of them, there is no turning back. If you enter Heaven, you will spend eternity with God, and if you enter Hell Fire, you will spend eternity with satan.

Actually, God will neither put you into Heaven nor Hell; you are the one who chooses where you will go. Your life on earth and your relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the Spirit of God, will determine where you will spend eternity.

The Word of God declares that He will make a New Heaven and a New Earth (Isa. 65:17). The Heaven it is talking about here is not the Third Heaven where God lives and where we will be. There is a first heaven (the sky), and there is the second heaven (the planetary bodies).

The Word says that when the Lord shall come again, the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the element shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also and the works that are there shall be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10).

Seeing that these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and Godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the Day of the Lord?

We, according to His Promise, look for New Heavens and a New Earth wherein righteousness dwells. Seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found by Him in peace without spot, and blameless (2 Pet. 3:11-14).

One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His Promise, as some men count slackness, but

is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night (2 Pet. 3:8-10). Don't reason within you that the Lord will not come again since He has not come all these while.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which, no man shall see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). It is only the pure in heart that shall see the Lord (Matt. 5:8). Make up your mind and make every effort to be holy, righteous, obedient, spotless, and blameless.

No impure thing will enter either the Kingdom of Heaven or the New Earth. Sin leads you to Hell Fire. Don't live in sin; you have no reason to serve satan.

Many have been taken to Heaven and to Hell, and they have told us what they saw. We know that their testimonies are true because the Bible says so. Apostle Paul was taken to Heaven, the Third Heaven (2 Cor. 12:2).

Apostle John was taken to both Heaven and Hell (Rev. 19 to 22). It is because of God's Love for us that He shows us things ahead of time, and warns us to labour for Heaven and to avoid Hell. Don't be foolish but understand God's Plans. Apostle John also spoke of a New Heaven and a New Earth (Rev. 21:1).

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust do destroy, and where thieves break through and steal.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust do destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matt. 6:19-21).

And if either your right eye or your right hand will cause you to sin, pluck it out and cut it off, and cast them off: for it is profitable for thee that one of your members should perish than that your whole body be cast into Hell (Matt. 5:29-30).

Not everyone that calls on the Lord Jesus Christ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that does the Will of our Heavenly Father. Many will say to the Lord in that Day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name? And in Your Name have cast out devils? And in Your Name done many wonderful works?”

And then will He say to them, “I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity” (Matt. 7:21-23). Why do you call Him, Lord, Lord, and do not do what He tells you to do? (Lk. 6:46).

The wicked shall be turned into Hell (Psa. 9:17). The way of the adulteress leads to Hell (Prov. 7:27). Because the sinners have increased themselves, Hell has enlarged itself to accommodate them (Isa. 5:14).

Do not fear them who can kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him Who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell (Matt. 10:28).

The story (not a parable, because Jesus Christ said, “There was a certain rich man...”) of the rich man and Lazarus gives us an insight into the suffering of Hell (Lk. 16:19-31).

God took Enoch and Elijah to Heaven so that they did not see death because they pleased God. God’s Presence fills the Heaven and the earth. If your name is written in the Book of Life, in Heaven, rejoice.

Heaven cannot be compared to anything on this earth. If all the gold, the silver, the oil, and whatever there is, are combined together and given to one person, they will not compare to the bliss of Heaven. The gold of Heaven is pure gold.

It is not the Will of God that any soul should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). He would have all men to be saved. However, God will not force anyone: He has set before men good and bad, life and death, Heaven and Hell.

Men choose what they want and God implement them. You cannot run away from God; you cannot hide yourself from Him. Today is the acceptable time, the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2).

Don’t say that you will change your ways tomorrow, because tomorrow may be too late. Your life is like a vapour that vanishes and a flower that withers easily (Jas 1:11; Jas 4:14). The Mill of God grinds so slowly, but it grinds so small.

Keep on doing good, and don’t faint; God will surely reward you at last. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.

Behold, the Lord is coming quickly, and His Reward is with Him, to give to every one according to his work. Are you ready for the Lord’s Coming?

Be faithful till death and you can never lose anything. Whatever you may lose in this life, the Lord will replace for you many folds. He who finds his life will lose it, but he who loses his life for the Lord will save it. God knows everything about you, including your works of faith: the things you do for His Name.

BEING STRONG IN THE LORD

The Church is marching on, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail! Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His Might (Eph. 6:10). This is a Command which the Lord has given to us. If the Lord has commanded us to be strong in Him, then we must obey Him and do just that.

How do we get strong in the Lord? There are many ways to get strong in the Lord, but we will start with the way that is given to us in the same chapter, and that is by putting on the whole Armour of God.

Armour is a defensive weapon; this is why we talk of armoured cars or vehicles in warfare. But looking at the armour we are given, we notice that one of them is an offensive weapon, and that is the Word of God, which the Bible calls ‘the Sword of the Spirit’ (Eph. 6:17).

There are many more offensive weapons we use and can use in our spiritual warfare. You know that we do not war against flesh and blood but against spiritual entities. The weapons we fight with are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4).

Other weapons (defensive and offensive) that we will consider include: the Name of Jesus Christ, the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Fire of the Holy Spirit, the anointing, speaking in tongues, praises, fasting, etc.

God showed me, by revelation, that certain situations require certain weapons; therefore, don’t expect to use only particular ones and say that others are not necessary. I might have thought the same way, but God showed me otherwise.

One mighty weapon to use in our Christian life and spiritual warfare is the weapon of obedience. We will be able to punish every act of disobedience when our own obedience is complete (2 Cor. 10:6).

Absolute obedience to God is holiness. Obedience is better than sacrifice and self-denial (1 Sam. 15:22).

According to the sixth chapter of the Book of Ephesians, we should be strong in the Lord and in the power of His Might. We should put on the whole Armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the whole Armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

We are to gird our waist with the belt of truth. It is the belt that holds your armour or wears together. The Word of God is the Word of Truth. The Word speaks of sanctification by the Word which is truth (Jn 17:17).

The Word of God cleanses us as we hear it (Jn 15:3). We are to rightly divide the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15). To rightly divide the Word of Truth is to interpret the Word aright. It is to put Scripture where it belongs; and the Bible speaks of comparing Scripture with Scripture (1 Cor. 2:13).

Let the Word dwell in you richly in all wisdom (Col. 3:16). The belt of truth is a clear understanding of the Word of God.

Then, we should put on the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate of righteousness protects your heart, your spirit, for your heart is located around your breast or chest. When we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, we received the gift of righteousness from Him, which gave us a right-standing with God.

But the Bible says that he who does righteousness is righteous as Jesus Christ is righteous. If you commit sin, if you live in sin, you are of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). Righteousness

is doing right; it is doing the good that you ought to do (Jas 4:17).

Then comes the shoeing of our feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. It is the Gospel, the Good News of the Kingdom that brings peace to men; therefore, preach the Gospel, the Word of God, in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2).

Follow peace with all men (Heb. 12:14). Inasmuch as it lies with you, live peaceably with all (Rom. 12:18). Don't allow strife, envy, quarrels, and contentions into your life.

You must take the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. The devil throws many wicked arrows at us, and it is only faith that can protect us.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). Therefore, faith is being convinced of, being sure of the Word of God.

When you have faith, you are confident that your Almighty God will do for you what He says He will do for you.

Also, take the helmet of salvation. The Word speaks of the hope of salvation which shall be revealed in the Last Day (1 Thes. 5:8). It is the helmet that will protect your head; if your head is not protected, you may as soon become a dead man.

Many are walking around as Christians while they are already dead. In this age where evil abounds, it is your salvation, which is the hope of the Glory that shall be revealed when Christ comes, that will protect you.

Without such hope, your love will grow cold and you will backslide. But it is only those who endure to the end that shall be saved (Matt. 24:13).

Take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The Sword of the Spirit is the offensive declaration and confession of the Word of God with your mouth.

As you speak the right Scriptures, in the spiritual realm, the Word you speak come out of your mouth as sword, piercing the devil. The Word of God comes out of your mouth as fire and as hammer (Jer. 23:29).

Then you are to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful in prayer with all perseverance and supplication for all the Saints (Eph. 6:18).

Watch and pray that you may not fall into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matt. 26:41). Have you known that prayer is one of the things that Christians find very hard to do, even though it is indispensable and should be part of our lives?

Maintain a consistent prayer-life. Add fasting to your prayer, for fasting multiplies the power of prayer many times. If you say you can't fast, even till 12:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. because you are pregnant or sick, the day you may have miscarriage or die, you will judge for yourself whether you are wiser than God.

Other weapons include the Name of Jesus Christ. At the Name of Jesus Christ, every knee should bow, of things (beings) in heaven, and of things (beings) on earth, and of things (beings) under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9-11).

The Blood of Jesus Christ protects us from the attacks of the enemy. The Blood speaks better things than the blood of Abel (Heb. 12:24). Learn to plead the Blood of Jesus Christ; it is a good attitude. However, don't plead the Blood in fear, for the hosts of Heaven are for you and with you.

The Holy Ghost's Fire is a mighty weapon that is at our disposal. Many don't believe in it. However, inasmuch as there are ways people pray which I don't like, the Lord showed me the effectiveness of the Fire of the Holy Ghost in spiritual warfare (Matt. 3:11).

The anointing is another mighty weapon of spiritual warfare, and there are different kinds and levels of the anointing. The Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit breaks every yoke (Isa. 10:27).

Speaking in tongues is another mighty weapon. When you speak in tongues, you speak mysteries (hidden things) to God, you confuse the devil, and you pray for what you don't know of, the right way (1 Cor. 14:2; Rom. 8:26).

Praise is a weapon that scatters devils and sets confusion into the kingdom of darkness. Use it always. The last weapon we will discuss is spiritual gifts. The Manifestation of the Spirit (spiritual gift) is given to everyone for the good of all (1 Cor. 12:7). Use your own spiritual gift(s) effectively.

But to put on any armour, you must be spiritually alive and strong. First, you must be born again. Then you should be filled with the Holy Spirit, for you are endued with God's Power when you are filled. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead you.

Let the fruit of the recreated human spirit (or the Fruit of the Spirit, according to the King James Version and some other versions) be abundant in you (Gal. 5:22-23). Make every effort to stand so that you will not fall.

As Christians, we are supposed to be mighty in words and deeds. When people see us, they are supposed to see Jesus Christ. God does not expect us to remain as spiritual babies, but we are to grow and mature to the fulness of the Stature of Christ Jesus. Seek to know the Lord more than before; seek God more than anything else.

Learn to praise and worship God always. The angels in Heaven worship God always. They sing, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty..." and they fear and bow down before the Lord. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The more you praise and worship God, the more satan will run away from you.

They that know their God shall be strong, and they shall do exploits. To know your God, you have to know His Word and also know Him personally and intimately in prayer.

Knowing God will lead to your doing exploits, in signs, wonders, and miracles. You shall do the works that Jesus Christ did, even greater works than them.

The Kingdom of God operates according to certain Rules and Laws. Follow those Laws to achieve maximum benefits in the Kingdom. Do not blame God or anyone when you fail to keep to the Laws, because God cannot fail to keep His Own Part.

If you jump out of a high level above the ground, you will crash according to the law of gravity. If you have sex outside marriage, you can get pregnant, according to the law of pregnancy. If you pray, you receive; if you give, it will be given back to you; if you serve God, He will reward you.

There are also laws governing poverty, lack, and failure. Curses can work against you to bring poverty and failure to your life. Don’t curse yourself by speaking negative things about yourself. Some people speak negatively about themselves, because they want sympathizers. But, brother, you will end up losing than gaining.

Laziness will bring poverty, lack, and failure into your life. Be diligent in whatever you are doing, and the Lord will bring a surprising increase to your work. Be diligent in your assignment and in the ministry God has committed to your trust.

Lack of purpose or vision will work against your success; therefore, be focused in whatever you are doing. Avoid distractions.

Don’t live the normal life that everybody lives. Dare to live extra-ordinarily. That is God’s Will for you: living the extra-ordinary life. That extra-ordinary life is the supernatural life, and it transcends natural laws. It is the

life by the Spirit of God; it is living by faith, and not by sight.

Believers are those that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Disciples are those who follow the Way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians are those who are like Christ Jesus.

Believers, Disciples, Christians, or whatever we may be called, they mean the same thing; and they also mean different things. This is why someone can say there is a difference between a child of God and a son of God.

The difference or the similarity depends on what you have in mind, and on your interpreting them Biblically by the Spirit of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that Believers can be recognized. There are many ways to recognize a Believer. Of course, someone can put up a sign or character of a Believer to be taken as one, when in reality, the same is an unbeliever and a sinner.

One reason that policemen, sometimes, check and search cars with stickers having such inscriptions as ‘clergy,’ ‘man of God,’ ‘evangelist,’ etc, is because many had camouflaged as preachers and got away with crimes.

Therefore, all that glitters is not gold. This is one reason why you should follow the Leading of the Holy Ghost. You should follow the Witness of the Holy Spirit of the Living God in your heart.

Be sensitive to the stop signals and the go-ahead signals He gives you. He will guide you always. There are many wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matt. 7:15). Beware of men.

But there are many signs that can help you recognize a Believer. Because that lady sang wonderfully in the church does not make her a Believer.

Do you know that there are many agents of the kingdom of darkness who sing in choirs? Many church-workers are satanic agents. Some even pastor, preach, and teach the Bible. They can call Jesus Christ in pretence.

I am not saying this for you to become afraid or suspicious, but for you to be careful and be sensitive to the Leading of the Holy Spirit. This is one reason why you should know the Bible very well.

Did you notice that satan tried to deceive Jesus Christ using the Scriptures? But the Word of God says that we should rightly divide the Word of God. To divide it aright is to put it the right way, to interpret it well (2 Tim. 2:15).

We are instructed to compare Scripture with Scripture, to compare spiritual things with spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:13).

One of the signs of Believers is that they do the works that Jesus Christ did (Jn 14:12). The works include: the preaching, the teaching, the miracles, the healings, etc.

Of course, simply because God used or is using someone to perform miracles, signs, and wonders doesn't mean that everything in his life or everything that he preaches or teaches is right. Remember that God used a donkey to speak to Balaam (Num. 22:30).

The Holy Spirit that we received when we were baptized in the Holy Ghost and filled with Him is the Spirit of Power. God created the whole universe by the Power of His Spirit.

It is not by power (human strength), nor by might (military power), but by the Spirit of God (Zech. 4:6). We receive power after that we are filled with God's Spirit, after He comes upon us, and that Power of the Holy Spirit makes us witnesses (proof-providers) for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). We are partakers of the Divine Nature.

But we need to be anointed with the Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit. The more we are led by Him, the more we obey God, and the more we discipline and deny our flesh, the more the Holy Spirit anoints us with His Power.

The Anointing and Power of the Holy Ghost breaks every yoke of the enemy (Isa. 10:27). The walls of Jericho

crumbled under this power.

Therefore, the next time you are confronted with challenges, it is an opportunity to prove to the world and the devil that you carry the Power of the Living God. Don't shake the next time you see a blind man.

Apostle Peter commanded the lame man at the Beautiful Gate to rise up in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and, fearlessly, held the man and lifted him up (Acts 3:6-8). That deaf and dumb man that will come your way will be set free! Amen.

Jesus Christ was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and power, and He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him (Acts 10:38).

When the Disciples went everywhere, preaching Jesus Christ, God worked with them, and confirmed their words with signs following (Mk 16:20). That power and anointing is available for us today, for we are in the same dispensation.

The signs that follow Believers are that they cast out devils or demons in the Name of Jesus Christ; they speak in new tongues; they are not harmed by serpents; if they drink poison or any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; and they lay hands on the sick and the sick recover (Mk 16:17-18).

Believers are given power to tread upon or trample on serpents (demons) and scorpions (their agents) and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt or harm them (Lk. 10:19).

You are supposed to be casting out demons. Don't be afraid of them; it is the Holy Spirit, not you that expels them. Your responsibility is to give the command in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Finger of God (the Holy Ghost) will accomplish it.

This is why you need to build yourself up by the study of God's Word, by prayer and fasting, and by obedience to

God’s Word so that the devil will find nothing in you (Lk. 11:20; Jn 14:30).

God has made us kings and priests, and we must operate in that power, authority, and realm! As kings, we should reign with the Lord. We should make commands and decrees that carry power and come to fulfilment. As priests, we should offer praises to God; we should stand in the gap and make intercession for people and places.

You are supposed to speak and to be speaking in new, other, or unknown tongues. There are the tongues of men and of angels (1 Cor. 13:1). When you are baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost, it will be evidenced by speaking in new tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 19:1-7; Acts 10:44-46).

Don’t stop there, but continue to speak in tongues because, by speaking in tongues, you speak mysteries to God (1 Cor. 14:2), you build yourself up spiritually (1 Cor. 14:4), and you allow the Holy Spirit to help you pray for the right things in the right way (Rom. 8:26-27).

If you come across snakes, they should not harm you. Apostle Paul was expected to drop dead by the heathen, when he was attacked by a viper, but nothing happened to him (Acts 28:3-6).

This is not to say that you should tempt God by running around for snakes to show them that you have God’s Power. Don’t be like the man that was eaten up by a lion in a zoo, in an attempt to show that he possessed God’s Power.

Neither chemical nor witchcraft poison should hurt you. Acid will not burn you because when power jam power, the lesser power will bow. When you visit someone, control your appetite for food and drinks. However, if you want to eat or drink, it is good.

Don’t be afraid, but rather pray over the food and drink, and bless them by the Word of God and by prayer, and nothing will harm you (1 Tim. 4:4,5).

According to the place we are discussing, the Believer will lay his hand on the sick, and the sick shall recover.

Notice that this place says that they will recover. Not all healings are instant; therefore, the next time you pray for the sick in faith, don't be discouraged if the healing is not instant.

Of course, there are the gifts of healings (1 Cor. 12:9), but the prayer of faith shall save the sick (Jas 5:15). There are many other signs of the Believers in Jesus Christ.

Believers are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, and we are to proclaim the Praises of Him Who called us out of darkness into His Marvelous Light.

There are certain qualities that should be seen in you as a Christian. The presence and degree of those qualities in your life determine how important you are to God.

The sons of God are to manifest as His sons. Don't die as a mere man when you are a son of God and a god. The Lord predestined us to be conformed to the Image of His Son Jesus Christ, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren.

Also, have it in mind that many times, the sons of the devil associate with or exist among the sons of God, pretending to be sons of God. They may put on some of the characters of the Believer in pretence. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and He will not allow you to be deceived.

God blesses Believers and makes them blessings. Believers are blessed by the Lord, and when He blesses, empowers, and anoints Believers, it is so that they may be sources of blessings to others. A Believer you may consider as a poor man can speak forth a word of faith to you and you will see a surprising result in your life.

We must learn to walk in the Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit that is upon us. Renew and increase the anointing upon your life by prayer, fasting, and waiting on God. Elijah said, "If I am a man of God, let fire fall down," and fire fell down. What proves you are empowered, as a Believer?

BECOMING A PRAYER-WARRIOR

Jesus Christ told us a parable to the intent that we know that men ought always to pray and not faint (Lk. 18:1). The Word of God says that we should pray without ceasing, we should pray always (1 Thes. 5:17).

We are commanded to watch to prayer (1 Pet. 4:7), and to watch and pray (Matt. 26:41). Why should we pray? Because the Word of God says that we receive when we ask, we find when we seek, and we have an open door when we knock (Matt. 7:7).

If your son asks you of bread, you do not give him a stone; if he asks of a fish, you don't give him a snake. In the same vein, if he asks for an egg, you do not think of giving him a scorpion.

If we know to give good things to our children, how much more will our Father in Heaven give good things to us? (Matt. 7:9-11; Lk. 11:11-13). Do you trust man more than God? Cursed is he that puts his trust in man instead of in God (Jer. 17:5).

God, the Maker of all things, is able to do all things. He can neither lie nor fail to perform His Word (Heb. 6:18). Instead of one thing that has gone out of the Mouth of God not to come to pass, heaven and earth shall pass away (Matt. 24:35).

Has He said it? He will do it also. This is one reason we should obey the Instruction of the Lord that we should study the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15) and be full of it (Col. 3:16).

If you know the Word of God, you will know His Provisions for you. If you are full of God's Word, you will

know your rights, privileges, and inheritances in the Kingdom.

This will make you receive from God the things that you need, and to stop the works of the devil from coming to pass in your life. You will also be able to overcome tests, trials, and temptations.

The problem is that many Believers don't pray. Many don't maintain a consistent prayer-life. Many have made many decisions and resolutions which they failed to keep.

They decided that they will pray this long or that long everyday, but they went back to prayerlessness after a short while. A prayerful Christian is a powerful Christian whereas a prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.

Of course, everybody prays; even powerless Christians pray. But God has declared that the prayer of the sinner is an abomination to Him (Prov. 15:8). If you are a sinner, if you are not born again, the prayer that God wants from you right now is the prayer of repentance and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Saviour.

He came down from Heaven, suffered, died, and resurrected again for your sins, so that you may be justified and made righteous before God (Jn 1:12; Rom. 3:24).

Why don't people pray? Many don't pray because of laziness. They sleep too much and find it easier to do many other things than to pray.

Many don't pray because they feel, on the inside of them, that it really makes no difference whether or not they pray. They say that whatever will be, will be, and whatever will not be, will not be. But that is not true; the devil has subtly told people that.

Some don't pray because of business. My own definition of business is whatever makes you busy. Your job can keep you busy; your relationship can keep you busy; even preaching can keep you so busy that you won't pray as you are supposed to.

Ignorance of God and His Ways makes people not to pray as they are supposed to. Some don't know what the Bible teaches about prayer. Some teach about prayer very well and yet don't pray.

Satanic or demonic strongholds and obsession are other factors that make people not to pray. Have you ever wondered why you start feeling sleepy and weak when you want to pray or when you are praying?

You may see someone that will start sleeping when he starts praying, but when the same person wants to watch a football match in the television, the sleep leaves him. That is demonic remote-control.

This is one reason you don't need to eat too much (or even at all) in the night. When your body feels fasted in the night, it will be easier for you to overcome sleep in the night.

Also, eat at least three hours before going to bed. This will minimize or remove the ability of demons and their human agents to make you sleep and sleep and sleep. It will also make it hard for demons to force you have the experiences that you don't like in dreams.

Some people wake up early in the morning, and instead of rising up to pray, they decide to sleep a little more and they find out that they never wake up until it is late.

Some people decide to lie down on their beds and pray, and before long, they start sleeping and end up not praying effectively. To pray effectively, you must discipline yourself. You will need to plan and implement your prayer-time.

It is one thing to pray, and it is another thing to maintain a steady prayer-life. Some people, after listening to good messages or reading books on prayer, decide that they are going to pray two, three, or more hours everyday.

Some may do it for one, two, three, or more days, and before you know it, they get back to inconsistent prayer-life. Praying long is good, but if it is one or two hours you

are able to pray everyday, maintain it and make it consistent: but increase the time, as you are able.

I recommend that every Believer should pray for at least two hours everyday, but it is not specifically written in the Bible. Take a day or more to do some personal fasting. Regular fasting with prayer will make you a spiritual giant.

Prayer should be very important to you as a Christian. Jesus Christ prayed effectively and always. Apostle Paul told us to pray always and without ceasing.

There are many conditions to receiving answers to your prayers. One condition is to pray in faith (Jas 1:6-8); another is to pray without doubting and wavering; another is to pray in the Name of Jesus Christ (Jn 16:24); another is to bear fruit that will remain (Jn 15:16); still, another is to do those things that please God (1 Jn 3:22).

Of course, prayer will not work in an unforgiving heart, because if you don't forgive, God will not forgive you also, and you will be sinful when screened spiritually (Mk 11:25-26). Pray according to the Will of God (1 Jn 5:14-15).

There are other conditions, but one thing you must realize is that the bottom-line lies in the fact that what we receive from God is as a result of the Sacrifice that Jesus Christ performed for us.

It is not of him that wills nor of him that runs, but of God that shows mercy (Rom. 9:15-16). Time and chance happen to everything on earth (Eccl. 9:11). Therefore, you should wait patiently for your answer if it delays. Delay is not denial, and God knows the best for you.

This is why it is necessary you pray according to the Will of God. Prayer is not "Give me this or that" only. Prayer is talking to God and waiting for Him to speak to you also.

Don't rush out of the Presence of God. Also, learn to pray in the Holy Ghost. Pray in tongues always and everyday. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray for the right things in the right way (Rom. 8:26-27).

We are a triumphant people, a triumphant Church, and we enforce the victory that the Lord has won for us by prayer and speaking forth of words of faith.

Learn to stay alone with God, praying to Him. Wait on God patiently. Speak to God and allow Him speak to you by listening and being quiet before the Lord.

Satan is afraid of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; satan is afraid of good preaching and right teaching; yet, satan fears prayer more than all of them. It is prayer that holds all these things together and makes them effective.

Without prayer, even your spiritual activities will fail, be unproductive, or be less productive. Yet, remember that fasting increases the power and effectiveness of prayer many folds.

Prayer is very powerful, and we have to pray always with all kinds of prayer. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much and is powerful. Prayer is a force that many have refused to use, even though it is within their reach. Men of all ages and nations have been praying.

In fact, man has that instinct within him; man has the desire to communicate with His Creator; hence, even unbelievers pray. But the prayer of the wicked is an abomination to God (Prov. 15:8).

However, God (being a Good God) gives His rain, sun, children, air, etc to all men; and if they were to buy them, with what will they buy them? He will also hear the cry of the needy!

God gave man authority over the earth, though man lost that authority to the devil when he sinned against God by disobeying Him; hence, the Bible calls the devil the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4).

This is why the devil can cause pains, sufferings, sicknesses, earthquakes, and such things. But when the Lord Jesus Christ rose up from the dead, He said that all authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Him

and He gave that authority to the Church, His Body, who represent Him on earth (Matt. 28:18-20).

We, the Church, individually and as a group, have authority over the earth and we exercise that authority by prayer. There are different kinds of prayer, and we will take them up later.

We are commanded to watch and pray that we do not fall into temptation (Matt. 26:41). To watch is to be alert, sober, and vigilant. We have to open our eyes and ears (physically and spiritually) to know what is happening around us so that we can pray intelligently and effectively.

It is not enough to just pray; you've got to pray to receive results. Hence, Apostle Paul said that he doesn't fight aimlessly like the one beating the air (1 Cor. 9:26).

When you know the strongholds and plans of the enemy, you will fight against him more effectively. And the devil, many times, does not want to be recognized so that his plans and purposes will neither be thwarted nor destroyed.

Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened to you. For he who asks, receives; he who seeks, finds; and to him that knocks, the door will be opened (Matt: 7:7-8).

You do not have, because you do not ask. When you ask, you do not receive because you ask amiss that you may spend them on your own pleasures (Jas 4:2-3). Asking or praying in doubt and with double-mind will also hinder your answers.

Another thing that can hinder your prayer is sin and disobedience. God's people suffer because of ignorance (Hos. 4:6); and ignorance leads to unbelief which is a great obstacle to receiving your answers.

This is why you have to study the Word of God for yourself, so that you may know what the Lord Jesus Christ purchased for you, and you will pray more effectively.

The Bible says that we are to pray always or without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17). We are to be instant in prayer (Rom. 12:12). No one should be forcing you to pray, but you have to make prayer a habit and a duty; and you will have to discipline yourself to pray as supposed.

If you show a careless attitude to prayer, that is how your prayer-life will be: inconsistent. Therefore, just as athletes train to perform well, you have to discipline yourself and pray till you make it your lifestyle.

One condition to receiving answers to your prayer is faith, believing that God has answered your prayer. Whatever you ask of when you pray, believe that you receive it and you shall have it (Mk 11:24).

Another condition is to pray according to the Will of God (1 Jn 5:14). Another is to do those things that please Him. And you have to bear fruit, that whatever you ask the Father, He will give it to you (Jn 15:16). And don't live in sin, for the prayer of the sinner is abominable to God.

Throughout the Bible, we see the records of people who prayed. Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah, though at last, ten righteous people couldn't be found there (Gen. 18:32); Moses interceded for the children of Israel so that God did not wipe them out as He had intended (Exo. 32:7-14).

Elijah prayed, and it did not rain for three and half years, and when he prayed afterwards, it rained (1 Kgs 17 & 18). Jesus Christ prayed a lot. Apostle Paul prayed and showed us an example.

Now, we will consider the different kinds of prayer. There is praying in the Holy Ghost. Praying in the Holy Ghost includes praying in tongues, praying prophetically, and groaning in the Spirit (1 Cor. 14:14-15; Rom. 8:26). You build up your most holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 1:20).

And there is the prayer of intercession. In the prayer of intercession, you stand to intercede on behalf of others,

especially in trying to keep them from being punished.

There is the prayer of supplication, which is to ask for God's Help, Supply, Provision, and Intervention on your behalf and on the behalf of others, especially Christians.

When you petition God, you are telling God to do this or that for yourself and others, according to His Word; hence, the Word says that you should plead your case (Mic. 6:1; Mic. 7:9; Isa. 41:21). Of course, many kinds of prayer are related, but they need to be separated for better understanding.

There is the prayer of faith. The prayer of faith is the prayer that you pray because God has specifically promised you or others something, and you stand on that provision and pray, believing that you receive; and you shall have it.

No matter how the situation may appear not to have changed, hold on to your belief and confession, and instead of praying again for it, keep on thanking God for the answer and you will see the manifestation in no distant time.

We now consider the prayer of consecration. This kind of prayer needs to be prayed always by every Christian, submitting himself/herself to the Will of God for his or her life as Jesus Christ did (Matt. 26:38-42).

Be willing and ready to do the Will of God, no matter how hard it may look like. I will consider the prayer of confession. First, confess your sins to God, for he that covers his sins shall not prosper, but he that confesses and renounces them shall find mercy (Prov. 28:13). This is very important for every Christian.

Of course, a Christian should not live in sin, but many don't repent of their sins and continue to pray. You are deceiving yourself. And you know that you have to forgive others for God to forgive you (Matt. 6:14-15).

Next is to confess or declare what you want to be, what you want to happen, without doubting. Whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed, and be cast into the sea," and does

not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says (Mk 11:23).

There is the prayer of agreement, which involves two or more people praying together in agreement over this or that thing. The people involved will need to believe and not doubt, for maximum result; and the prayer can be made even if they are not together physically.

The prayer of binding and loosing involves destroying the works of devils by speaking directly to the devils responsible for them, and to their works, to pull down and to root out, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant (Jer. 1:10).

And the Lord says that whatever you bind on earth, will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth, will be loosed in Heaven (Matt. 18:18). There is the prayer of commitment in which you cast your cares to the Lord (1 Pet. 5:7).

The prayer of worship involves showing respect and love for God. It is the prayer of adoration. Pray always with all kinds of prayer!

OBEDIENCE, HOLINESS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

God created the universe and everything in it. God created all men for His Good Pleasure. When the Lord God made man, He gave him all good things that he needed.

God gave Commandments to Adam on how he should live. However, when the devil tempted Eve, she ate of the forbidden fruit and gave to her husband, Adam, and Adam did eat. Due to that disobedience to God, man was separated from God and became God’s enemy, even though God still loved him.

God demands our obedience to His Commandments. To disobey God's Commandments is to displease God. Disobedience is sin. Sin is the transgression of the Law; sin is lawlessness (1 Jn 3:4).

Sin is: knowing what to do and refusing to do it (Jas 4:7). Sin is anything done out of faith (Rom. 14:23). Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). Therefore, to do something out of faith is to do something contrary to the Word of God.

If God tells you to do something, do it. If He tells you to avoid something, avoid it: that is what obedience is. If you go to many Christian families, you will come to know that many don't understand what obedience is.

Will it surprise you to see a born-again wife whose husband tells to do something (something that is not contrary to God's Word) and she will not do it? Some will not only disobey their husbands that God has told them to submit to, but they will even abuse their husbands.

Now, those same women, if they are working in offices, will neither disobey nor abuse their bosses in the offices. Apart from the fact that the devil is using them to fight their husbands, that is demonic obsession.

Demonic obsession is a situation where, though someone is not demon-possessed, yet the person's mind is influenced by demons to dance to their tone. Even ministers' wives are not left out.

Do you know that many ministries and ministers are suffering and pressed down spiritually, because the devil is using the ministers' wives to torment, irritate, and discourage the ministers?

The same thing is seen in churches. Many people don't obey their pastors whom the Lord has set over them. Many talk to their pastors as if they are talking to church-members. However rich you may be in the church, the Lord has set the pastor over you and commanded you to obey your pastor.

Of course, I am not telling you to obey your pastor if your pastor tells you to do evil. If you make your pastor's work burdensome for him, you will give account of it to God on the Judgment Day (Rom. 14:12; Heb. 13:17).

Think of how a student will go out immediately to run an errand for his teacher or lecturer, even when the time is contrary to his schedule. Learn to respect and honour your pastor more than your boss at office or your lecturer at school.

You may have money more than them, but they represent God; and I tell you, they are higher than you spiritually. Even if you pray more than your pastor, there is a place of authority he has over you that you don't have.

In the military, people understand obedience and ranks. However, the devil fights in homes, churches and ministries to frustrate the leaders so that the leaders will not fulfill the God-given Assignments for them, and possibly offend God and perish in Hell.

But woe to him that will put a stumbling block to a Christian or to a minister of the Gospel (Matt. 18:6-7). If you can't obey your husband or your pastor, how will you obey God? Stop deceiving yourself before it will be too late for you. Of course, the husband must love his wife, and the pastor must take care of his members in love.

The Bible says that the Whole Duty of man is to fear God and keep His Commandments (Eccl. 12:13-14). You can't keep God's Commandments if you don't fear Him. If you don't have fear for your husband or your pastor, you can't obey him, and you wouldn't even know when you start insulting and abusing him.

The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that the proof that we love Him is our obeying Him and keeping His Commandments (Jn 14:21). Abide in the Lord Jesus Christ, by obeying His Word and His Spirit.

The Word of God says that without holiness, no man can see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Only the pure in heart will

see God (Matt. 5:8). The Church that the Lord is coming for is the Church that is without spot, wrinkle, or blemish (Eph. 5:27).

If you, as an individual, have spot, wrinkle, or blemish, you will not be raptured. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless until the Coming of the Lord, because it is only those that endure to the end that will be saved (1 Thes. 5:23; Matt. 24:13).

What is holiness? Holiness is being without sin. It is sinlessness. Holiness is to be separated to God, to be consecrated or set apart for Him. Holiness is to be without spot, wrinkle, blemish, or any other thing that offends.

Holiness is complete and absolute obedience to God. The Bible talks of perfecting holiness (2 Cor. 7:1). To perfect holiness is to be complete in holiness; it is to mature in holiness. Some people live their lives confessing the same sins always. They confess, God forgives them, and they go back to it again and again.

Holiness and obedience involve making up your mind to be holy always and to obey God, no matter the cost. Some have chosen the ones they will obey and the ones they won't.

That type of attitude displeases God. Jesus Christ did not come to wash away your sins only: He also came to deliver you from the power of sins. As many as receive Him, to them He gives the power to become children of God (Jn 1:12). The power to become a child of God is the power to overcome sin and live above it.

Do you know that you are not bound to sin again? Don't let yourself to be overcome and enslaved again by the power of sin. If you do, the last state will be worse than the first (2 Pet. 2:20-21). There is nothing to envy in this world. If you gain the whole world and lose your soul, you gained nothing (Mk 8:36).

If you live to please your flesh, if you live according to the lust of the eyes and flesh, you will end in Hell Fire.

Beware of the pride of life (1 Jn 2:15-17). God gave you life, but the life you are living is not your own.

We have heard it said that righteousness is right-standing with God. It is standing before God without a sense of guilt. When we are born again, we receive the Righteousness of Jesus Christ that makes us know that we are God's children.

Many have depended on this definition of righteousness alone and they live their lives anyhow, claiming that they have right-standing with God because of Jesus Christ. There are many unrighteous people who claim they are righteous.

When the Lord saves you and washes away your sins, He expects you to live a righteous life. The righteous life is the life that lives right. It is the life that does what it is supposed to do, and avoids what it should avoid. The Bible says that you should neither be deceived nor deceive others (Matt. 24:4; 1 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:6; 1 Jn 3:7).

He who does what is right is righteous just as Jesus Christ is righteous (1 Jn 3:7). He that lives in sin, he who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning (1 Jn 3:8).

Some believe that once you are saved, you are forever saved. But the Word says that some who are first will be last (Matt. 19:30), and that only those that endure to the end will be saved (Mk 13:13).

All the Israelites were delivered from the Egyptian bondage, all were baptized into Moses; they ate spiritual food and drank from the Rock (Christ) that followed them. Yet God was displeased with many of them and their bodies were scattered in the desert because God killed them.

It pays to serve God. It pays to be holy, righteous, and obedient. Remember that disobedience is like the sin of witchcraft (1 Sam. 15:23). It is better to obey than to sacrifice. God is bigger and greater than all, and He requires our absolute obedience.

Cry out to God concerning any area you find yourself weak in, and He will deliver you. Call to Him and He will answer you (Jer. 29:12-13; Jer. 33:3). If you have any habit you find difficult to break, take some time to fast as the Spirit leads you, and that bad habit will break and crumble.

In your relationship with others, don't repay evil with evil, but rather, reward evil with good. You should also be able to know the Good, the Acceptable, and the Perfect Will of God.

There is a difference between the Permissive and the Perfect Will of God; the Perfect Will of God is the best for anyone. If you diligently obey the Voice of God, you will be the head and not the tail; all people (and even devils) shall be afraid of you.

We operate by the law of liberty; we have been called to liberty, but we must not use our liberty as an occasion for the flesh. We are no more in bondage, but we must not live our lives anyhow, but offer the members of our body as instruments of righteousness to holiness.

God hates complaining, murmuring, and bearing of grudges. God has promised to meet all your needs, and not all your wants. Of course, He gives you your wants as well, but He knows the best for you. If you give a ten-year old boy your car to drive in the highway because he is your child and you love him, do you really love him? Also, God's Time is the best.

The Israelites asked for a king, because they wanted to be like the other nations and God gave them kings, but were they better under those kings? They complained of meat in the wilderness and God gave them quail, but while they ate it, the Anger of the Lord burned against them; this happened because, instead of asking in faith, they murmured and complained.

God corrects, rebukes, and reproves His children using different means, and for different reasons. He does these to make them better in different areas of their lives. There is

nothing that is hidden from God; all the secrets of men are open to Him and they will be exposed at the appointed times.

God hates sensuality. By sensuality, I mean living according to your senses, and not according to the Spirit of God and His Word. Humans have five sense organs of eye, ear, nose, tongue, and skin, which are for sight, hearing, taste, smelling, and feeling respectively. In sensuality, we are concerned with walking by sight, hearing, and feeling.

Learn or study to be quiet. In the multitude of words, sin is not absent. He who can bridle his tongue can bridle his whole body; he who is faithful in money will be faithful in many other areas; and he who can avoid sexual immorality can avoid many other sins. Control your passions and motives, and bring them under subjection to the Word of God.

Sincerity is not enough. That you are sincere (which is very good) does not mean that you cannot make mistakes, that you cannot lose God's Blessings, and that the devil will not have a place in your life. God's people perish and suffer loss due to ignorance. You must, therefore, add knowledge and other Christian virtues to your sincerity.

BEING LED BY GOD

In these end times and last days, the need to be led by God cannot be overemphasized, if we must fulfil God's Task and Purpose for us, and avoid the devil's deception. Many times, Divine Plans are different from human plans. The sons of God are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14).

If you are not led by the Spirit of God, then you have some questions to ask yourself. Of course, the Spirit of God is always there to lead you if you allow Him. You have to follow the Leader to be led.

When the Spirit of God speaks to your heart, when He gives you a witness about something in your heart, it is your responsibility to sense that witness and to follow the witness.

Don't blame God when you refuse to be led. If the Spirit of God, for instance, sees danger ahead of you and gives you a warning, if you refuse to heed the warning and you are caught up in the danger, you are responsible for it.

God loves His children and He will not want them to fall into danger. God will do all He can to help you, but He cannot force His Will on you if you refuse.

Children of God should be sensitive to God's Leading always. Of course, the devil will want to speak to you, as if it is God. Satan parades himself as an angel of light just as his ministers pretend to be ministers of Christ (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

But the Bible tells us to prove all things and hold on to that which is good (1 Thes. 5:21). Believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 Jn 4:1).

There are many voices in the world and none of them is without significance or meaning (1 Cor. 14:10). You need, therefore, to distinguish between the Voice of God and the voice of the devil. There are many ways God leads His people; the devil can fake some of them.

For instance, the devil may fake an audible voice. This is one reason you should be able to recognize the Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit in your spirit, for the devil does not live in your spirit, but the Spirit of God does.

The primary way or the number one way God leads all His children is by the inward witness or inward intuition. It is like a checking on the inside of you, whether your heart (not your mind) is at peace about something or whether you are uncomfortable with it.

If the more you think about or pray about the thing, you feel good about it, the Spirit of God is giving you a go-

ahead signal. On the other hand, if you feel bad about it, it is a stop-signal. You know you are saved by an inward witness (Rom. 8:16).

Another way God leads His children is by the still-small voice or inward voice. Your spirit has a voice, just like your physical body. The voice of your human spirit is your conscience, your inward voice.

There is the Authoritative Voice of the Holy Spirit also, and God leads His children that way. For instance, after Peter had the vision of the sheet from Heaven, as he thought about the vision, the Spirit of God told him that three men sought for him. He was directed by the Holy Spirit's Voice to follow them. The Voice may seem audible, but it comes to your spirit (Acts 10:19-20).

God talks by Audible Voice, as well: after Jesus Christ was baptized (and baptism is by immersion: if you were baptized by sprinkling, re-baptize by immersion.

Any baptized Believer can re-baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; in the Name of the Lord), as He came up, God spoke audibly from Heaven (Matt. 3:17). Also, before the Lord went to the Cross, as He spoke to the people in Jerusalem, God spoke to Him from Heaven (Jn 12:23-33).

God can send an angel to direct and guide you; God sent an angel to speak to Mary (Lk. 1:26-38). An angel spoke to the high-priest, Zechariah, before the birth of John the Baptist (Lk. 1:11-22).

God spoke to Philip through an angel to go to where he would see the Ethiopian eunuch; when Philip obeyed and went there, God changed His Method by speaking to him again by His Holy Spirit (Acts 8:26-39). God has many methods; don't be too rigid.

Joseph, the husband of Mary, was spoken to by means of dreams many times. Through dream, he was told to take Mary as his wife, he was told to take Jesus Christ and Mary to Egypt, and he was told to come back to the land of Israel

after the death of Herod (Matt. 1:20; Matt. 2:13; Matt. 2:19-20).

God spoke to King Solomon through dream (2 Chron. 7:12). Even, many of the prophets of the Old Testament received some of the things they said by means of dreams. However, dreams can come from your mind or from the devil.

Another way God speaks to His children is by vision. Of course, the Bible calls dreams 'visions of the night'; that is, the visions you see as you are asleep. There are three types of visions.

There is the inward vision in which your spirit sees things spiritually, while you are still conscious of your physical environment; this will happen even if your eyes are closed.

The vision that Peter had concerning the sheet from Heaven is by trance. Trance is a form of vision in which you see things when your physical senses are suspended (Acts 10:9-17). In a trance, you are not conscious of your physical environment while God speaks to you or shows you things supernaturally.

The last form of vision is the open vision. In the open vision, you are fully aware of your physical environment and yet you see supernaturally. In the open vision, you may see Jesus Christ, an angel, devils, and other beings or things. Many of the God's children are led by visions more often than angelic visitations and audible voices.

God leads by circumstances also. Check the circumstances surrounding you, because God can lead you by them. For instance, when you plan to travel, the circumstances may work out in such a way that the travel may not work out. The same may happen when you are pursuing a business endeavour.

There are angels who minister for the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14), and they can make circumstances favourable or unfavourable for you, to protect or guide you.

However, you must be careful to understand your circumstances aright, because the devil can also cause unfavourable circumstances for you. In that case, destroy the works of the devil in the Name of Jesus Christ, and at the Name of Jesus Christ every knee should bow (Phil. 2:10).

As I said, the devil may fake God's Method of leading His children. But don't be afraid, because you have the Word of God and the Spirit of God. You will not be led astray if you follow the Word and the Spirit.

God can also lead by prophecy, by tongues and interpretations, and by other means. He who prophesies speaks to men to exhortation, to edification, and to comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).

God even used a donkey to speak to Prophet Balaam (Num. 22:30). You can't limit God because He is not limited. Many times, the way God will speak to you will depend on you.

For instance, if you are not spiritually sensitive, He may use natural means to speak to you. But depending on natural means is risky, because the devil can easily imitate and fake it.

This is why you don't need to put out a fleece like Gideon did (Jgs 6:11-40). If you tell God to open that door if He wants you to do something, the devil can open that door. Do you know that the devil can allow you to have good and legal things in order to deprive you of God's Best for you?

Always be sensitive. Don't seek voices, visions, or dreams, so that the devil will not mislead you. Ask God for direction and He will lead you the way He deems good and best.

The Word and the Spirit agree. The Bible, the Word of God, represents the Mind of God. Inasmuch as there are some things you may not find out from the Bible (for instance, which school to attend), nothing from God and

His Spirit will contradict the Word of God, when properly interpreted in the right context.

The Word of God was written by the Inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16), and the holy men that spoke the Mind of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit of the Living God (2 Pet. 1:21).

The hardened heart cannot work out the Righteousness of God; the hardened heart will stand against God's Leading and Prompting. Learn to wait on God with open heart and mind. God wants to lead and guide you more than you want Him to lead and guide you.

God reveals secrets to us. The Holy Spirit tells us things to come; He tells us of past things also. The secret things belong to God, but the things that are revealed belong to us. God does nothing without revealing it to His Servants, the prophets.

However, God reveals what He wants us to know. He will reveal what He wants you to know to you; therefore, don't go around for prophecies so that you will not be deceived.

God is still in the business of revealing secrets and mysteries to His people. He still speaks to His children. My God is not a dumb God; He speaks even today.

You only have to tune in to the frequency that He speaks, and you will hear Him clearly. Even as God gives revelations and visions, the devil also has been working hard to give counterfeit revelations and visions to people.

The devil, sometimes, comes as an angel of light to deceive people. He can even speak to you to deceive you. All visions and voices are not God's.

This is why the Scripture instructs us to prove all things and hold on to that which is good, true, and Godly. We are told to test every spirit to see whether they are from God. Why? Because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 Jn. 4:1). God is Spirit; the devil is a spirit too.

1 Corinthians 14:22-33 reads thus, “Therefore, tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers, but for those who believe. Therefore, if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uniformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

“But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

“If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the Saints.”

Earlier, Apostle Paul said, “There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages (or voices) in the world, and none of them is without significance. Let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret (1 Cor. 14:10,13).

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding” (1 Cor. 14:14-15).

We see, from verse 10, that there are many voices in the world. There are also many languages in the world. There are the Voice of God, the voice of an angel, the voice of the devil, the voices of demons, the voices of people, the voice of the mind, etc.

If you speak in tongues, pray that you may also interpret. However, if everybody in the church is praying individually (to be summarized by one person), you are free to speak in tongues or to pray with your understanding.

But the leader can tell you people to stop praying privately at any time; then, obey and be orderly, by stopping. If you must speak in tongues apart from when everyone is praying individually, then there should be an interpreter (which can be you yourself) or else speak silently or quietly.

But the Spirit has a lot to teach us that we might have not known. There are so many things in the Bible that we have not understood. We will understand many later, and we will understand others when the Lord comes.

Speaking in tongues plus interpretation equals prophecy. Interpretation will help others know what you spoke, so that the whole Church may be edified. He who prophesies speaks edification, exhortation, and comfort to men.

He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the Spirit he speaks mysteries. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the Church (1 Cor. 14:2-4).

Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues (verse 39). Let all things be done decently and in order.

Many are so much interested in prophecies, revelations, visions, and voices that they do not pay attention to the Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit Who indwells them and witnesses with their spirit to make them know what to do

and what not to do, what to believe and what not to believe, and who to pay attention to and who not to pay attention to.

Many value prophecy, revelation, vision, and audible voice more than they value the Word of God. Ministries and churches established on prophecies, healings, and miracles without a strong base on the Word of God will sooner or later diminish, wane, or stop entirely.

Such ministries can easily be scattered by rumours. Even the deaths of the founders can bring them to stopping ends. To be on a safer side, put the Word of God (the Bible) first, and put the Spirit of God second.

Yes, the Spirit of God inspired the Word (2 Tim. 3:16); He moved the holy men who prophesied in the Old Testament, and the Early New Testament (and even now) (2 Pet. 1:20-21); and the Spirit, the water (the Word), and the Blood agree as one.

The Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit are One (1 Jn 5:7-8). Man is born again of water (the Word) and of the Spirit (the Holy Spirit).

Apostle Peter said that the Prophetic Word of the Old Testament is surer, in confirming the Personality of Jesus Christ, than their Testimony of being with Jesus Christ on the mountain of transfiguration where Jesus Christ's Countenance changed and shone with light, and the Voice of God spoke to them (2 Pet. 1:16-21).

Brother, the Scripture was given to us so that we may know the Mind and Will of God. If you put the Bible you see behind you, if you don't stick to that Bible, how can you follow the Holy Spirit of the Living God?

Over the years, people have been deceived by visions, dreams, prophecies, revelations, and voices. Even though God still speaks, demons will try to deceive us, as if it is God that is speaking, and it is when we know the Word well and understand the Witness and Promptings of Holy Spirit well, that we can detect His Voice from their voices.

They sincerely believed that they came from God, even when a moderate knowledge of the Bible would have given them a better understanding. People go to camps and retreat grounds, and pray, pray, and pray to hear God's Voice, and they wouldn't even spend one hour a day to study the Bible during that retreat, when they can spend six hours praying daily during the retreat.

Believe me; many of them are deceived by visions and voices. Many can't distinguish God's Leading from devilish voices.

I am not encouraging you to be fearful, because God can always top the devil in everything. But please, pray and ask God to lead, direct, and guide you, and let Him do it the way He wants to do it.

You may be looking for a writing on the sky while the inner witness or the inward voice by the Holy Spirit has always been with you; but because you are not paying attention, you wouldn't get it; and if one devil speaks to you with a shout, you will value it more than that Voice or Leading of God that is in you.

I believe in prophecy, revelation, vision, and audible voice; I like them. But we are not ignorant of the devices of the devil (2 Cor. 2:11). Therefore, you have to know the truth, because it is better to be late than to be late: it is better to delay than to be found dead.

It is also better to follow God some distance behind, than to rush ahead of God and move towards the west, while He is moving towards the north. God loves us and does not want us to be deceived; but the responsibility lies with us.

People run around looking for those who will give them a Word from the Lord. Why not trust in God and get sensitive to the Holy Spirit Who lives inside you? But woe to the man who will say that the Lord said this or that, when the Lord has not spoken.

This is how people get preyed by deceivers, hypocrites, and demonic prophets who come as ministers of Christ. Do you not know that even satan comes as an angel of light? (2 Cor. 11: 14-15).

God leads His people by: the inner witness or prompting in their spirit by the Holy Spirit; the inner or inward voice of their spirit by the Spirit of God; the Authoritative Voice of the Holy Spirit; and by visions, dreams, prophecies, audible voices, angelic visitations, and tongues and interpretation.

However He chooses to lead you, be sensitive and submit. It is important to obey God promptly. Obedience is better than sacrifice; and to hearken than the fat of rams (1 Sam. 15:22).

TESTS, TRIALS, TEMPTATIONS, AND WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES

Tests are recommended for promotion, and no teacher or master gives his student or servant tests without a purpose. Tests are to prove someone. God tests His children to prove them so that He can promote them.

A test is a set of questions, exercises, or practical activities to measure someone’s skill, ability, or knowledge. A test is a difficult situation, a situation in which the qualities of someone or something are clearly shown. To stand the test of time is to be good enough, strong enough to last for a long time.

Trial refers to a process of testing to find out whether something works effectively and is safe. It is a short period during which you use something or employ someone to find out whether they are satisfactory for a particular purpose or job.

God also tries His people to examine their faithfulness and ability. Afflictions can be trials. God can allow the devil to try His child, as in the case of Job, to prove something to the devil.

Even if someone fails, when tried by the devil, it is because the one chose to fail, and not because he didn't have the ability to withstand.

The former Saints and Servants of the Lord had trials of mockings and scourgings; yes, and of chains and imprisonment (Heb. 11:35-38). Jesus Christ was baptized with the Baptism of Suffering and Shame. Each of us has his own cross (or price, as some call it) to bear (or pay).

You must make the required sacrifice God expects from you. Obedience is better than sacrifice; in fact, the right sacrifice is what God wants from you, and what you give God or deny yourself because of your love for God.

Your faith will be tried to prove the genuineness of it. When you overcome, you will receive praise, honour, and glory at the Revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:7).

Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's Sufferings, that when His Glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy (1 Pet. 4:12-15).

If you are reproached for the Name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon you. Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (Jas 1:2-4). But let none of you suffer as an evildoer; or as a busybody in other people's matters.

Temptation is brought your way by the devil to make you have or do something, even though you know you should not. To resist temptation is to refuse to do something, even though the devil brought the desire for it.

Temptation is an attempt by the devil to try to persuade someone to do something by making it seem attractive. But God will not allow the temptation that is greater than you to come your way.

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

If you encounter temptation, God will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (1 Cor. 10:13). Any temptation that comes your way is common to man, others have experienced it.

Jesus Christ was tempted at all points, yet He did not sin: as a Christian, you can refuse to sin as well. Don't blame the devil if you succumb to temptation. You are to be blamed, because you have the power, right, and authority to be a child of God, and to obey Him.

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the Crown of Life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Then, when the desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren (Jas 1:12-16).

No matter the pressure, don't give in to temptation: tomorrow may be too late; a single sin in your life will keep you from Heaven.

By wilderness experiences (or the university of tears, as someone called it), I mean those experiences that may make you to despise life, the experiences that can make you ask, "Where is the Lord?" But our God is in Heaven, and He knows everything you may be passing through.

He will be with you in trouble (Psa. 91:15) and through the valley of the shadow of death (Psa. 23:4). Don't be

discouraged, no matter the test or trial, hold on to God, for He will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb. 13:5).

We must enter the Kingdom of Heaven through many tribulations, persecutions, tests, and trials (Acts 14:22).

Abraham passed through tests and trials. He did not have Isaac until he was very old, and even when Isaac had grown up, God told him to sacrifice Isaac for Him. He obeyed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.

Noah passed his own test also. If he had not built the ark, he would have perished in the Flood, but he obeyed God. Joseph passed through the wilderness experiences, and because he persevered and endured, God made him the prime minister of Egypt.

Moses had his own wilderness experiences. He obeyed God and went to meet Pharaoh. Even when they left Egypt, they spent many years in the wilderness and in tents. Sampson failed and fell into temptation, and this led to the loss of his two eyes.

Gideon obeyed God and passed his test. Jephtah passed his trial when he gave up his daughter according to his vow. David fell into sexual immorality with Uriah's wife and murdered her husband. This brought sword to his own family. Jesus Christ passed His Tests and Trials, and He has been highly exalted.

John the Baptist suffered in the wilderness, eating selected food of honey and locust, and wore camel's hair; he persevered and achieved God's Purpose for his life. Peter failed by denying Jesus Christ three times. But thanks to God that he repented, wept, and was restored back.

Apostle Paul went through diverse tests and trials, and still overcame and fulfilled his ministry. King Saul failed God by not obeying Him completely, and he lost the throne.

King Solomon allowed riches and wealth to make him disobey God in marriage, and when he was old, his heart was drawn away from God. Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel,

Shadrach, and many others passed through their wilderness experiences and survived.

Tests and trials are meant to make you mature and strong. Even Jesus Christ learnt obedience by the things He suffered (Heb. 5:8); and those things made Him perfect so that He can serve as the Great High Priest effectively (Heb. 2:10-18).

However, many Believers do not want to pass through hard times; that is to remain immature till death, if God allows it. But when God scourges and disciplines us, it is so that we may partake of His Holiness (Heb. 12:10).

If Apostle Paul could call those sufferings of his 'light afflictions' (you probably have not suffered 10% of what he suffered), you too can endure those small sufferings of yours (Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-33).

The Bible says that the Lord knows how to deliver the Godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment (2 Pet. 2:9). When the devil tempts you, he will show you the temporal enjoyment your flesh may experience, but he will try to hide the after-effect of the sin from you.

This is why sin is deceitful. Esau sold his birthright for a plate of food, and when he would have got the blessing, he lost it. Consider what he said: he said that Jacob had taken the birthright from him, and then the blessing. But unknown to him, the blessing was connected to the birthright.

According to Jesus Christ, if you suffer for Him, even if you lose your life for Him, He will replace whatever you lost in the process. God allowed the children of Israel to pass through hunger to teach them that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes out of the Mouth of God.

If we suffer with the Lord, we will also reign with Him. At the time of the test and trial, it will not be very easy for

you: you may be sad at that time, but the fruits that will follow them will be eternal.

Blessed are you when you are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for yours is the Kingdom of Heaven. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matt. 5:10-12).

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for Jesus Christ's Sake. The sufferings you may go through are not comparable to the Glory that will be revealed in us at the Coming of Jesus Christ.

To him who overcomes, Jesus Christ will give to eat from the Tree of Life; he who overcomes shall not be hurt by the Second Death; to him who overcomes, the Lord will give some of the hidden manna to eat.

He who overcomes will be given power over the nations, he will be given the morning star also; he who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and his name will not be blotted out of the Book of Life.

He who overcomes, the Lord will make a pillar in the Temple of His God, and he shall go out no more; and he who overcomes, the Lord will grant to sit with Him on His Throne (Rev. 2 & 3). He, who has ear to hear, let him hear.

Don't allow sorrow, disappointment, and depression lead you away from God's Best for you. When Jesus Christ was about to be crucified, the Disciples, instead of praying and watching with Him slept out of sorrow. You see how powerful sorrow and depression can be.

Bless the Lord, for He is good; His Love and Mercy endure forever. Dry bones shall rise again. No matter the situation you may find yourself in, it shall be well.

The Lord will be with you through the valley of the shadow of death. None of your hairs will fall out without His Permission, and whatever you lose for His Sake, that you will have many folds.

Some wilderness experiences are connected to curses. Curses can come from different sources. Curses, also, operate in different ways.

Remember that, after Job had passed his test, trial, and wilderness experience, God blessed his later end more than the first, by far. The widow of Nain, who had lost her son, thought that all hope was gone until Jesus Christ came and brought the young man back to life.

When the Lord brought back that captivity of Zion, they were like them that dreamt dream. When Lazarus had been in the grave for four days, at the Appearance of Jesus Christ, he was brought back to life, because 'this sickness is not unto death.'

Jesus Christ Himself was in the grave, and the Disciples thought that all hope had been lost; but after three days, He came back to life. Whatever the devil may think he has destroyed in your life, very soon, the Lord will arise for your cause, and all his works in your life will be destroyed.

According to Apostle Paul, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17). All those things many complain about in their hearts or minds, or even with their mouths, thinking that they are suffering so much are light afflictions! Yes, it will bear on your mind and body, but it is for your promotion and greater glory.

DEVELOPING A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

There are different levels of relationships. Some relationships are loose, while others are strong. Some are casual, while others are intimate.

In our relationship with God, we should develop a strong and an intimate relationship with Him. This is evident because the first Commandment in the Ten Commandments is that we shall have no other gods before the Living God (Exo. 20:3).

Also, when Jesus Christ was asked about the greatest Commandment, He said that the first and Great Commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matt. 22:36-38).

Hear, O people of God, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first Commandment (Mk 12:29-30).

Man is tripartite in nature, comprising spirit (or heart), soul (or mind), and body. All these components or natures of man must be fully dedicated to God. No wonder Apostle Paul prayed that the whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes. 5:23).

You dedicate your spirit to God by first being born again, so that your spirit is regenerated and made a new creature in Christ Jesus. You then desire the sincere milk of the Word of God so that you can grow thereby.

Also, your spirit should be filled with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Power, and you get edified by praying in the Holy Spirit. You build up your most holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 1:20).

Many in the Church need revival. By prayer (sometimes, added with fasting), you get more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and it will be easier for Him to lead you.

You also renew your mind with the Word of God so that you think as God thinks and make decisions according to His Will and Mind (Rom. 12:1-2).

You are to present your body, which is the Temple of God, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. Reckon yourselves to be dead, indeed, to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under Law but under grace. Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are the one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of Doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Having been set free from sin, and having become the Slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, Everlasting Life. For the wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is Eternal Life through Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6).

Without prayer, your relationship with God cannot be strong. Every Christian should pray for at least two hours everyday. Take enough time to worship God. Pray in tongues, so that you can speak mysteries to God and pray for things you may not know about.

Be consistent in your prayer-life. Watch and pray so that you do not fall into temptation. Watchfulness and vigilance should be part of you so that you can know the enemy's plans and stop them.

Having a strong relationship with God requires that you live the life of faith. The righteous is to walk by faith, and not by sight. Without faith, you cannot please God, because he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. By faith, God called forth the whole creation into existence.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. Whatever God has promised you, He will give it to you, even though you may not be seeing it physically now. In no distant time, it will be yours. Pray and believe.

The Word of God contains the Mind and Will of God. This is one reason you have to study the Word of God with commitment. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

It is by the Word of God that you can prove all things so that you can hold on to that which is good. The Word of God is the source of the Blessings of God. One Word from God can change your life forever. The Spirit of God inspired the Word, and two of Them agree.

All Scripture is given by the Inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20-21). Desire the sincere Word of God so that you may grow and mature.

But be a doer of the Word, and not just a hearer. If you hear the Word without doing it, you deceive yourself. It is not the hearer that is commended, but the doer.

If anything, the more you hear the Word without doing it, the more your punishment will also be. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft. If you don't mix the Word with faith, it will not avail anything to you, because you will not do it.

As obedient people of God, don't fashion yourselves after the former lust, but as He Who called you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conduct.

If you desire a strong relationship with God, then you must win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. You must preach the Gospel always, even against your time table or schedule.

If you are ashamed of Christ Jesus before men, He also will be ashamed of you before God and the holy angels. He that wins souls is wise.

The wise shall shine like the brightness of firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever (Dan. 12:3). Let God be proud of you.

Giving to God and to men will help you maintain a strong relationship with God. The Bible says that where your treasure is, is where your heart will be also.

As you give to God, you have the confidence that when you get to Heaven, the Lord will reward you abundantly; and it will help you prepare for Heaven. Of course, God will reward you in this world also.

When you give to the people of God in the Name of Jesus Christ, you give to God. When you give to God's

Servants, you will be blessed. As you give to the poor, you lend to God and He will repay you abundantly.

Having a strong relationship with God will require self-discipline and self-denial. You don't get taken up by the things of this world; rather, you set your mind on things Above, where Jesus Christ is.

Limit the time you spend on television and films, even for Christian programmes and films. Don't be gluttonous in your feeding. Also, do not sleep too much; sleep to get rest, and when sleep has cleared your eyes, give yourself to profitable and Godly things. The lazy man shall not excel in his endeavour.

To maintain a strong relationship with God, you must be led by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth, and He will lead you into all truth. The Holy Spirit will reveal secrets to you, and tell you God's Plan and Purpose for your life.

No man can excel by the strength of the flesh. It is not by might, nor by power, but by the Holy Spirit of the Living God (Zech. 4:6). He is your Comforter, Helper, Advocate, Strengthener, Counselor, Intercessor, and Standby.

He will help you accomplish God's Assignment for your life. But He is a Gentle Spirit; therefore, you must give Him room to lead you.

Make every effort to be more like Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus Christ had a strong relationship with God, the best any can have; therefore, put God first and every other thing second.

You can't expect to drink from the Lord's Cup and the devil's cup at the same time. You can't eat at the Lord's Table and the devil's table at the same time.

God does not do anything without revealing it to His Servants, the prophets. God seeks for a man who will stand in the gap between God and others, so that the people can receive God's Blessings and Provisions, and also escape God's Judgment.

God is a Jealous God; He will not share His Glory with another. The Spirit of God that dwells in us lusts to envy. God does not want us to be worldly as the people of the world.

He expects that your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept for Him. Your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. You can't serve God and satan at the same time.

You need to have a strong hunger and thirst for God and the Things of God. He who thirsts shall be filled, and his thirst shall be quenched. If you hunger and thirst for righteousness, God will satisfy that hunger and thirst. As you hunger and thirst for God, your relationship with Him will be more intimate.

Draw close to God, and the devil will not be your problem. Satan couldn't touch Job of Old Testament or anything that belonged to him without God's Permission. But the problem is that many spend so much time thinking about the devil and fearing him.

People spend a lot of time praying against the devil, his demons, and their works, while they spend smaller time praising, worshipping, seeking, and asking God. Many fear the created being − satan − more than they fear God, the Creator. These are very improper.

Depend on God for whatever thing you may be doing. This is why it is necessary to find out what the Will of God is for your life, because God is committed to whatever He starts.

Except the Lord builds the house, the builders build in vain; except the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Commit your ways to the Lord; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass.

All the things of this world are vanity. They worth something, when used for the Glory and Will of God, and for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Don't spend your time pursuing the things of this world, while you have no time for what God wants you to do. It

shall profit you nothing to gain the whole world and lose your own soul.

The Whole Duty of man is to fear God and keep His Commandments; and His Commandments are not burdensome. It is when you fear God and keep His Commandments that you can say, with certainty, that you have a close relationship with God. Dare to be a Godly man, woman, youth, boy, or girl!

FALSE MINISTERS IN THE CHURCH

Take heed that no one deceives you. Many will come in the Name of Jesus Christ, saying, “I am Christ,” and will deceive many. Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many (Matt. 24: 4-14).

False christs and false prophets will arise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the Elect (Mk 13:22). These were the Words of Jesus Christ when He foretold what will happen at the end of times. And if you have not known it, these things are happening today.

People are using the Name of Jesus Christ and the Bible to deceive many. But thanks to God that it is not possible to deceive the Elect.

Who are the Elects? Has God selected some people and abandoned others? The Elects are those who are led by the Spirit of God, and whose lives are guided by the Word of God.

Some of these false ministers were called by God, but due to sexual immorality, pride, love of the world, and other things, they lost the anointing, and either went after strange gods to get negative powers or began to do wrong things to deceive the simple and exploit men.

False religions, beliefs, and teachings abound in the world today. But if we follow the Word of God and the Spirit of God, we will not be deceived. Even as we know that the antichrist is coming, there are many antichrists in the world today; they are even inside churches.

When you preach and teach things contrary to the Word of God and His Christ, you make yourself an antichrist. When you encourage people, by teaching or practice, to live lives contrary to the Word and Will of God, you are against Christ.

The Word of God says that we should prove all things and hold on to that which is true. We should not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the others judge (1 Cor. 14:29).

We should no longer be children who are deceived easily. Don’t run after miracles and prophecies; follow the Spirit of God and His Word so that you will not be deceived. Evil abounds these days. Don’t relate with the one you are sure is a false minister.

This is love, that we walk according to His Commandments. This is the Commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it; for many deceivers have gone out into the world.

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the Doctrine of Christ, does not have God.

He who abides in the Doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring the Right Doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds (2 Jn 1:10-11).

According to Apostle Paul, some preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill. People

preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, but some preach him out of love.

According to him, whether Christ is preached in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached, and he rejoices (Phil. 1:15-18). However, it is not good for you, as a minister, to finish preaching Christ and be cast away into Hell.

Jesus Christ says that in the Day of Judgment, He is going to tell many who prophesied and did mighty works in His Name that He never knew them, for they were workers of iniquity, though they were in the ministry (Matt. 7:21-23).

Don't be marveled because satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. Such are false ministers, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into ministers of Christ (2 Cor. 10:13-15).

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit (Matt. 7:15-17).

Another parable Jesus Christ put forth to the people, saying, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

"So the servants of the owner came to him, and said, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

"The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest'" (Matt. 13:24-30). Then there will be separation and burning of the tares.

The coming of the antichrist will be preceded by false prophets and false ministers. The Day of the Lord will not come until the Falling Away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

He opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He Who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they may be saved (2 Thes. 2:3-10).

Miracles and prophecies are not proofs that the Spirit of God is with somebody. You need to go beyond them to checking their fruits and comparing their sayings and works with the Word of God. He, who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit of God says to the Church.

False ministers are bent to deceive and they compromise God's Word. They are sent by satan, directly or indirectly, whether or not they are aware of it; and people like what satisfies their flesh. People like to come to church and still live the way they like.

They may not have problem with you when you tell them to come to church (they even want to be regarded as good persons because they go church), but when you speak against sin in their lives, many of them will get offended.

Some will go church for as long as ten years and yet not be born again. Some desire to be teachers when they understand neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

Now the Spirit expressly says that some have departed (and others will still depart) from the faith, giving heed to

deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

These days are perilous times, when men love themselves, love money, boast, are proud, blaspheme, and do all sorts of ungodly things. They have the form of Godliness, but deny its power. Turn away from such people (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

For the time has come when they do not endure Sound Doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they heap up for themselves teachers; and they turn their ears away from the truth, and are turned aside to fables.

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist (evangelists preach the Gospel and get sinners saved by the demonstration of God's Power), fulfill your ministry (2 Tim. 4:2-5).

Many are sent to churches from the kingdom of darkness as agents of darkness to do one thing or the other there. Many of them operate as prophets, pastors, elders, deacons, musicians, departmental leaders, interpreters, choristers, organizers, and other functions.

They may appear to be zealous for God, but they are after one assignment or the other. They can pretend so much, to deceive, because they are after specific Christians or ministers to bring them down. But thanks to God that we have God's Word and His Spirit, and we know that they are there.

We should never be afraid of false ministers, but avoid them when we recognize them because we will be wasting our time following them. Remember also that evil company corrupts good manners.

Attack them by prayer and fasting, if perhaps they happen to maneuver their ways to positions of authority in your church. You have the host of Heaven behind you. God is with you, in you, and for you. Greater are they that are with us than they that are with them.

The Church is marching on and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. We have power and authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the powers of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means harm us. There is neither divination nor enchantment against us.

Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's Promptings, Urges, and Witness. Always obey the Voice of the Spirit of God instantly; never argue because He knows better than you do know.

False ministers are servants of corruption and bondage. They live to please the devil and themselves. Their minds have been corrupted and held in bondage by the devil, the wicked one.

Be careful who you allow to lay hands on you because, by the laying on of hands on you by a minister operating with a wrong spirit, you can be enslaved or affected by wrong spirits. This is why you must be prayerful and maintain a red-hot Christian life and spirituality.

Just as a good minister can impart something from the Spirit of God in him on you, a false minister can also do the same if you are not red-hot spiritually.

BEING SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

To be successful in life is to fulfill God's Purpose and Plan for your life. This is why the Lord says that life is not in the abundance of what a man possesses (Lk. 12:15).

This is why the poor members of the Church of Smyrna were told by the Lord that they were rich (Rev. 2:9), and

the rich members of the Church of the Laodiceans were told that they were poor and wretched (Rev. 3:17).

God sees differently from how men see. Do you know that, even as a minister, you can have the largest church and organize the biggest crusade, and still not be following God's Plan for your life?

What people call 'success' is no success at all. If you become the wealthiest, richest, most famous, most powerful, or most educated person of all ages, and you lose your soul in Hell at last, you were very unsuccessful.

Material blessings, academic blessings, marital blessings, ministerial blessings, and many others are good and necessary; after all, without money, how can the Gospel go to the ends of the earth?

But let me tell you the truth, true success is obedience to the Word of God, and the achievement of God's Purpose for your life.

Abraham was successful in life, even though he had only one son after many years (apart from the son of the bondwoman − Ishmael). Moses was successful; even though he did not make it to the land of Canaan, he made it to Heaven.

Joshua and Caleb were successful; of all the adults that left Egypt, only two of them made it to Canaan, and they fulfilled God's Purpose for their lives. Samuel, David, Isaiah, Daniel, Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul, and many others were successful. David was rich and Daniel was famous, but all of them fulfilled God's Plans for their lives.

Most of the adults that left Egypt at the exodus of the Israelites did not make it to Canaan, and to Paradise. Sampson lost his ministry and his eyes due to irresponsibility.

Solomon lost the kingdom of Israel after his death, because his heart was estranged from God, though he was very wise and rich. Judas Iscariot fell by the way. King Asa

did not end well. These and many others were unsuccessful in life. They displeased God and lost their missions.

What does it mean to be successful in life? The word ‘success’ means the achieving of something you have been trying to do, with a good result. If you do very well in what you want to do or in what you are to do (like your Christian life, your ministry, or your job), you are a success.

However, Godly success is not always the same with human success. What humans regard as success may be seen by God as destruction. What humans may regard as foolishness may be seen by God as success.

Concerning success, I will like to speak about Apostle Paul. This holy and fiery apostle of the Almighty God had a great success in his ministry. This is not to say that he did not make mistakes; of course, he made some mistakes.

This holy apostle and prophet of Jesus Christ suffered dearly in the ministry. He traveled by foot and by ship; he was stoned and beaten with rod and whips; he suffered hunger and rejection. Nevertheless, he called all those things, and many more, light afflictions (2 Cor. 4:17).

Apostle Paul wanted and desired to succeed in the ministry and be faithful to the Lord that he despised the pains and the shame he encountered, and pressed for the prize of the High Call of God.

He did not have internet services, aircraft, cars, duplexes, cathedrals; yet he decided to preach the Gospel where Christ had not been named. He did not collect tithes and offerings to enrich himself, and keep a lot in store.

He used what he collected for the Work of God. Today, many have removed their focus from Jesus Christ, Heaven, and souls; they are interested in money.

Let me talk about other areas of success before I go back to the real success − spiritual success. But the spirit-realm controls the physical realm; therefore, spiritual success is supposed to show physically.

However, if you are not rich yet, it does not necessarily mean that you have a problem spiritually, even though you may have to check your life of obedience and faith; your unwillingness to get rich will affect God's Supply for you (Isa. 1:19). God's Divine Power has given us all things we need for life and Godliness.

Also, God's people suffer due to ignorance (Hos. 4:6). Some don't even know that it is God's Will for them to prosper materially and financially. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness of it (Psa. 24:1).

Silver and gold is God's; a thousand cattle by the hill are His (Psa. 50:10). God did not create these things for the devil and his children, but for God's people, even though Adam sold out his inheritance to the devil when he disobeyed God and sinned against Him.

Thus satan became the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). But Jesus Christ came to bring that inheritance back to us and we are gods and kings of the Great God and King (Psa. 82:6; Rev. 1:6).

Jesus Christ became poor so that through His poverty, we might be made rich (2 Cor. 8:9). It is God's Will for us to prosper in material things. Of course, many of the early apostles, prophets, and Disciples were not rich materially.

One reason this was so is because they were committed to winning souls: we must be committed to winning souls like them; they won souls in the face of fierce persecutions. We live more peaceably now.

Another reason is that many of them were ignorant of God's Will in this area. They didn't have the entire Bible as we have today; we can compare one part with another. Nevertheless, they pursued the substance, and today many of us seem to be pursuing the shadows − riches and material blessings.

No wonder they were more spiritual than many today. However, never set your mind on temporal things, things

that perish and do not have eternal value. Riches and wealth have eternal value when used for God's Glory.

Physical prosperity or success is very necessary. I am speaking of health and healing here. No matter how much you have, if you are sick and can't work or stand, it is a very big problem. In that case, you wouldn't even enjoy your meals.

But God has provided health and healing for us. Jesus Christ carried our sicknesses and diseases, and it is God's Will for us to be healthy. If you choose to be sick, you are just giving the devil a place in your life. God is not responsible for it.

Abraham was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold (Gen. 13:2). He had 318 trained servants, and more than that, for he couldn't have used all for the war he fought (Gen. 14:14). The Lord blessed Abraham in all things (Gen. 24:1).

Isaac reaped a hundred-fold of what he planted. He waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great (Gen. 26:12-13). Isaac had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him (Gen. 26:14).

Jacob increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses (Gen. 30:43). Job was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. He had so much that he was the greatest of all the people of the east (Job 1:1-3).

David was righteous and feared God, yet he was a king and prepared for the House of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand talents of silver, and of brass and iron without weight for it was in abundance: timber also and stone he prepared (1 Chron. 22:14).

Even in the New Testament, people of God were rich. That is why Apostle Paul told Timothy to charge the rich to do good (1 Tim. 6:17). Talking of promotion and power,

Daniel and his three friends were high in positions in the Babylonian government.

They were blessed academically also, for they were ten times wiser than the others. God blessed them in appearance also. (Dan. 1:15,19-21; Dan. 3:29-30; Dan 6:1-3). Mordecai was highly promoted and honoured by God (Esth. 6:1-14). God delivered the Israelites with a strong hand (Exo. 12:29-33). Joseph was the prime minister of Egypt for God was with him (Gen. 41:38-44).

But, Brethren, do not love the world or anything in the world. The love of money is the root of all evil. He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver. Whatever God gives you, use it for His Glory and to expand the Church on earth.

Heaven should be your main goal, and you must strive to please God. The Word of God shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may do all His Word. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success (Josh. 1:8).

Curses and spiritual attacks can hinder somebody's progress in life. Be sensitive to the Spirit, because He will give you a signal, by any way He chooses, of the existence of any of them in your life. Then, break them in the Name of Jesus Christ.

God has given you the power to decree a thing and it will be established. Whatever you decree will come to pass; don't doubt. You may need to add fasting to your prayer.

The Power, Presence, and Favour of God bring increase and multiplication in all areas of life: spiritual, mental, physical, and otherwise. God is a Good God!

DIVINE HEALTH AND HEALING

When God formed His man, Adam, he was healthy. God never intended that we suffer sicknesses and diseases. Sicknesses and diseases came from satan, and their influences on men were made possible by sin and disobedience.

God told His healthy Adam to keep to certain Rules. However, Adam disobeyed God, and God became angry with man. Man fell short of the Glory of God, and was then open to satanic attacks. Sicknesses and diseases are forms of those attacks. There are many other ones.

Sickness is the state of being ill. Illness is a disease of the body or mind. Disease is an unhealthy condition in the body, especially one caused by infection. We can see that illness or disease is related to the mind.

Apart from the germs and micro-organisms like bacteria, fungi, and viruses that cause sicknesses and diseases, stresses (both of the mind and of the body) and anxieties cause sicknesses and diseases also.

However, no disease-causing micro-organism could have any effect on man if man had not sinned and fallen short of God's Glory (Rom. 3:23).

Divine Health is God's Perfect Will for His people. Divine Health is the state of existence whereby God's Power keeps one from sickness and disease. It is different from Divine Healing.

Divine Healing is the situation where God's Power expels sickness and disease from someone. Divine Healing is God's Permissive Will, as opposed to His Perfect Will, which is Divine Health.

The Word of God says that the Lord Jesus Christ bore our griefs, and carried our sorrows. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His Stripes we are healed (Isa. 53:4-5). That is the Old Testament report of what Christ did for us.

After He had come and done them, Apostle Peter said that by His Stripes we were healed (1 Pet. 2:24). Sickness

and disease represent grief and sorrow. Sicknesses, diseases, and pain are the handiwork of the devil, and God is not happy seeing people in those conditions.

Jesus Christ Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses (Matt. 8:17). As Christ Jesus has borne them, we don't need to bear them again. However, many of us open the door to sicknesses and diseases, and they come in because that is what the devil wants.

We should never break the hedge; for if we break it, the serpent will come in (Eccl. 10:8). Give no foothold, no place to the devil (Eph. 4:27).

There are many ways sicknesses and diseases can come into the life of a Christian. One way is by sin and disobedience. Too much stress, both on your body and your soul can cause them also. Worrying causes illness more than some of us have realized.

Another cause of illness is lack of rest and exercise; even our feeding habit and what we eat have a lot to do with our health. In fact, the best hospital in the world is taking good care of what you eat and how you eat them.

The Word of God is a medicine for Divine Healing, and it also keeps you in Divine Health. God sent His Word to heal His people (Psa. 107:20). The Word of God is spirit and life (Jn 6:63).

The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit and it pierces and destroys every disease-causing micro-organism (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). The Word will give you peace, and keep you from worrying which causes sickness. Perfect peace have they that love God's Word (Isa. 26:3; Psa. 119:165).

Give attention to God's Word; incline your ear to His Sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart, for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh (Prov. 4:20-22). That is very clear!

When you read, study, meditate on, and confess the Word of God, you are activating Divine Healing and Health in your life. He sent forth His Word, the topic notwithstanding, and His Word healed His people.

The Word of God says that there was no feeble or sick person among the children of Israel at a particular time (Psa. 105:37). That is God's Will for us. No wonder He gives gifts of healings to His children so that they can minister healings, supernaturally, to God's people and the people of the world.

Of course, God, in His Love, gave us medical science so that those who don't know about Divine Healing and those don't have faith may be healed thereby. That is not to say that any Christian who patronizes hospitals and medical technology has sinned or does not have faith; understand that faith has different levels and layers.

But, how will you be bold to tell an unbeliever that God healed you, when you used the same medicine he used: we should develop our faith?

But Divine Healing is preferable with God to medical healing. I would rather die, believing God, than die, depending on science and technology. Some say that they may die if they trust God; have you not been seeing or hearing of many deaths, right in the hospitals?

Some don't even know that many sicknesses and diseases are as a result of direct demonic attacks. Medicine does not solve spiritual problems. Therefore, if you have been bewitched because you opened doors to the devil, and you depend on medical science, you may die like a dog.

The Lord was not pleased with a certain king of Israel (King Asa) who, in time of sickness, trusted in physicians and doctors, instead of trusting in the Lord (2 Chron. 16:12).

Learn to pray against the works of the devil in the form of sicknesses and diseases. At the Name of Jesus Christ,

every knee should bow, including sicknesses and diseases (Phil. 2:10).

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.

And if he has committed any sin, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults (sins) one to another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man avails much (Jas 5:14-16).

You can notice that some sicknesses are connected with sins. That is why you need to forgive others, and ask God to forgive you your sins. There are some sins you will need to confess to the people praying for you, if you want to be healed.

Jesus Christ told the sick man that his sins were forgiven, and later told him to take up his bed and go (Matt. 9:2-8). You can readily see that forgiveness and healing go together, where sin is the cause of the sickness, because not all sicknesses are caused by sins.

Also, it is not always that you will receive healing through the operation of the gifts of healings in the life of a Believer or a minister. It is not always that you need someone to pray for you to be healed. There are many Promises of God concerning Divine Healing in the Bible; stick to the Word of God and claim your healing.

No matter the symptoms you may be feeling, don’t be like Peter who looked at the waves of the sea, away from looking to Jesus Christ, and started sinking.

If God has said it, He will do it. God can neither lie nor fail to perform His Word. He created the whole universe by the power of His Word, and His Word is just as effective today as it has always been. He is the Lord that heals and healed you (Exo. 15:26).

If God can heal cancer, He can heal HIV also, for nothing is impossible with God. The problem is that many

prefer that the devil steal their money through medical bills to receiving healing from God by faith. Others prefer medicine because they are attended to free of charge, or are given medical allowances.

Learn to fellowship with other brethren, because when the corporate anointing is in manifestation, you can receive your healing, even without specific prayer. The Lord wants you to be healthy always.

Be very cautious of what you eat and how you eat. Healthy eating will sustain your health. If you can eat more of fruits and vegetables, you will have stronger health.

FASTING, DISCIPLINE, AND SELF-CONTROL

Fasting is going for some time without food. Water may or may not be taken for that space of time. Actually, fasting for a long time should go along with the drinking of water.

I will call the case of fasting while drinking only water complete or total fasting, and fasting without food and water absolute fasting. There is a partial fasting which involves taking certain kinds of food while fasting. Dieting is not the fasting we are talking about.

Self-discipline is the ability to discipline or make yourself do what you are to do and avoid what you are to avoid. Many make great plans and resolutions but don’t carry them out due to lack of discipline.

Apostle Paul said that he disciplined himself, and brought his body under subjection. Bringing your body under subjection is self-discipline. People that run races, people that take part in athletics, discipline themselves, and train well to be able to win the prize (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

In Christianity, a Christian must discipline himself to do well in his Christian life. If you don’t discipline yourself to

pray, you will not have a consistent prayer-life.

If you don't discipline yourself and get rid of all obstacles, you will not study your Bible as you are supposed to; you will not evangelize as you are supposed to evangelize. When people hear good messages and read good books, they take decisions to do what they have heard and read, but how many of them do them?

Your ability to bring your fleshly desires and lusts under control or subjection is self-control. Self-control is a fruit of the recreated human spirit which the Book of Galatians calls the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

When you are born again, your human spirit is recreated or regenerated, and he becomes a new creature. You build your spirit by reading, studying, and meditating on the Word of God.

As you read, study, and meditate on the Word of God, your mind and thinking is renewed, and you start thinking as God thinks, because the Word of God is God's Mind. Your mind or soul is where you take decisions of what to do.

Your spirit wants to please God, but your flesh may develop bad desires (you may be tempted with the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh), then your renewed mind takes side with your spirit to do the Will of God; if you discipline yourself to do it, that is self-control.

There are many examples of fasting in the Old Testament. Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights with neither food nor water (Exo. 34:28). Joshua and the elders of Israel fasted till evening after they were defeated by Ai, and God revealed the problem with them to them (Josh. 7:1-15).

Even King Ahab that was wicked, fasted and put on sackcloth, and God did not pour His Judgment on him the time He wanted (1 Kgs 21:27-29). Daniel fasted for twenty-one days, and had a breakthrough (Dan. 10:1-21).

Even in the New Testament, John the Baptist lived a fasted life (Matt. 3:4). Jesus Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights before He began His Public Ministry (Matt. 4:1-11). The Disciples fasted and the Holy Spirit spoke to them as they fasted and prayed (Acts 13:1-4).

When Apostle Paul and the others were entrapped in the sea, they kept on fasting till fourteen days before they ate, after God had encouraged Paul (Acts 27:9-29). There are other examples of fasting both in the Old and New Testaments.

You can fast to bring your body under subjection. You can fast to be able to pray more effectively. Fasting in times of danger is good. You fast to receive guidance from God.

It is good not to eat or eat much before preaching or teaching as a minister, and before singing as a musician. Fasting will make you become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Fast as a group and fast individually.

The devil will try to make you stop fasting by saying that you are looking pale and sick. He will use people to suggest it, even Christians and your close relations.

When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, of a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces, that they may appear to men to fast. They have their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face, that you appear not to men to fast, but to your Father Who is in the Secret Place and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. The same applies to praying and giving (Matt. 6:1-18).

The length of fasting and how the fasting should be done will be influenced by many factors: the need, your physical condition, your commitment, how you are led, etc.

Don’t compete with anybody as far as fasting is concerned. You don’t have the same assignment in life. Always be conscious of the fact that obedience is better

than sacrifice, and to listen better than burnt offerings (1 Sam. 15:22).

Before I go on with fasting, I want to speak on self-discipline. Many people can spend two, three, or more hours watching football or films on the television. But how many of them can spend two hours daily in prayers?

Many will go around visiting this or that person, but when they want to pray, they will start feeling sleepy, even before twenty minutes. Just as you trained yourself to watch television, you have to train yourself to pray and do other necessary things.

You will not be perfect at first time; but keep on pressing and doing them, and they will, as well, become easy.

Do not love the world or anything in the world; if any man loves the world, the Love of the Father is not in him.

All that is in the world: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life do not come from the Father but from the world; and the world passes away and its lusts, but he who does the Will of God endures forever (1 Jn 2:15-17).

I said this in respect of self-control. Present your body a living sacrifice to God, holy and pleasing to Him, and renew your mind by the Word of God (Rom. 12:1-2).

From the fifty-eight chapter of Isaiah, we see many things about fasting. People fast and afflict their souls without receiving the results they want because on the day of their fast, they do as they want and exploit their workers.

Some fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You cannot fast like that and expect to be heard by God. God’s Intention in fasting is not for you to afflict your soul for the period, and after that to go back to your old ways.

The fast that God has chosen is to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke.

It is to share your food with the hungry, and to bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not hide yourself from your fellow human beings.

It is to take away the yoke from your midst; the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness. If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, if you serve the Lord as you are supposed to, obeying Him,

Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the Glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then the Lord will hear you when you call. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations. And you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord, and the Lord will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth and give you what Jesus Christ has purchased for you (Isa. 58).

You can see that there are so many things to benefit from fasting. You will not die if you fast moderately, if you fast as the Lord leads you. Also, you can achieve anything you want by self-discipline. And as you control your fleshly passions; your Christian life will be superb.

The best way to fast is to fast as you are led by the Spirit of God. This does not mean that you must hear an audible voice telling you how long or how to go about the fasting.

Fast as you are moved by your spirit-man; don’t be in competition with anybody, and don’t fast to show God or people how long you can fast.

GIVING TO GOD AND TO MEN

The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). This Statement from God should make us develop our minds, to fashion our minds in such a way that we will be willing to give. This, according to the Scripture, will make us to be more blessed.

When we receive gifts from people, we feel happy; how much happier we should be to give. But when we give, many times, we feel sad and loosing. This is because we see, with our natural eyes, what we give out, while we don't see, with the same natural eyes, what we receive.

But the Bible says that what we see naturally were made from what we don't see (Heb. 11:3). God spoke the world into existence by saying, "Let there be..." (Gen. 1:1-31).

However, many of us don't see things from God's Perspective. Many of us believe what we see more than what we don't see. But this is not a good attitude.

The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that blessed are those who have not seen but yet have believed (Jn 20:29). The Word of God says that we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

Brethren, it is time for us to know that the spiritual controls the physical. Many unbelievers understand this principle, and this is why many of them visit witch-doctors for charms and divination.

The Word of the Living God, Who is blessed forever more, says that you receive more blessings giving than receiving. Of course, your receiving has something to do with the attitude of your heart.

This is because the Bible says we should not give by compulsion; we should not give grudgingly, for God loves a

cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7). Whenever you give to God or to man, do it willingly out of a sincere heart, because you want to obey God.

Also, bear it in mind that your reaping or receiving has to do with how you give, because when you give bountifully, you receive bountifully; when you give sparingly, you also receive sparingly (2 Cor. 9:6).

But giving sparingly or bountifully doesn't necessarily have to do with the amount given. You remember the woman that gave only two dimes, and yet the Lord Jesus Christ affirmed that she gave more than the others? (Mk 12:41-44).

The Lord said that the others gave out of their abundance, while the woman gave all that she had. The person who has N1,000.00 and gave God N100.00 gave more than the person who has one million naira and gave God one thousand naira. Do you understand?

When you hide and squeeze your offering money so that others may not see how small it is, God knows your abundance or your lack.

The Lord Jesus Christ has declared that when we give, it will be given back to us in a good measure; the measure that is pressed down, shaken together, and running over. In that measure will men give to you (Lk. 6:38).

It is noteworthy that Jesus Christ indicated that God will use men to give back to you; therefore don't expect God to rain down currency notes from Heaven, because God is no counterfeiter.

But this does not necessarily mean that God cannot give you physical cash by Himself. For instance, if God wants to give you N1,000.00 physically by Himself, an angel can appear in human form and collect that money from a willing person; the angel can then drop the money physically in your house for you.

God provided physical cash for Jesus Christ and Peter by directing Jesus Christ to tell Peter to cast a line into the

river so that, catching a fish, he will find the needed coin in its mouth (Matt. 17:27).

You can't beat God in giving because the more you give God, the more He blesses you in return. Apart from the physical reward you will receive, you will also have an eternal inheritance and reward reserved for you in Heaven (Rev. 22:12).

He can repay you with a good job, a good salary, a promotion, a physical gift from someone, and through many other ways. So make up your mind to give because the more you give, the more you receive.

Now, how do you give God? You give God in tithes and offerings. God says that people rob Him, not only in tithes, but in tithes and offerings (Mal. 3:8). Therefore, give a quality offering to God.

When someone visits you, you buy him a bottle of soft drink; but when you want to give God an offering, you give Him money that will not even buy Him a half bottle of the same drink. Is it fair? Make up your mind today that you will not rob God again.

How do you give God? You give God your time, your energy, your talent, and many other things that you possess. In Acts of the Apostles, people sold their lands and gave God all (Acts 2:41-47; Acts 4:32-37)).

Nothing is too much to give God. If you build a cathedral for God, you did not do too much for Him; after all, He gave His Only Son, Jesus Christ, to us.

When Jesus Christ came, He gave His Life for us; and He says that if you love your life more than Him, you are not worthy of Him (Matt. 10:37-39, Lk. 14:26-30).

Tithe is 1/10 or 10% of your income. While some find it difficult to give God tithe or tenth part of their income, some have given 20% or more of their income to God because of their love for God.

Jesus Christ talks of giving God with 'the measure' (the tithe is a good measure) (Lk 6:38). Apostle Paul taught that

Jesus Christ receives (not ‘received’) tithe in Heaven (Heb. 7:8).

In the Old Testament, God spoke of paying and bringing (not just ‘giving’) your tithe (Heb. 7:9; Mal. 3:10; Gen. 14:20; Lk. 18:12; Deut. 14:28; Matt. 23:23). Don’t argue whether you need to pay or give tithe now, because it is not too much for God.

If you can’t give God your tithe, can you surrender your life for Him? Apart from tithe, there are different kinds of offerings you can give God, as the Spirit of God leads you.

If you give God your first salary, you did not give Him too much. That is not to say that you must give Him your first salary, but if you have the courage, it will give you a better base. The Bible speaks of first-fruit offerings.

You have heard of the seed-faith offering. It is good. However beware of those who go around exploiting people with, ‘Sow seed.’ Let the Holy Spirit lead you.

It is a good thing to give to the poor and the needy. He who gives to the poor lends to God, and God will reward or repay him abundantly (Prov. 19:17).

Remember the widows and the orphans. Remember the sick, the naked, and the prisoners. The Lord Jesus Christ says that what you do to the Believers, you do to Him (Matt. 25:31-46).

When you make the lives of people better, you are doing the Will of God, because it is satan that brought poverty, sickness, and hardship to this world.

Remember to give to your pastor and other men of God. He who gives to the prophet will receive a prophet’s reward (Matt. 10:41). Whatever you do to God’s people in the Name of Jesus Christ, you do to God (Matt. 10:40-42).

If ministers have sown spiritual things to you, it is not a big thing for them to receive physical things from you (1 Cor. 9:11). As you give to God and to men, God Himself will bless you; even people will appreciate you and praise God!

Give what you have. Don’t say you don’t have anything, because there is a seed in your hand which you can sow if you want to. God will not require what you don’t have from you, for He is a Just God. Don’t eat your seed, because if you do, you will lose your harvest.

MAKING YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE

The Lord, through Apostle Peter, tells us to give diligence to making your calling and election sure. He says that if we do this, we will not fall; rather, we will make Heaven (2 Pet. 2:10-11). God has called us and elected us for His Kingdom. He called us out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of His Dear Son.

The Lord has elected and appointed us to His Kingdom. When we were yet sinners, He elected and appointed us to be His Own people, who will obey Him and live to please Him in this world, so that after this life, we will live with Him forever in His Kingdom. However, there is need to make this election and appointment sure.

When God says that we should make our election sure, it means that it is possible for us (or some of us) not to attain or make our election or appointment. How? By living a careless life. The life of sin and disobedience is a life of carelessness. It also means that if we follow the steps and rules given us, we shall attain (make) our election or appointment.

God did not leave us without direction. He has given us His Word, the Bible, so that we can run the race set before us the way we should run it. The Bible contains the dos and don’ts of the Christian race, our calling and election. If you live your life according to the Word of God, you will not fall,

but you will be ushered into Heaven. Read, study, and meditate on the Word of God so that you may know the Mind of God.

The Lord has given us His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, Who teaches us all Truth. The Spirit of God will use the Word of God to lead us. He will make us understand the Word of God in our hearts. He will give us the ability to please God, and we should depend on Him, for without Him, we can do nothing. The Spirit of God leads us through many means; however, in all things, He doesn't go contrary to the Bible, because He inspired the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).

Apostle Peter gives us insights on how we can make our calling and election sure. He tells us to add to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance Godliness, to Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. He tells us to do those things with all diligence. If we do it abundantly, we will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-8).

Give diligence to prayer, for the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Be watchful always, for if you don't, you may not even be aware that the enemy is around. Live the life of holiness, obedience, and consecration. Learn to discipline your body and bring it under subjection. The Grace of the Lord is abundantly available to us. We shall stand for the Lord, now and forever. Amen.

The Word lets us know that some who are first will be the last, and the last first. May it not be so with us! It is not he who calls Jesus Christ, "Lord," that will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the Will of God. No matter what you may be doing for the Lord, always remember that without holiness no man shall see the Lord (Heb. 12:14).

Jesus Christ tells us that if we keep His Commandments, we will abide in His Love, as He kept the

Father’s Commandment and abide in the Father’s Love.

Jesus Christ is the True Vine and we are the branches. The Father, Who is the Vine-dresser, takes away every branch that does not bear fruit.

However, He prunes the branches that bear fruit, that they may bear more fruit. We are in Jesus Christ, and just as Jesus Christ bore Fruit by getting Followers and pleasing the Father, we too ought to win souls and please God.

Abide in Jesus Christ, and let Him abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in the Lord. He who abides in Him, and He in him, bears much fruit; for without Him, you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not abide in Him is cast out as a branch and is withered and burnt. The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit, so as to confirm that we are Jesus Christ’s Disciples.

If we abide in Him and His Words abide in us, we will ask what we desire, and it shall be done for us. If we keep His Commandment, we will abide and remain in His Love, just as He kept His Father’s Commandments and abides in His Love.

We are His Friends if we do whatever He commands us. We did not choose Him, but He chose us and appointed us that we should go and bear fruit, and that our fruit should remain, that whatever we ask the Father in His Name He may give us (Jn 15).

For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have Eternal Life (Jn 3:16).

I want you to notice, particularly, that the verse declares that the Believer should not perish and not that the Believer shall not perish. The one that believes on the Lord Jesus Christ should not perish.

If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, if you are born again, you are not supposed to perish. When someone or something should not perish, it means that the person or thing ought not to (is not supposed) to perish. It also means that the person or thing may perish.

If you are hanging on a strong and stable crane, high above the ground level, you should not fall down and crash by the influence of the force of gravity. However, if you separate yourself from the crane, you will crash on the ground.

People of God perish because of lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6). Ignorance of God and His Ways will make you perish; though, in this case, the perishing is not applicable to perishing in Hell Fire alone; in fact, this place is talking about losing God's Provisions for you, among other applications.

The devil is no good entity; if you don't know your rights and privileges in Christ Jesus, he will steal from you, kill you, and even destroy you (Jn 10:10).

Don't allow the enemy to succeed in prevailing over you. Let none of his works come to pass in your life. Give no place to the devil (Eph. 4:27).

This is why you have to study the Bible, because, in reading and studying it, in meditating on and speaking forth its contents (the things applicable to you), you overcome the devil and his devils. You are sitting with Christ at the Right Hand of God (Eph. 2:6).

Well, my topic is that the Believer should not perish in Hell Fire. However, many Believers will perish in Hell Fire. Casual reading of the New Testament will reveal this truth to you. God does not intend that it should be so, but it will be so to many.

The Bible says that it is not the Will of God that any soul should perish, but those that refuse Jesus Christ will perish in Hell Fire. Those that live in sin and disobedience will perish in Hell Fire.

As a matter of fact, God is not the one that sends people to Heaven or Hell; actually, people choose where they will go, even without their knowledge. Where you go is dependent on what you do with Jesus Christ, His Holy Spirit, and God's Word.

God sets before you life and death, blessing and curse (good and bad), and you choose the one you want (Deut. 30:19). God does not force anyone. Of course, He can change circumstances and conditions around you to help you take the decision to obey; however, He still, will not force you.

Hell Fire was not made for man. Hell was made for satan and his fallen angels, his demons. Why? Because they rebelled against God.

However, the man that rebels against God is putting himself in the same position as the devil, and the Bible says that he will suffer the same condemnation and punishment in Hell Fire. The punishment of Hell Fire is everlasting and eternal.

The fire of Hell does not quench and its worms do not die. If all the sufferings in this world are put together, and one person is made to carry them and bear them, yet it will not equal what someone will suffer in Hell for 24 hours.

My brother, run from the damnation of Hell Fire while there is time. After death, there is no room for repentance; neither is there room for forgiveness.

The Lord Jesus Christ asks, "Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" (Lk. 6:46). Many will say to Him on that Day, "Lord, Lord, have we not done this or that in Your Name?" But He will tell them that He never knew them (Matt. 7:21-23).

Notice that many of them even prophesied. It is only those that do the Will of the Father that will enter the Kingdom of Heaven (verse 21). You may be baptized and confirmed in your church, but that is not the answer.

If you want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, you must be born of water and of the Spirit (Jn 3:5). That is a higher level of “I am born again” (Jn 3:3). The water is the Word of God (Eph. 5:26), and the Spirit is the Holy Ghost.

You must obey the Word of God, and you must listen to the Spirit of God. Many who are first will be the last, and the last first (Matt. 19:30). Let this not be your portion.

Some people argue and say that God knows those who will go to Heaven and those who will go to Hell. In other words, they say that some are meant for Heaven and some are meant for Hell. This is no truth.

Of course, the Bible says that God will have mercy on whom He would have mercy (Rom. 9:14-20). The Bible says that God loved Jacob and hated Esau (Rom. 9:9-14). But you’ve got to interpret that Scripture well, in order not to misdirect yourself.

The Bible says that it is those that endure to the end that will be saved (Matt. 24:13). In other words, if you fall by the wayside, you will not be saved. He who despises God, He will despise (1 Sam. 2:30).

The end of a matter is better than the beginning (Eccl. 7:8). It is one thing to start well, but it is another to end well. Don’t fall by the roadside. Many are called but few are chosen (Matt. 20:16).

Why were they chosen? It is because they were faithful. Count yourself to be death with Christ and alive for Him. The life that you live now should be for Him.

The Word of God talks of the children of the Kingdom being cast away into the Outer Darkness wherein is gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8:12). Those children were meant for the Kingdom of Heaven, but due to sin, disobedience, and unrighteousness, they lost their place in it.

God, after saving the children of Israel from the Egyptian bondage and allowing them to have many spiritual and mighty experiences, destroyed those that sinned and did not believe (1 Cor. 10:1-13).

The Word of God says that because iniquity shall abound in the last days, the love of many shall wax cold; however, some people's love will not wax cold and they will endure to the end (Matt. 24:12-13).

It is those that endure to the end that will be saved. Without holiness, no man can see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matt. 5:8). If you are not holy and pure, forget Heaven.

However, whatever you might have done, repent now; confess your sins to God and make the necessary restitutions; and God will wipe away your sins and unrighteousness.

If you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9). There is no hard-man with God.

All your pride and boasting is because your time is not up. When your time expires, God will judge you and He is no respecter of persons (Rev. 2:20-23). God says, "Return to me, you backslider!" Obey Him now so that you will not say, "Had I known...."

This is not a question of whether you are an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, a bishop, or an archbishop, a president and founder, a general overseer, an elder, a deacon or a deaconess, a men's or women's leader, a Sunday School teacher, a singer, an intercessor or whatever you may be; if you don't obey God and His Word, forget Heaven and prepare to live with the devil eternally.

Abstain from the lust of the flesh which war against your soul. Flee youthful lusts. God will not allow any temptation that is greater than you to come to you, but don't go where angels fear to tread on. Man can never be wiser than God; when God says, 'Flee,' do just that.

When you are enticed, do not give in to the enticement or temptation. Don't get entangled with sin and disobedience. There are many errors among Believers

today; avoid those errors so that it will be well with your soul.

Examine yourself to see whether you are still standing in the faith. If you judge yourself, you will not be judged. Beware of hypocrisy and compromise. All hypocrites will end in eternal separation from God.

Unfaithful servants will be cast into the Outer Darkness. Those who compromise the Word and Standard of God will find themselves in the Lake of Fire which burns with fire and brimstone.

Wives, submit to your husbands in the Lord; husbands, love your wives as your own bodies. If you put a stumbling block to your spouse, so that your words and actions cause him or her to live contrary to the Word and Will of God, God will require it from you: you will give account of your relationship with your spouse to God.

Abhor what is evil; cling to that which is good and true. You must forgive others so that God will forgive you your own sin. Awake to righteousness and shun sin and immorality.

Many have already been corrupted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The minds of many have already been polluted by demonic suggestions.

He who overcomes will inherit all things. The overcomer will be blessed forever. Let your inward man direct and control your outward man, and not vice versa.

If you live according to your flesh, you shall die; but if through the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the flesh, you shall live.

God did not call us to serve Him for nothing. He will reward our obedience and punish the disobedient. Cease to do evil, learn to do well.

If you live your life anyhow, you will be devoured by the sword of God’s Judgment. If you judge yourself, you will not

be judged. Walk in the highway of righteousness, the way that pleases God and does His Good Will.

Where is your heart? This is one of the most important questions anyone can ask you. Where your heart is, has a lot to do with you.

No wonder the Bible says that if you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are Above, where Christ Jesus is sitting at the Right Hand of God. Set your mind on things Above, not on things on the earth.

If you do that, when Jesus Christ Who is our Life appears, then you also will appear with Him in Glory (Col. 3:1-4).

Where do you put your treasure? Is it in banks, in property-development, or in investments? The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that where your treasure is, is where your heart will be also (Lk. 12:34).

If you don't labour for the Lord, how will your heart be in Heaven? If you seek the praise of men, instead of that of God, how will your heart be in Heaven? If you don't win souls for the Lord, if you don't support the Work of the Lord, if you don't obey the Lord, your heart will not be in Heaven.

Where your heart is has a lot to do with you. This is because the Word of God says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matt. 12:34). Your words and actions are a reflection of what is in your heart.

If your heart is filled with good things, your heart will produce words and actions that will prepare you for Heaven. If your heart is full of the Word of God (Col. 3:16), and you are obedient to the Word you know, your reward will be abundant in Heaven and your heart will be there.

Those who are rich in this present age should not be haughty and proud, nor trust in uncertain riches but in the Living God, Who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

They should do good, be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good

foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on Eternal Life (1 Tim. 6:17-19). Then will their hearts be in Heaven.

The Bible teaches that it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's hole than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Mk 10:24-27). With men, that is impossible, but not with God; for with God, all things are possible (verse 27).

If a rich man will submit to the Word of God, the Word of God will remove his heart from the things of this world, and he will begin to set his heart on things Above, which only can make him please God. Do you remember the rich young ruler who could not obey Jesus Christ? (Matt. 19:16-26).

The rich man went away sorrowful because his heart was on his riches. If you are rich, God gave you the riches; therefore, instead of trusting on the riches, trust the Giver. Remember that riches have wings, and they do fly away (Prov. 23:5).

Some may trust in horses and some may trust in chariots, but we will trust in the Name of our God (Psa. 20:7). Cursed is the man that puts his trust on men and on money (Jer. 17:5-6).

The Bible says that if you lay up treasures for yourself in this world, you may lose them to the hands of thieves and robbers. Even, rust and moth do destroy material things. However, if you lay them up in Heaven, be sure that neither thieves, robbers, rust, nor moths are there (Matt. 6:19-21).

Furthermore, in nakedness you came and in nakedness you will go at death (Job 1:21). Remember the rich man that died the night after he had made plans to enjoy his riches and wealth. The Lord called him a fool (Lk. 12:20).

He was called a fool because he had no heart for God. To have a heart for God is not to come to church and make a donation of one million dollar when you have no plan to serve and obey God.

No matter how rich you may be, you will have one room, one car, one pair of shoes at a time; and finally, you will have one grave. Don’t allow the riches that the Lord has given you or allowed you to possess lead to your Eternal Destruction.

Some people’s hearts are on their past mistakes, the disappointments of the past, their past sins and hurts they received from people. Some people have vowed not to forgive this or that person.

If you don’t forgive, God will not forgive you also; and you will remain a sinner, no matter how you confess (Matt. 6:15). Bitterness in your heart will hinder your spiritual life and can result to mental or physical sickness.

The Bible says that if you confess your sins, God is faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9).

If you repented and confessed your sins, God has forgiven you: go ahead and live the good life that Christ Jesus has provided for you. Putting your heart and mind on your past sins will greatly affect your Christian walk; forgive yourself.

Your past mistakes and disappointments can be turned into a great future. Even though the devil steals from you (and you can stop or could have stopped it through prayer), know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His Good Purpose (Rom. 8:28).

The Lord God is able to restore the years that the cankerworm and the palmerworm have eaten (Joel 2:25-26). Nothing is impossible with God (Mk 10:27).

Some people’s hearts are on education and certificates. Education is good, and certificates are good; but they should not stop you from doing what you are supposed to be doing for God.

I tell you, there are many people in institutions of higher learning, like universities, polytechnics, and colleges

of education, today who the Lord would have they had entered Theological schools (and note that there are many wrong and bad Theological schools) and prepare for ministry immediately after high or secondary schools.

God pleads with you to give Him your heart (Prov. 23:26). If He has your heart, He has your all. Walk with God in perfect heart, the perfect heart that says, “Since God has said that this should be this way, it should be this way.”

Walking with God in perfect heart made God to add fifteen more years to King Hezekiah, when he prayed (2 Kgs 20:1-7). Your heart is your spirit-man. Apostle Paul said that he has always walked with (or followed) God with all pure conscience since his youth (Acts 23:1).

Did you notice that he was saying that even when he was killing and imprisoning Christians, he did what he did with a perfect heart? No wonder he told us later that he did what he did ignorantly in unbelief (1 Tim. 1:13).

And we know that God forgave him when he repented and submitted to God. Even though you may still be making some mistakes now, don’t be discouraged: follow God with a perfect heart and make every effort to know God and His Word the more so that you can avoid those mistakes.

The heart of a sinner is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). All the ways of a man seem right to him, but the Lord tries and weighs his heart (Prov. 21:2).

If men disappoint or hurt you, know that they are men. If they criticize, slander, or back-bite you, learn to swallow up the negative effects the devil will want to bring your way through them. Don’t allow any stumbling block of the enemy knock you down.

God loves you very much. Give Him your all; give Him your heart. If He has your heart, it will be easy to correct and instruct you. Don’t say that you know everything. When you get to know more, you will realize that you had known little.

Don’t let the devil have your heart. Don’t sell your soul to the devil for anything. Don’t be like Esau, who for a single meal sold his birthright and lost it forever.

RECEIVING, THINKING, BELIEVING, CONFESSION, AND POSSESSION

Man is made up of the human spirit, the soul, and the body (1 Thes. 5:23). Many people are more conscious of their body than they are of their spirit, but the truth is that man was made in the Image and Likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27).

If man was made in the Likeness of God and God is Spirit (Jn 4:24), man must of necessity be a spirit also. You are, actually, a spirit, and you have a soul (the soul is the seat of reasoning, emotions, thoughts, etc).

Your body accommodates both your spirit and your soul. Your spirit exists within your heart, your belly position (Prov. 20:27). On the other hand, your soul (that is your mind) is within your brain area.

However, what is most important is that you know that you consist of these three parts or areas, and for you to be conscious of the fact that your spirit-man is the main man. Your spirit-man is your inner man (1 Pet. 3:4) or your inward man (2 Cor. 4:16).

When Adam disobeyed God, his spirit died and he got separated from God and became His enemy, even though God still loved him. God made provision for Adam’s restoration which was consummated at the Coming, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When someone believes and confesses Jesus Christ, his spirit is regenerated or made alive by the Holy Spirit of the Living God.

This is what is meant by being born again; and the Lord says that except a man is born again, he can neither see nor enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Jn 3:3,5).

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17). It is your spirit that was born again and became a new creature.

It is not your mind, your soul, that is born again. You may still think imperfect thoughts even after you are born again. That is why the Word of God tells born again, Spirit-filled Believers to renew their minds (Rom. 12:2).

Your mind is renewed, is saved, by the Word of God (Jas 1:21). The more you read or hear the Word, the more you meditate on it and believe it, the more your mind is renewed; you see yourself thinking and speaking like God − God's Word is God.

It is not your body that is born again. Your body remains the same: the same height and complexion. Some have tried to change their complexion by bleaching their skin. That is satanic.

What will you tell God when you stand before His Judgment Seat on the Judgment Day and He asks you, "Why did you call Me an imperfect Creator?" Some have changed their hair, face, and other parts of the body.

The Word of God tells us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is our reasonable service (Rom. 12:1). Presenting your body is a good sacrifice; it involves self-denial and self-control.

We are to present our members, parts of our body as instruments of righteousness and obedience to holiness and pleasing God (Rom. 6:13,19). Your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit and you must keep it holy for the Lord.

Our topic is about receiving, thinking, believing, confession, and possession. Our body has five sense-organs. The organs include: the eye (for sight), the nose (for

smelling), the tongue (for taste), the skin (for touch), and the ear (for hearing).

It is actually from these senses that we receive information into our brains (our brain is a giant and complex computer: it receives, stores, processes, and gives out information). God is a Wonderful God!

You must be careful of what you receive, especially through your eyes and your ears. What you receive and keep receiving will influence your beliefs. Your beliefs will influence your actions, confession, and possession.

Actually, your actions are a form of your confession. Your confession is your available action, and your action is your visible confession.

The impure images and information you receive and keep receiving will tempt you with impure thoughts and actions. Godly words and information will make you think Godly thoughts.

Be careful of what you allow into your mind, for it will greatly influence your thoughts, beliefs, confessions, and actions; and they, in turn, will influence your possessions and your ability to fulfill your destiny.

God has a great destiny for you. Receive the grace to fulfill your destiny in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.

When you spend your time in pornographic images, messages full of unbelief and doubt, and gossiping, your Christian life will be messed up. Evil communication and company corrupts good manners (1 Cor. 15:33).

Don't be wiser than God. The Bible says that you must flee from youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22). You must pursue God and Godliness also.

Don't stay in a locked room, in a dark room, alone with somebody of the opposite sex because you think you are very much anointed. The man may force you, and the lady may seduce you.

The Word of God tells us to think on good, pleasant, loving, truthful, praiseworthy, and Godly things (Phil. 4:8).

Don’t spend your time meditating on evil and ungodly things because they will mar you. What you ponder on will make or mar you.

Think on the Word of God. Meditate on God’s Word day and night (Josh. 1:8). Keep looking at the Word (Prov. 4:20-21). Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ and you will never sink (Matt. 14:28-31; Heb. 12:2).

Also, have absolute confidence and belief in the Word of God. God can neither lie nor fail to perform His Word (Heb. 6:18). He is the Almighty Jehovah, the Maker of all things and there is nothing impossible with Him (Lk. 1:37).

They that trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion, which cannot be removed but abides forever (Psa. 125:1). Believe and don’t doubt in your heart. When you pray, believe that you receive and you shall have your request (Mk 11:24).

Your confession will expose your belief, for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Lk. 6:45). Even in salvation, believing is to righteousness, while confession is to salvation (Rom. 10:10).

Keep confessing the Word of God, no matter how dark and difficult your path and situation may be like. Always be positive and never be negative, no matter what you may be seeing or hearing. Always be moved by what you believe, by what God says.

Coming to your possession, the Lord God Almighty has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness through our knowledge of Jesus Christ Who has called us by His Own Power and Glory (2 Pet. 1:3,4).

We are given exceeding great and precious promises, and all the Promises of God in Christ Jesus are ‘Yes,’ and ‘Amen’ (2 Cor. 1:20).

If you maintain the confession of your faith, no matter how bad the circumstance may look like, you will overcome and have your expectations.

The Word tells us to fight the good fight of faith, to lay hold on Eternal Life (1 Tim. 6:12). Eternal Life is the Life and Nature of God.

Even when it seems you are seeing the opposite of what you expect, if you don't waver, if you don't doubt but believe, I tell you, you will have all that you need, all that you require, and all that Christ Jesus has provided for you.

Let not the Heaven above you be closed, but let it rather be always open. Not doing what God wants you to do can close the Heaven above you; not giving God your tithe and offering can close the Heaven above you. Obeying God with all your heart and loving God with all your heart will open the Heaven above you.

Check whether your plans, desires, purposes, and pursuits correspond with those of the Lord over your life. God's Plans and Will for our lives are always the best. But you get to know about them by waiting on God and listening to Him, by prayer and meditation.

Don't harden your heart, but be open to God, so that you will receive His Direction. Don't say that you have made up your mind on this issue, and can't change it. Also, don't wait to have God stamp your decision; let Him, rather, direct you on what to do, so that demons will not deceive you by stamping it for you.

AGENTS OF SATAN IN CHURCHES AND IN THE WORLD

There are people who serve the interest of the devil in this world. Just as God needs people to work with Him, the devil needs people to work with him also.

The devil (satan) comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy. However, Jesus Christ came to give us life and more

abundant life (Jn 10:10).

The Word of God says that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12).

The devil and his associates (his fallen angels and demons) have ranks in their operation, the highest being the spiritual wickedness in high places. Those kinds operate in the heavenlies, and they direct the rulers of the darkness of this world who, in turn, give orders to the powers.

The principalities receive instructions from the powers. Apart from these spiritual entities, there are human beings that work with them to achieve their purposes.

The human agents are the witches and the wizards. Though the witches refer to the female agents while the wizards refer to the male agents, for the purpose of our study, the witches will serve for both of them.

Even the human agents also operate in ranks, and there are different cults and secret societies: some operate in the air, some operate in the water, and others operate on the land. They do travel to the outer space through astral projections and soul-travels.

Even though there is the likeliness that there are more female agents of satan than there are the male agents, especially in the marine kingdom, the male agents occupy higher positions often. Of course, there are many female agents who occupy greater positions than many male agents, depending on the society or cult one operates in.

This can also happen due to their levels of advancement. However, there are levels they don’t allow females to pass, except in few instances; because they recognize that females are weaker and may expose their higher secrets easily, more than males.

As noted earlier, the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The devil, his fallen angels and demons, and his

human agents have those three things in mind, directly or indirectly. They fight the ministers of the Gospel.

They tempt them with different things and in different ways to make them sin. They also try to harm them physically. They are sworn enemies of Christians; they do whatever they can to pull the Christians down, hurt them, and, if possible, to kill them.

They take Christians as criminals and ministers as their most wanted criminals. This is because the ministers are leaders who are followed by many, and when one minister falls or dies, many are affected. They are in different arms of churches.

The devil and his agents use ministers' spouses and children against them. This is why some minister's wives will pick up quarrels often with their husbands to get their husbands angry, and maybe overreact.

For women-ministers, their husbands can also be used to frustrate their ministries, though the devil's usage of wives in this connection is more. Also, they try to make ministers' children ungodly and stubborn to frustrate them and give them bad image in the public.

This is why you must pray and study the Bible with your family always. Pray for each member of your family in your private prayer-life.

In churches, they pretend to be children of God and carry out their assignments under cover. Of course, some may be more evident to be agents of darkness, depending on their assignments and works.

Some of the assignments may be to cause sicknesses, sleep, lukewarmness, sexual immorality and lust, strife and quarrels, and such things.

Some agents appear violent while others appear quiet. Therefore, don't be deceived by appearance, let the Holy Spirit lead you concerning this.

This is why you, individually or as a group, need the gifts of the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits

so that the devil won’t deceive you easily.

However, even without the gifts, your knowledge of God and His Word, and your being able to be sensitive to the Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit in your spirit will safe-guard you.

Never be afraid of witches, for, before the Holy Spirit in you, they are powerless. The Fire of the Holy Spirit, the Blood of Jesus Christ, and the angels of God are there for you, so that no evil will harm you.

Witches cause accidents to take human lives. They do this to send more people to Hell and to get enough blood in their blood-banks, because they feed on blood. They cause poverty and calamities in the lives of people.

During their initiations, their original God-given heart is removed and a stony heart is given them spiritually, so that they begin to desire and feel like the devil with great passion. This is why someone can turn very wicked overnight.

Therefore, parents, be careful with the type of associations your children keep, because children and youths are easily initiated through different things like gifts, borrowing, and lending.

They do this in nursery, primary, secondary, and tertiary schools. They do this in churches, markets, streets, clubs, and everywhere. You must always pray for your children and cover them with the Blood of Jesus Christ.

This is why you should train them in the Way of the Lord, so that when they are old, they will not depart from it. Make sure they are committed Christians, even at early age.

Some people use the gifts or alms given them to make some incantations in their covens and enslave the activities of their donors. They may come to you as beggars or those in need.

This doesn’t mean that you should not give or lend, but always cover the gifts with the Blood of Jesus Christ before

you give them out. Remember that when you give or lend in the Name of the Lord, you are doing it for the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

If they lend money to you or sell goods to you in credit, they can use the credit-contact to remote-control your money and business, except you are prayerful. He who goes on borrowing will go on sorrowing. Also, the borrower is a servant to the lender (Prov. 22:7).

Pray over the food and meat you take; bless them in the Name of Jesus Christ, and they will be blessed by prayer and by the Word of God (1 Tim. 4:5). Be careful how you allow people touch you; but, don't be afraid.

Even, many rulers of different categories in the government of the nations are in different cults, and they use them to frustrate the economies of the nations of the world.

This is why many of them are very wicked and uncaring; because when people are frustrated, many look for negative powers to solve their problems and go into robbery, prostitution, pursuit of money, wrong company, and others.

To this end, the Word of God says that we should pray for all men, especially those in authority, that we may live a Godly and peaceable life (1 Tim. 2:1-4). It is only the prayers of Christians that can save their countries.

Satan appears as an angel of light, and it is no wonder if his agents and ministers do the same (2 Cor. 11:14-15). Many of the false brethren in churches, ministries, and fellowships are nothing but agents of satan, and they cause confusion there.

Actually, if you serve the will of satan, you make yourself his agent, whether you are a witch or not. Therefore, husbands, wives, children, friends, pastors, members, do not allow the devil to use you fulfill his work.

When you speak lies in hypocrisy, you are serving the interest of the devil. When you preach and teach things

that are contrary to the Word of God, you are serving the interest of the devil.

Many have been deceived, and many are deceiving others. Demons deceive people, even Believers, so that those who have been deceived will be used to deceive others.

Jezebel was used by the devil to cause God's children commit immorality (Rev. 2:20). False apostles of the Ephesian Church were tested and found liars (Rev. 2:2).

He who believes shall not be in haste (Isa. 28:16). Try the spirits and prove all things. Before you marry, make sure you are spiritually sensitive to God's Direction and Leading. Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain.

Even many products in markets are produced in the demonic world and sold to our world, physically. They include: cosmetics, dresses, food items, and many others; therefore, pray over the things you use before using them.

Some say we should not talk about the devil; however, if their eyes are opened, they will not say so. How would a demonic lady lure a highly anointed man of God into sexual immorality, without the man recognizing it?

Be prayerful always; add fasting to your prayers. Also, increase in your knowledge of God and His Word. Fellowship with other sincere Believers and let the Peace of God be with you. Amen.

When you cause strife and division in the House of God, you are serving the interest of the devil. Therefore, as a Believer, don't allow the devil to use you fulfil his purpose.

WATCHFULNESS, VIGILANCE, AND SOBRIETY

To be watchful is to be careful to notice what is happening, in case anything bad happens. To watch is to look carefully, in order to avoid any danger.

To be vigilant is to give careful attention to what is happening, so that you will notice any danger. Sobriety refers to behaviour that shows a serious attitude to life.

These three words require seriousness; that is, to be watchful, vigilant, and sober, you've got to be sensible and quiet. We live in evil days; therefore, you must be watchful, vigilant, and sober.

The Word of God tells us to watch and pray so that we will not enter into temptation. The reason is that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matt. 26:41).

You can watch without praying, and you can pray without watching. You must watch and pray. If you watch without praying, you can know of danger, but you may not avoid it.

If you pray without watching, you can pray amiss, and you can be caught up in the temptation or danger. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your Brotherhood in the world (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

To be sober is to have a serious attitude to life; it is not to take things or life for granted, but to be careful and sensitive. The devil is looking for any loophole in your life so that he may strike.

Therefore, don't create any loophole for him. Your faith (steadfast faith) is the shield with which you can stop all the arrows of the devil.

The parable of the wheat and the tares tells us the need for watchfulness (Matt. 13:24-30). A man sowed good seeds

in his field; but in the night, because he had no watchman who was watching, an enemy went to that field of his and sowed tares and left.

Neither the man nor his servants knew about the tares until when they sprouted and grew alongside the wheat. Without watchfulness, vigilance, and sobriety, the devil can spoil the good things you are doing for God.

Their unwatchfulness led to a loss; because, for fear of damaging the wheat, the owner advised his servants to allow both of them to grow together till the harvest. The wheat and the tares, therefore, had to share the soil nutrient in the field.

The wheat would have grown better if the competition for the available nutrients and conditions was not there. This same thing is happening in churches today.

Due to carelessness, agents of the kingdom of darkness have entered many churches to do their destructive and bad works among the Believers while posing as fellow Believers.

There are many bad and sinful doctrines and ways of life that have been introduced into churches because satanic agents entered among Christians.

For instance, let’s consider the issue of Christian ladies using weavons (wigs). There are many reasons why Christians should not use weavons. Using weavon is like telling God that He is stupid and imperfect for giving you the kind of hair you have.

It is like bleaching which many do; they feel that God should have made them fair in complexion instead of dark. But on the Day of Judgment, you will find out that you tried to degrade God.

Also, many of those weavons are real human hair which were cut and sold. How can you be wearing another person’s hair as a Christian lady or woman? This is worldliness; this is satanic and demonic; sister, the ground you are treading on is dangerous.

Then, even though some of those weavons may be synthetic or artificial (which the first point still condemns), many of those weavons ladies use are manufactured in the water-kingdom of darkness and brought to this earth for sales to contaminate the people of the world.

The thing that some people don't know is that some companies which exist physically on this earth came from the dark kingdom of satan, especially the water-world of the devil.

It may surprise you to know that an occult man who wants to construct a building can do it using workers from the dark kingdom who will manifest physically. Occult companies use satanic agents as workers and people wouldn't know.

In fact, many things we see physically came from the dark kingdom. Even many legal and morally good things we see are manufactured in the dark kingdom, some of which I wouldn't mention here.

This is why you need to pray over and sanctify the things that you use, especially edible things. But how will you want to sanctify things that the Lord has rejected and condemned?

Everything is not demonic, don't misunderstand me; don't live in fear either, because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

The anointing breaks every yoke of the enemy. But many Christians create loopholes for the devil through sin, disobedience, and worldliness.

You need to be watchful and sober, because if you are not, the devil can lead you into sin and worldliness, and if the Lord Jesus Christ meets you in that state at His Coming, or you die in that state, you will miss Heaven and go to Hell.

But that is not God's Plan for you, and He did not bring you out of the world to condemn you later. Therefore, don't

condemn yourself. You condemn yourself by despising His Word and the Promptings His Spirit.

The Bible recommends that a bishop must be vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2). Every minister of the Gospel must be vigilant. As a pastor, you need to walk with God.

You need to be vigilant and watchful; and you need to know the Voice or Leading of the Spirit of God. Do you know that somebody can be sent to your church or ministry by the powers of darkness to pull you down?

That person may come in and become very zealous in your activities, and you may start promoting the person to responsible positions. After some months or years, he or she may do or say things that can destroy your ministry.

The fellow can lie against you, and may say things that you may not be able to explain. People, even your members, may believe him or her, saying that if he or she was fake and lying, he or she wouldn't have been with you for so long.

This is why you don't need to believe everything you hear about someone. Don't believe every good or bad thing people say about a minister, except you have the witness inside you.

Watch, for you do not know what Hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into (Matt. 24:42-43).

Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the Time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

Watch, therefore, for you do not know when the Master of the House is coming − in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning, lest coming suddenly, He finds you sleeping (Mk 13:33-36).

The Bible tells us to be watchful in all things (2 Tim. 4:5). Watch your tongue, watch your words, watch your actions, watch your relationships, watch your life, watch your ministry.

Watch your environment, watch your commitments, and watch in everything. Don't be taken by surprise unnecessarily.

Remember that the Spirit of God will tell you things to come. The Word says that we should not sleep, as others do, but should watch and be sober.

For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation (1 Thes. 5:6-8).

Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the Revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He Who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct (1 Pet. 1:13-15).

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:7-8).

God doesn't want us to be at a disadvantage at any time and in any thing. No wonder Apostle Paul declared that we are not ignorant of the devices of the devil (2 Cor. 2:11).

If you are ignorant, he will take advantage of you; and he does not come, but to steal, kill, and destroy. God's people perish because of ignorance; therefore, go for more and right knowledge.

Remember that you are a watchman; therefore, watch in all things. The souls of men are tied to you; if you don't watch over their souls, they will perish. Therefore, give diligence to being committed to winning souls for the Lord.

Know your friends, and be careful of your enemies. It is good to keep friends, but know that your friends will either make or mar you. Therefore, be careful with the type of friends you keep. Also, know that your enemies may be looking for the slightest opportunity to strike. Therefore, watch always.

We are in the End Time; you must be watchful the more as you see the Day of the Lord approaching. There are many End-time realities, things that the Lord told us will happen before He comes.

As He has warned us ahead of time, so that the Day of the Lord will not overtake us unexpectedly, we must be more alert. We must prepare for the Lord's Coming; we must be ready to welcome Him.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Word of God says that God's people perish due to ignorance. We should not suffer for nothing, and we should not suffer unnecessarily.

Yes, we must suffer for the Sake of Jesus Christ, for His Cause; we must take up our crosses daily and follow Him. However, many of the things which God's people suffer are unnecessary; God wants us to live a peaceable and quiet life (1 Tim. 2:2).

Do you know that God's people can change and control situations and happenings in their countries and states? In fact, it is only Christians that can save their countries from spiritual, economic, and social problems.

When the country suffers, the Christians there will suffer too. When things go well in the country, the

Christians will rejoice as well. Satan attacks the nations of the world, directly and indirectly.

When a nation falls economically, many of its citizens will start and continue with bribery, corruption, robbery, prostitution, drug-abuse, child-abuse, and other bad traits and practices.

Many young men enter cults and secret societies due to lack, poverty, and frustration. But the people of God can change the stories of their countries for good. When people are entangled to evil, the devil rejoices; but when people worship God in spirit and in truth, God rejoices.

As a matter of fact, most of what researchers have explained, naturally and scientifically, are actually the handiworks of the devil and his host. The spiritual controls the physical; and the devil will prefer to work unnoticed to avoid confrontation.

Do you know that many of the rulers of the nations of the world belong to secret societies and cults, and they are told what to do from their cults? You know, the devil likes to frustrate and bind people.

When the Christians relax without doing what they are supposed to be doing, the devil will have a free access to function and execute his plans.

The inadequate level of development in many countries of the world is the handiwork of the devil, which he perpetrates through cultists that control the affairs of the governments of this world.

Unfortunately, the Christians there have either relaxed or not prayed effectively to thwart the plans of the kingdom of darkness. Do you know that God will hold the Church responsible for many of the things happening in their countries?

Prayerlessness among Christians is cherished by the devil, and makes God unhappy. This is because prayerlessness hinders the Work of God, and favours the works of the devil.

Complaining and murmuring will not solve the problems. As a matter of fact, God hates complaining and murmuring (1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14). Our God is the Almighty and He can do everything and anything, except sin and disappoint.

A song-writer said that we suffer needless pains; we forfeit peace that we should have had because of prayerlessness. But there is hope for the living for they still have the opportunity to pray.

First, the Lord desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). The rulers of the nations of the world are candidates for salvation. Is it possible? Yes.

Even in this age, someone can be a president, a prime minister, a minister, a governor, a commissioner, a head of department, or whatever post he may hold, and still be a Christian who is ready for the Rapture of the Saints.

Whatever sin he might have committed, if he gives his life to Jesus Christ and renounces sin and cultism, God will forgive and cleanse him.

If a ruler leaves corruption and mal-administration for Godliness and good service to the people, God will be pleased with him, and the Lord will keep him there, except if it is not God's Perfect Will for his life.

Freedom from sin is not when you have not been tempted or severely tried. In fact, you prove your resistance to sin by refusing to sin in the midst of pressing temptations.

However, avoid working where you believe you won't be able to resist the temptations there, except you are led by God (for He will give you the ability).

The heart of the king is in the Hands of the Lord, and like the rivers, He turns it wherever He wishes (Prov. 21:1). Instead of trusting in the king, trust in the Lord, and the Lord Himself will direct the king's heart to doing the right things, no matter the demonic pressures surrounding him.

The devil's powers bow before the Power of the Lord, and the Power of the Lord is made available through prayer. Even when the king is not a Christian, God can make him do right if we pray effectively. Consider the case of King Nebuchadnezzar and King Dairus (Dan. 3:28-30; Ezra 1:1-4).

As a Christian, be subject to civil government (Rom. 13:1; Tit. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17); be afraid to disobey civil rulers (Rom. 13:3; Prov. 24:21); do the good (Rom. 13:4; Tit. 3:1); pay taxes (Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:17-21); render dues to all men (Rom. 13:7); honour civil rulers (Rom. 13:1-7; Exo. 22:28; Acts 23:5; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

Pray for civil rulers (1 Tim. 2:1-2); obey civil laws (Rom. 13:1-7; Ezra 7:26); do not curse rulers (Eccl. 10:20); and work for peace (Rom. 12:18). These are the duties of the citizens of any country. Of course, if a law is contrary to God's Word, you shouldn't obey it.

Christians should participate in the politics of their countries, directly or indirectly. Those who are indifferent to politics will be ruled by whoever the devil may put there. Now, I am not necessarily saying that Christians must contest for presidential or gubernatorial seats.

Do you know that unified effective prayer of the Christians can produce the right winner? The best candidate may not necessarily be a Christian, but God knows the heart of every man.

Also, you participate in politics by going out to vote for the candidate you deem best. I believe democracy is the best form of government in this present age.

Democracy is not Theocracy, and Israelites of the Bible practiced Theocracy and monarchy. Majority decision is not always God's Decision. People's voice may not be God's Voice.

However, by unified prayer, intercession, and action (participation), God will make the right person win. Don't

vote for a candidate simply because he is from your region or area, but based on his fitness.

Our Kingdom is not of this world, and we should not love the world. But this does not mean that we will leave the administration of our countries to the hands of the people of the devil.

The devil may be the god of this world, but we are gods, lords, and kings, under the Almighty God, Lord, and King. When the righteous is in power, the people rejoice. Some people say that you cannot partake in politics and still be faithful; but this is not true.

All you need is to follow God's Plan for your life. Jesus Christ refused to be made a king in this world, because that was not God's Plan for His Life (Jn 6:14-15). Do you believe that it is possible to get all men born again? Yes, it is.

The reason people run away from God is because they love their flesh and the things of this world, instead of God. But when they submit to God, or when God acts in Sovereignty (like in the case of Apostle Paul), there is no impossibility with God.

Our belief and orientation must change for good. The antichrist will come, because people will hold on to the devil; but if all men turn to God, watch out to what will happen to the antichrist!

Christians can overthrow governments, not by military coup de tat, but by prayer and intercession. No man is stronger than God, but God will not be interfering with the affairs of our countries if we (His representatives and ambassadors) do not invite Him into our countries' affairs.

Christians are the watchmen of their nations, but they can suffer and die not watching. Resist the devil steadfast in faith.

Daniel was a prophet, and his friends were faithful righteous people; yet they maintained their Godly lives and steadfastness in a foreign heathen nation of Babylon, and

God used them to change the Gentile nation, at least for a time (Dan. 1:8-21; Dan. 2:17-49, Dan. 3:1-30; Dan. 6:1-28).

Note that they functioned as rulers and administrators in a heathen country and still remained Godly. What matters is our heart. Where is your heart? However, be wise and follow God's Plan for your life.

HAVE YOU APPLIED WHAT YOU KNOW?

If many Christians apply half of what they know now, satan, his demons, and his human agents will be so afraid of them, that they will relate with them from afar.

But the devil operates almost freely in the lives of many Christians without much fear. God has told and taught many people many things and yet they don't apply them. It is applied knowledge that brings results.

If you know all and apply nothing, instead of gaining, you will lose, because the Servant that knows His Master's Commands and does not do them will be beaten with more stripes (Lk. 12:47-48).

There is a level of lack of knowledge, and that is a more terrible level, because you will not apply the things you don't know. Hence, the Word of God says that God's people perish for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6).

Ignorance of God, His Word and Ways, and the ways of the devil will lead to loss, death, and destruction.

Of course, no one knows everything about God or the devil, but you can increase your knowledge by the study and reading of the Bible and other Godly Christian materials.

Some people listen to their pastors or general-overseers only. Though that approach has a positive side of being in a better position to avoid error and intrusion of false teachings, yet it has the negative side of not receiving what God may want to pass to you through other ministers.

There are many people that the Lord has called, and they have different ministries, abilities, and areas of calling. All you need for your Christian life can never be passed to you by any one preacher.

However, as you listen to anybody or read their materials, be careful to follow God's Spirit and His Word. This is why you must be sensitive to the Anointing that teaches you all things (1 Jn 2:20,27).

And you must be full of the Word of God so that you can test and prove the teachings you hear. If you are sincere, God will lead you into the truth and lead you away from the spirit of error.

This is not to say that you must listen to everybody. Don't listen to those you are convinced (without bias) are not teaching the truth.

Remember that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Small error can cause great havoc to your Christian faith.

I am saying this because we know that there are many false prophets and false teachers who use the Bible and the Name of Jesus Christ to extend the thoughts, plans, and works of the devil. There are many false ministers.

However, we are speaking about knowing what to do and not doing it. Whoever knows the good he should do and does not do it, to him it is sin (Jas. 4:17). God commands us to be doers of the Word, and not just hearers alone.

He tells us that if we hear and do not do what we hear, we are deceiving ourselves (Jas 1:22). But don't deceive yourself nor let another person deceive you. God can never be mocked.

God loves obedience, and doing His Word proves to Him that you love Him (Jn 14:15). Absolute complete

obedience is holiness, and without holiness, no man can see the Lord.

Even when you might have not reached perfection, make up your mind that whatever you are sure God wants you to do, you will do. That state of mind is consecration and dedication to God, and it is holiness.

God will then increase your knowledge and help you do what you are to do in order to perfect holiness (2 Cor. 7:1). The grace and ability to obey Him is there; use it!

Prayer is one area people don't apply what they know. When they listen to good messages about prayer, they decide to be consistently prayerful, but many never make it, for they go back after few days.

Some go back because of discouragement, but you don't need to be discouraged; you only need to be persistent. Think about this: those that take part in games train and discipline themselves in order to succeed, and many of them make mistakes and fail along the line.

But it is persistence and consistence that produce champions. A winner or a champion had made many mistakes before.

Some principles of God's Word don't produce fruits overnight; and God doesn't always settle His Account with people every twenty-four hours.

Some principles take a very long time to mature and produce the needed fruits. Others may take a short or shorter time, but make up your mind to achieve the results.

The Word of God is a seed and you know that some seeds or trees (crops) produce within a year (annual crops); some produce within two years (biennial crops); and some produce after many years (perennial plants).

Even pregnancy among animals takes different lengths of time. Some can produce within a short period (like insects); others within nine months (like human beings); and others after more than a year (like elephants).

In building construction, the bigger and taller the building, the deeper and more solid the foundation (of course, the nature of the ground or soil matters a lot; rocky basement will require a shallower foundation than sandy or clayey soil). Some foundations can cost what you may use to finish a five-storey building, like foundations for sky-scrappers.

You must apply what you know and wait patiently to reap its results. The devil has no mercy, and ignorance is no excuse to him.

In fact, he will want you to be ignorant of him and his devices; but we are not ignorant of his devices, and he will not get an advantage over us. In battle, if you don't know of your enemy's strategy, you may be destroyed in a split-second.

How can you use a machete to attack someone coming against you with a gun? And why will you use a gun to fire someone throwing bombs on you from fighter-jets? Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matt. 10:16).

Demonic works and strongholds need confrontation. You must confront demonic conditions with God's Power. It may require fasting, and you have to do it (as led by the Holy Spirit).

Only counseling will not do the work. That is why people are counseled often, and they remain in their problems. Of course, if someone submits to counseling under God's Word and Anointing, he will receive result because God's Word is anointed.

The five foolish virgins should have carried extra oil; but they didn't, either by ignorance or by carelessness, and missed the bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13). Let this not be your portion in any area in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Renew your mind by the Word of God and think the Way God thinks, and you will do God's Will. You need more information from the Word of God to increase your faith and function more effectively.

Some don’t apply what they know because of unbelief. There are two kinds of unbelief: unbelief that comes by lack of the knowledge of the Word of God, and the unbelief that exists, not because you don’t know, but because you are not persuaded by the Word that you know.

The second one is what the other ten spies, apart from Joshua and Caleb, exhibited. God had told them that Jericho will fall for their sake, but because of what they saw with their physical eyes, they doubted the Word of God (Num. 13 & 14).

The secret of receiving what you want is obedience, and obedience is the application of what you know. It is the application that produces the results and not just the knowledge.

Science without technology amounts to nothing. Science is the finding and the knowledge, and technology is the application of scientific findings and knowledge to solve the existing needs. This is true in medical, biological, chemical, engineering, and agricultural fields.

The same is applicable in Christianity. God’s Word is meant to solve needs. If you want people to believe in your God, then your God will have to solve their problems.

Many Christians wonder why unbelievers go to witch-doctors for this or that solution. Preach and teach the real Word of God and allow God manifest Himself through you; if you do, more souls will accept our Lord and Christ.

Abraham was told to leave his country, and he left in obedience to God’s Voice. Noah was directed to build an ark, with specifications, and he did it. Moses was told to build the ark of covenant and the tabernacle exactly the way he saw them, and he did it so.

Jesus Christ followed God’s Plan for His Life and succeeded in His Earthly Ministry. Follow God’s Word and Leading for you, as an individual, and what you will see will blow your mind!

PROSPERITY IN EVERY AREA

Prosperity is the Will of God for all of His children. God wants His children to prosper in every area of their lives. They are to prosper spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

God's children should prosper ministerially, financially, academically, materially, health-wise, in business, and in every other area they may find themselves, according to the Will of God for their individual or collective lives.

Hence Apostle John prayed that Elder Gaius might prosper in all things and be in health just as his soul prospered (3 Jn 1:2).

That is God's Will for all of His children, even till date. However, we see many of Gods' people who are not prospering in many areas of their lives. There are many reasons why this can be so.

How can a child of God not prosper when the earth is the Lord's and the fullness of it? Why do many Christians not prosper when silver, gold, and the cattle belong to God? What makes them to fail when the Lord God can do all things?

Jesus Christ is the Door to God and His Blessings. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Speaking to the Church at Philadelphia, Jesus Christ said, "See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...."

He is the Door, and the Way through the Door. He holds the key of David. When He opens, no one can shut; and when He shuts, no one can open (Rev. 3:7-8).

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land (Isa. 1:19). You must be willing to prosper in order to prosper. Any area you are unwilling to prosper will not go smoothly for you. You may prosper in one area and not prosper in the other.

However, God will sustain you as His child in any area, though you may not prosper in that area. Someone said that he neither wants riches nor poverty, but God's Provisions and Sustenance (Prov. 30:8).

In the scale of wealth, you have: the poor, the comfortable, the rich, the wealthy, and the flourishing. To flourish is the highest level of wealth, and the righteous shall flourish (Prov. 11:28).

Those that flourish lend to many nations and don't need to borrow from any. But you must be willing to flourish to flourish, and you can flourish in any area of your life and ministry.

However, always have it in mind that life does not consist in the abundance of what you have. This is why the Lord tells us to beware of covetousness. If you have all the money, wealth, fame, power, certificate, etc, and you don't please God, or you end in Hell, you gained nothing.

It will be better for you to be poor and wretched in this world and make Heaven at last, than to be the richest, most famous, powerful, and educated person, and be cast into Eternal Punishment.

Also, you must be obedient to prosper. Any prosperity (in human eyes) that is achieved through the life of sin and disobedience has a comma and a question mark. Obedience, righteousness, and holiness will bring true prosperity to you.

"But, what of unbelievers or unfaithful Believers that prosper?" you may ask. In the first place, you are talking of material prosperity, for you cannot prosper spiritually in sin and disobedience. In the second place, that is in the eyes of the natural man.

Any prosperity that leads you to Hell Fire is no prosperity at all. What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?

Also, people see people with flashy cars and of high social status, but they don't know what those people pass through. Many of them will find it very difficult to sleep for two hours a day because of fear and anxiety; others have different health problems that keep them sad, internally.

Still, others have made different sacrifices and commitments that have brought heavy losses to them. Some used their body parts or family members to sacrifice to the spirits that gave them money.

Others are involved in gross corruption and bribery, and because of their practices, they are always afraid. But the Blessings of the Lord make rich and add no sorrow to the blessed.

Spiritual prosperity requires a good knowledge of the Word of God and being prayerful. It involves faith and spiritual exercise.

Spiritual prosperity affects, to a great extent, other areas of life, for the spiritual controls the physical. How you prosper spiritually will affect you health-wise, maritally, and financially.

I know there are people who prosper spiritually but not financially: many of them are unwilling, because they think financial prosperity will lead them into sin and compromise.

Financial prosperity comes from God. In fact, no matter what you do, if God has made up His Mind that you will never prosper financially, you cannot prosper financially.

If you like, go to the strongest secret society or witch-doctor, if God says you will die today, you cannot see tomorrow. Even, all the things satan boasts of cannot be if God says, "Enough is enough."

He who trusts in the devil or in man is a fool. He who says that the Lord does not see has no understanding.

Financial prosperity is a product of obedience, faith, hardwork, giving, and diligence. You cannot maintain these five virtues permanently and not prosper financially.

Faith will bring what does not exist to existence. Obedience will make you follow God's Plan for your life and to obey His Word.

Hardwork will make you invest your resources and energy to the cause you are pursuing; Giving will bring multiplication and increase to your seed and offerings; and diligence will produce consistency.

Physical prosperity is a function of Divine Intervention and obedience to physical laws. God's Word is medicine to your body. He sends forth His Word, and His Word heals the sick.

By the Stripes of Jesus Christ, we were healed. No matter the type of sickness (even when medical science has no solution for it), God can heal you if you believe.

But to pass from the level of healing to the level of health, you must feed on God's Word and meditate on it; you must be prayerful; you must maintain a healthy eating-habit; you must exercise bodily; and you must have adequate rest.

A student who wants to do well in his academics must be studious and diligent. The lazy man, no matter how he wants good things, will not have them, except someone gives him by charity. An idle mind is the devil's workshop.

The reason many students go into cultism is because many of them are not very committed to their studies. Others go into it because of bad friends, fear, and threats. But why should a hardworking student be a friend to a lazy and uncommitted student?

Do not be deceived, evil communication (wrong company) corrupts good manners. Influence is stronger than information. This is why a boy that was brought up in a Christian home can change into something else when he starts associating with bad friends.

Emotionally, many are disorganized and not stable because of fear, disappointment, and anxiety. Why worry

about your life or tomorrow? God is faithful and He will bring His Will to pass in your life.

Commit your cares to Him, for He cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7). Get rid of pondering on past disappointments, because God has a brighter tomorrow for you.

Do not be afraid of him who can touch the body but not the soul. Worry and anxiety cause physical sicknesses. Get rid of bitterness, hatred, and unforgiveness from your heart.

No matter how your marital life may be, commit it to God and He will bring peace and joy to your family. God can change your husband, wife, children, mother, sister, and brother. The problem with us is that we try to please people without pleasing God first.

If you spend enough time with God in prayer and listening to Him, He will remove satanic barriers and obstacles along your way, and He will give you directions on how to relate with your family members, and you will find happiness.

No matter how hopeless the ministry God has given you may look like, the Lord that commissioned it will prosper it. No matter how the devil fights your ministry, God's Spirit and His angels will fight for you. You only have to be faithful in what the Lord called you to do.

Find out exactly what He wants you to do so that you will not run along the wrong track. God is committed to His Cause, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ.

If you do not let the Word of God depart from your mouth, but you meditate on it day and night, and do what it says, your way will be made prosperous, and you will have a good success (Josh. 1:8).

God is the Source of the security and protection that you need; don't go after strange gods, and even if you use police or military escort (Apostle Paul used in Acts 23:12-32 and Acts 28:16), don't put your trust on them, because if

God leaves you, a bomb can destroy you along with those security men.

Poverty is not good. However, each person has or will go through lack, hardship, and adversity. God allows those things for different purposes. Some people will not pay attention to God's Leading or Prompting until they enter into hard and difficult situations, and then they will seek God like never before.

The Lord has declared that if you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. Two things are involved here: willingness and obedience. If you conform to two of them, you will enjoy the good things that the Lord has provided for you.

Financial promotion does not come from the west, the east, or the south; it comes from God. All that you have came from God. Think of it, if you were never born, you could possibly become nothing in this world.

Many children never saw the light of the day, they were never born. Some died from miscarriages, and others by abortion. Some were born dead and some died shortly after their birth, but you have stayed till now by the Grace of God.

Some of you think that it is because of the security agencies that you are still alive; of course, the security agencies have done well, but do you know that even army generals can die while still in office?

Others think that the reason they are alive today is because of one cult or secret society, because of one charm or talisman from one witchdoctor or the other. Who protected you before you had enough knowledge to think of satanic and demonic protection?

No matter how reinforced and protected you may think you are, if God takes His Protection from you, if God decides to take away your life now, you are a dead man.

King Herod was struck by an angel of God and was eaten by worms, because he did not give glory to God, but

received the glory (Acts 12:23). The rich man whose business, company, productivity, or farm increased and multiplied did not live to see those riches, even though he had planned to enjoy them (Lk. 12:16-21).

Going back to the issue of unborn babies, abortion is devilish and from the devil. No one has the right to take away another person's life, for that is murder.

Once the zygote (newly formed baby) has been formed by the conjugation or meeting together of the male sperm and female ovum (egg), a human being has been formed. Any law legalizing abortion in any country came from satan.

Also, most of the miscarriages associated with pregnancies are demonic; they were caused or induced by devilish powers. Many have been made or convinced to believe that those miscarriages were natural and caused by stress or other medical interpretations.

The truth is that the devil prefers not to be noticed many times. This is one reason you should be prayerful and not allow sin and disobedience into your life.

One key to financial prosperity is diligence. Have you seen a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before great people; he will not stand before ordinary men (Prov. 22:29).

If you are a trader, be diligent in it; if you are a farmer, be diligent in it. If you are employed, be diligent in your job, and God will lift you up. If you are not faithful in another man's business, who will give you your own business? (Lk. 16:12).

Many ministers of the Gospel, whether they are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, or teachers, are lazy, and not diligent and hardworking in the ministry. That is why many of them are suffering, and some of them blame our Righteous and Just God in their hearts.

God has no room for laziness; Jesus Christ was not lazy, but traveled here and there preaching, teaching, casting

out devils, healing the sick, and doing other Assignments God had for Him.

Imagine a situation where a pastor, after conducting the Sunday service, goes home to watch television, listen to news, sleep, play game, and do other normal things, waiting for the Tuesday Bible class.

After the Tuesday Bible class, he goes home to eat, visit his relatives and friends, read newspapers and magazines, waiting for the Thursday prayer meeting, after which he goes home to wait for the next Sunday service. That pastor is lazy; let him not blame God if he is suffering.

If you are a pastor, give adequate time to prayer, Bible study, evangelism, fasting, and visitation (if assistants wouldn't do it), and you will prosper.

Lack of knowledge and wisdom has made others not to prosper financially. Some don't know how to invest and do business. Others do not recognize good opportunities when they come their ways.

Ask God to give you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Others are not willing to prosper financially. They say that money is the root of all evil. But the Bible says that it is the love of money that is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10).

Money is a defence and wisdom is a defence (Eccl. 7:12). Money answers all things, solves many things (Eccl. 10:19). Of course, they are many things money cannot do. But my God can do all things!

You must be willing and obedient to eat the good of the land (Isa. 1:19). If you are obedient to God's Word and the call, but are not willing to prosper, it will hinder your prosperity, and you will be complaining to God.

Also, note that the devil does not love you, and he will do all he can to keep you miserable. You have to exercise your right and authority over him in the Name of Jesus Christ and command him to remove his hands off your

finances. Remember that Prophet Daniel's angel was resisted for 21 days.

The Word of God says that when you give, it shall be given back to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over (Lk. 6:38). He who gives sparingly, will also reap sparingly; but he who gives bountifully, shall also reap bountifully.

But you must give with a cheerful heart, and not out of persuasion or bearing grudge (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Give to God and to men, and you will be blessed. Give to your pastors, your brothers, and your sisters in the Lord.

Give God your tithes and offerings. Give God quality-offering; nothing is too much for God. Give or pay your tithe; don't say, "I will give next time," for you are robbing God and robbing yourself of your blessings.

When you give God your tithe, He will rebuke the devourer for your sake and open the windows of Heaven and rain down blessings on you that you will not have enough room to contain them. Test God in this, and see that you can't beat Him in giving (Mal. 3:8-12).

When you give to a prophet in the name of a prophet, you will receive a prophet's reward. When you give to a righteous man in the name of a righteous man, you will receive a righteous man's reward (Matt. 10:41).

When you give to a Believer in the Name of the Lord, you are giving to God, and He will repay and reward you (Matt. 25:31-46). When you give to the orphan, the widow, and the poor, you are giving and lending to their Maker, and God will reward you and replenish it (Prov. 19:17).

The key to financial prosperity is obedience. You can't live in sin and expect to prosper God's Way. There are many in churches who give testimonies of how God blessed and prospered them.

If God opens your eyes to see how they received the so-called blessings, you will realize that the means is crooked and evil. When a woman sleeps with another man to have a

child because her husband is medically impotent, is it God that blessed her?

God wants us to prosper and be in good health, even as our souls prosper (3 Jn 1:2). The Blessings of the Lord make rich and add no sorrow to it (Prov. 10:22). You can notice that it is as your soul prospers.

If you want financial, material, academic, business, or marital blessings, have you considered the most important blessing: spiritual blessing? That is the prosperity of the spirit and the soul.

Many rich men you see don't sleep as you do in the night. You can see that God's Prosperity and good health are related.

If you have not prospered now, pray for God to prosper you. You may need to add fasting to your prayer. Be patient enough to wait for your time of prosperity. God is never late.

Some people, because of impatience, have done many wrong things to get rich. But the material or financial prosperity that sends you to Hell Fire is not prosperity at all, but the blindness the devil has used to keep you from seeing your end. May God deliver you. Amen.

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Many have not realized the power of the tongue. This is why many of them speak the way they do. If people realize the importance, the value, or the power of the tongue, they will be careful and weigh their words before they speak.

Unfortunately, even those who have been taught along this line have offended in words, at one time or the other, and have reaped the negative impacts of their negative words.

The Bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21). Words, even words spoken by them, have killed many, more than we have realized.

When someone feels some symptoms of sickness or disease, and speaks with his own mouth, saying, “I am sick,” that person is accepting the sickness or disease that the devil wants to bring upon him.

The spiritual controls the physical. But someone may ask, “What of when I already have the sickness?” Or, “What of when I have the symptoms?”

When you are tempted to steal, have you stolen simply because the thought came to your mind? No, you steal when you take that thing or when you have made up your mind to take it, and you are waiting for an opportunity or when you will not be caught.

In the later case, even when you have not touched that thing, God sees you as a thief; but the simple thought or temptation does not make you a thief.

The same is applicable to sickness, even though you may not see it that way. The devil will throw an arrow of sickness at you; you must reject that sickness, and confess health in the Name of Jesus Christ.

By the Stripes of Jesus Christ we were healed (not that we shall be healed) (1 Pet. 2:24). He carried our sicknesses and diseases (Matt. 8:17). Learn to speak according to the Word of God: this is faith.

But the problem is that many people want sympathizers. Those people that sympathize with you are not God, and if you want sympathy, it will destroy your faith.

In fact, the devil will use the words of those sympathizers to keep your eyes off Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and keep you looking at the problems.

And if you look at the problems and you look away from your God, you will sink as did Peter. When he saw the wind

boisterous, he began to sink (Matt. 14:30), and if not because he cried for help, he might have sunk, got drowned, and died.

Jesus Christ tells us that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (Matt. 12:36-37).

Your words can justify you, and it can also condemn or mar you. You can receive healing, financial breakthrough, marital well-being, and spiritual success by your words; and those areas of life can be cursed by your words.

Many people speak too much; they speak when it is not necessary. The Word says that sin is not absent in the multitude of words (Prov. 10:19).

Do you want to be perfect in words? Then learn when to speak and when not to speak. We should be quick to hear and slow to speak. Be slow to anger as well (Jas 1:19-20). Man's anger or wrath does not work out the Righteousness of God.

When you want to defend yourself, you will speak too much. I am not saying that you should not defend yourself, but know what to say to defend yourself when necessary, and learn to leave the rest to God.

Even Jesus Christ was criticized; who are you not to be criticized? Even when men may not believe you, God will justify you. Anyway, God is the Final Judge and not any man. Learn to be quiet and leave things to God (1 Thes. 4:11).

The Bible says that those who love the tongue, those who don't mind what they say, will reap the fruit of their work or word (Prov. 18:21). There are spiritual laws, just as they are natural laws.

When you speak against someone who is greater than you or who has authority over you, the person may punish you, and that will be your reward. If you curse someone who is on a higher spiritual level than you, the curse may

return to you. When you say good or bad things about yourself, good or bad things will come to you.

The Bible says that the Servant of God must not quarrel (2 Tim. 2:24). I know, from experience, that if you make up your mind not to quarrel, the enemy will bring so much pressure and many temptations to lure you to quarrel, so that you will say bad things and offend God.

But, thanks to God that the devil will not have any place in your life, unless you let him, and he is not going to seize your mouth and speak with it. Hold fast to that which is good without wavering.

Some people say things that they neither understand nor are convinced of. People even affirm things they are not sure of, and this is not good. Reject profane and old wives fables. Do not rebuke an older man and an elder, but exhort him as a father.

Don’t be a busybody in other people’s affairs, or a gossip, saying things you should not say. Avoid the profane and idle babblings, and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge. Speak evil of no man.

Do not strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers; shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Beware of pride and boasting, shun blasphemy and slander. Speak the truth in love; let each one of you speak truth with his neighbours. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Refuse filthiness, foolish talk, and coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Remove filthy language out of your mouth.

Avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and striving about the Law, for they are unprofitable and

useless (Tit. 3:9). Do not allow negative confession out of your mouth, no matter how the situation may look like.

Speak the things which are proper for Sound Doctrine (Tit. 2:1). Speak sound speech which cannot be condemned. If any man does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Bits in horses' mouths make them obey men, and men can turn their whole body.

Even though ships are very big, and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. A forest is set on fire by a little fire. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.

No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Don't bless God with your tongue and curse men with it also. Let the Spirit direct your tongue.

Use your tongue for effective prayer. Many will rather go about visiting and gossiping than pray. Preach and teach the Word of God, as God enables you. Don't be ashamed to speak of Jesus Christ.

Declare the Gospel in the public: blow the horn, let all men hear it! The Great Commission or world evangelism is still a priority with God and with us His children. Men, and not angels, are sent to preach the Gospel.

The tongue is so powerful that God created the heavens and the earth by His Words. God calls those things that do not exist by name as though they existed, and when He calls them, they come to existence. You are a god (Psa. 82:6).

Therefore, speak the Way God speaks, and you will see great results that will blow your mind. Maintain the profession or confession of your faith without wavering. If you believe, speak out what you believe, because it is the speaking that brings the physical manifestation!

The words spoken by people, their conduct and actions, their character and habits, come from their inside. What

fills the inside of a man is what he will bring forth, in words or in actions.

This is one reason that when people misbehave, you may have to look beyond that singular misbehaviour. If you can do some evil things, you can do many others, because they come from the same heart.

If you can do some good things, you don't need to fear to do many others, because they also come from the same heart. I am not talking of words and actions brought about by pretence.

The Lord Jesus Christ tells us this when He stated that you will know false prophets by their fruits. Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit (Matt. 7:5-18).

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks (Lk. 6:45).

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. How can you, being good, speak evil things? How can you, being evil speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matt. 12:33-34).

The Bible says that we should guard our hearts with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life (Prov. 4:23). The things you see in this life are what you speak or what others speak concerning you. But you have power with God!

The Word says that you are to do the guarding. It is not God the Holy Spirit that will do it for you. He is your Helper, and He will help you do all things; but you must give Him free access.

Guard your heart by being careful of what enters your mind, because your mind is the doorway to your heart. Fill

your heart with the Word of God; let the Holy Spirit fill you continually. Don’t give space for the devil to occupy.

Some people feed their hearts and minds with sensual things. Some watch anything they see on television. They spend so much time on cables and videos, and spend little time with God. Some so-called Christians enjoy listening to worldly music, and say that it is not a problem.

Many have even produced music having Biblical quotations, and the Name of Jesus Christ in them, but even an unbeliever will notice that something is wrong with the music. They call them Christian reggae, Christian blues, Christian makosa, and Christian disco.

Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose Hope is the Lord. The former shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes.

The later shall be like a tree planted by the water which spreads out its root by the river, and will not fear when heat comes, but its leaves will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit (Jer. 17:5-8).

The Bible says that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it? The Lord searches the heart, and tests the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings (Jer. 17:9-10).

Man works against God; this is because man fell when Adam (the first man) disobeyed the Word of God. Man went into more sin and disobedience that the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

This state of man, made the Lord to become sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His Heart. And the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have

created from the face of the earth." However, Noah found favour in the Eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:6-8).

But what is the state of the unregenerated man these days? They despise and scorn God. Even many people who had been born again have backslidden in their hearts, and live for themselves.

The Lord knows the secrets of the heart (Psa. 44:21). The Bible speaks of secrets of a man's heart (1 Cor. 14:25). All things that are hidden will be revealed and made manifest at the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is it that you are hiding in your heart? If you hide lies, hypocrisy, sin, and lust in your heart, it will be exposed at last, and you will find yourself in the Lake which burns with fire and brimstone. You can receive forgiveness now by repenting, confessing your sins, and making the right restitutions.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly all wisdom (Col. 3:16). The Word of God shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success (Josh.1:8).

Meditate on the Word of God; give yourself entirely to the Word, that your progress and profiting may be evident to all (1 Tim. 4:15). You have got to be so full of the Word that the fire of the Word will pursue devilish things out of you.

It is very necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to maintain the fullness of the Spirit always. The men that were to serve as deacons were to be full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3).

Do not be unwise, but understand what the Will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:17-21).

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matt. 5:8). As a Christian, you must purify your heart and keep it pure. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

Look carefully lest anyone fall short of the Grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled, lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright (Heb. 12:14-16).

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for the Sake of Jesus Christ (Matt. 5:3-11).

It is necessary that your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He Who called us is faithful, and He will do it (1 Thes. 5:23-24).

Your spirit is your heart; don't pollute it with the love of the world or the pleasures of the flesh. Renew your mind with the Word of God so that your way of thinking will change, and instead of thinking like the natural man, you start thinking the Way God thinks.

His Thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and His Ways than men's ways. Don't pollute your body, but use the members of your body to serve God effectively.

Above all, love God fervently with your whole heart. This will make it easy for you to obey Him. The proof of your love for God is your obedience to His Word and Commandment.

Also, you must love your neighbour as yourself. This will help you to do to them as you would desire that they do to you. Love is the end of the Law. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives away fear (1 Jn. 4:18).

The Lord pleads that you give Him your heart. When you give Him your heart, you have given Him everything, because all other things spring forth from the heart. Give God your heart (Prov. 23:26)

If anyone is born again, he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17).

Men shall give account of every idle word they speak on the Day of Judgment. By your words you will either be condemned or justified (Matt. 12:36-37). And words proceed from the heart.

THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Do we have any authority or power as Believers? If so, are we using it? We shall give account of our lives to God. How will you feel, if, when you get to Heaven, you realize you didn't use the things God provided for you?

When Jesus Christ rose up from the dead, He said that all authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Him. "Go therefore..." He said to His apostles and to His Church (Matt. 28:18). He transferred the authority over to us, because that is what He came to collect for us. That was the authority and dominion which God gave to Adam, but Adam lost it to the devil because of sin and disobedience.

The Lord Jesus Christ says He has given us authority and power over serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt us (Lk. 10:19). He has given us authority and power over satan, his demons and cohorts, and their works. We have the power and authority to destroy the works of the enemy, and nothing will harm us.

God has given us authority and power to uproot and to build (Jer. 1:10). We uproot anything that is contrary to God, and we build that which God wants to be. We have not used the ability, authority, right, and privilege that God has given us. We have used just a small portion or percentage of them. We can put rulers of our nations in place, and we can remove bad rulers over our nations from their positions.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, natural, or man-made. They are spiritual and mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4). The weapons of our warfare can destroy and break any mountain, barrier, or obstacle. We can even speak to mountains and obstructions, and they will disappear (Mk 11:23). We have power and authority with God, because we are sons of God.

The Lord said that, because we believe in Him, we shall cast out devils, we shall speak with new tongues, serpents or poisons shall not hurt us, and we shall heal the sick by laying hands on them (Mk 16:17-18). Do you know what that means? It means that you share in the Divine Nature, and you are a super-human.

We have the ability to change the course of nature. There is nothing impossible with God (Mk 10:27). And because we believe in God and His Word, because we carry God’s Presence and Power, nothing shall be impossible to us (Lk. 1:37). Have you been putting them into practice?

God does not take delight in disappointments, and we must not disappoint Him. If we don’t use what He has given us to use, then we disappoint Him. When we disobey God,

the devil is happy, and we must never make the devil happy. The devil is our arch-enemy, and we have the mandate to pull down and scatter his works.

However, we must not war or exercise our authority and power recklessly. Do you know that power can be abused? Jesus Christ, our Captain and Lord, says that we should be as wise as serpents (Matt. 10:16). We should know when to say, 'Yes,' and when to say, 'No.' Let the Word of God, which is the Wisdom of God, dwell in you richly in all wisdom (Col. 3:16).

The Lord says that, because we are Believers, the works that He did when He was on earth, the same works we will do. We will even do greater works than them, because He went to the Father (Jn 14:12). This is fantastic!

We are god-men, and not ordinary men. We are supernatural beings. No wonder the Word declares that we are gods, and all of us are the children of the Most High.

But the pitiable thing concerning it, is that many of us die and will die like men, and fall like one of the princes (Psa. 82:6-7). Did you notice that princes are nothing compared to our status? But many trust in princes instead of in the Living God.

The early apostles and Disciples stunned their opponents by operating in the supernatural and extra-ordinary realm. Concerning their Master (Who also is our Master), their opponents had said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs..." (Jn 11:47-48).

As they planned against their Master, they found out that He waxed stronger, and they couldn't help it but said, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!" That is a remarkable statement. Can people say this about us?

God does not change, and He has never changed. The Old Testament Servants of His who believed in Him performed mighty exploits, signs, and wonders. If the Believers and Christians who lived in the early New

Testament time did the same (and greater), we must also do the same.

As we dedicate ourselves to prayer, the study of God's Word, fasting, obedience, and faith, we will see results that will blow our minds. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us (Eph. 3:20).

The Kingdom of God is not in word, but in the Power of the Spirit of God. If all we do is preach and teach, how shall we prove to the world that our God is alive and all-powerful?

If you have not been filled with the Holy Spirit, don't wait again, but be filled now. Receive Him in faith, for you receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. That empowerment by the Holy Spirit is to make you a witness (a proof-provider) to the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).

Being conscious of the fact that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against a host of fallen angels and demons, you must be alert and watchful always. You must recognize the weapons that the Lord has provided for your use in spiritual warfare.

Also, put on the whole Armour of God so that no plan of the enemy will succeed on you. The armour is for your protection. The Armour of God include: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the Sword of the Spirit, and prayer.

In this fight of faith we are involved in, you must be conscious of the fact that life and death are in the power of the tongue. Therefore, speak positive words and words that correspond to the Word of God always. Don't give in to the enemy when he tells you to speak negative words.

No plan of the devil will harm or hurt you. The gate of Hades shall not prevail over the Church of Jesus Christ. Don't be afraid of anything, because the Holy Spirit in you

is greater than the devil in the world. Also, God has given His angels Charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

His Divine Power has given to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the Knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these we may be partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

But just as Jesus Christ and the early apostles and Disciples passed through persecutions, you will have to expect the same. Don't think that you can never be met by persecutions. On the contrary, they will come, since you call on the Name of the Lord.

Remember that the Word does not tell us to kill demons, but to cast them out (Mk 16:17). If you cast them out from this place, they will go to another place, but they are still in this world, because their time has not reached. But at the fulness of time, God will expel satan and his fallen angels and demons, and banish them forever.

Also, remember that, after the Lord had defeated and overcome satan (when the devil tempted Him), the Word says, "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." He didn't leave forever.

Though the Lord has promised that whatever you may leave for His Sake, you will receive them a hundred fold in this life, and in the life to come Eternal Life, notice that He said that you will have all those things with persecutions (Mk 10:29-30).

Therefore, don't be discouraged if persecutions, trials, and temptations come. And know that they are the trials of your faith, and not the trials of your sin (Jas 1:3). God may test you as he tested Abraham. Pass your test as did Abraham.

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an Example, that we should

follow His Steps. (1 Pet. 2:21). Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (1 Pet. 4:1).

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin, which so easily ensnares us; and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God (Heb. 12:1-2).

But no matter what the devil may bring across your way, you will pass through it without being hurt, though it may pain you. Cast your faith on the Lord, Who cannot fail. All will be well.

Your journey and hope will not finish here. There is hope for you, for our hope in Christ Jesus is not only in this world. God has promised us the Resurrection from the dead and Eternal Life. Yes, we will dwell with Him forever in His Kingdom.

Not only that we will live with Him forever, we will also be abundantly rewarded for the work we have done for Him. This is why you must strive to labour for the Lord with all that you have.

He who loses his life for the Sake of Jesus Christ will find it. God owns everything, and He has power over all things. Don’t be afraid of anyone. Be faithful until death, and the Lord will give you the Crown of Life.

Deal with any faulty foundation in your life. Let your foundation be strongly grounded in Jesus Christ and in the Word of God. It is not the Will of God for you to live in wretchedness and abject poverty. Though trials, tests, or hardship may come, yet God will make all things well with us at His Appointed Time. Yes, we have to pray fervently in faith; but learn to wait for God’s Time.

SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE

Sin is going contrary to the Word of God. Sin is disobedience, and disobedience is sin. When God tells you to do something, if you don't do it, it is sin. If He tells you to avoid something, if you don't avoid it, if you do it, it is sin.

Sin entered the world by one man (Adam), and one Man (Jesus Christ) came to take away sin. Sin came from the devil but righteousness, peace, and joy came from the Lord.

There are three basic definitions of sin, as found in the Bible. Sin is lawlessness, the transgression of the Law (1 Jn 3:4). Sin is anything not done in faith (Rom. 14:23). Sin is: knowing what you should do and not doing it (Jas 4:17).

These three definitions of sin are comprehensive and they touch many different things. God hates sin, though He loves the sinner. God is of Purer Eyes than to behold sin (Habk. 1:13).

Sin will keep you far from God. God will do everything to save the sinner, but if he refuses, he bears the consequences.

Sin is the transgression of the Law. To transgress the Law is to go against the Law. When the Law is mentioned, some think that the Law has been done away with. This needs proper interpretation. Jesus Christ came to fulfil the Law and the Prophets, and not to destroy them (Matt. 5:17).

The ritual Laws of the Old Testament have been done away with, but not the moral Laws. Today, instead of resting and worshipping God on the Sabbath (Saturday), we rest and worship on the first day of the week (Sunday) (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

The important thing there, is that God loves us and wants us to rest. He gives His beloved rest. It is not

because we work every time that we succeed. God is able to supply all our needs.

Actually, we are supposed to worship God everyday. So, everyday is our day of worship. But unlike in the Old Testament where they couldn't even cook on the Sabbath, we know now that the Law was made for man and not man for the Law (Mk 2:27).

But we know that "You shall have no other god before Me" still exists. "You shall honour your father and your mother," "You shall not commit adultery," etc still exist today. But even when we do these things, we do them out of love for God and for man.

All the Law is summed up in love: you shall love the Lord God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37).

We live by the Law of Liberty (Jas 1:25; Jas 2:12), and we do not use our liberty as an opportunity for the flesh (Gal. 5:13).

Sin is anything not done in faith. The Bible says that if you do something in doubt, it is sin, and sin leads to condemnation (Rom. 14:23). Think of the many it-doesn't-matters among Christians today.

I have snapped pictures in a university and you see a lot of things with respect to dressing in the environment. In fact, a time came that I stopped snapping normal pictures except passports, apart from special cases, there. In the university environment, you see a lot of indecent dressings, both among ladies and among young men.

Even among people who call themselves Believers, you see a lot of indecent dressings. People dress indecently to many campus fellowships and churches.

People paint themselves and look like unbelievers, and yet these are people who had been born again and washed with Christ's Precious Blood. Later, they despised the

Blood, and live however they want in the name of it-doesn't-matter.

They wear body-hugs and transparent dresses. The worst is that when many of them came in newly in their first year, they used to dress decently, but as time went on, they disappointed both God Who gave them the admission and their parents who sponsor them.

There are many other areas where people live in doubt and say that it makes no difference. Right in their heart, they are not confident of what they are doing, even though many people tell them that it is sinful.

Students live the life of examination malpractice, and yet they are Believers. Do you know why, after Jesus Christ had talked about regeneration in John 3:3, He talked of living by the Word and the Spirit in John 3:5?

The last definition of sin is not doing the good that you know that you should do. In the Epistle of James, James speaks of a case in which a brother comes to you for help and you know that you can and should help him, but instead of helping him, you tell him to go in peace (Jas 2:14-17).

This definition of sin holds many Christians. For instance, if the Spirit of God speaks to your heart to go out for evangelism or to preach to a particular person, if you don't do it, it is sin and disobedience.

No wonder the Word of God says that if the Christian refuses to preach to and warn the sinner, and that sinner dies in his sin, the sinner will go to Hell Fire for his sins, but his blood will be required from the Christian (Ezek. 33:6-9).

If the Spirit witnesses to your heart to pray, then pray; if He tells you to study the Bible, do just that. Preach the Word of God. Be prepared in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2). If you know you should love your wife and refuse to love her, it is sin to you.

Of course, I had said that sin is disobedience and disobedience is sin. When God gives us His Commandments, He expects us to obey them. Our obedience to God's Word is for our own good. If we obey Him, He will bless us.

Also, our obedience to the Word of God will keep us from harms. For instance, when God tells you not to commit fornication, He expects you to obey Him, and He will bless you for obeying Him. However, apart from that, it will save you from many venereal diseases.

Disobedience to the Word of God will receive punishment, both in this life and after death. It is true that because of Jesus Christ's Intercession for us at the Right Hand of the Father, God's Judgment does not fall on us immediately like in the Old Testament.

However, when the time of grace God gives you expires, you will be judged (Rev. 2:21). Furthermore, Hell Fire is reserved for sinners and the disobedient.

Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the Voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than fat of rams. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft; and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

Those were the Words Prophet Samuel spoke to King Saul, after the king disobeyed God's Commandment to him. What is worthy of note in this place is that the king obeyed God but his obedience was partial.

We can then deduce, from God's Reaction, that partial obedience is disobedience. His disobedience cost him the kingdom of Israel, for he was dethroned as a king without an offspring to succeed him. Apart from that, he died in the battle field.

The devil wants to destroy you, he wants to kill you and steal from you. Don't give him a place through disobedience (Eph. 4:27). He that breaks the hedge shall be bitten by the serpent (Eccl. 10:8).

The problem is that many don’t value our inheritance in Christ Jesus. Many Christians have despised Esau and spoken badly of him. But do you know that many have behaved and acted worse than Esau?

Some have sacrificed their souls and inheritance for an employment. Some have lost their destinies for a ten-minute sex. Can you lose your life for the Cause of Christ? (Heb. 12:16-17; Matt. 10:39).

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego told King Nebuchadnezzar that their God was able to deliver them, and He will deliver them. However, they went on to tell the king that they will not bow to his golden image, they will not disobey their God, even though their God refuses to deliver them (Dan. 3:16-30).

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin (Heb. 12:4). Jesus Christ was tempted at all points, and yet He did not sin. You are a Christian; therefore, be like Christ!

True freedom is freedom from sin and disobedience. True gain is making Heaven at last and receiving abundant reward from God in His Eternal Kingdom. If you say you are free, when you are still bound by sin and disobedience, you are in bondage.

If you gain the whole world and lose your soul at last, you gained nothing. Make up your mind to obey God at all time, no matter the cost and sacrifice.

The Bible says that all other sins that a man commits are outside the body, but he that commits fornication sins against his own body. The Word of God tells us to flee fornication. It did not say that we should avoid fornication, but that we should flee fornication.

To flee is to run away from something as though you are afraid (in fear) of it. Do you not know that your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Who you received from God, and you are not your own? (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

You were bought with a Price; therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. The body is earthly and physical. With my spirit, I contact the spiritual realm; with my soul, I contact the mental realm; and with my body, I contact the physical realm.

You should always allow your spirit, who is born again, to rule your life. Your body is not born again, and if you allow the dictates and desires of the body to govern you, you will be a carnal Believer.

The body wants three basic things which are: food, sex, and comfort. Comfort is connected to rest, relaxation, and sleep. All those appetites were given us by God, and we have to use them the right way.

Food is good, but if you are not careful, you will become gluttonous. Love of food will keep you from fasting, and you will become less sensitive spiritually.

Sleep and relaxation can make you become lazy if you love them. Too much sleep will affect your prayer-life and your obedience to God. Of course, he who loves sleep will not be rich.

You must work to excel in life and in ministry. Don't be idle, for the idle mind is the devil's workshop: when he is through with the mental planning and luring, he will execute it.

Sex has its moral and legal use. Let's forget about the legal use, for now, because many laws existing in many countries of the world were inspired by the devil and his demons. When a country approves same-sex marriage, the devil is at work in that country.

When a country says that nothing is wrong with sex outside marriage, if both partners give their consent, that is satan at work. Christians should pray against the approval of sinful bills or laws in their nations.

However, there is the moral and Biblical use of sex, and that is that sex must be within marriage. Do you know that

some people are living together as husbands and wives without marriage?

The Samaritan woman that Jesus Christ had conversation with was living with someone who was not her husband (Jn 4:16-19). My dear, if you are like that, you better get married before you end in Hell Fire.

Sexual immorality is a sin against God, and it has many forms and associates. They include: fornication, adultery, masturbation, lust, lesbianism, homosexuality, incest, voyeurism, pornography, bestiality, necrophilia, orgies, paedophile, bisexuality, heterosexuality, etc.

If you indulge in any of these, you are heading towards Hell. No sexually immoral person will inherit the Kingdom of God and of Christ (Eph. 5:3-6).

Fornication is to have sex with someone you are not married to. Adultery is for a married person to have sex with someone he or she is not married to. Masturbation is to make yourself sexually excited by touching or rubbing your sexual organs.

Lust is to have very strong sexual desire for someone even when you have not actually had the physical intercourse. Lesbianism is for a woman to be sexually attracted to another woman.

Homosexuality is a man being attracted sexually to another man. Incest is illegal sex between people who are closely related, like a brother and his sister, or a father and his daughter. Voyeurism is getting sexual pleasure from secretly watching other people’s sexual activities.

Pornography is the treatment of sexual acts in pictures, film, or writing in a way that is intended to make people feel sexually excited. Bestiality is sexual relations between a person and an animal.

Necrophilia is sexual interest in dead bodies. Orgy is sexual activity in a group; that is, having sex with more than one person at a time. Paedophile is someone who is sexually attracted to small children. Bisexuality is to be

sexually attracted to both men and women. Heterosexuality is to be sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex.

The Word of God tells us to flee fornication. Don't say that you cannot fall and remain in a closed dark room with the opposite sex.

In the Bible, sexual immorality made people to lose their God-given purposes. Reuben who was the first son of Jacob lost his first place because of sexual immorality (Gen. 49:3-4). King David brought immorality and sword to his family by adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11 & 12).

Because of lust and pride, King Solomon despised the Law of God and married foreign women who turned his heart from following the Lord in his old age. Sampson, that Old Testament strong man, lost his power and mission due to sex (1 Kgs 11; Jugs 16).

There are many diseases associated with sexual immorality or sex. The sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) include: syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV/AIDS, and others. Do you see that God loves you when He tells you to flee fornication?

Joseph fled from fornication when Portiphar's wife tried all she could to get Joseph into that sin. Joseph said that to do that would amount to sinning against God and Portiphar (Gen. 39:4-23). If you deny God because of sexual urge, can you lay down your life for Him?

Many ladies dress indecently and seductively. Many say that they are Christians and your appearance does not matter but your heart. But man looks at outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7). Woe to him or her that will cause a brother or a sister to fall (Matt. 18:6).

Dress decently and you will receive the Acceptance of God and of men. Body-hugs (tight-fitting dresses), sleeveless blouses, revealing dresses, mini-skirts, hanging blouses that show your belly, the ones that reveal your breasts, and many others are satanic, devilish, and demonic.

The Bible says that because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold (Matt. 24:12). Some even get involved in sexual immorality so that people will not say that they are not civilized and matured.

Do not give your strength to women (Prov. 31:3). He that keeps company with harlots spends his substance (Prov. 29:3). There is the attire of a harlot (Prov. 7:10). Do not let your heart decline to the harlot's paths.

The immoral woman has cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to Hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Don't sell your birthright and inheritance for sex, no matter the pressure and urge. God is able to help you overcome. Depend on the Holy Spirit, and not on the strength of the flesh. By the arms of the flesh shall no one prevail (1 Sam. 2:9).

Some sexually immoral tendencies are as a result of demonic strongholds. If you find that you won't overcome the urge to have sex, please, take some time and fast, pray, study the Bible, and wait on God.

Let's mean business here; if you fast for three days and nights straight, you will not die. If you fast till 3:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. for seven days, you will not die either. Many want a quick-fix method.

Inasmuch as there is deliverance that can be received by prayer, many have gone into the hands of false ministers in the name of deliverance ministries. What about telling your pastor?

FIND A GOOD CHURCH AND FELLOWSHIP

As a born-again child of God, you need to fellowship with other Believers. The Bible tells us not to forsake the assembling together of ourselves, the fellowship of other Believers (Heb. 10:25).

When you fellowship with other Believers, you gain a lot of things. First, the Lord tells us that wherever two or three are gathered together in the Name of Jesus Christ (in His Name), He is there with them in their midst (Matt. 18:20).

He is there in their midst, and not just in them, upon them, for them, or with them. God is for us (Rom. 8:31); God is with us (Matt. 28:20); God is in us (1 Jn 4:4); and God is upon us (Acts 1:8).

The Lord works with us, both as individuals and as a group of Believers (Mk 16:20). God inhabits the praises of His people, both as an individual Christian and as a group of Christians (Psa. 22:3). However, in this case, God is in their midst, in the midst of a Body of Believers.

There is something about the corporate anointing of a Body of Believers gathered together with one mind, in one accord, and in unity. When they pray and praise together, a strong corporate anointing is released; and this corporate anointing is stronger than any individual anointing of anyone present there.

When that corporate anointing is in operation, healings, miracles, signs, and wonders take place, even without specific pronouncements.

When the 120 Disciples in the upper room were gathered together with one accord in one place, the Holy Ghost fell on them strongly as a group; and tongues of fire appeared and sat upon each of them so that they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

As the apostles prayed together after they had been persecuted, the place where they were gathered was shaken by God's Power (Acts 4:31).

When Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned, they prayed and sang, and the Power of God came down and shook the prison, so that their chains fell off and the prison's doors opened (Acts 16:22-34).

Of course, an individual Christian can still experience Mighty Moves and Demonstrations of God as he prays and sings alone.

However, there is something about the corporate Refreshment of the Holy Spirit that makes it wonderful. This is one reason you get so much excited as you listen to good music, either from cassette players or from a group of Christians.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to gather together in unity (Psa. 133:1). The problem of many churches and fellowships is that people gather together and their minds are not together in one accord.

Many gather together without being united in heart and spirit. Many set their minds on different things, even though they are together physically. This attitude hinders the Move of the Spirit of God.

Try to bring your fellowship, service, or meeting to that place of unity that God desires, because the more we are united, the greater the Manifestation of God's Spirit among us.

Even when a strong and highly anointed minister of the Gospel is invited to minister in a church, the Operation of God's Spirit will be by higher dimension if the people present are united in heart and in mind.

The atmosphere of a service can increase or decrease the anointing in a man of God. Even music played in the fellowship can increase or hinder the anointing on the man of God and on the Body of the Believers as a whole.

Good music brought the Hand of God upon Prophet Elisha so that he prophesied (2 Kgs 3:15). Even today, it is still the same with us: good, anointed, and Holy Spirit's inspired music brings the Anointing and Power of God on us.

The Bible says that iron sharpens iron, as one man the countenance of the other (Prov. 27:17). The Word of God tells us to bear with the weak and the feeble-minded (1 Thes. 5:14). As we gather together, the strong is encouraged and the weak is strengthened.

Just as the body is one but has many parts, so also is the Body of Christ. Each member has different functions and when those functions are carried out, we are strengthened.

This is why the Bible says that when we are gathered together, we should come with different things. Some can come with teaching, others with songs, others with revelations, other with psalms, others with prophecies, and many other things, that the Church may be edified and built up (1 Cor. 14:26).

The ear will not do the work of the eye; neither will the hand do the work of the mouth. Do you know that someone can live a hundred years without an eye? Yet if your anus is blocked permanently, it will not be long before you die.

As a Believer, don't stay alone; fellowship with others. Of course, your own private Christian life should be strong. Your prayer-life, your Bible-study life, your fasting life, etc should be strong.

If you spend a lot of time in Church services and fellowships, while your private Christian life is nothing to be appreciated, you will still be a weak Christian. Inasmuch as the fellowship of other Believers is very necessary, your own Christian life is more important.

Our topic talks of a good fellowship, a good church. This is to say that there are bad and not-so-good ones. You have to seek God's Face in prayer and waiting on Him

concerning the church or the fellowship you should be associated with.

The Holy Spirit may direct you to change church or fellowship, or He may lead you to remain in the one you are already in. What is most important is that you are open to His Direction. Don't insist on your own. Don't say that you were born there; and therefore, should die there.

Your church should be a Full Gospel church. I am not just talking about whether it is called a Pentecostal, charismatic, evangelical, holiness, orthodox, or whatever name it may go by.

I know that there are some churches that are called Pentecostal that are no Pentecostal at all. There are churches that are (or were) regarded as orthodox that have even gone more Pentecostal than some traditional Pentecostals. It is not all that glitters that is gold; have this in mind.

The Bible says that sinners shall not stand in the congregation of the righteous (Psa. 1:5). Many churches are lukewarm and cold, and that is why agents of the dark kingdom stay there for long comfortably without being exposed, or forced to go out by God's Power and Fire.

Someone may ask of Judas Iscariot who dwelt with Jesus Christ. Read your Bible very well; you will know that Jesus Christ knew of him: but those people stay and operate without those in authority knowing about them, such that they regard them as Christians and even promote them.

Yes, satan came with the sons of God (Job 1:6); but God and the others recognized him. He is the accuser of the brethren, and God allowed him for that purpose. However, it is not everything a man of God may know, but the things God reveals to him.

Also, even when God wants to reveal a thing, people may not be available for the revelation because they do not seek God's Face. The trial of Job was not revealed to him

because it was his own examination. So, God may choose not to reveal something for a particular purpose, or to work out something.

Your church should teach the Whole Counsel of God. Your church should teach the Word of God as it is, without adding to it and without subtracting from it. Teaching it is not enough; they should practice it.

It is knowledge applied that is beneficial: if you know all things and apply none of them, what have you gained? The church you attend is very important because your Christian maturity will be affected by it. Even, your making Heaven at last depends on it also.

Just as evil communication or company corrupts good manners (1 Cor. 15:33), your associating with a church that is not good is harmful to your Christian life.

Many are in the ministry today, serving their flesh and belly, instead of serving God. Many are so much interested in money that they will not tell people the truth. When a pastor tells you or allows you to dress anyhow you want to church, beware of that church.

The thing that many don’t know is that there are ministers who serve the interest of satan, instead of the Interest of God. Some do it knowingly and others unknowingly. If you don’t know, know it that many ministers operate with occult and satanic powers.

Many do miracles with satanic powers. They even prophesy with satanic powers. This is one reason you should seek God, instead of seeking miracles or prophecies (2 Cor. 11:15; 2 Pet. 2:19; Phil. 3:18-20; Rom. 16:17-18).

Do you know that someone can preach and teach the Bible, and still be a false minister? Someone can even say, “In Jesus Christ’s name,” and would either not be talking about your Jesus Christ or is just using it to imitate and camouflage (Mk 13:21-23).

Some answer Jesus as a name. Jesus Christ Himself told us that false christs shall appear (Matt. 24:24). Some

worship satan as God, and many have come in the Name of the Son of God. Therefore, I tell you, someone can even say “In the name of Jesus, the son of God,” and not be talking about your Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of the Living God.

If you are open to God, His Spirit will lead you to a good church and out of a bad one. But don’t harden your heart.

If it was only the preaching and the naming that are involved, I may not disturb myself (Phil. 1:18), but many are enslaved into demonism and ungodliness, even without their knowledge.

Also, worthy of note is the fact that our children should be trained well in the Way of the Lord. Our children are our future, and they will replace us after we will have been gone.

If you train the child in the way he should go, he will not depart from it when he is old. Let the little children come to the Lord their God and do not forbid them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as them.

WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND UNDERSTANDING

Wisdom refers to good sense and judgment. Wisdom is knowledge gained over a period of time through learning and experience. Wisdom comes from God; the Word of God is the source of wisdom.

The Spirit of God Who is the Spirit of Excellence gives us the wisdom that we need for Godliness, and to deal with the things of this life. The Lord created the whole universe by His Wisdom, and He saw that they were good. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Psa. 111:10).

Knowledge has to do with the facts, skills, and understanding that you have gained through learning or

experience. Knowledge refers to the information that you have about a particular situation, event; etc.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7). God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6).

The Bible is the Book of knowledge: knowledge of God and His Ways, knowledge of the devil and his ways, knowledge of the universe and the things in it, knowledge of yourself and your inheritance in Christ Jesus. Study it to increase your knowledge.

Understanding refers to knowledge about something based on learning or experience. It is the way in which you judge the meaning of something. Understanding is the ability to know and learn. Lean not on your own understanding, but apply your heart to understanding in God's Way.

Do not be children in understanding, but in malice be children (1 Cor. 14:20). You need to have a clear understanding of the Scripture and Way of God in order to apply it aright, so that you can please God.

If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man; unstable in all his ways (Jas 1:5-8). Whatever it is that you need from God, ask in faith, believing that you receive, and you shall have it.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

This wisdom does not descend from Above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic. For where envying and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

But the wisdom that is from Above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy (Jas 3:13-17).

The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding. This is why, concerning Bezalel, the son of Uri, God said, "...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."

No matter the work God has for you or the area that you find yourself (that is good and acceptable), if you have the Spirit of God, if you are filled with the Spirit of God, then you have access to wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (Exo. 31:3).

The lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego tell us the impact of having the Spirit of God in you. The Word of God says that Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an Excellent Spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm (Dan. 6:3).

How come? First, they were Jews, God's people. In our case or dispensation we will say that they were born again. That made them candidates for the Spirit's Presence.

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with anything (Dan. 1:8). If you want to excel in Christianity, Godliness, and ministry, then make up your mind that whatever it takes you, you will not defile and pollute yourself with the desires of the flesh and worldliness.

Though we are in the world, yet we are not of this world. Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Love of the Father is not in him.

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 is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the Will of God endures forever (1 Jn 2:15-17).

Even when the king had apportioned special delicacies: food and drink, for them, because they knew that they will be defiled by them (according to the Law God gave them), they refused eating or drinking them.

Faithfulness, holiness, and obedience produce power and God's Presence by God's Spirit. Because they refused to be defiled, when they were tested for ten days and given vegetables to eat and water to drink, they appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

As for these young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

When their training was over, the king interviewed them, and among all those that were trained, none was found like those four; therefore, they served before the king.

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm (Dan. 1).

Going through the Book of Daniel tells us that they continued with the Lord their God even after their appointments. Many backslide when God puts them in high positions.

Some will not have extra-marital affairs now that they are still average in wealth and riches; but when God gives them abundant wealth, they start going after women and drinking alcohol.

Many will be dedicated to the Lord and His Work when God has not blessed their businesses. Some will even sleep

in the church, doing tarry-nights and night-vigils; but when their businesses grow, they will not have time for God, His Word, and prayer again.

Riches have wings and they do fly away. If God removes His Protection from you, the devil can reduce you from a millionaire to a beggar in just few days. But Daniel, instead of abandoning God, kept on being obedient to Him and God lifted him to higher levels.

David and Solomon prayed for understanding (Psa. 119:34,73,125,144,169; 1 Kgs 3:9-12) and the Lord gave it to them. The Lord says, “My son, if you receive My Words, and treasure My Commands within you so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding;

“Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His Mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a Shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His Saints.

“Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil” (Prov. 2:12).

PSALMS OF PLEADING FOR GOD’S INTERVENTION

“O God, why have You cast us off forever? Why does Your Anger smoke against the sheep of Your Pasture?

Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, the tribe of Your Inheritance, which You have redeemed − this Mount Zion where You have dwelt.

“Lift up Your Feet to the perpetual desolations. The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary. Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; they set up their banners for signs. They seem like men who lift up axes among the thick trees.

“And now they break down its carved work, all at once, with axes and hammers. They have set fire to Your sanctuary; they have defiled the dwelling place of Your Name to the ground. They said in their hearts, ‘Let us destroy them altogether.’ They have burned up all the meeting places of God in the land.

“We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet; nor is there any among us who knows how long. O God, how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your Name forever? Why do You withdraw Your Hand, even Your Right Hand? Take it out of Your Bosom and destroy them.

“For God is my King from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. You divided the sea by Your Strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, and gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

“You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers. The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun. You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

“Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O Lord, and that a foolish people has blasphemed Your Name. Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor forever. Have respect to the covenant; for the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

“Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your Name. Arise, O God, plead Your Own Cause; remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily. Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; the tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually (Psa. 74).

“I cried out to God with my voice − to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah

“You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search.

“Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favourable no more? Has His Mercy ceased forever? Has His Promise failed forevermore? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His Tender Mercies? Selah

“And I said, ‘This is my anguish; but I will remember the years of the Right Hand of the Most High.’ I will remember the Works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your Wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your Work, and talk of Your Deeds.

“Your Way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God? You are the God Who does wonders; You have declared Your Strength among the peoples. You have with Your Arm redeemed Your people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

“The waters saw You, O God; the waters saw You, they were afraid; the depths also trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies sent out a sound; Your Arrows also flashed about.

“The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; the lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your Way was in the sea, Your Path in the great waters, and Your Footsteps were not known. You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron (Psa. 77).

“O God, the nations have come into Your Inheritance; Your Holy Temple they have defiled; they have laid Jerusalem in heaps. The dead bodies of Your Servants they have given as food for the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Your Saints to the beasts of the earth.

“Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. We have become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to those who are around us.

“How long, Lord? Will You be angry forever? Will Your Jealousy burn like fire? Pour out Your Wrath on the nations that do not know You, and on the kingdoms that do not call on Your Name. For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

“Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your Tender Mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your Name’s sake!

“Why should the nations say, ‘Where is their God?’ Let there be known among the nations in our sight the avenging of the blood of Your Servants which has been shed. Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; according to the greatness of Your Power preserve those who are appointed to die;

“And return to our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord. So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; we will show forth Your Praise to all generations (Psa. 79).

“Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your Peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

“They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You:

“The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. Selah

“Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera, as with Jabin at the Brook Kishon, who perished at En Dor, who became as refuse on the earth. Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, who said, ‘Let us take for ourselves the Pastures of God for a possession.’

“O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind! As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your Tempest, and frighten them with Your storm.

“Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your Name, O Lord. Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that You, Whose Name alone is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth (Psa. 83).

“O Lord God, to Whom vengeance belongs − O God, to Whom vengeance belongs, shine forth! Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render punishment to the proud. Lord, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph?

“They utter speech, and speak insolent things; all the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. They break in pieces Your people, O Lord, and afflict Your Heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the

fatherless. Yet they say, ‘The Lord does not see, nor does the God of Jacob understand.’

“Understand, you senseless among the people; and you fools, when will you be wise? He Who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He Who formed the eye, shall He not see? He Who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He Who teaches man knowledge? The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile.

“Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your Law, that You may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit is dug for the wicked. For the Lord will not cast off His people, nor will He forsake His Inheritance.

“But judgment will return to righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?

“Unless the Lord had been my Help, my soul would soon have settled in silence. If I say, ‘My foot slips,’ Your Mercy, O Lord, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your Comforts delight my soul.

“Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with You? They gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood.

“But the Lord has been my Defence, and my God the Rock of my refuge. He has brought on them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; the Lord our God shall cut them off (Psa. 94).

“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come to You. Do not hide Your Face from me in the day of my trouble; incline Your Ear to me; in the day that I call, answer me speedily. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned like a hearth.

“My heart is stricken and withered like grass, so that I forget to eat my bread. Because of the sound of my

groaning my bones cling to my skin. I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert.

“I lie awake, and am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. My enemies reproach me all day long; those who deride me swear an oath against me. For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, because of Your Indignation and Your Wrath; for You have lifted me up and cast me away.

“My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass. But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your Name to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favour her, yes, the set time, has come.

“For Your Servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favour to her dust. So the nations shall fear the Name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your Glory. For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His Glory.

“He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer. This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.

“For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from Heaven the Lord viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death, to declare the Name of the Lord in Zion, and His Praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord.

“He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days. I said, ‘O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your Years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your Hands.

“They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the Same, and Your Years will have no end. The children of Your Servants will

continue, and their descendants will be established before You (Psa. 102).

“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, and those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’

“How shall we sing the Lord’s Song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth − if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy.

“Remember, O Lord, against the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who said, ‘Raze it, raze it, to its very foundation!’ O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, happy the one who repays you as you have served us! Happy the one who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock! (Psa. 137).

As a general rule, you should be able to know the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. There are some things that were allowed in the Old Testament dispensation, which are not allowed in the New Testament dispensation.

For instance, whereas people were rewarded according to their works in the Old Testament, we are not to reward evil with evil in the New Testament. The Bible says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

“If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

“That you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

“And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:38-48).

Also, in the Old Testament, they lived by their righteousness; but in the New Testament, even though we are to live in holiness and obey God, as a prove that we truly love Him, yet we live by the Righteousness and Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. To this end, the Bible says, “For Christ is the End of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

“For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the Law, ‘The man who does those things shall live by them.’ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into Heaven?”’ (that is, to bring Christ down from Above) or, ‘“Who will descend into the abyss?”’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

“But what does it say? ‘The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the Word of Faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be

put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the Same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved’” (Rom. 10:4-13).

In this New Testament, we operate with the spirit of love, mercy, forgiveness, and love, unlike in the Old Testament, where they operated with the spirit of judgment. This why the Bible says, “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received Up, that He steadfastly set His Face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His Face.

“And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His Face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His Disciples James and John saw this, they said, ‘Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from Heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?’

“But He turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’ And they went to another village (Lk. 9:51-56).

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.

“Therefore ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:18-21).

DEMONIC AND SATANIC ACTIVITIES TODAY

The Bible says that the works of satan and his hosts are stealing, killing, and destroying (Jn 10:10). And the reason Jesus Christ came was that He might destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). Therefore, our work, as Christians, is to destroy the works of the devil.

In these days of concentrated satanic and demonic activities, we have to be wise and operate according to the Word of God in order to be free from the plans, purposes, and works of the devil and his hosts. Yes, Jesus Christ has freed us from the power of the devil; but the Bible tells us what to do in order to maintain and enjoy that freedom and victory that our Lord got for us.

This is why the Bible says, “Nor give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27), and “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jas 4:7). This is talking of the responsibility that God gave you as a Christian: it is not God that will resist the devil for you, but you yourself. And He has given you the resources you need to resist the devil. If you give the devil a place in your life, then the devil will gladly have that place.

Yet, “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Lk. 10:19). And, “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment, you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the Servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the LORD (Isa. 54:17).

Also, “And these signs will follow those who believe: in My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk 16:17-18). These and many others are God’s Provisions for us as His

children; but we must also take up our responsibilities, so that we will enjoy the things that Jesus Christ has provided for us to the fullest.

In these end-times, learn and get used to studying the Word of God (in order to know your rights, privileges, power, and authority as a Believer in Christ Jesus); and apply what you know, because it is applied knowledge that brings the desired results. Learn to fast and pray in these days of concentrated demonic activities. But don't be afraid, for God is with you and for you! Flies do not perch on boiling oil, even as serpents do not coil around red-hot iron. Therefore, maintain a red-hot spiritual life always.

Learn to pray over and bless your food and water. The Bible says, "For it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer" (1 Tim. 4:1-2). Many products in the market are polluted by witches and demons. Pray and bless the things you buy in the market, especially edible things and pre-packed and canned foods. Pray over yourself when you go for such services as barbing and hair-keeping. Be sensitive to know who you should not patronize, even for things like dry-cleaning.

Please, no matter how I may sound, before you take any drug or medicine (for those who like taking drugs/medicine), pray over them. There are satanic and demonic products in the form of drugs and medicine; and there are also satanic, demonic, and occult doctors, pharmacists, and nurses in many hospitals, whether public or private, local or foreign. If you want to go to hospital, pray over yourself and cover yourself with the Blood of Jesus Christ before you go. You may also tell a trusted person to pray for you; but never forget to pray by yourself.

No matter how urgent the case may be, if you can't pray, then don't go! Many people have lost their lives in hospitals, not because of the sickness or disease that attacked them, but because of satanic medicine and medical practitioners. It will even be difficult for police to

detect these practices, because they are spiritually remoted and performed. And you know that many policemen are not spiritually sensitive; therefore, even if a policeman is there, the doctor can do what he wants to do, and the security agent can't even notice it.

Please, pray over the clothes and wears you buy, especially the second-hand ones, because many of them actually come from the underworld. Someone may doubt the possibility; but do you know that the Bible says that God created the physical world from the spiritual world (things that exist from things that do not exist)? (Heb. 11:3). The spiritual controls the physical, whether the good realm or the bad realm. Even unbelievers believe that after performing some demonic rituals, they can disappear and reappear at will.

In geography, we are told that the 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water. Do you know the vastness of the expanse of water in the Atlantic Ocean, for example? If a ship appears from the mermaid kingdom in that great expanse of sea and sails to the seaport, how do you know where it came from? Yes, it can carry any national flag they want it to carry.

And you know that there are submarines which go under water and come up when they want; so if the one from the underworld appears as a submarine, how do you know where it came from? They will come with whatever paper for the goods that you may want at the seaport, and they can interfere with whatever signal you may send or receive. Yes, they can operate physical shipping industries that will carry their goods at whatever point in the sea. Even if you may argue that the signal or information says that the ship came from another physical seaport, it makes no difference, because they can always outsmart you.

Don't be deceived: they will still have physical clearing agents for the goods, and distributing or marketing companies and agents for their materials. You may even

work in a physical satanic company without your knowledge; and you will say, “I know how these things are produced.” Do you also know how they got many of the ‘imported’ chemicals and materials they use in the factory?

Pray over your meat and fish. Please, pastor, when people bring life-animals for thanksgiving and gifts, pray over them and sanctify them. As odd as I may sound, some of those animals are more than animals. And even many of those ones which are normal animals might have been dedicated to devils (with different proclamations and curses) before they bring them to you. This is also applicable to the ones you buy in the market by yourself, even the ones you use for general cooking in camps, ceremonies, and retreats.

Before you travel, pray. Many of the accidents you hear of are not mechanical, but spiritually remote-controlled. Many plane-crashes, motor-accidents, and shipwrecks, which are blamed on mechanics, vehicle producers, and transport companies are actually caused by witches and devils. This is not for you to be afraid, because angels are guarding you; in fact, fear can open a way for the devil. Entertain no fear, because satan is nobody before your Almighty God!

Pray for your children and family, because witches want to enslave and initiate them if they have the opportunity. There are many conscious agents of satan in nursery schools, primary schools, secondary schools, universities, work-places, streets, and markets. Train your children to refuse edible things from strangers, and to pray over what they eat and drink. Pray over gifts you receive and the things you buy in the market. During/after your ceremonies and weddings, pray over the gifts you receive.

The devil and his devils are desperate these days more than before, because he knows that his time is short. If he can’t destroy you, he will want to kill you; and if he can’t

kill you, he will want to steal from you. Therefore, watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation (Matt. 26:41).

The Bible says, “Owe no man anything...” (Rom. 13:8) and, “...the borrower is servant to the lender” (Prov. 22:7). It is not that it is sinful to borrow, because the Word also says, “...and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away” Matt. 5:42). But to borrow and refuse to pay is evil. It is also not good to postpone paying your debts when you are in the position to pay the debt.

Also, debt has spiritual significance; therefore, if you are not prayerful, somebody can use the credit-contact to drain your money or influence your life financially. He who goes on borrowing, goes on sorrowing. Learn to trust in God, instead of trusting in men and creditors. Also, the time, energy, and effort you put in to borrow and think on how to pay can bring stress and shame on you.

Pray for your newborn child and children; cover them with Blood of Jesus Christ. Pray over what you give out to strangers like beggars: cover it with the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Pray and cover yourself, your family, business, occupation, and property with the Blood of Jesus Christ. Believers need to pray a lot these days (and also fast), especially in group prayers.

Pray before you embark on journeys by land, air, or water. And if you have an uneasy feeling as you want to travel, then pray through before traveling. But this is not to tell you to live in fear, because angels are already guarding you. However, be prayerful generally.

DIVINE REVELATIONS AND NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES (NDE'S)

If it is contrary to the Word of God, then it is from satan – the devil and God's archenemy – who deceived Eve (from the beginning) with: "Did God really say...." That which is against God and His Word cannot be from God, the Maker of all things, Who holds the whole world in His Hand, because God's Word and His Spirit agree. The Lord Jesus Christ, Who defeated satan on the Cross of Calvary about two thousand years ago, is the Same – yesterday, today, and forever. He is coming very soon; get ready to meet Him: Heaven and Hell are real; let no one deceive you.

And the Word says, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the Fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the Will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that Day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matt. 7:15-23).

To tell you the truth, a lot of the noise made by many Believers means little or nothing to God. Many Believers and ministers cause God more pain and heartbreak than unbelievers. Many ministers preach and teach what God never thought of, not to talk of saying it: Many of them preach, teach, and practice the mind of the devil. Many

Believers live however they want, while shouting, “Praise the Lord!” and “The Lord is good!” Well, let all of us amend our ways while there is still time, because God cannot change His Word for any person.

One time, I went to an open-air crusade which was titled: Mega Fire Crusade with one celebrated evangelist. It was a two-day crusade. I went the last day; and I stayed from the beginning of the preaching till the closing of the crusade. Brethren, the man didn’t even mention or pray about either receiving Jesus Christ or avoiding sin. But he mentioned and prayed about car, building, marriage, factory, business, healing, and giving.

And he took two sets of offerings/donations, and invited people to the church that organized the crusade, telling them that he would anoint them during the church service. I was so unhappy that I met him after he came down, while they were about carrying him to his hotel room. He asked what my problem was, thinking that I came for prayer. I told him what I observed in his ministration, telling him that I am an evangelist and the primary aim of crusades should be to draw souls to Jesus Christ.

Guess what? He never even regretted or apologized, but defended himself, saying that sometimes it is like that. But, brethren, the crusade was only for two days. This is not a story that somebody told me, but what I experienced myself.

When I walk along the street and see how many ladies and women dress, I weep. And when you pass through beer parlours and joints, and see our young men, you will wail. What about the things happening among Believers, ministries, and churches?

Jesus Christ is coming very soon: Heaven and Hell are real. Let us get ready for His Return, knowing that the Christian race and God’s Judgment are individual, and not collective. There is Only One Jesus Christ; and there is only one Bible. If you love the Kingdom of Heaven, then start

reading and studying your own Bible for yourself, so that when those who teach you lies are condemned by God, you will not be condemned alongside with them.

It is not every place that is called by the name of church, ministry, fellowship, or mission that is preparing people for Heaven. Many of them are preparing people for Hell Fire. You will come to terms with the reality in the end. And the great regret is that by then, there will not be a second chance.

It is not just a matter of, “Thank You Jesus!” It is a matter of obeying His Word and Commandments, not being hypocrites who claim to be Believers, but live and act however we want, not regarding the things contained in the Bible, which He gave us. God is no respecter of any person; He will judge all men using His Word as His Standard. Remember that the righteous Lucifer became His archenemy by sin, and the holy Adam became separated from Him by disobedience.

Someone can accuse others of spreading the ‘gospel of sin’, and of making people sin-conscious. Read 1 Cor. 10:1-14, and see who the ‘gospel’ of sin is meant for (even though there is no such thing as ‘the gospel of sin’). But beware, that you do not run and labour in vain! Also, know that idolatry does not only mean the worship of carved and molten images (Jas 4:4-5). Refer to Rom. 6:1 and 2 Cor. 6:1. May God open the eyes of your understanding, so that those who follow you may enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

NOW, I AM NOT JUDGING ANYONE, NOR AM I ENCOURAGING JUDGING ANYONE; but we must speak to warn those who are derailing, not to judge them; because they can still repent, as long as they are still alive, if they open themselves to the Holy Spirit’s Promptings. And this applies to both the leaders and the led!

Read: Matthew 7:15-27; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Peter 2:1-22; 1 John 4:1; Jude 1:3-13; and see that Jesus Christ, Paul, Peter, John, and Jude spoke against false preachers,

teachers, prophets, and ministers. Did they do it to condemn them? No; rather, they did it to warn their followers and those who may be deceived by them.

Many people speak against Divine Revelations from God (including the testimonies of those who had Near-death Experiences) about Heaven and Hell. God has chosen to do it His Own Way, as He had been doing before. Why not believe God? Revelations like these are meant to encourage the faithful and warn the faithless (unfaithful). “The Bible is our standard and guide”; but, many people use this statement to trample on and work against the Will and Purpose of God.

The true testimony-bearers did not say that dressing a particular way alone will take you to Heaven; they emphasized on salvation, holiness, and total obedience to the Word of God. And be mindful that holiness and righteousness is both inward (of the heart and the mind) and outward (of the body). Refer to 2 Corinthians 7:1 and Romans 12:1-2.

And as for whether they should sell the testimonies, they are to allow God lead them in that area. By the way, if a true man of God is invited to preach to people (or teach them), inasmuch as he has his transport fare (or can get there) or is transported to the place of the ministration, he goes there and preaches free of charge to all who are there to listen; and he does so joyfully to win and establish souls for the Lord. If you give him some money after the ministration, and he collects it, is it evil?

Even if you don’t give him, God will take good care of him; but if he comes with compact discs (CDs), DVDs, books, or tapes, must he give them to you free of charge? Your buying (willingly) any material, is it not for your own good and future use/revision? Can you mention one man of God that gives all his materials free of charge to people, except where (in some instances) the minister himself,

someone else, a group of people, or the ministry/church pays for them (or for some of them)? Or, are they selling them at exorbitant prices?

And if the compact discs, tapes, and books are not produced, how will those within the vicinity of the programme who didn't attend the programme hear from the man of God directly? Or, is it better for them to hear misinterpreted and misinformed reports from those who attended the programme? And what about the areas the man of God may not speak on for that time; is it not from the materials he came with (or his materials that are sold by traders) that people will learn? By the way, the Bible you have and read, did you get it free of charge?

Unbelievers and businessmen spend money to buy or get what they want; should Christians complain, because they paid small money to get books, CDs, and tapes? Many Believers/Christians will spend a lot of money on food, clothes, schools and certificates, and other physical and mental things; but when it comes to spending money for spiritual things, they will hypocritically complain. Don't they know that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes out of the Mouth of God"?

And on the case of knowing who is in Heaven or in Hell (after having died), even the person you think you know may have a hidden (inward) sin or a grave 'mistake' which you will not know. By the way, the finally dead person has died, and cannot change his or her situation of everlasting friendship or separation from God.

When Apostle John heard something(s) in the Book of Revelation and wanted to write it (them) down, he was commanded not to write it (them) (Rev. 10:4). When Apostle Paul went to Heaven (Paradise), there were things he heard and saw, which he was not allowed to say or write (2 Cor. 12:4). Prophet Daniel was told to seal up part of the revelations he got (Dan. 12:4). Even Jesus Christ Himself

knew many things which He didn't tell His apostles, as at the time He was with them (Jn 16:12).

However, they all revealed and said many of the things that they heard, saw, and knew! And read what was told Prophet Daniel in that place: he was told to seal it up until the time of the end. This means that at the appointed time, maybe in the time of the end (the last days), they will no longer be sealed up, but be revealed. Also, remember that it also says that knowledge will increase in the last days.

Apostle John, in the Book of Revelation, chapters 2 & 3, mentioned the names of specific churches. Except you want to deceive yourself, Apostle John, mentioning: the church of Ephesus, the church in Smyrna, the church in Pergamos, the church in Thyatira, the church in Sadis, the church in Philadelphia, and the church of the Laodiceans, is the same as mentioning names of specific churches. Therefore, God can mention names of specific churches – it is Scriptural! And that your church's name was not mentioned does not guarantee that it is better than those that might have been mentioned: so, check yourself, and correct anything that is to be corrected.

Now that one person is controlling all the branches of the churches, ministries, or fellowships in a particular country (or even in the whole world), why wouldn't his name be mentioned by God? Apostle Paul rebuked Apostle Peter publicly (Gal. 2:11-14); did he judge or condemn him by that? Was he not trying to put him in the right order out of brotherly love?

If you hadn't known it, Apostle Peter had greater authority than Apostle Paul in the Church. "Do not rebuke an older man (an elder, the KJV), but exhort him as a father (1 Tim. 5:1)," must be interpreted well. Advising Timothy on the administration of the church, Paul said, "Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest may also fear (1 Tim. 5:20)". What of where an elder is sinning

and committing sin that is open to everybody and leading them astray?

Remember that the purpose of rebuking before all, according to the Bible, is for others to fear and avoid doing the same (or similar) things. And Jesus Christ, after saying, “Do not judge (Matt. 7:1),” also said, “Judge with righteous judgment (Jn 7:24).” So, learn to interpret the Word of God well in every situation.

That Apostle Paul wrote more books, and did extended Gospel work among the Gentiles, didn’t make him rise above Peter. Think of it, even though Elisha got the double portion of Elijah’s anointing (or the Holy Spirit upon him), he didn’t rise above Elijah. And you know that Elijah was carried alive to Heaven, while Elisha died from sickness, and had his body decayed. Though John the Baptist didn’t perform any recorded healing miracle, yet the miracle-working Moses didn’t rise above him. And John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, and not of Elisha!

For those who may say, “Never listen to any of those revelations,” if revelations and visions (or listening to them) will be discouraged, because false revelations and visions exist, then reading Christian books and literatures, or listening to preachings and teachings must also be discouraged, since false preachings, teachings, and ‘Christian’ books and literatures also abound.

And you know that God Himself put preachers and teachers in His Church (even after having given us the Bible and Scriptures), just as He also put prophets too. No one man has all the inspirations, preachings, teachings, and ministries that God wants to pass across to His people. Yes, the devil and his demons can also give dreams, visions, revelations, audible voices, prophecies, and miracles; therefore, always study your Bible to know the Mind of God.

But do not let any person – preacher or what – stop you from hearing what God wants to tell you! And you can be

sure that the devil doesn't promote the Cause of God and His Word, when analyzed, summarized, and weighed very well. And those from God don't and can't contradict the Word of God, when well interpreted and understood. In the last days, visions and revelations will abound – both good and bad, God-Sent and devil-sent.

And one of the signs of the last days is that people (even Believers) will harden their hearts from God's Voice and Messages, and try to disprove them with such misleading questions and comments as: (1) "In the Bible when the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his living brothers, Abraham said, 'If they don't hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead' (Lk. 16:31)." Was it Abraham or Jesus Christ that made the statement? Certainly, it was Abraham, and not Jesus Christ.

Read the story very well, as told by Jesus Christ. Abraham didn't even have the ability to make Lazarus pass the gulf that was between the Paradise (where they were) and Hades (where the rich man was) to give the rich man a drop of water if Abraham had wanted to send Lazarus to the rich man. How then could that level of decision of sending Lazarus to the rich man's brothers be taken by an ordinary 'dead' (though living) Abraham? Abraham neither had the authority to send Lazarus to them, nor the power to raise Lazarus from the dead.

This was before Jesus Christ's Death and Resurrection, when both Paradise (for righteous men) and Hades (for sinners) were still beneath the earth and 'near' each other; now, only Hades is beneath the earth: Paradise is now Above. Jesus Christ took the righteous people who were in the underneath Paradise up to Above after His Resurrection.

The Bible says, "And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today, you will be with Me in Paradise'" (Lk. 23:43). The forgiven criminal was going to the underneath

Paradise, from where he was taken to an Above Paradise – Heaven – after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And the Word says, “And Jesus cried out again with a loud Voice, and yielded up His Spirit.

“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the Saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His Resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many” (Matt. 27:50-53). Notice that they could only come out of their graves after Jesus Christ’s Resurrection. And they were taken to an Above Paradise!

Of course, you can see the level of the rich man’s torment in Hell. But I want you to notice that Abraham, based on the rich man’s request, told him that his brothers have Moses and the Prophets, that they should hear them. Abraham was saying that the living should obey the Word of God, to avoid going to Hell. Therefore, those who do not obey the Word of God, but live to please the desires of their hearts and minds, will end in Hell.

Then again, when the rich man told Abraham that his brothers would hear if someone rises from the dead to preach to them, Abraham told him that if they did not hear Moses and the Prophets (the Word of God being preached and taught), neither would they be persuaded though someone rose from the dead. First, it was Abraham, and not God or Jesus Christ, who told the rich man that. God knows better than Abraham; and if He knows that people will listen to someone that rises from the dead, He can send the person.

Abraham couldn’t even cross the gulf between Paradise and Hell; how then could he send Lazarus back to the earth? He did not have that level of authority or power to send a dead person to the living; but God has the power,

ability, and authority to do that. Also, notice that Abraham did not say that nobody (none) could/would hear the dead that rises from the dead, but that the rich man's brothers would not hear. Why would they not hear? Because they had made up their minds on what they wanted; and they might have even scorned the fellow, saying that he did not actually die. (And, being hardened, they could have even said that it was a spirit posing as a human, who was dead, if Lazarus had appeared to them physically).

But many people will believe the story that would be told them by someone who rises from the dead; and many people will still not believe the story told them by someone who rises from the dead, no matter what, because the devil has hardened their hearts and they have made up their minds on what they want. The Bible says, "And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

"His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. ...Now while they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

"Saying, 'Tell them, "His Disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept." And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure.' So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day" (Matt. 28:2-15). Can you imagine the hardness of men's (some men's) hearts and minds?

Instead of being grateful to God for saving them from death, and also giving them the opportunity to witness such a great sight, they decided to accept money and spread false story. Who will blame God when He judges and

punishes sinners with Eternal Death in His Great Wrath? But His Hands are still open now for whoever will submit to His Word and Grace!

Notice also that it was some of the guards (not all of them) that went to report; some of them might have repented from that incident. Yet the religious chief priests and elders hardened their hearts. Abraham was right when he told the rich man that his brothers would not hear though someone rises from the dead, because whereas some people will accept the testimony of the person who rises from the dead, many will still never believe his testimony, because their minds are made up.

(2) “That person said that she didn’t know of this particular church, how then did she say that she heard the church is a holiness church?” Even with common sense, when the person was called by a woman on Monday to enquire about the very church, having given the woman answers, what stops her from asking about the church between Monday and Wednesday before the Lord spoke to her (as she said) on that Wednesday when the statement she made applied?

(3) “This is not the Bible (or even Koran) Jesus.” The person was saying that Jesus Christ can’t be too harsh with people to punish them the way described by the testifier(s) {or, maybe, the person was speaking of the way one of the testifiers was punished by God}, without knowing that our God, Who is also a Consuming Fire, destroyed everybody with the Flood (except Noah and his family), rained down fire to destroy all the dwellers of Sodom and Gomorrah (except Lot and his family), and even judges Believers with death, because they eat at the Lord’s Table unworthily.

(4) “That person said, ‘I Am That I Am,’ on coming out of the experience; therefore, it can’t be from God.” When the prophets prophesied in the Name of the Lord, didn’t they speak on Behalf of God? (5) “That testifier said that the only woman in Heaven is Mary, the mother of Jesus.”

When on earth did the person say such a thing? The person actually said that only a small percentage of people that left the earth made Heaven; and out of the people that made Heaven, only a small percentage of them are women, partly due to their attachment to jewellery, indecent dressing, make-up, and weavons/attachments.

(6) “If God really wanted to speak to the world through that person, He would have made her death and coming back public.” Do you see the sense of man, when he decides to allow the devil to deceive him? (7) “Those people just used that boy to organize previous testimonies (reports) from others.” Man, why do you want to be lost in Eternal Damnation in Hell Fire? (8) “The (those) testimonies are (were) made to make money.” Make money from you by lying to get you ready for Heaven, and ending in Hell themselves?

(9) “Who has gone to Heaven and come back?” They wilfully forget that Apostle Paul and Apostle John went to Heaven and came back. (10) “No one can see God and live.” Forgetting that Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John saw the Similitude of God (and hence saw God), and lived. (11) And one ‘preacher’ said, “If God wants to tell Believers or people something, He wouldn’t use a dead or/and ‘risen’ person, but He will use pastors (or preachers).” Is that pride or deception?

These are few questions (or related statements) which people asked (or made) to disprove those Divine Revelations. And somebody (or some people) called them DEVELATIONS, trying to indicate that they came from the devil. People, why do you want satan, the devil, to take you to Hell Fire? And somebody may say that the Bible is our final authority (which is a very true statement).

But why do very many different persons, Believers, preachers, teachers, and ministers all say that the Bible is our final authority and standard, and also declare that they are preaching and teaching the raw and undiluted Word of

God; and yet, in practice, they preach, teach, and practice different things? This is the more reason why you should maintain a tender heart, and allow the Holy Spirit speak to you.

Yes, the Bible is the final say and standard for all of us. Yet the things in the Bible were got by visions, revelations, dreams, audible voices, and inward inspirations/revelations. Can the Bible tell you which school to attend, which supermarket to shop in, or which vehicle to board? The Bible goes alongside with the Leading of the Holy Spirit.

However, we must disregard whatever contradicts the Bible. But true reports do not contradict the Bible; rather, their reports promote the Bible, except when you had allowed yourself to be loaded/filled with whatever false and misapplied teachings and doctrines you desire, because they suit your flesh; and you don't want to change.

The Bible tells us about Heaven and Hell: what we should do to gain Heaven, and what we must avoid to avoid Hell. But many Believers don't even regard and obey the Bible as they should. This is why God, seeing that many people have entered (and are heading towards) Hell, is giving more revelations and visions to spur us into taking the Bible serious (or more serious).

Someone may say, "How do you know that they have actually gone to Heaven?" Does asking that question not confirm and guarantee that God did not tell you that they didn't go to Heaven? And if you say that you were told that they didn't go to Heaven or/and Hell, who told you that – God or satan?

Many of those testimonies have been shared (or posted) in the Internet. Things shared in the Internet are read by many people. If one person who reads the post(s) gets and receives the Message being passed across, he may run with it, by spreading it to others; by that, the knowledge is more widely spread. There are millions of people who are

following some preachers and ministers, even those outside their ministries and churches; and many of them think that because they prophesy and perform miracles, then all the things that they preach, teach, and practice are right.

But this is not true, in the ultimate sense. Therefore, instead of keeping quiet, and allowing them to follow anyone to Hell Fire, while Jesus Christ is crying for the abundance of lost souls, we are to stand up for God and warn the people. Much of the corruption in the church-world today is because people say that they want to mind their own business, even when the Lord wants them to mind His Own Business.

We are labourers together with God; and we have divisions and inter-mingleness of labour in the Kingdom of God. One may receive a Message from God; another may run with the Message to spread it; while another may be involved with fighting the devil, who may want to stop or hinder the spreading of the Message; another may be involved with taking care of those who were wounded by the devil in the course of doing their duty in the Kingdom; yet, we are working for the Same God.

Brother, if you had not known it, it is not an impossible thing that any of those testifiers can still backslide, if we don't give them any helping hand and support (but our God will hold them strong in Him!). Some of those testifiers are spiritual babies, who don’t know the Bible well; and they need those who would prove, by the Bible, that their revelations are Biblical. I remember what Jesus Christ told one converted Muslim when he was taken to Heaven (or beyond the earth) and shown/told some things.

The Muslim (who turned to a preacher) had been a very rich Muslim, who was also involved in many secret societies (his conversion and testimony were not hidden and secret; he is from Northern Nigeria, Sokoto, and had Saudi Arabian citizenship: And Muslims fought hard to kill him

after his conversion, because of the many things he exposed about Islam).

Now, after showing/telling him some things, and giving him a commission, Jesus Christ asked him, saying, “Will you be faithful to do what I have told you to do?” He answered Him with a Yes. The Lord Jesus Christ told him that He was asking him, because He had taken many people, both from his country (Nigeria) and from other countries of the world, and shown them extra-terrestrial things (like Heaven and Hell); yet, after they had gone back to the world, after some times, some (or many) of them started thinking that it was just a dream that they had.

And we will not sit back and watch those, who don’t want to hear the Spirit of God, destroy these Heavenly Messages. So, we will not fold our hands and leave the testifiers stranded; but we will (by the Help of the Holy Spirit) use the Bible and inward inspirations to support and help them.

The Church is marching on; and gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God! The issue is: whether you yourself, as a preacher, was mentioned or not, or the church you attend was mentioned or not, let each and every one of us correct himself/herself of whatever is Biblically wrong − of whatever is wrong in the Sight of God. And for those who might have been mentioned, what have they done to correct themselves? God is calling, because He loves us!

Also, know that the churches and ministers that might have been mentioned are just samples, because there are thousands of needing-revival, requiring-purging, backslidden, half-bred, falsely indoctrinated, fake, satanic, demonic, and false ministers, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, deacons, elders, musicians, church workers, church members, churches, ministries, and fellowships in our different countries and the whole world at large.

Let me include some things the Lord Jesus Christ told the seven churches in the second and third chapters of the Book of Revelation. The seven churches were in Asia Minor. They included the churches in Ephesus, in Smyrna, in Pergamos, in Thyatira, in Sardis, in Philadelphia, and in Laodicea. The churches were in different states of spirituality and carnality, just as the churches of today. The Lord had to encourage them, and warn them, by the hand of Apostle John.

The Lord was happy with those who did well (or, their good deeds); and He was unhappy with those who did not do well (or, their evil deeds/conditions). Even some who did well still had areas they had to correct. Because He desired that all of them do well, He had to send Messages to them according to their works and needs. The Messages sent to these churches are of benefit to us in this present age, if we open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to purge, sanctify, consecrate, and edify us, so that we may become what the Lord wants us to be.

He was not happy with some of them; and He rebuked them. Some of them had left their first love. Some held to the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. They had also those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing He hates (hated). They allowed one Jezebel, who called herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce His Servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Some had name that they were alive, but they were dead. He did not find the works of many of them perfect before God. Many of them were neither cold nor hot. The Lord wished that they were either cold or hot. And because they were lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, He was going to vomit them out of His Mouth.

Some said that they were rich and had become wealthy, and had need of nothing. They did not know that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. No wonder the Bible says that we should neither be wise in our own eyes nor lean on our own understanding (Prov. 3:5-7). There is a way that seems good to a man, but the end of that road is death and destruction (Prov. 14:12). If we judge ourselves, we would not be judged (1 Cor. 11:31).

He warned them to remember where they had fallen from. He told them to repent and do the first works, else He would come to them quickly and remove their lampstand from its place − unless they repented. He told (and tells) anyone that had (and has) ear to hear to hear what the Spirit said (and is saying) to the churches. He advised them to not fear any of those things which they were about to suffer.

Indeed, the devil was about to throw some of them into prison, that they might be tested; and they were to have tribulation ten days. He commanded them to be faithful until death. The Lord told many of them to repent, or else He would come to them quickly and would fight against them with the sword of His Mouth. If Jesus Christ rebuked those churches, for them to repent and become faithful Believers, who are you to get annoyed when God decides to rebuke you? He rebukes and chastens those that He loves.

By the way, neither me nor anyone needs to approve or recognize the testimonies before they become true; for none of us is God! This race needs God's Grace and Mercy. Even as I write, I myself needs God's Grace and Mercy to make it to the end, because these last days are perilous. As an apostle who has evangelistic and teaching ministries, I need the grace to do what I teach.

When you teach or preach the Word of God sincerely, you teach and preach under the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. But when you finish, you have become that 'small' and 'ordinary' Christian, who must also discipline himself

and bring his body under subjection to his spirit, to be able to obey God like every other Believer. To this end, Apostle Paul said, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:27).

Now, I say these things for the wellbeing of Christianity: If all these people who troop to crusades, ministries, and churches live to please God with perfect hearts, I tell you that Jesus Christ may be coming sooner! I would want to have a church of one hundred members, where about ninety of them are ready for the Coming of Jesus Christ, than to pastor ten thousand members, of which God may not even find five people who are ready for the Coming of His Son.

And it is better to have a mini crusade, where people sincerely repent and are faithful to God, than to organize a mega crusade, where thousands come out for altar call and go back to live however they want. Therefore, we evangelists, if we are troubled by the decadence in Christianity, knowing that many people trust us, should also use the opportunity we have to, at least, point out these things to, at least, the ministers and church-workers.

Some ministers say that they have special revelations on particular areas. Well, I myself have the revelation to help people understand the Truth of the Word of God and to follow the Leading of God’s Holy Spirit. It is like I used to think a certain man of God was a ‘holiness preacher/teacher’ until listened to some of his messages I collected from one of his pastors. Then I understood that he is not a ‘holiness preacher/teacher,’ but a man of God who teaches the Word of God (of which holiness, which he emphasizes on, is included) and also demonstrates the Spirit and power.

The man demonstrates (has demonstrated) great miracles, signs, and wonders that many of the people we celebrate haven’t done. But the thing is that he doesn’t like

proclaiming himself but God, Who does (did) those things; and he found out early enough that without holiness, no eye shall see the Lord. He found out that if one has all the miracles, healings, breakthroughs, deliverances, and anointing, and loses Heaven, the fellow lost everything and gained nothing.

Therefore, no matter the area you may say that you are called to 'specialize' on, preach, teach, and practice the Whole Counsel of God. And whatever we may have or achieve, we are nothing before God; and we must know that without holiness no one can see the Lord. Let us and those who follow us be aware of this real Truth.

Some people 'want' revelations, visions, and prophecies to be tested by the Word of God. Those people know whether they are sincere or whether they want to deceive others, having been deceived. I am a strong believer in this approach, because it is Biblical. The Bible says, "Prove all things; hold on to that which is good (1 Thes. 5:21). Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God… (1 Jn 4:1). Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge (1 Cor. 14:29)."

To explain some things, Jude speaks of sinners being reserved for the blackness of darkness forever (Jude 1:13). Jesus Christ Himself speaks of the sons of the Kingdom being cast into the Outer Darkness; and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8:12). Of course, you are already familiar with the heat of the fire of Hell. The Word says that their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched (Mk 9:44).

Hell is a combination of fire, worms, darkness, etc. This does not mean, however, that you cannot see/notice/recognize someone in Hell, because you are more sensitive in Hell than you are on earth. This is why your spirit and soul can know things you didn't really perceive with your physical senses. Some people say that since they will be many in Hell Fire, they will put off the

fire of Hell; but they don't know that the God, Who can mix fire and darkness, knows the frequency and magnitude of the fire which can comfortably absorb even trillions of entities! I hope you know that human beings have neither filled up the earth's surface nor used up all the oxygen, in spite of thousands of years of occupying the earth!

You have got to know that the time of the demons has not come; hence they spoke to Jesus Christ, saying, "Have You come to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29). It is not the devil that formed Hell; it is God that formed it. It is not the devil that sends people to Hell; but God is the One Who sends people to Hell, as a way of punishing sinners and the disobedient. Even though a demon may carry or take you to Hell; but it is just because God has sent you there by releasing you to them. But on the case of men, it is appointed unto men to die once, and after that the judgment (Heb. 9:27).

Yes, the fire of Hell may not touch the demons now, because their time has not come; but when their time comes, God will either change their bodies to feel the effect of the fire, remove/neutralize the power that makes them not to feel the heat, or change the power and mode of the fire to burn them. Or, don't you know that even now someone can enter into physical fire and not feel the effect, because of demonic and satanic powers, after having performed some satanic rituals?

Even on the positive side, the fire of Nebuchadnezzar refused the bodies of Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, because God was there with them. And remember that the Bible says that Death and Hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14). Therefore, if the demons don't feel the fire of Hell, they will certainly burn, cry, wail, and weep in the fire of the Lake of Fire. Understood?

Know that Hell or Hades is a temporary place of suffering for the dead sinner. The Lake of Fire, which the devils and sinners will be put into later, is actually the

permanent place of extreme suffering for both the devils and human sinners. And the devil and his demons, for now, may be tormenting those who are presently suffering in Hell. But at the fulness of time, the devil and his fallen angels and demons will be cast into the Lake of Fire. And any person whose name is not found written in the Book of Life will also be cast into the Lake of Fire.

It is true that the time of fallen angels and demons has not come; but when their time comes, they will know that God has the kind of fire, that is available in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, which will burn and torment them to wail and cry. The Bible says, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

“Then I saw a Great White Throne and Him Who sat on it, from Whose Face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another Book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by things which were written in the books.

“The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire” (Rev. 20:10-15).

As for whether Jesus Christ can accompany someone to Hell to show the person something in Hell, as someone said: “How can Jesus, as holy as He is, enter Hell with the guy, as if they are going on excursion; and don’t you know that people in Hell can’t see God’s Face, how come the woman had the opportunity to be asking Jesus for forgiveness while she was already in Hell?” Bible and spiritual knowledge will tell you that it is possible.

If satan could come to where the sons of God came to present themselves to God (Job 1:6), and even spoke to God, how can't someone in Hell see Jesus Christ when He goes there on a mission to show someone mysteries about Hell? Yes, sinners cannot see God's Face; but you have to know that even though Jesus Christ is God, yet He is the Son of God and Mediator between God and men; and many sinners who couldn't see God saw Jesus Christ while He was on earth.

God created Hell, and He can enter there if He wants to; and the fire and heat of Hell cannot touch Him, even as the Fourth Person (Who had the Form of the Son of God) (Dan. 3:25) entered the fire of Nebuchadnezzar. And remember that God is everywhere (though His Manifest Presence is not everywhere). The Word says, "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your Presence? If I ascend into Heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Hell, behold, You are there" (Psa. 139:7-8).

The magnitude of the pain, either from the heat of the fire of Hell or the torments of the demons of Hell, is irrelevant for now; because Hell is a place of great suffering and torment; and no one will want to suffer, either from the heat or from the torments.

No one church is the only bearer of the Truth of the Word of God. And it is not only the churches that might have been mentioned for disobedience or rebellion that are taking their members to Hell by their teachings and practices.

Evil people do not have Eternal Life but eternal death. Men's souls are eternal; and demons and devils are eternal beings also: Therefore, they will suffer forever in the Lake of Fire. We see that Jesus Christ states in the Book of Mark that their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched (Mk 9:44). Did (Does) our Lord lie when He said (says) that the fire is not quenched? Hell Fire is forever!

To clear doubts, the Bible itself says that Hell Fire is eternal (and not just forever). Let me say this, because of those who say that Hell Fire is forever but not eternal. Yes, everlasting or forever can stand for a period of time or for eternity. Everlasting or forever actually means till the stated time expires, and eternity means that there is no time limit.

But the Bible tells us specifically that the everlasting and forever of Hell Fire (the Lake of Fire) is eternity. The Word says, "...are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 1:7). Therefore, Hell Fire is everlasting, forever, and eternal.

Yes, evil people go to Hell or Hades immediately after death, even though there is a corridor between death and either Heaven or Hell. And some people have actually come back from that corridor without either entering Heaven or Hell, but having seen them; though God actually takes some people (either in vision or in death) to Heaven or/and Hell to show them things they will report to the children of men when they come back.

He does these things, because He loves men and does not want any person to enter Hell. But many people are so hardened like the brothers of the rich man, of whom Abraham said, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead" (Lk. 16:31).

On the case of the possibility of increasing the heat or fire of Hell, God has different functions for His creatures, including angels. But have you ever seen it in the Bible where King Nebuchadnezzar told his men to increase his own fire seven times? (Dan. 3:19). Even in physics, though water boils at 100 degrees Celsius (which temperature human beings cannot withstand), yet it takes higher degrees of Celsius temperature to melt aluminum or iron into liquid form, not talk of vapuorizing any of them.

For one particular testifier, at the point of her death, she was not born again, and so was left to the power of the demons; and demons torture people who are dead in Hell, which God formed for the torment of the disobedient. Yes, there are torture places in the kingdom of darkness for those who disobey their rules; but these are not (necessarily) the same place where those who are dead are tortured.

And after the devil and his fallen angels have tortured those that go contrary to their commands, when they actually die physically, they go to be punished and tortured in God's Own torture place, which is Hell (though devils increase people's torments there). The fact that there are prisons and death sentences and executions by men for criminals and murderers does not negate God's Own 'prison' and Hell.

Yes, the final Judgment has not come; but dying without Jesus Christ, or in sin, is as good as having been judged. God sees differently, and says, "...but he who does not believe is condemned already..." (Jn 3:16). Now and the final Judgment are the same, as long as the fellow is dead and appointed for judgment. Therefore, a sinner who dies now goes to Hell (and even if you hang for some time, you will still go to Hell after some time).

And even when you are still alive and have made up your mind that nothing can make you change your evil ways, then you are as good as having been judged, in a way, because the Bible says that it is the Word of God that will judge people on the Last Day; though with God, nothing shall be impossible.

Are there not many agents of the kingdom of darkness, who, though will experience what should show them that God's Power is superior to the power of devil, yet they do not change or embrace Jesus Christ, because their hearts (minds) have been hardened by satan? And satan can also

harden the heart (mind) of someone, who may be carrying Bible in pretence (or, might have even known Christ).

When one particular testifier spoke of a force pulling her out of Hell, that was God's Power that pulled her out of that torment, because of His Mercy, so that she could come back to the earth, repent, accept Jesus Christ, and testify. Remember that God will have mercy on whom He chooses to have mercy on.

As for cleansing, you have got to know that our God is high and highly lifted up! He doesn't do everything by Himself: He has assigned different functions to different beings, including men and angels. When the devil rebelled against Him, He didn't fight the devil; that would have been giving much credit to satan. What God just did was to empower Michael the archangel and His warring angels; and they expelled the former Lucifer from Heaven.

God used one of the seraphim to touch Isaiah's tongue or mouth with the coal of fire (live coal) so that his iniquity was taken away and his sin purged (Isa. 6:6-7). When satan withstood Joshua, the high priest, because he was wearing filthy garments, the Angel of the Lord (God Himself) spoke and said to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him" (Zech. 3).

I tell you that if she had not come back to life, she couldn't have been saved, because God cannot contradict His Word. However, God sees the end from the beginning. This is why, speaking to Abraham, He said, "I have made you father of many nations," when as yet he didn't have Isaac. He didn't say, "I will make you father of many nations." God had (has) a special mission for her, out His Love and Mercy, not because she is better than others.

This is why God can overshadow His chosen vessels with His Spirit, even before they actually submit to Jesus Christ; but if they refuse to submit, He will destroy them. Did God not call and speak to Adam even after he had sinned? God created and formed all things; therefore, He

can relate with sinners (in some ways), just as He spoke to satan himself on the case of Job. Angels of God protect even the unbelievers to an extent; if not, the devil would have wiped them out.

Our ‘headache’ shouldn’t be whether we will be in Heaven or in the New Earth. Our concern should be to please God and make His Kingdom at last. Angels come to earth from Heaven; and they also go to Heaven from the earth. And Jesus Christ says that we shall be like the angels, if we are counted worthy for the Resurrection from the dead (Lk. 20:35-36). Do you think that it is not possible for us to live both in Heaven and the New Earth?

In Hell Fire, worms, which do not die, eat (pass through) people’s bodies. I have already stated that Hell Fire is eternal, as the Book of Jude tells us. God told Adam that he will die in the day that he eats of the forbidden fruit. Did Adam cease to exist on the day he ate the forbidden fruit? But he died spiritually, being separated from the Life of God. There are spiritual death (separation from God), physical death (ceasing to live physically), and the Second Death (Eternal Torment in Hell Fire or the Lake of Fire).

Sin separates you from God (spiritual death); and at death, spiritual death leads to eternal suffering of God’s Punishment (Second Death) in Hell Fire. The Bible says, “… are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of Eternal Fire” (Jude 1:7). If you had been thinking that when people are cast into the Lake of Fire, then they are annihilated forever by way of being cut off from existence, then you had been making a great mistake.

And I tell you, if it all ends with the Judgment, then sinners somehow may assume they didn’t ‘lose.’ If you ‘enjoy’ your life on earth, living in disobedience to God, and after the Judgment you cease to exist, do you think you ‘really lost’ anything, though losing Heaven is losing a very great thing? Then many more people can start living

however they want; after all, when they are judged, they cease to exist! Then why didn't God wipe out the entire human race and create another set of good human beings?

The Bible says, "And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh" (Isaiah 66:24). So, God is going to leave a reminder for the good and faithful resurrected humans and the angels, in order to discourage any future disobedience or rebellion!

If you thought that when satan and his cohorts are cast into the Lake of Fire, then they will cease to exist, then what did they 'really lose'? And why did God allow them to continue to exist in the world, deceiving people and causing problems for human beings, and trying to destroy God's Plans? When then will they taste their torment? Don't misinterpret the Bible. The Bible didn't say that Hell and death have an end, but that they will be cast into the Lake of Fire; and the Lake of Fire is forever and eternal, according to the Book of Jude.

God does not tell us to follow man-made denomination; anyone whose preaching or teaching is not focused on the Kingdom of God, but on denomination, belongs to the group which will not make Heaven, but Hell. The fellow is not working for God, but for satan. However, be careful that you are not misinterpreting the preaching, teaching, action, or practice of some of those testifiers.

When you are lying down and sleeping, you don't know what is happening around you; yet you see yourself doing or saying things in your dream: God has used dreams to tell you that you are not all about that sleeping body, but you have got a soul and a spirit; why not be wise and learn from your dream experiences? Or you think your dreams are meaningless and non-existent?

When Adam lost the Life of God by disobedience, it was enough death; when somebody is tormented in the Lake of

Fire, along with the devil and his fallen angels, that is great death in operation! When you die without Jesus Christ, or in sin, you are as good as having been judged (Jn 3:18). God, being the God of order, has given time to all humans (who die after some period of time), and when that time expires, He will call all of them (living and dead) for the Final Judgment.

You are actually judged at your death, and counted as holy, righteous, and justified, or sinful, evil, and condemned; the Final Judgment is actually for formality (Heb. 9:27; Jn 3:18).

The things that we need to know have been given and revealed to us. Even God taking people (through visions and death) to show them Heaven or/and Hell is just because we don't take His Word serious, because those things are found in the Bible, and can be known if we are open to the Spirit of God.

Concerning the resurrection from the dead at the Last Day, you need to ask yourself: "Is it resurrection from what/where to what/where?" Your soul does not die; so also is your spirit. Those people that they said they saw in Hell are not there with their physical bodies, but with their souls (which do not die). And just as you feel the effect of your enjoyment or suffering in your dreams, that is how you will feel the joy of Heaven (Paradise) or the suffering of Hell, when you die, as you wait for the resurrection.

Now, that resurrection is the resurrection of your soul putting on physical body again to be judged physically by God, because you existed as a physical being. But that is not now. Of course, before the Final Judgment and expiration of man's time, there would have been the Rapture of the Saints and the Millennium Reign of Jesus Christ with His faithful Saints.

But, whereas the Saints will resurrect with glorified bodies, the sinners will resurrect with the ordinary fallen bodies. Prophet Daniel said: "And many of those who sleep

in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to Everlasting Life, some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2). Here the Bible says that the state of both the righteous and the unrighteous (after resurrection) will be everlasting, but opposite to each other (just as light and darkness, or good and evil, are opposite to each other).

Jesus Christ Himself tells us that in Hell Fire, you do not cease to exist, but you will be going through on-going suffering, torment, and pain; and you will have your full sensitivity (even greater) there. Refer to the Book of Luke, chapter sixteen, and verses nineteen to thirty-one.

If you gain the whole world, and lose your soul in the end, you gained nothing. To tell you the truth, if you have all the miracles and prophecies you want from God, and in the end, hear, "Get behind Me, you worker of iniquity," you lost everything. If you live contrary to the Word of God, you better get ready for the Coming of Jesus Christ, because that your prophet or pastor, who tells you what the devil inspired him to say, will not save you from the Wrath of God.

God is no respecter of persons, whether you carry Bible or call Jesus. "But why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Lk. 6:46). And for those who put their trust of being saved on church attendance, baptism, communion, full membership, payment of big tithes and big donations to church projects, and friendship with the pastor, somebody should tell you that you are on your way to Hell Fire without a living relationship with Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour, and living to please Him.

Those of you who spread pornographic images in the internet, Hell Fire does not respect film actors, actresses, producers, and directors: get ready, because you will come to realize that worldly fame is satanic deception! God loves you and does not take delight in your perishing in Hell Fire;

but if God turned His Face away from Jesus Christ Himself when He was carrying the sins of the world at the Cross of Calvary, who are you that God will allow you into His Kingdom with sin?

If you want to know the terror of Hell Fire, look at the Suffering of Jesus Christ (God Himself). And for those of you who don't believe in Hell Fire, no matter what you chose to believe, you will come to terms with the reality in the end. Let no one deceive you; and don't deceive anyone!

Many are called, but few are chosen; and it is not all those who are chosen that will be glorified, because the Bible says that it is the faithful that will be glorified. Therefore, among the few that are chosen, it is the fewer, who will be faithful and obedient, that will be glorified. The Word says, "Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

"Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits..." (Matt. 7:13-16). It is not by their miracles or prophecies, because many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the Elect (Matt. 24:11,24).

And because lawlessness (iniquity) will abound in the last days, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved (verses 12 & 13). The Bible states: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the Faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Tim. 4:1-2). For the time will come when they will not endure Sound Doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the Truth, and be turned aside to fables (2 Tim. 4:4).

“Take heed to yourself and to the Doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you (1 Tim. 4:16). But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord Who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of Truth will be blasphemed” (2 Pet. 2:1-2).

I maintain that, by my understanding of the Scriptures and the inward conviction by the Holy Spirit of the Living God, that perming, jerry curling, or frying your hair (male or female) and the use of weavons and wigs are sinful, satanic, demonic, of mermaid, against God, anti-Christ, worldly, and Hell-attracting. Why? Because, when you perm your hair or use weavon, you are accusing God (consciously or unconsciously) that He is an imperfect Creator.

And it is inferiority complex, which says that the hair of the whites is superior to the hair of the blacks, that makes people insult our Awesome God. There is no difference between frying your hair and bleaching your skin (which some people do, to tell God that He is stupid for giving them the skin complexion that they have), whether or not you agree with the Truth.

Of course, you can still repent and correct your ways before death or the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; because, except you repent, you cannot enter Heaven but

Hell, because no sin can enter Heaven. That is iniquity and living in sin. Many people say that they don't believe in Hell Fire: whatever you choose to believe, you will come to terms with the reality of Hell Fire in the end; then, you will have no second chance, but to suffer everlasting suffering in Hell Fire.

But if you will listen to the Voice of the Holy Spirit, you will escape the punishment of Hell Fire and eternal separation from the Almighty God. Many people like the thought that Hell Fire doesn't exist in order to comfort themselves in their sins. Who is satan, the devil? Was he not the Lucifer who was very close to God and well-honoured? Who was Adam? Was he not the one that was made in God's Image and represented God on earth? How come two of them became God's enemies?

Two of them, who were holy and perfect before God, made themselves sinners and God's enemies by pride and disobedience. Whoever makes himself a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (Jas 4:4). It doesn't matter how long you have been a Believer, how much of the Bible you know, how big your church or ministry is in people's eyes (because all those multitude of people may be going to Hell Fire with you), or how much anointing you have.

Perhaps you may need to be reminded that God made an ass to speak to Balaam in a human voice; and He used a heathen King Cyrus to build His Temple in Jerusalem. What is very different if God uses you to perform miracles? Maybe, you need to be told that Jesus Christ Himself said that, because of iniquity, He will reject many people who had prophesied, cast out demons, and done many wonders in His Name (Matt. 7:21-23).

And the Lord says, "STRIVE to enter through the NARROW GATE, for many, I say to you, will SEEK to ENTER and WILL NOT BE ABLE" (Lk. 13:24). Brothers and sisters, don't be deceived by all these miracles, falling down, breakthroughs, and deliverances. Healings,

deliverances, signs, wonders, miracles, breakthroughs, and prosperity are small things to God. The One Who made the whole universe, what can He not do? His Concern is your soul, because He has determined, by an everlasting decision, that no sin, unrighteousness, or iniquity will cross the gate of Heaven.

The Business of God is drawing people to Jesus Christ, and getting them prepared for the Rapture and Heaven. Every other thing is extra and secondary. Think of it! God loved man so much that He sent His Son to die for men. Why didn't He wipe out all sins, since His Son has died? Why does He still require that you MUST believe in His Son?

If you have not understood the horror and penalty of Hell Fire, consider the terrible nature of Hell Fire by considering that Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be insulted and crucified by ordinary men, so that men will not enter Hell Fire. Just as God values a soul more than all the gold and silver of this world, He did not consider His Life dear to Him; but He gave His Life up for you, so that you will not end in Hell Fire.

But if you chose to spend everlasting torment and punishment in Hell Fire, God will execute it for you. Of all the multitude of people in the world in Noah's time, only Noah and his family were saved from the Flood that destroyed the whole world. It was only Lot and his family that escaped the fire from Heaven, of all the multitude of people in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Though God delivered all the Israelites with a Mighty Hand, and they experienced Divine and supernatural manifestations, yet, God destroyed all of them (who had come to age) that sinned against Him, except Joshua and Caleb. And even in this dispensation, He has told us that it is only few people that will be saved. Why? Is it because He does not love them? No!

Rather, it is because men (even when they call themselves Believers and preachers) are stubborn and obstinate; they choose what they want to obey, and despise God's Word and Spirit. But the Word of God has this for the Believers: "You believe that there is One God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!" (Jas 2:19). God will wait for everybody at His Judgment.

And those of you women that design your blouses to show us your breasts and armpits, get ready to face the Judgment Seat of God. Those of you that cut and divide your skirts to show us your laps, to help and encourage the devil to spread his lust-wave, prepare for your eternity.

Those who paint their faces and wear artificial nails, encouraging the activities of satan, who invented those lipsticks and cortexes, what will you do if when you appear before God's Judgment, He tells you, "You said these things didn't matter, but they matter to Me; depart to Hell Fire, which is prepared for satan and those that obey him"? And any design of dressing (male or female) that glorifies the devil and encourages his desires and works are from him.

The spirit of the antichrist tells people to combine Christianity with worldliness; they decide what they want, and use Bible quotations to deaden their consciences (as satan quoted the Scriptures to Jesus Christ). And, inasmuch as many people dress and appear like Godly ladies and women, while keeping hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc in their hearts (which will still send you to Hell Fire if you don't repent), how much more will the inside of many of those who don't care about their outward appearance be worse!

When you hear some preachers say that they preach and teach the Word of God, you need to pity them; because they have been blinded by the devil to put materials things before the souls of men. In the last chapter of the Bible, the Word says, "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he

who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.

"'And behold, I am coming quickly, and My Reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work'" (Rev. 22:11-12). THE WISE WILL LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD, BUT THE STUBBORN WILL LAUGH OVER THESE THINGS AND RIDICULE THE LORD; BUT WAIT TILL THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST!

To be sincere with you, if you have all the blessing, anointing and falling down, deliverance, healing, breakthrough, and miracles that God can give to any person, if you lose Heaven, you lost everything and gained nothing. Let no one deceive you: Many agents of the kingdom of darkness pretend to be ministers of Jesus Christ; and the devil uses them to keep people's focus out of Heaven, but on earthly and material things.

Even, many ministers who were called by God have been led astray by the devil, so that they are used to deceive other Believers by making them to set their minds on the things of the earth. Study the Bible by yourself to find out what God wants from you: what you should do and avoid. Be open to the Spirit of God, and don't harden your heart to what you want, so that He can lead and direct you to please God. Jesus Christ died for us; what have we done for Him?

The highest achievement you can have in life is that you are in Christ, and when Jesus Christ looks at you, He doesn't see any impediment which can withhold you from being raptured if He were to come now! Therefore, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness (sin) of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the Fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1).

The highest thing that separates God from satan is holiness; and this is why the angels sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty..." and not, "Power, Power, Power, Holy Lord God...." God will allow you into His Heaven if you are

poor, sick, and suffering without sin; but if you have all the miracles, deliverance, breakthrough, success, prosperity, healing, health, and prophecies with sin or disobedience, He will tell you: “Without holiness, no eye shall see the Lord.”

If you love the Lord, then keep His Commandments (Jn 14:15). And why will you, after you have spoken in tongues, prophesied, cast out demons, and done mighty works in His Name, hear, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness”? A word is enough for the wise!

Satan, the devil, has blinded and gripped the Roman Catholics with idolatry, and taken captive many Pentecostals and charismatics with worldliness and it-doesn’t-matter. Some people are concerned with, “Do not judge.” But if you knew the millions of people who are going to Hell Fire, because of false, fake, half-bred, unbiblical, selfish, hardened, satanic, and demonic apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, and ministers, you would have long gone to seek God’s Face in Bible study and prayer with fasting.

Others are of, “Let the wheat and the tares grow together till the Last Day,” without knowing that the wheat and the tares will always grow together till the Last Day. But God Himself has sent many people to emphasize strongly that not all the plants are wheat; but there are tares among the wheat and in the church-world, so that people can decide beforehand whether to be a wheat (and plan for Heaven) or a tare (and wait for Hell)!

However, still know that it is not all supernatural revelations that come from God and His Spirit. In these days when God is revealing mysteries and hidden things to many people, to warn us of eternal realities (though the Bible contains eternal realities in it), know that the devil will also be giving his own revelations and visions to people.

The purpose of the devil in doing this is to lead men to sin and stubbornness, to put confusion among Christians, and to make Believers to not believe God-given revelations and visions. Originals are imitated; but we do not have to do away with the original because of the imitation!

Also, if you are listening to a testimony of someone telling you what Jesus Christ told him (or what he believes that Jesus Christ told him), you should be sensitive enough to separate (detect) what the Lord Jesus Christ told him and what he himself might add, in attempt to explain something to clarify issues.

However, many times, visions may be symbolic with the actual interpretation being given to the person in his heart/spirit. This is one danger of dreams' interpretations; some people have even made books of interpretations of different kinds of dreams.

Whereas they may be right (or nearly right) in many cases, yet some things are symbolic; and they can mean different things to different people. But even at that, the person who had the dream, vision, or even heard the audible voice, can add or subtract something(s) in attempt to tell us what he received, consciously or unconsciously.

A Biblical example may be seen in the about three places in the Book of Acts of the Apostles, where the encounter of Saul (Paul) with Jesus Christ is narrated by Paul himself (with Luke or and Luke). If you are very sensitive, you will perceive that the three accounts are not exactly the same, even though it was the same Paul or/and Luke who gave the report/testimony.

The spirit of man works with the mind and brain of man while he is giving a testimony; and there are things which you may not remember in some occasions. Similar examples are seen in the four Gospels Books.

Mathew and John were among the apostles of Jesus Christ; but Mark and Luke were not among the twelve apostles of the Lord. You may realize, if you are careful and

sensitive, that there are times when more than one of them reported the same incidents, but the accounts were not exactly the same.

It is not that any of them lied, but whereas Mathew and John might have heard directly from the Mouth of Jesus Christ, Mark and Luke might have heard from a report of what Jesus Christ said.

And even the ones, who heard directly from His Mouth and saw the miracles, healings, and encounters, with their own eyes, had different levels of mental understanding and spiritual development, not to talk of the possibility (as humans) of forgetting some things at some times.

And John himself said, “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His Disciples, which are not written in this Book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name (Jn 20:28-31).

“Then Peter, turning around, saw the Disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His Breast at the supper, and said, ‘Lord, who is the one who betrays You?’ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, ‘But Lord, what about this man?’

“Jesus said to him, ‘If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.’ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this Disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, ‘If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?’

“This is the Disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the

world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen" (Jn 21:20-25).

Notice that in the issue concerning Jesus Christ, Peter, and John (who was writing), the Lord's Statement was misunderstood. And this can also happen in giving of testimonies of revelations, visions, and mysteries.

But unconsciously, unknowing, and unwillingly misinterpreting, misunderstanding, mispresenting, adding to, or subtracting from the vision or revelation given to you is different from when you consciously, carefully, and knowingly misinterpret, mispresent, add to, or subtract from the revelation or vision given to you or to somebody else.

To this end, the Bible says, "For I testify to everyone who hears the Words of the prophecy of this Book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this Book;

"And if anyone takes away from the Words of the Book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this Book" (Rev. 22:18-19).

However, this is not an excuse for you to say, interpret, or present what you do not understand, unconsciously or unknowingly, because the Bible also says, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

"For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body" (Jas 3:1-2).

INDECENT DRESSING AND WORLDLY APPEARANCE

Writing to Timothy, Apostle Paul said, “Take heed to yourself and to the Doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim. 4:16). This means that it is possible for both you and those who believe (look up to) you to not be saved, because of wrong doctrine and practice. And you know that he was writing to a preacher and minister of the Gospel who had some (many) Believers (people of God) under him.

A New Testament apostle, writing to New Testament Believers, wrote: “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the Fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1). Notice that Apostle Paul spoke of the filthiness of the flesh and spirit. Surprisingly, he put the filthiness of the flesh before the filthiness of spirit. But many will forget (or wilfully ignore) the filthiness of the flesh, while many will still not make their followers to be conscious of the filthiness of spirit.

And the Word of God, which cannot be broken, but endures forever, says, “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world...” (Rom. 12:1-2). God looks at your heart, as well as your body, which is to be presented holy and acceptable to Him as a living sacrifice.

If the devil doesn’t get you with lying, he will try to get you with pride; if he doesn’t get you with fornication, he will try to get you with bitterness, hatred, unforgiveness, cheating, or stealing. If he doesn’t get you with murder, he will try to get you with examination malpractice or falsification of result or age. If you say that you will not do this or that, because God told you not to do it, he will tell you to do it just once, confess, and God will mercifully, lovingly, and faithfully forgive you.

The devil tries as much as possible to take you to Hell Fire, because he knows that God can neither compromise

His Standard nor condole sin. The devil, satan, was created as the holy Lucifer; but he became the wicked and evil satan, because of pride and rebellion.

Adam was formed as the pure and holy Adam; but due to disobedience to the Commandment of God, he became the sinful Adam. Do you know that the Father even removed His Face from Jesus Christ, as He carried the sins of the world on the Cross of Calvary, so that Jesus Christ cried out, saying, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

The same blindness that holds many Roman Catholics, so that no matter how you tell them that worshipping images and praying to (or through) Mary (or, do they call it honouring her?) is unbiblical and anti-God, they do not seem to understand, is also holding many Pentecostals, orthodoxes, evangelicals, and charismatics, so that no matter how you tell them that indecent dressing and worldly appearance is unbiblical and anti-Christ, they hope and say that it doesn’t matter.

But the devil will try as much as he can to hold you blind, captive, and disobedient until you find yourself in Hell Fire with no second chance. And many people don’t even know that many people who carry Bible and call Jesus are actually agents of satan in disguise.

To this end, the Bible says, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works” (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Apostle Peter, writing in the New Testament, to those who were born again, said, “Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (1 Pet. 4:18). When our Lord Jesus Christ says that He will tell many people on the Day of Judgment that

He never knew them because they were workers of iniquity, He was speaking of those who had been born again, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoken in tongues, prophesied, cast out demons, and done mighty signs and wonders in His Name (Matt. 7:21-23).

I was passing a church when I saw somebody who was leading a prayer session speaking in tongues. She was seriously speaking in tongues, walking to and fro; but, behold, though I was inside a bus along the road (there was a kind of traffic slowdown, or rather, the bus was moving slowly), I saw part of her breasts all the way from the road due to the 'open-breast' blouse she was wearing; how much more the people with her there inside the church! Hell Fire has enlarged itself to accommodate very many people (Isa. 5:14).

The devil will tell you that there is no God; if you overcome him, he will say, "Okay, there is God, but there is no Jesus Christ." If you say that there is Jesus Christ Who died for you, he will say, "Okay, there is Jesus Christ, but wait till tomorrow before you give your life to Him." If you win him by giving your life to Jesus Christ, he will tell you: "You have the Righteousness of Jesus Christ; it is not by your righteousness that you were saved; therefore, don't worry how you live your life because you are the Righteousness of God; and as for outward appearance, what God looks at is the heart."

If you can't sacrifice small things like your dressing and appearance for Jesus Christ, can you lay down your life for His Sake? And He tells us that anyone who loves his life more than Him is not worthy of Him. Jesus Christ is coming very soon; get ready to receive Him.

If it is contrary to the Word of God, then it is from satan – the devil and God's archenemy – who deceived Eve (from the beginning) with: "Did God really say...." That which is against God and His Word cannot be from God, the Maker of all things Who holds the whole world in His Hands,

because God’s Word and His Spirit agree. Whatever glorifies the devil, and does not glorify God, is not of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ, Who defeated satan on the Cross of Calvary about two thousand years ago, is the Same – yesterday, today, and forever. He is coming very soon; get ready to meet Him: Heaven and Hell are real; let no one deceive you!

Many of those girls, ladies, and women, that expose their breasts (or breast cleavages), laps, and armpits in churches, in streets, at schools, in your compounds, in buses and cars, in markets, on Facebook, etc, are not just people who dressed seductively; make no mistakes about it! Many of them are agents of the kingdom of darkness, who have sold their souls to the queen of the coast and satan, the devil (who is their chief coordinator), to destroy the souls of men through lust, fornication, and adultery, because they want to entice, persuade, force, and drag people to Hell at any cost.

They may pretend to be Christians, harmless, good people, and ignorant of what they are doing; but they are out to serve the intent, plan, and purpose of the devil. This is one reason why many of them will not adhere to any preaching, teaching, instruction, or advice to get them dress like girls, ladies, and women who appreciate God's Work in them and value their bodies.

Many of them are blind agents of satan (because they do not know that satan is directly using them), while many of them are conscious agents of the kingdom of darkness and witches (who are doing and carrying out what they were told to do in the kingdom of satan, the fallen Lucifer). For many of them, only deliverance can change their mentality and mindset.

The Bible says, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:20). The Bible says that you should glorify God with both your body and your spirit, the two of

which belong to God. When you are washing your plate, do you wash only the inside? No; but you wash both the inside and the outside, to be happy and satisfied. Why will you think otherwise with God?

The Bible says that if your eye causes you to sin, you should pluck it out (Matt. 5:29). If you can't leave lipstick, cortex, earrings, and weavon, can you pluck out your eye for the salvation of your soul if necessary? Your eye and lipstick, cortex, earring, or weavon, which one do you esteem above the other?

The Bible says, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If any man loves the world, the Love of the Father is not in him; for all that is in the world: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life come not from the Father, but from the world. And the world passes away with its lusts, but he who does the Will of God abides forever" (1 Jn 2:15-17).

Adulteries, fornications, murders, and thefts are outward acts; yet the Lord says that they come from the heart and defile a man (Matt. 15:17-20). Eating with unwashed hand will not defile you, because you did not have evil thoughts to eat the food. But you can also eat with evil thoughts, like: gluttony and drunkenness.

Therefore using of lipsticks, weavons (wigs), artificial nails, etc defiles you, because it comes from evil thoughts of accusing God of imperfect creation and loving worldliness. And wearing seductive dresses and attire of the harlot come from the evil thoughts of wanting to expose your sensitive parts to command ungodly attention.

God calls hatred murder, calls lust fornication, calls changing your nature worldliness, calls dressing seductively causing your brother to fall, and calls painting yourself works of the flesh and of the devil. Lust is desire to fornicate; and God calls both the desire and the act the same thing − fornication. Using weavons and applying

lipsticks and cortexes is to change God's Image which He made.

The Bible says, "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the Fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the Will of My Father in Heaven.

"Many will say to Me in that Day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matt. 7:18-23).

In some churches, people collect up to two, three, or more different kinds of offerings on Sundays; but they fail to tell their members to dress well. Is this hypocrisy or compromise? People put time, energy, and other kinds of efforts to convince (or will I say, pressurize?) people to give tithes/offerings and sow seed-faith; but when it comes to dressing, they will hypocritically say that the Holy Spirit will teach the Believers in Christ how to dress well.

Being born again is of the spirit (heart) of man by the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 3:6). So someone can receive Jesus Christ while she is indecently dressed. Jn 3:3 says that unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Jn 3:5 says that unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. The water there refers to the Word of God, according to Eph. 5:26. Being born again gives you the ability to become a child of God (Jn 1:12), so that you can live the way that God wants.

So whoever wants to enter (and not just to see) the Kingdom of God must be born again (led and directed) of the water (the Word of God) and the Spirit of God (Jn 3:5). To this end, Paul wrote to born again Believers to present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,

and to renew their minds (Rom. 12:1-2). They themselves were to do the presenting and the renewing (God was not going to do it for them). This is why Paul himself said that he beat his body and brought it under subjection to his spirit, so that after he had preached to others, he himself will not be a castaway (1 Cor. 9:27).

So the one who knows the good he or she is to do, and does not do it, is sinning (Jas 4:17). And sinners spend eternity in Hell Fire. He who refuses to present his body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, is disobedient; and disobedient people go to Hell Fire. Remember that Adam was pure before God until he disobeyed God; and Lucifer was holy before God until iniquity was found in him.

Yes, if you receive Jesus Christ now with all your heart, while you are indecently dressed, God will wash away your sins and make you His child, and can even fill you with the Holy Spirit. But when you go to your house, the Spirit of God will speak to your heart to dress decently; if you refuse to obey, you will become a disobedient person (a fallen Adam). If you don't repent before you die or Jesus Christ comes, disobedient people go to.... Paul did not only preach faith towards Jesus Christ; rather, he preached faith towards Jesus Christ and repentance from dead works (Acts 20:21).

And the Word says, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the Fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the Will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that Day, ‘Lord,

Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matt. 7:15-23).

Apostle Paul, writing under the Unction, Anointing, and Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, "In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel (New International Version says, "Dress modestly, with decency and propriety"), with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but which is proper for women professing Godliness, with good works" (1 Tim. 2:9-10, the New King James Version).

And Apostle Peter, being another witness, said, "Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the Sight of God of great price" (1 Pet. 3:3-4, the King James Version).

May you be changed by the Word of God! And may you learn to listen to the inner voice and witness in your spirit by the Holy Spirit, instead of following the multitude. May the Almighty Lord God give you wisdom and understanding in all things! Amen!

And instead of putting these things aside, criticizing them, or even getting annoyed over them, open your heart to the Holy Spirit and let Him speak to you further in your inner man: don't follow the multitude of disobedient and hardened people!

For the benefit of doubt, the things I have written down, as inspired by the Holy Spirit, are applicable to any tribe, people, nation, or country of the world, whether they are civilized or uncivilized, advanced or not advanced, developed or underdeveloped. To clarify you further, these

things are applicable to Americans, Europeans, Asians, Africans, and others.

Let me state, categorically and without mincing words, that any preacher (no matter how anointed you may be, no matter your Knowledge of God, and no matter the years of service in the Kingdom of God), who encourages the use of cortex, lipstick, wigs or weavons, jewellery (jewelry), artificial nails, etc is encouraging the activities of the mermaid.

Much of the current wave of sexual immorality came from these things, even as they also use their demonic ladies and women to pull men into lust, fornication, and adultery. The only woman in the Bible who painted herself was Jezebel; and do you like the Jezebelic lifestyle and spirit? Beware of the attire of the harlot and prostitute! (Prov. 7).

If you do, you are encouraging, knowingly or unknowingly, the purposes and plans of the marine (water) kingdom of darkness, and the activities of the devil (satan), who is their chief-coordinator. You can fight against God without your knowledge; and you can encourage the devil without your knowledge.

And I will add that we preachers are responsible for most of the things happening in the world today, both on the positive side and on the negative side. All these people who misbehave and live their lives however they want, don’t they go to churches?

When someone comes to church with his sin-partner (what many people call girl-friend), and leaves the church with the same sin-partner, without fear or shame, is it not enough to prove to you that the preachers are responsible for much of the evil in the society?

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Prov. 14:12; Prov. 16:25). God is warning us, because He loves us and does not want anyone to perish. But just as they never listened to Noah, many will

not listen to the Truth; and just as Sodom and Gomorrah perished without Lot, those that will listen to God and do His Word and Will, will be saved!

Concerning the Bible passages we read before, I want you to see that there is the ornament or beauty of the spirit (heart). The word – fine – is not in the original text; and that is why it is italicized in the New King James Version. Apparel (according to the King James Version) or fine apparel (according to the New King James Version) refers to fashion and worldly ways of designing clothing. God wants you to look 'good'; but He detests worldly fashions.

Putting your mind on costly clothing makes clothing your idol. But how costly is the costly? Costly and expensive clothes encourage pride and idolization. For instance, if they make this clothing material as a material for the 'reigning' or 'current' people, then you have to remove yourself from it, because you are a different person – God's son or daughter.

People dress indecently and seductively these days, especially girls, ladies, and women. Of course, some men dress indecently also. But whereas even unbelieving men dress decently, many ladies who claim they are Christians, who go to different churches and call on the Name of the Lord, dress indecently to work, school, shopping, and even church.

The dressing and outward appearance of Christians must be different from those of unbelievers. If a Muslim will value covering herself well, how much more should you value it? The problem is that many people will find it easier to manage bondage than liberty. But do not use your liberty as an opportunity for sin and disobedience (Gal. 5:13).

Concerning jewellery (jewellery is British English, while jewelry is American English), Apostle Paul stated, "...that the women adorn themselves...not with...gold or pearls..." (1 Tim. 2:9, the New King James Version). The King James Version also says, "...women adorn themselves...not with...

gold, or pearls....” Apostle Peter stated: “Do not let your adornment be merely outward...wearing gold...” (1 Pet. 3:3, the New King James Version). Now, take up your own New King James Version of the Bible, and read this portion of the Scripture. There you will see that the word ‘merely’ is italicized, which is to say that it is not in the original Greek text of the Bible.

Italicized words in the King James Version (which is the authorized version) or the New King James Version of the Bible are added for clearer understanding, and are not in the original Greek text; but I believe that this ‘merely’ added in the New King James Version, which, I thank God, is not added in the only authorized version of the Bible – the King James Version – was added because of human acceptance over time based on demonic deception.

This is why you may see some versions of the Bible which will add ‘merely’ or ‘only’ without even italicizing it, which will make someone who doesn’t have a certain level of understanding of versions and editions of the Bible to think that the words ‘merely’ or ‘only’ are in the original Greek text (and it is not there). Versions of the Bible (like KJV, NKJV, NIV, ASV, etc) are ‘straight’ translations of the Bible from the original Greek text, while editions of the Bible (like the Living Bible, Good News, etc) are ‘interpreted’ translations/descriptions of the Bible, either from the original Greek text or from a version of the Bible.

For your confirmation, the King James Version says, “Whose adorning let it not be that outward...wearing of gold....” There is no ‘only’ or ‘merely’ there. Apostle Peter said, “Let it not be outward wearing of gold (which is jewellery).” And Apostle Paul said, “Women are not to adorn themselves with gold or pearls (which, also, is jewellery). For the benefit of doubt, first, Apostle Peter didn’t say anything about modesty. Secondly, hear Apostle Paul himself: “...women adorn themselves in modest apparel...” (1 Tim. 2:9).

Read it again from your own Bible, and you will see that he spoke of modest apparel, and not modest braiding of the hair or of wearing of gold or pearls (There is no such thing as modest braiding of the hair or modest wearing of jewels for Christians and Believers who want to make Heaven). We will see apparel and modest apparel, in dressing or clothing, later.

Some translations used ‘modest appearance’ instead of ‘modest apparel’, saying that the women should adorn themselves in modest appearance; but any translation, edition, or version of the Bible that uses ‘appearance’ either made mistake or purposely put it there to deceive people. Don’t you know that some translations, editions, or versions of the Bible were done by some people to represent what they believe and accept? And you have got to know that the devil has agents (conscious or no conscious) in this regard. The Greek word used there is katastole, which means: apparel, dress, or clothing; it does not mean appearance.

Concerning plaiting or braiding of the hair (plaiting is British English, while braiding is American English), Apostle Paul clearly stated: “...that the women adorn themselves...not with braided hair...” (1 Tim. 2:9). Apostle Peter stated: “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair...” (1 Pet. 3:3, the King James Version). Apostle Peter said, “Don’t adorn yourself by plaiting your hair.” Apostle Paul said, “Don’t adorn yourself with braided hair.”

Neither Peter nor Paul spoke of modest plaiting or braiding of the hair, though Paul spoke of modest apparel. There is no modest braided or plaited hair. Your hair is to be natural as God made it. If it grows to the extent you find it difficult to comb it, then you can reduce it, but not as low as men’s hair. Braiding or plaiting of the hair didn’t come from God, but from the devil.

American, European, African, Asian, and Australian demons can give (or has given) American, European, African, Asian, and Australian methods and systems of braiding or plaiting of the hair. No matter how long the custom or culture has existed, the Bible says, “No braiding or plaiting of your hair, as a Christian woman.” To dress the hair is to arrange someone’s hair into a special style; and the devil has given braiding, plaiting, and weaving of the hair as ways in which many women and ladies dress or arrange their hair.

Concerning apparel or clothing, Apostle Paul clearly stated: “...that the women adorn themselves...not with... costly clothing” (1 Tim. 2:9, the New King James Version). The King James Version says, “...not with...costly array.” Apostle Peter stated: “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of...putting on apparel” (1 Pet. 3:3, the King James Version). The New King James Version says, “Do not let your adornment be...putting on fine apparel.” If you read the New King James Version, you will see that the word ‘fine’ is italicized, which means that it is not in the original Greek text. Therefore, Apostle Peter says, “Don’t adorn yourself with apparel.”

Apostle Paul said, “Don’t adorn yourself with costly clothing or array.” He said, “Adorn yourself in modest apparel.” According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1995 edition, apparel is a formal word used for clothes, especially those worn for special occasions. So, apparel refers to special clothes. This not talking of normal clothes, but special clothes: this is talking of fashion and/or costly clothing. They are to use inexpensive or moderately priced clothes or clothing.

The Bible commands women to use modest apparel (1 Tim. 2:9). This particular, “In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel...” is not even talking of its price, but its style. According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1995 edition, modest

clothing covers the body in a way that does not attract sexual interest. How many of our women, ladies, and girls dress modestly – in ways that do not attract sexual interest?

God hates dressing like the people of the world. He said: “And it shall be, in the day of the Lord’s Sacrifice, that I will punish...all such as are clothed with foreign apparel” (Zeph. 1:8). Foreign apparel speaks of the kind of dressing that is not for God’s people.

The Bible says, “Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she put paint on her eyes...and looked through the window” (2 Kgs 9:30, the New King James Version). The King James Version says, “...she painted her face....” Painting your eyes, lips, and face is demonic and Jezebelic.

The Word says, “Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she...adorned her head, and looked through the window” (2 Kgs 9:30, the New King James Version). The King James Version says, “...she...tired her head....” The New International Version says, “...she... arranged her hair....” Arranging, adorning, plaiting, braiding, or weaving the hair is demonic and Jezebelic.

Why didn’t the Bible say, “Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she looked through the window,” but, “Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it, and she painted her face and adorned her head, and looked through the window.” It was because she painted her face and adorned her head (or, arranged her hair) to look seductive and unnaturally attractive to seduce Jehu.

The Bible tells us that man looks at outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7). Even in the secular world, appearance can decide your acceptability in many areas of life. Escape for your dear life; run before it is too late. The five foolish virgins lost their target. Remember that they

were virgins, but they lacked something they didn't remember or deem necessary.

Please, open your eyes well, well; the devil has intruded into the Church: his ministers now parade themselves as ministers of Jesus Christ, to deceive and destroy the souls of the children of men.

Be careful of any church where people are allowed to dress anyhow to, no matter how anointed you may think the preacher is or how knowledgeable he is concerning the Bible. It is a different case when unbelievers dress anyhow to crusades, maybe, for the first time.

The Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Your actions and your words show what is on the inside of you. Your physical appearance reveals your inner man. If you don't care about what people think about your indecent dressing, then your spirit has a serious problem, and your mind has been corrupted. I don't care what you may think about it.

Even unbelievers will find it difficult to believe you are a Christian when you dress indecently as they do. There must be a difference between the dressing of a Christian and a non-Christian.

Many ladies think that they attract marriage partners by dressing seductively. Well, you can only attract a carnal man when you dress that way. How can a reasonable spiritual man decide to marry someone that is worldly in appearance? Will you paint your face with lipstick, eye-pencil, and decorative powder as the wicked and ungodly women, Jezebel, painted hers (2 Kgs 9:30)?

Concerning the dressing or arranging of the hair, using of weavons (or wigs) and attachments is devilish and worldly. Many of those weavons are actual human hairs that were cut and sold. Many of the weavons and attachments are manufactured with demonic materials to enslave the children of men.

I don’t care whether you call it wool or what; it is still an attachment. You can’t confuse God; He knows more than you do! Even, the using of thread to wind your hair (as many Believers do) is still attachment and unnatural hair. If you don’t know, it is not a Christian style of hair-style but traditional style.

If you doubt this, check it out and see that traditional unbelievers use thread for their hair too. As a woman, wash your hair and comb it; there are suitable combs made for long hairs. Allow your hair to be natural; and you can pack it or allow it fly. And I am not telling you to cut your hair low like the general size of that of men of the same race as you, except you are going to cover it or wear cap on it, even outside the church.

Also, when you use weavons and attachments, when you perm and jerry curl your hair, you are saying that God is stupid (or, is an imperfect Creator) to have made your hair the way He made it. Relaxing your hair artificially (whether you call it science or technology) is of the devil. When people refuse to cover their hairs, they resort to worldly means of weavons for a covering. Of course, your must have a sign of authority on your head in church meetings or gatherings, as a woman. What do you lose by veiling your hair?

Much of those things women use for beauty and for their hair, in perming and jerry-curling, is manufactured from alantoin extracted from aborted babies. The worst is that some men even fry their hair.

I read a story of a woman who when she was still a young sister was warned by God to desist from using attachments on her hair. And anytime she disobeyed that Instruction, God will chastise her. She told God that there were other good Christians that were using attachments, and referred to one particular woman who was a spiritual mother to them, whom she saw as a model.

The story had it that then (as at the time of the reporting) the sister is married to a pastor for many years then, and she is a strong pillar in the ministry doing exploits for the Lord. On the other hand, she then makes her hair with attachment, weavons, and other materials without any further warning from the Lord. And she said that her relationship with the Lord is still intact.

This story, though ‘funny’, is painful. Can you see how someone who believes in Jesus Christ can so much love the things of this world to the extent that her conscience will get hardened to do what God told her not to do, and even make God to give her over to a reprobate mind, and also refuse to speak to her again, because she loves doing her own thing instead of God’s Thing? And she still ‘believes’ that God is happy with her!

Start appreciating your hair the natural way God made it. If you find it difficult to comb it, then reduce it to manageable or easily-combable size, but not as low as the general size of that of men from the same race as you (the men who have the kind of hair that you have). This will solve all these problems of perming the hair, relaxing the hair, 'jerry-curling' the hair, wearing of weavons or wigs, braiding or plaiting your hair with natural hair, attachments, wool, and thread.

If your hair is very long, as a woman, it is good; but the Bible says, "If a woman has a long hair," and not, "When a woman has a long hair." If you have the kind of strong hair that will not be long (or very long) in its natural state without relaxing it artificially, then reduce it to manageable or easily-combable size, but not as low as the general size of that of men from the same race as you (the men who have the kind of hair that you have). Also, the use of veil, hair scarf, and caps can help you remove unnecessary worries.

Satan has entered the Church and has deceived many. Many are sincerely deceived. Those cortexes, lipsticks,

make-ups, and many other painting materials and cosmetics, apart from being worldly, are manufactured from demonic materials, aborted babies' placentas, and human fat and blood. This is a mystery that many have not realized. When people use those things, they get demonic problems they don't know where they came from.

Blouses that show too much of your back; tight-fitting and revealing dresses; mini-skirts; spaghetti or line-sleeve and transparent dresses; blouses showing your breast; cobweb and body-hug dresses; blouses revealing your belly; and any such dresses are devilish, satanic, demonic, and worldly.

For men, sagging your trousers and dread-locking your hair are satanic also. Women shouldn't put on trousers, because they look more decent in skirts and gowns. In biology, when women mature, their buttocks get enlarged; this is why when they wear trousers, they reveal their body contours and look seductive.

Any attire or dress that glorifies the devil, and does not glorify God, is worldly and devilish. There are no two ways about this matter. If you doubt this, wait till the Day of Reckoning when you will cry and wail in Hell Fire! Then you will repent one thousand times in a short while without any second chance.

We now come to the issue of earrings, necklaces, and bangles. These things are worldly also. God made you look fine; what advantage is it in decorating your body, which is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, with those things?

We wear cloths and dresses to cover our nakedness. Before Adam sinned, we didn't even need dresses, for God's Glory covered us. Earrings were classified among foreign and ungodly things which Jacob purified his household from; and he buried them, after he had collected them from all the members of his household and those that were with him (Gen. 35:1-5). The Knowledge of God advanced from Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

God hates jewellery (jewelry) and ornamenting your body. Get rid of rings, chains, bangles, necklaces, and such things. Jewellery is designing your body with jewels. To God, it is idolatry; and the devil uses it to make women look worldly and seductive. By this, he seduces our men into lust, fornication, and adultery more easily.

Even though you may argue, can you prove to me why you need them when God made you beautiful? The problem is that many of these things have continued for so long that many don't even know why they do what they do. Personally, I don't see those things as beauty; and God does not like them.

Some argue that God told the Israelites to collect those things from the Egyptians as they departed from Egypt. Well, if you had not known it, God did not tell them to collect them from them because He wanted them to be given to jewellery. Those things were Egyptian and foreign, even though the Israelites might have been influenced by them after having stayed there for four hundred years.

He told them to collect them from them because they were made from gold, silver, and other materials; and they were to plunder Egypt. Those materials were needed for construction and other works by them and for the Work of God. Where do you think that they would have got the gold for the construction of the sanctuary and tabernacle?

See the Bible speak: "And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. For the Lord had said to Moses, 'Say to the children of Israel, "you are a stiff-necked people. I could come into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you."' So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb" (Exo. 33:4-6).

God spoke to His people, after they had used their ornaments to make a calf and worshipped it as the god that

brought them out of Egypt, and said, "...take off your ornaments...." Is it not clear enough? The Israelites removed their jewellery and stripped themselves of their ornaments, because God commanded them to do so; will you yourself obey God's Voice today and save your soul from Hell?

Also, notice that verse 5 didn't say, "The Lord said to Moses..." but, "For the Lord had said to Moses...." In order words, they didn't just remove the ornaments on their own in verse 4. Verse 4 happened because the Lord had instructed it. And verse 6 affirms that they stripped themselves of their ornaments.

Also, notice that because they still needed the materials from which the ornaments were made – gold, silver, etc – for construction purposes, God didn't tell them to throw away those ornaments; they kept them, not for future wearing of them, but for the preservation of the materials of gold, silver, etc, for which purpose He told them to collect them from the Egyptians in the first place – to be used for construction works.

To this end, the Bible says, "'Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze....' They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewellery of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the Lord.

"Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze brought the Lord's Offering. And everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it" (Exo. 35:5,22,24). I didn't say this for you to keep your jewels, because you must not.

Someone may ask, "But why did God tell the Israelites to put the jewellery on their wives, sons, and daughters?" The answer is not hard, if you are sincere and God opens your eyes. Many times, we don't see the Truth of the Word

of God when we read the Bible, because we already have what we want it to say in our minds, and we force it to say the very thing!

Hear God: “And I will give the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbour, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians” (Exo. 3:21-22, the New King James Version).

The King James Version (which is the only authorized version of the Bible) says, “But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians” (Exo. 3:22).

Notice that the purpose of the borrowing and the putting on was to plunder the Egyptians. The Hebrew word used there is ‘shaal’. It means ‘borrow’, and in some instances, may be rendered/translated as ‘ask’ or ‘request’. It is true that the NKJV used ‘ask’ instead of ‘borrow’; but what God told them was to borrow them from them. Why?

Hear the Bible: “Afterwards Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.”’ And Pharaoh said, ‘Who is the Lord that I should obey His Voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.’

“So they said, ‘The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword’” (Exo. 5:1-3). Look at what Pharaoh said, “You are idle! Idle! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord’” (Exo. 5:17).

After some plagues, Pharaoh said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.” And Moses said, “It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us?

“We will go three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He will command us.” So Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me” (Exo. 8:25-28).

After other plagues, Pharaoh said, “Go, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you.” But Moses said, “You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the Lord our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there” (Exo. 10:24-26).

I put those portions of the Scripture to help you understand why they were to borrow the jewels. In what they told Pharaoh, they were going on a three-day journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the Lord their God. And it seems that what Pharaoh understood from their statement(s), was that they were going on a three-day journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the Lord their God, and after the sacrifice, they would come back to Egypt.

Was God deceiving the Egyptians then? No, He is God; and that was His Method of plundering the Egyptians, as He had told Abraham that his descendants, after serving a foreign land, would come out with great possessions (Gen. 15:14). And notice that neither God nor Moses told any of them that they would come back after the sacrifice!

In God's Sight, the Egyptians were paying for having held His people for hundreds of years in their land. He was punishing them for punishing His people. The same kind of thing happened when Jesus Christ was crucified. The devil, in his desperation, killed Jesus Christ; but it was after He was killed that satan realized that Jesus Christ had to shed His Blood in order to redeem mankind.

Then satan, wanting Jesus Christ to come down from the Cross, entered some people, and they said, "If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross, and we will believe You (Matt. 27:41-43)"; but it was too late! The Bible says, "Which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory" (1 Cor. 2:8).

What I want you to know is that it was after the Israelites had left Egypt that the Egyptians actually realized that Israel was gone! And this added to their punishments, because there were drown in the Red Sea when they pursued Israel. The Bible says, "Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants were turned against the people; and they said, 'Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?'" (Exo. 14:5).

So, you can see, if you want to, why God said, "Borrow those articles and put them on your wives, sons, and daughters." They were not going to ask for it and keep it in their purses; you borrow things for urgent need. And that was why they had to put the articles on them: It was borrowed articles, which their wives and children were in urgent need for use in the special sacrifice they were going to make for their God in the wilderness after a three-day journey.

For those who want to wear wrist watch, it must not be with chains, for it would be the same as wearing chains. If you want to wear wrist watch (not for beauty, but for keeping time), use the one that is made of plastic, rubber,

or leather belt; and let it be of simple and inexpensive type, because it is for checking time and not for fashion. For this same reason, your waist belt must not be the chain type; and it is to be the simple type. And don't even wear the rubber or plastic wrist bangles which carry different kinds of advertisement/write-ups, whether of church, ministry, Bible, Christianity, or whatever.

The Bible says that God looks at the heart (I Sam 16:7). The Word of the Lord says that the Almighty does not look as man looks. How does man look? He looks at the outward appearance. This means that outward appearance is very important in our relationship with men, because they would look at our appearance. Could it be that God does not see in the physical? How can He, Who created the physical out of the spiritual, not see the physical, while we that were created see it?

The Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. This means that what we say has something to do with what is in our heart (which we don't see). The appearance of men could be deceitful. An armed robber could dress like a banker or a pastor. Why will he do that? Because he knows that the appearance of the banker or the pastor is appreciated by responsible people.

However, the banker or the pastor will never want to dress like the armed robber (if there is how they dress). Why would he not want to dress like that? Because he knows that armed robbery is one of the ills of the society.

My brethren, how you dress and how you appear matter before people (responsible people) even when they don't confront you. From this day, make up your mind to glorify God in your dressing no matter the cost. Make up your mind not to offend God through your dressing.

I tell you, many of the girls, ladies, women, boys, young men, and grown up men you see in the towns are agents of the kingdom of darkness. Even many children are witches, and they have direct and conscious relationships with the

dark kingdom. Of course, there are blind witches, who don’t have conscious relationship with demons and fallen angels, but are demonically remote-controlled.

Will it surprise you to be told that there are many agents of the kingdom of darkness in many churches? Many operate as preachers; some operate as deacons, deaconesses, and elders; others operate as group leaders; still, many are in the choir and in other departments.

It is not that God wants it to be so, or that it is so in every church. It is because many churches, fellowships, and ministries are not at the place God wants them to be, that agents of the kingdom of darkness come into their midst and relax. This is not just saying that we are the Pentecostals or the charismatics, and we speak in tongues always.

Brother, have you ever asked yourself where all those people that flood into your church are going to? People will come to church with their girl-friends, and leave the church with their girl-friends, without fear and shame. If they had tried it in the Early Church, they would have seen what would have happened to them!

The increase of evil in these last days is not only because of the desperation of the devil. As a matter of fact, the devil has always been desperate since the time of Adam. Preachers are responsible for much of it. Apart from preachers who are direct agents of satan, many preachers who were called by God have compromised the Word of God and Christian standards, because of ignorance, fame, and love of money.

Many want to be known as the most popular preacher, the richest preacher, or the most influential preacher. Others want to have the largest congregation, the fastest growing church, or the biggest cathedral. Many ministers have lost the vision of the souls of men, and they are interested in money and other material things.

Why do Christians dress and appear like the people of the world? It is because there are many Jezebels and agents of the kingdom of darkness (especially the mermaid water kingdom) in many churches. This is why many preachers and churches have accepted what they used to call sin before, as being good and harmless now.

Many of them get committed in church activities, that the pastors wouldn't even know that they are agents of the kingdom of darkness; and the pastors begin to promote them, thereby helping them in their seductive and destructive works. When they dress that way and speak their demonic tongues, giving their demonic prophecies, the pastor and others will welcome them.

They will say, "Since this sister dresses like this, wears this, and paints this way, and yet is too spiritual, then nothing is really wrong with these things." And the devil will ask the other Believers and Christians, "Did God really say that it is sinful to dress this way, wear weavons, and paint this way?"

Then the other Believers and Christians will become 'sincerely' deceived (if sincerity is applicable at all, because many of them want it; and if you stop or forbid them, they will criticize and hate you). And when the pastor sees that many or majority of his members are like that, it will be as if water was poured on his spiritual energy to speak against those things.

I have observed that girls, ladies, and women like what appeals to the eyes. I am talking of believing girls, ladies, and women. In fact, the Christianity of many of them doesn't reach that side. If you speak against their worldly appearance, you will become their enemy. They will try as much as possible to find what they will use to justify themselves, because they want to look attractive and 'sharp.'

This is the same thing that put the world into the mess it is in today. In the beginning: "The woman saw (and they

still see) that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes (Have you seen and confirmed what I am saying?), and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate" (Gen. 3:6).

My sister, whether or not you like it, the way to Heaven is a narrow way. And the Bible says, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matt. 7:13-14).

Luke added something when he said, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (Lk. 13:24). How many people are willing and ready to strive to enter through the narrow gate?

Yet, don't be deceived by appearance, because many agents of the kingdom of darkness dress like Christian ladies, to deceive people into thinking that they are Christians. To this end, know that some of them wear long skirts, tie headties, and wouldn't paint their lips. Be careful, so that the devil will not trap you down!

These days are last days, and the devil is fighting tooth and nail to draw as many people as he can to Hell Fire, to suffer eternal torment and punishment with him. The devil hates the human race with great passion; the human agents he uses are deceived into thinking that he loves them.

We are talking of indecent dressing and outward appearance. And what we have said so far concerns other areas of the life of a Christian. There are many things that people (Believers) do today, and say that they do not matter. It may strike your mind to know that even many unbelievers know that Christians should not live or be those ways.

You have to decide what you want. Do you want to please God or yourself? Do you want to obey the Truth or false teaching? Do you want to make it to Heaven or Hell?

Do you want to receive abundant reward from the Lord or suffer loss? Make your decision now before it becomes too late!

Worldliness has crept into the lives of many Believers, especially in these last days. But one thing is that God's Word and Standard cannot change for any person or group of persons. God's Word is forever settled in Heaven: God hates worldliness. Worldliness is living like the people of the world. And concerning what we are discussing, it is appearing like the people of the world.

One of the major problems in many churches today is what somebody called 'churchiality without Christianity.' It is going to church, without being born again. It is being born again, without being committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to be led and directed by the flesh, instead of being led and directed by the Word of God and His Holy Spirit.

Because many are in the churches, without being born again and committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, they live and appear like the people of the world; and before you know it, many Believers start joining or following them to live and appear like the people of the world, because they assume that those people, since they are members of our churches, are fellow Believers.

James put this matter in a strong form: "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit Who dwells in us yearns jealously (or, lusteth to envy, KJV)?'" (Jas 4:4-5).

What are you thinking, as you are reading this material? That you will change tomorrow? Tomorrow may be too late. Furthermore, if you don't make up your mind and take the right decision, accompanied by prayer, the devil can come and remove the Word from you. You may

find out that the same Word that is burning in your heart now will not be felt much by you tomorrow.

How did people who rejected worldliness before accept it latter? By carelessness, lust of the flesh and the eyes, and by false teachings. A woman told me that she can never use weavon (or, is it attachment?) again, not just because I said it, but because she has known the truth about it. Brother, before you know what happened, she had started using it again. God told me the woman loved the world.

When preachings go forth, the women and ladies repent, cry, weep, and sob more than the men. Yet they are the ones that are easily deceived and led astray more than the men. Why is this the case? Apostle Paul said that it was not the man that was deceived, but the woman (1 Tim. 2:14).

If you see the kinds and appearances of dresses that parents put on their children, you will weep, if your understanding has been sharpened along this line. And those parents will expect those children to stop wearing those kinds of dresses when they grow up. They have been deceived, and they think they are wiser than God, Who said, “Train up the child in the way he should go, and when he/she is old he/she will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

Any skirt or gown that is at the knee level as you are standing, which when you sit down, people can see your laps (even if it is a small part of your laps) is from the devil. Any skirt or gown that will require your covering yourself with handkerchief when you sit down is of demons (demon-inspired design). Any skirt or gown which when you sit down in a car, either as the driver or as a passenger, somebody can see your laps, originated from the wisdom of satan.

Read Exodus 20:26. Read also Exodus 28:42. If God was so much interested in the nakedness of His priests (which were even men) not being seen by people, how much more in this New Testament does He not want the nakedness of

His daughters to be seen by men! And you say that you are a New Testament priest: why then are you not happy with making your gowns and skirts to be long enough to prevent people from seeing your laps (even when you are sitting down)?

Many women and ladies live in hypocrisy: when there is cold, the women cover themselves well to avoid it; but they will not care if their dressing is instigating lust and causing men to go Hell. Do they love Jesus Christ in reality?

In clearer words, the gown or skirt of a Christian and Godly woman, lady, or girl should not be shorter than halfway between her knee and her ankle, as she is standing up. This will guard against people seeing her laps when she sits down. These modern-day short (knee-level) gowns and skirts came from the wisdom and plans of the devil and his devils, whether or not you believe this Truth! The devil is very subtle and crafty.

If God is not interested in your body (or how you appear), why do you ask for (or claim) bodily healing or Divine health on your body? Many Believers allow the devil to deceive and mislead them with foolishness. How can you do try-and-luck (bet) with your eternal destiny in Heaven or Hell, when there wouldn’t be any second chance?

What many people bind the devil of, are nothing but the works of the flesh. If you refuse to take up your responsibility, by obeying the Word of God, you will open a way for the devil; because he, who breaks the hedge, will be bitten by the serpent. Obey God, and those devils will leave by themselves! This will make it possible for you to have fewer things to pray and fast about.

The problem of many churches today is the presence of mixed multitude and great multitude. Yes, great multitude is good; but are you directing their hearts to the Lord and His Word? Today, you see unbelieving chorus leaders and musicians in the church. Many of them sing under the

influence of drugs and alcohol. Some of them smoke. What a pity!

This is why you see worldly tones of music being played in many churches today. When you hear worldly tones of reggae, disco, awilo, makosa, etc, you should know that the end time is here with us. They will call God, Jesus, and speak Biblical things in the music; but the tone and beat is demonically programmed and attracts demons.

Choreographic dance is of the devil, for at least two reasons. First, it sends lustful impulses and thoughts to male watchers, which is one of the reasons why the devil introduced it into churches. Also, it makes people to put and focus their attention on the dancers and their body movements instead of focusing on worshipping God. Also, traditional dances are not to be used in the church, because they originated from demons who inspired those heathen traditions.

Concerning music and dancing, the Bible says, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are...revelries...of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

“For we have spent enough of our past time in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in...revelries...” (1 Pet. 4:3). According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, revelry means wild noisy dancing. God is against worldly, satanic, and demonic dancing, music, and tones, even in the church!

The Word of God tells us to prove or test all things, and to hold fast what is good (1 Thes. 5:21). Apostle John put it this way: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 Jn 4:1). Apostle Paul gave us another striking Word when he said, “Let two or three prophets speak, and let others judge” (1 Cor. 14:29).

Have you seen that even prophecies are to be judged and tested with the Word of God and the intuition or witness in your spirit by the Holy Spirit? When we talk of false prophets, many people seem to detect or suspect possible false prophets from their states or countries, and they count the foreign preachers as true ministers. My brother, they exist − locally, nationally, and internationally.

If they were preaching and teaching the Truth, without bringing people into satanic and demonic bondages, I wouldn't have been so much concerned. Why? Because Jesus Christ spoke to His Disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do" (Matt. 23:2-3).

They also use the Bible, quoting it to you, as the devil quoted it to Jesus Christ in the wilderness, to deceive people. They mix the Bible with the doctrines and teachings of demons and seducing spirits, and they deceive many. People hear them and say, "That is a great man of God!" People clap hands for them, and say, "Ride on, pastor!"

How do you know a false minister? By his words and practices. If his teachings and practices are against Sound Doctrine, run away from him. If he is interested in your money and not your soul, run away from him.

I am not just talking about somebody who may be making a minor mistake, because somebody may make a mistake (though God doesn't want it). But many of them know what they are doing. They know that they are working for the devil. They know they are working for money and fame.

I will tell you that many (or most) of all these beauty salons in town are owned by agents of the kingdom of darkness. Even those who are not direct or conscious agents have been demonized, in that their minds have been

influenced or obsessed by the devil into doing that business, because the business glorifies the devil a lot.

When your business expands the works of the kingdom of darkness, are you not their agent? Whether or not you attend their night meetings, you are working for them. I know that, just as many Believers use those materials ignorantly, there are people who do the business, though they are not conscious or direct agents of the kingdom of darkness.

Yet, it doesn't change the fact that they are standing or working for the devil. Am I saying that women shouldn't take care of their hair? No, but they should do it in a Godly manner. Every sincere Christian lady or woman, who seeks to know, will be directed by the Holy Spirit on how to take care of her hair.

Therefore, if you take care of people's hair, as a Believer, you have to do it in a Godly manner. Any business that glorifies the devil and expands the kingdom of darkness, cannot be from God.

The beauty salons, the beauty stores, and the fashion centres, what do they stand for? The person that sales bleaching creams, and helps people to call God stupid for giving them the skin complexion they have, is he or she working for God or for satan? I will rather tell you the Truth and you hate me, than thwart the Word of God, and your blood will be on my head; after all, I am not interested in your sinful money!

If you are a tailor or a clothing designer/maker, what type of dresses and wears do you make for your customers/clients? We have demonic fashion designers also. They tell our good Christian ladies and women, "This style will not make you look 'sharp' and attractive." They will not use the word − seductive, because they are bent to deceive.

And before you know what is happening, you will see a Christian girl, lady, or woman wearing what will show us

her armpits, her breasts, and her laps. Some demonic ladies will even carry those types of wears, and sit in front of the church congregation, so as to attempt to lead the man of God on the altar into lust and fornication, so that he will be reduced to an ordinary man, like the Philistines, with their Delilah, did to the 'powerful' Samson.

So, when you sell those marine weavons, demonic attachments, satanic nails, devilish cortex, bloody make-ups, and many other things in the group, are you a Christian, a Believer, or a Disciple? If you are a disciple, are you a disciple of satan or a Disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ? Who are you working for? What do you stand for?

Even those of you, who will make a long skirt, and divide (or, will I say, 'tear') that long skirt at the back, side, or front so that it reveals what a miniskirt or a short-skirt reveals, are you saying that you don't know what you are doing? If you say you did it to be able to walk freely, then why did you make a tight-fitting skirt in the first place? Others will cut their blouses or gowns to show us their back.

Get ready, for judgment is coming. I am not a prophet of doom, but a prophet of the Word of God; and I know that the Great Judge is ready to judge all unrighteousness! Therefore, count your soul more precious than your appearance now!

Those worldly and fashionable wedding gowns should be abolished for Believers and churches. Those wedding gowns are made to be glamorous, flamboyant, gorgeous, and for show and fashion. You may say that it is your day; but the Bible says, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Phil. 4:5). Many people even go to the extent of making or using wedding gowns that reveal their sensitive parts.

Men wear (or make) normal wears or suits that they still wear even after the wedding ceremony. Therefore, the bride's wear or dress should be made to be normal and in

such a way as to be something she can still wear at any other time after the wedding ceremony. It can be a gown or a skirt and blouse. Yes, make it to look good, but not something for fashion, show, or glamour.

Saying things like this may seem somehow, because my wife used wedding gown during our wedding. Even though the one she used covered her, yet, if I were to wed now, I cannot allow my wife to wear the conventional wedding gowns (even though now, weddings are done in many churches with those wedding gowns), because it does not reflect moderation, humility, Christ-likeness, and the Bible: it shows excesses for show.

But just because I didn't know the Truth at that time will not make me not to say the Truth when I know it. For instance, 'naturally', I myself hated (and I still hate) rings; but when I married, I loved (I think it was not just a liking) wearing wedding ring (maybe for the love of a husband for the wife). But I cannot wear a wedding ring again, because it is still a ring. Will I encourage wearing wedding rings because I loved or worn it?

Formerly, when people had good sense and judgment, the blouses of women were made in such a way that they didn't have buttons at the front, from their chest to their waist. But now, satanic fashion designers have designed what they call blouses for women which have spaced buttons from their chests downwards. And when they wear them, their breasts will push the material, so that someone can see their breasts from the spaces between the buttons.

The devil knew what he did in that demonic design. If their blouses are to be made that way, then they must have very well sealed zips, and not spaced buttons. When people listened to their consciences, men's shirts were made with spaced buttons, because men don't have breasts that will push open their chests. And don't wear those hanging blouses, which when you sit down or lift up your hands, your underwear will be exposed. Say "Amen!"

Men must button up their shirts (that is, they are not to leave their chests open). If you, as a woman, must wear a blouse with buttons, make sure it is not the kind that will reveal your breast or brassiere in-between the buttons. Zips are preferable to buttons for women's blouses; complete undivided blouses with neither zips nor buttons are best for women. Those short hanging jackets worldly women wear are satanic.

If many of our ladies and women will devote the energy they use to beautify themselves, to work on their spirit and soul, brother, many husbands will be running to their homes immediately they are through with their work and business. However, even in the homes of many Believers, the husbands prefer to stay away from home as much as possible.

When you talk to your husband as if he doesn't have authority over you, do you think that he will want to stay with you? This is one of the reasons why many unbelieving husbands go after strange women, because when they see the lady that will honour and respect them, the devil tells them, "Have you seen?"

And the Bible says, "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the Word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear" (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

On this issue of the dressing of the women, women should make their dresses − blouses, skirts, gowns, and wrappers − in such a way that they will cover their sensitive parts. When you dress, people shouldn't see your laps, breasts, and armpits. Make your skirts in such a way that even when you sit down, people shouldn't see your laps. If you use handkerchief to cover it when you sit down, are you hypocritical?

Your sensitive parts are for your husband; therefore reserve them for him, and not for us. When you keep on

straightening your skirts or you use handkerchief to cover your laps as you are sitting down, why didn't you tell them to make it longer than it is, when they were making it? Or, are you deceiving yourself?

Use the blouses that were made with well-sealed zips. Condemn those blouses which, when you put them on, people, other than your husband, see your breasts in-between buttons; you understand? You are a Christian, and not an unbeliever! The neck of your blouse is to be in such a way that even when you bend down, no one will see your breast.

Don't wear body-hug dresses, because they reveal your body contours. Don't wear see-through dresses. What do I mean by see-through dresses? In physics, the scientists talk of transparent, translucent, and opaque materials. The translucent materials are semi-opaque and semi-transparent. The see-through dresses are the semi-covering and semi-uncovering dresses.

Many Believers wear short-skirts, and they 'think' that because the skirts are not miniskirts, then nothing is wrong with the skirts. A sincere, serious, and dedicated Christian whose mind is in Heaven (and whose eye has not been blinded by the devil) will not be comfortable wearing a short-skirt. A short skirt or gown is the one which when you sit down, somebody can see any part of your laps; while a miniskirt or mini-gown is the one which even when you are standing up, somebody can see your laps.

If, as a man, I open the back or front of my shirt the way some women open the back or front of their blouses and gowns, will you be happy? And if a man will not open his front or back, how much more the women!

Your armpits are not to be seen when you lift up your hands; therefore, the sleeves of your blouses and gowns must be made, both in length and in design, in such a way as to guard against this.

In your church, ministry, or fellowship, be mindful of the dressing and appearance of those who minister, speak, or appear before the crowd, especially those that appear before them often; because they, consciously or unconsciously, tell the rest of the people how they should dress and appear.

To this end, the pastor and minister should be mindful of how his wife dresses and appears, because many women, ladies, and girls in the church, ministry, or fellowship will likely learn from her. Many churches, ministries, and fellowships that dress and appear like the people of the world became that way because of the ministers' wives and other women leaders and ministers.

And don't even wear shorts or trousers inside your skirt or gown; use your appropriate underwears. Somebody may say that she will wear shorts to avoid being raped; but it is God Who keeps and protects you. By the way, even trousers will not stop being raped; but God will stop it. The person who can forcefully rape you can also pull the trousers; and at gunpoint, if you fear weapons instead of believing and trusting God, you yourself will pull the trousers out. But if you do the right thing, angels of God are there to intervene on your behalf. Also, don't use trousers for night-wears: don't allow the devil to deceive you.

Be careful of the pictures and signs that are drawn or imposed on your blouses, shirts, wears, and dresses. The devil puts satanic, demonic, devilish, and occult pictures and signs on some wears and dresses to entangle and enslave people. Those pictures and signs can attract and permit the presence of demons and their works.

Do not use Lycra material to make your dresses and clothes. Lycra material is a material that stretches, which is used for making tight-fitting clothes. This is because it tights your body and shows your body contours, thereby sending lustful messages and impulses to the opposite sex. God hates the use of it for dresses and clothes.

Do not send your children to any school where they are forced to wear sleeveless dresses and clothes as their school uniform: they will end up corrupting them. And the schools which use such school uniforms either have demonic targets from the leadership, have been deceived by the devil and his demons, or they have satanic workers/teachers (conscious or unconscious). Of course, this is not to say that all schools where they wear sleeved dresses and clothes are free from demonic works.

Men dress up to cover their chest and back; who then designed (or planned the design of) the open chest blouses or gowns that show women's breasts' cleavage and breasts, or the open back blouses or gowns that show their back? It could be no other beings/people than satan and his associates; they are the beings/people that stand against the Will of God and promote lust among men.

For those who say that they use pairs of trousers to guard against cold, the human race has been in existence for about six thousand years on the surface of this earth: Did people not keep themselves safe from cold from the beginning of the human race till about some decades ago when women started wearing trousers, which many of them hypocritically call slacks?

You, as a Christian lady, should appear natural. What do we men lose by appearing natural? You may say you want to attract people, but you are attracting men (whether or not they are Believers) who have not known the Truth, because those things get me annoyed, when I see them on the bodies of believing ladies and women. Therefore, all those lipsticks, cortexes, demonic/artificial nails, and paint or pencil will not be required.

Somebody asked me, saying, "Can I use brown powder since I use white powder?" One needs to wonder why some women want to look horrible the way they look. Why do people really want to paint themselves as if they are buildings that need to be painted and repainted? Many of

those women seem not to know that their minds have been obsessed by demons, and they ‘do not even know’ what they are doing to themselves. I wonder why many husbands allow their wives to dress and appear the way they appear! Some men even tell their wives to look that horrible.

Well, as for the question of, “Can I use brown powder since I use white powder?” Why do you want to use the brown powder? The Bible says, “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father Who is in the Secret Place; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matt. 6:16-18).

Here Jesus Christ tells you to use ointment on your head and wash your face instead of disorganizing your head (hair), wearing sackcloth, and sitting on ashes, to appear to men to be fasting. But notice that the purpose for anointing your head (rubbing oil/ointment on your hair) and washing your face is for you to look normal, so that people will not know that you are fasting.

Of course, it is not compulsory that you anoint your head and wash your face whenever you fasting, because if you were to be in the desert, on the mountain, or in the room alone, where people will not see you, you may decide to neither anoint your head nor wash your face, at least for some time. However, the purpose of the anointing (rubbing) and washing is to appear normal.

So, whereas somebody may use white powder to remove or neutralize oil on his or her face, another person may just wipe his or her face with a handkerchief to remove the oil that might have been accumulated on his or her face, maybe due to heat. But why will you even paint/parch your face with white powder or brown powder? Do you want white or brown colour for your face and ‘building’?

Therefore, apart from the brown powder issue, there is certainly a difference between using white powder to neutralize oil on your face and using white powder to paint your face. So, apart from using white powder to neutralize oil on your face, using white powder (maybe the medicated one) to stop or treat heat rashes on your body, or for any other good special case(s), do not even paint your face with white powder for beauty. Of course, this concerns both males and females.

Don't put your mind on costly or expensive things. Never be obsessed by them. Moderately priced and inexpensive clothing is good for the women. It helps to prevent pride. Don't pressurize your husband to buy expensive things for you; for it will not be to your advantage. If the man starts misbehaving and disobeying the Word of God in order to satisfy you, you will suffer it more.

Why? Because when someone starts stealing, lying, or cheating, the fellow can also start following strange women, since they are all from the same heart. Any person, who can be committing evil and hiding it from men, without fearing God Who sees all things, can do what you may not believe.

God said to Jacob, "Arise go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, Who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother." And Jacob said to his household and all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. Then let us go up to Bethel...."

So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid (buried) them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem. And they journeyed, and the Terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob (Gen. 35:1-5).

Earrings were among the things they purified themselves from to be clean before God. The Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Mesopotamians, and the other foreign and heathen nations were given to these things, just as the people of the world today. When you leave the world, you will also leave these things.

And piercing your ear to wear earrings is of the devil. Why do you pierce your ear? Are you a slave? If your ears were pierced by your parents, having repented from it, how can you wear earrings in it again? Where then is your repentance?

When God told Moses to tell the children of Israel to collect those things from the Egyptians, God wanted to plunder the Egyptians, because they made those things from gold and silver. And the Israelites, instead of keeping those things for the construction of the Ark of the Testimony and other things, they started with using them to construct a calf which they worshipped, and said that it was the calf that brought them out of Egypt (Exo. 32). God was very angry with them for that act; and had it not been that Moses interceded for them, He would have wiped them out!

People wear and use things that bring them into the bondage of the devil, even unknowingly. And God says that His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6); and His people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge (Isa. 5:13). When you use the things that God has condemned, you are selling yourself to the devil, and he will oppress you. The devil, satan, is a master-strategist: he wants to have your spirit, soul, and body; and if he doesn't get this one, he will go for the other.

Earrings, bangles, rings, necklaces, and such things are not needed on your body by God. They promote the desire of the devil, which is ornamenting your body. Even wedding rings won't be necessary. Of course, you would have seen

some who would even put an extra ring on top of the wedding ring to make it look more beautiful. Who even invented the wedding ring as a means of distinguishing the married from the unmarried? Get rid of wedding rings and engagement rings from your fingers, brothers and sisters! Your soul is much more precious than wedding rings and engagement rings.

Some people try to use Abraham (or his servant) to defend themselves in this issue; but they fail to know that Abraham didn't know everything at the same time. Before Jacob grew up and matured, having come from Isaac of Abraham (many years after Abraham), they would have known how God reacts to those things.

Remember that Abraham was a heathen and idol worshipper (from Ur of the Chaldeans − Babylonians) before he was called by God; and he had learned their ways. It still took some time to refine him. Abraham lied on two different occasions, because of fear (and Isaac also lied over his wife, because of fear). Does that make lying good, because Abraham lied?

If your dresses are worldly in appearance, condemn them, because of Jesus Christ and your soul. Don't be afraid, for God is able to provide you with new good dresses. Don't put your trust in man, no matter what he owns: put your trust in God, and His angels will bring all you need to you in due time.

The same things that were happening when God destroyed the whole earth with the Flood are happening now. The same things that the Israelites (God's people) did, for which God destroyed them in the wilderness, are happening today in many churches.

When God destroyed the world, they didn't carry arms for Him; they didn't shoot at Him with guns: they were disobedient to His Commands, and they lived to gratify the lusts of their eyes and the desires of their flesh.

And the same things that happened to the people of old, will happen to many (even Believers) in the Last Day, but in a different dimension – Hell Fire. The Church is giving the Lord Jesus Christ more 'headache' and trouble than the world! But just as the Jews didn't believe Prophet Jeremiah until they were engulfed in the disaster that God brought upon them, many will not believe this Message and Word until they will end in Hell Fire.

God is not from any nation, and He owns all nations. Though we know, from the Bible, that God has a special link with the nation of Israel, yet, He is not from Israel. Israel cannot dictate for Him; and He will not change His Standard because of Israel. God cannot change His Standard for anyone and for any church. No matter how anointed you are, no matter what you may have, all came from God.

Many people do the things they do, because they think that since people from this or that nation do the same things, they must be right; but this is not true in the ultimate sense. The thing that many people seem to fail to understand is that the devil is working in every nation of the earth.

No matter the nation you may come from, the devil had been working in your nation before you were born, and he will continue to work there. The devil has succeeded to work in many nations without being recognized.

There are many things that are being done in some nations of the world, which people don't see as having come from the devil. For instance, when a country legalizes abortion, whether or not they know it, the work of the devil is being fulfilled in their midst.

God hates abortion; for no one has right to take any other person's life. No matter the theory or proposition medical science may make to make abortion look good, they are just dancing to the tone of the devil's deception.

Once the zygote has been formed, a human being has come.

Let us consider the issue of women liberation movements. Have you noticed the rate of divorce and juvenile delinquencies these days? These are the long-term effects of women liberation movements.

When women decide to abandon their basic responsibilities in pursuit of secondary issues, the devil is at work, whether they recognize it or not. Women have the responsibility to be helpers suitable to their husbands.

We will now consider the issue of whether it is good for women to put on trousers. One thing about dresses is that they are meant to cover the person putting them on, whether they are men or women.

Gowns, wrappers, skirts, blouses, trousers, shirts, etc, are to cover the person wearing them. I want you to know that over the years, in every continent (America, Europe, Africa, Asia, etc), there have been changes in the modes of their dressing.

However, any dressing or change in dressing that does not glorify God is satanic and demonic, no matter what any person may think or say, even though you may not have it in mind as you put them on. That is the Truth. The devil prefers to work under cover and without being noticed.

When women put on sleeveless blouses, mini-skirts, tight-fitting and partly transparent (revealing) dresses, they are glorifying satan, and helping him to fulfil his purpose, whether or not they know it.

As I said before, considering the biological features of women, women should not use pairs of trousers. Why? When a woman is matured sexually, one of the features that biologists tell us will be noticed in her is enlarged buttocks. Have you never noticed that trousers show their body contours for everybody to see? Trousers reveal their buttocks and laps seductively.

Now, don’t say that you are going to allow your children wear pairs of trousers, and when they mature they will stop using them. If you train them up that way, when they are old, they will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6).

But seductive dresses or dressing seductively helps the devil spread his lust wave, and people get into the sins of lust, fornication, adultery, etc. Some will say that whoever wants to fall will fall; but you and I know that some things can make someone fall, when he wouldn’t have fallen without them.

Let the Spirit of God lead you, and do not be led by your mind and thought. Trousers are neither an American culture nor a British culture. It started at a time, and got so much opposition there then; but over so many years later, the opposition has waned so much that some think it is their culture.

After all, was there anything like America until Amerigo sailed past the Atlantic Ocean and found the land which was later developed to be America? And it is Britain that developed and colonized America before they got their independence. And all countries and continents of the world will appear before God for judgment.

Know this once again: any dressing that helps the devil fulfil his will, plan, and purpose is from him. If you can’t stop dressing this or that way because of Jesus Christ, can you lay down your life for Him? (Matt. 10:39). Don’t you want to be worthy of Him?

Christians (both males and females) should avoid wearing jeans materials for some reasons. Jeans tight your body to show your body-contours. Jeans seem to have been made/designed by the devil to provoke rough, wild, and worldly feeling and lifestyle, as evident in the fact that you may see some of them as stone-wash jeans, jeans which look like they have been decolourized (or partly decolourized), perforated jeans with different kinds of openings, patched jeans with pieces of the material sewn

on it, torn jeans proudly worn as style (whereas other clothing materials that are torn would make the same person feel ashamed), jeans trousers or shorts with rough cutting or design at the edges, etc.

If the physical appearance of many Believers are worldly, how much more the sins of spirit and soul (inward sins) that are hidden from us! If many Believers don't care about their worldly appearance, how much more do they care less concerning the hidden sins (inward sins) which we do not see!

God hates tribal marks and tattooing your body, as He said, "You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the Lord" (Lev. 19:28). No matter the kind of design or picture you tattoo yourself with, it is evil.

Funky (modern and fashionable) style of hair cut like what is called 'punk', 'afro-cut', etc must not find its place in you. Also, leave your hair the natural shape it has in haircut; and avoid carving it, for it gives it an unnatural or/and fashionable shape.

There are many reasons why Christians should not use weavons. Using weavons is like telling God that He is stupid and imperfect for giving you the kind of hair you have. It is like bleaching, which many do; they feel that God should have made them fair in complexion instead of dark. But on the Day of Judgment, you will find out that you tried to degrade God. Using relaxer and hair extensions for your hair or another person's hair is demonic and satanic in origin, and leads to Hell Fire.

The Word says, "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:26-27).

This place implies turning the nature to artificial/perversion in women/men. Turning the nature to artificial/perversion in women/men does not only apply to lesbianism and homosexualism. Of course, the Bible emphasized on homosexualism here; but on the side of the women, it says, "...women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature."

And you see the exchanging of the natural for what is against nature and God's Plan, Wisdom, and Ability in bleaching the skin, perfuming the body, painting the nails with cortex, fixing of artificial nails, frying and perming the hair, artificially relaxing and extending the hair, painting the face with lipstick and eye-pencil, dyeing the hair, fixing of eyelashes, using and wearing of weavons and attachments, tattooing the body, etc.

And, "The Wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the Truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them" (Rom. 1:18). You can see that God has given and shown you the reason why you shouldn't change His Handiwork; therefore, if you do, then you decided to corrupt yourself, turn yourself against God, suffer unnecessary things in this earth, and finally deprive yourself of Heaven!

God asked whether a leopard can change its spot, because He has made it that way (Jer. 13:23); and many human beings say, "God, we are wiser than You and leopards, and we know how to change our skin." The Ethiopians would have refused to change their skin in the old times; now many of them may do it because of science and technology.

It is like those who use high-heel shoes to increase their height, because they feel that they should be taller than they are. When Jesus Christ tells you not to worry about your height, because you can't add a cubit to it (Matt.

6:27), you say, “God, I know how to increase my not-good size in height.”

Some use perfume to say, “Why must people not identify my scent? This natural neutral ‘scent’ is too boring!” Why do people try to bring themselves into different bondages? Others use breast-pads to make their breasts look big and seductive. When you see some others paint themselves with powder, you wonder why they want to look that way in the first place!

Many others say, “God, it is not now that I should have grey (gray) hair; I am still young.” (Grey is British English, while gray is American English). And they end up dyeing their hair. Many spend hours designing themselves – time they should have used for Godly and spiritual things. The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness (Prov. 16:31). The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendour of old men is their grey head (Prov. 20:29). Silver-haired or grey head is the Handiwork of God!

Also, many of those weavons are real human hair which were cut and sold. How can you be wearing another person’s hair as a Christian lady or woman? This is worldliness; this is satanic and demonic; sister, the ground you are treading on is dangerous.

Then, even though some of those weavons may be synthetic or artificial (which the first point still condemns), many of those weavons ladies use are manufactured in the water-kingdom of darkness and brought to this earth for sales to contaminate the people of the world.

The thing that some people don’t know is that some companies which exist physically on this earth came from the dark kingdom of satan, especially the water-world of the devil. In fact, many things we see physically came from the dark kingdom. Even many legal and morally good things (like pre-fabricated food) we see are manufactured

in the dark kingdom, some of which I wouldn't mention here.

This is why you need to pray over and sanctify the things that you use, especially edible things. But how will you want to sanctify the things that the Lord has rejected and condemned (like weavons, artificial nails, wet-lips, lipsticks, eyelashes, etc)? You are already offending God!

Everything is not demonic, don't misunderstand me; don't live in fear either, because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. The anointing breaks every yoke of the enemy. But many Christians create loopholes for the devil through sin, disobedience, and worldliness.

You need to be watchful and sober, because if you are not, the devil can lead you into sin and worldliness; and if the Lord Jesus Christ meets you in that state at His Coming, or you die in that state, you will miss Heaven and go to Hell.

But that is not God's Plan for you; and He did not bring you out of the world to condemn you later. Therefore, don't condemn yourself. You condemn yourself by despising His Word and the Promptings of His Spirit.

Many are busy 'binding and loosing' the devil while they are the ones that are inviting the devil. Preachers and ministers, many of you are busy saying you are destroying the works of the devil, while the devil is binding people comfortably through worldliness among Believers. May their blood not be on your hands because you refused to tell them the Truth!

Some say that it is not written in the Bible that you must not smoke. Okay, continue to destroy your body, which is the Temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16), until you hear, "Get behind Me, you who practice iniquity!" Cigarette is a destructive tool of satan, the devil. It is suicide in disguise.

Others say that it is alright to drink alcohol as far as you don't get drunk (or in small quantity). Firstly, assuming that the wine which Apostle Paul told Timothy to drink was

not a totally non-alcoholic wine, little sense should have told you that if the Believers of the New Testament were drinking it in small quantity, Apostle Paul wouldn't have needed to tell Timothy to take small of it as medicine.

Even if you have stomach problem, do you now envy that archaic and unrefined medical practice when you have always wanted development and civilization, just because you want to satisfy your flesh? Will you have the boldness to defend yourself before God on the Judgment Day? Can you forsake alcohol for God and for your soul?

Secondly, according to the Dake's Annotated Reference Bible's explanation of 1 Tim. 5:23, "With two kinds of wine mentioned in the Scripture – one, unfermented new wine found in the cluster (Isa. 65:8), we can be assured that Timothy was not urged to take the intoxicating kind to strengthen him." Someone may ask, "If this is true, then why did he tell him to drink little of it?" First, you don't even have to drink non-alcoholic drink to excess.

Second, who knows whether they (Timothy was his disciple and associate) had altogether stopped drinking even non-alcoholic wine as a kind of self-denial, continuous partial fasting, or living the fasted life, even as John the Baptist did not eat and drink all kinds of even morally good food and drinks? Even now, many Believers and ministers decide to (or, are commanded by God) to stop or minimize the intake of certain kinds of food or/and drinks as a way of self-denial and living the fasted life.

The Bible says, "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine; those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things" (Prov. 23:29-33).

Here, the Bible says, “Do not look on the wine....” Can you take a small amount of what you are not supposed to look on to? That is to say, “Don’t even desire any amount of wine or alcohol.” Whether the wine contains 1% or 5% of alcohol, it is still alcohol and sinful. Can you allow small amount of alcohol to take you to Hell?

When a company that manufactures wine puts ‘5% alcohol’ on the label of the wine, it shows that they know the difference between wine that is free from alcohol and the one with alcohol. And there was no alcoholic content in the wine that Jesus Christ made. No wonder the master of the feast said, “...You have kept the good wine until now!” (Jn 2:10). Jesus Christ made a good quality wine with a difference!

People used to abort unborn human beings in secret before; now satanic and demonic laws have empowered them. And subtly and craftily, the enemy (satan, the devil) has ‘moralized’ abortion in certain birth-control measures.

People used to smoke secretly before; now they are bold to smoke anyhow outside. Homosexuals and lesbians used to practice their wickedness in secret and darkness, being ashamed of it; now they even boast that they are homosexuals and lesbians. Boasting and waiting for damnation in Hell Fire!

The devil has penetrated and destroyed many people through films. Most of those films from Hollywood, Nollywood, and others promote the works of the devil. Even, many (or most) of the so-called Christian films still advertize and promote the works of the devil.

When films are promoting immorality, indecent dressing, vices, violence, hatred, and other demonic activities, do they promote God? Be careful with the type of film that you and your family watch! Many of those films are dedicated to the devil to serve his interest and increase sales; and so, playing them attracts the presence of demons into your house (and to the watchers). Watching of

wrestling, karate, horror films, and many others are inspired by the devil.

So, you film director, producer, actor, or actress, whose interest are you serving? Who is inspiring you, and who are you working for? Sometimes, the devil will wittingly package some of the films in such a way that they look harmless; but ultimately, his interest is being promoted.

Just as many Believers and ministers preach and teach heresies and anti-Christ, anti-God, and unbiblical doctrines and practices, when half-baked and non-Biblically sound Believers direct and produce their so-called Christian films, they end up expanding false teachings and doctrines.

The Internet is a major way that the devil uses to enslave the children of men. Through the Internet, the devil has made many people to go into indecent dressing, lust, and sexual immorality. In Twitter, Facebook, Google, etc, you will see things that can lead you away from the Word of God, if you are not careful, disciplined, and determined.

There are many satanic, demonic, and occult websites in the Internet. Even many of those sites, blogs, and websites which were not opened by conscious agents of satan have things that can still make you to be corrupted and polluted if you are not careful. Many times, even when you are doing something else in the Internet, they will start flashing you with seductive pictures and worldly things.

You might have observed that many of the programmes, movies (films), music, and activities that are spread by televisions, digital satellite stations, cables networks, and radio stations are satanic and demonic in origin. Therefore, be careful of what you watch and ponder on, and what you allow your children and family to watch, listen to, and be exposed to.

Beware of the cartoons that you allow your children to watch, because many of those cartoons are demonic, and they are capturing souls for the devil. Evil spirits possess people when they watch some cartoons. Also, many of the

video games that people play are demonic and satanic; and they get people who play them demonized. Horror films are from the devil, and they promote his plans and works.

These are apart from the time that people spend on these things and more, and the passion with which they pursue and get attached to them, thereby making them their gods. When you use the time you should use for God and His Things for activities that do not glory His Name, the Jealous God gets jealous and angry!

Change your name if it is satanic and demonic. Dissociate yourself from any satanic, demonic, and ungodly name. Don’t you say that what you confess is what you possess? Why then do you want satanic, demonic, or negative confession on what you are called by? Do you think that God will like to call you by satanic or demonic names?

Concerning the covering of the hair, the Bible says, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered dishonours his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.

“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the Image and Glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

“…Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonour to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering. But if

anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God” (1 Cor. 11:4-16, New King James Version).

I want you to notice that it did not say that her 'long hair' is given to her for a covering, but her hair. I also want you to notice that this place is talking about covering the hair, and not about long or short hair. To convince you that it is speaking of covering or veiling your hair, the Bible says, “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered dishonours his head” (verse 4).

Covering the hair indicates using something (not your hair) to veil your hair. Forget about the distortion of the Bible: according to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 'veil' is a thin piece of material worn by women to cover their faces at formal occasions such as weddings or for religious reasons.

You can see that this portion of the Scripture is dealing with veiling yourself, as a woman, and not about long or short hair. Speaking of long or short hair, it says, "Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is dishonour to him?" (verse 14). This is to say that, naturally, long hair doesn't befit a man.

Speaking on the being good if a woman has a natural long hair, it says, "But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering" (verse 15). This is why I ponder on it when I see Christian women cut their hair as low as a man’s hair (and I am talking of even outside the church building).

If a woman has to cut her hair as low as men’s hair in any given society or nature of hair (because the nature or natural texture of the hair will affect the length), then she should also be ready to wear cap on it, because, naturally, it doesn't befit a woman, except that 'human civilization' and disregard for God-ordained procedures has gripped many. This is what these women liberation movements,

which are inspired by satan, have caused over time: disregard for God-ordained authority and natural tendencies.

And know that it didn’t say that the long attachment or weavon of the woman is given to her for a covering, because God didn’t give any woman any attachment or weavon. Therefore the attachment or weavon on the head of the woman is no glory, but satanic and demonic bondage, whether or not she knows of it.

It says, “But if a woman has long hair...” and not, “When a woman has long hair....” So your hair may not be ‘long’ or very long, but should not be as short as men’s hair in the race/nation you are from (I am not talking of mixed society: where the society is mixed, consisting of people from different nations and races, then use the shortness of men’s hair from the same nation or race as you to ascertain the minimum length of your hair); but it is best long, as far as the being ‘long’ or very long is not achieved by perming or artificially relaxing your hair or with the use of attachments or weavon!

If you find it difficult to comb it or keep it neat, then shorten, reduce, or cut it, to the length that you can comb it well and keep it neat; but do not let it be as low as the general length of the hair of the men from the same race or nation as you, except you are going to wear cap or hair scarf on it as you go around.

Look at what verses 4 and 7 say: "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered dishonours his head. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the Image and Glory of God; but woman is the glory of man." This is telling a man, who already has a short hair (or may decide to be shorn) to not cover his hair in the church. To be shorn is to shave someone's hair clean, as you would shear the skin of the sheep. Is this not clear enough that what the Bible is talking about here is covering the hair and not short or long hair?

And verses 5 and 6 say: "But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered." And this place is saying that the woman whose hair is not covered (veiled) in the church is the same as being shorn (shaving her hair clean).

And verse 10 says that a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels. That is either to teach the angels submission to God, or in order not to grieve the angels of God, who, normally, are present in any Believers' meeting; because angels don't like disorder and unrighteousness. Lucifer and his cohorts rebelled against God; they were angels, just like the present obedient angels. Genesis 24:65 says: "...So she took a veil and covered herself." Rebekah, whose hair was already long, took a veil to cover herself to show respect for Isaac.

The Greek word used in verses 6 and 7 of First Corinthians, chapter eleven, for covered and cover is 'katakalupto'. Katakalupto means veiled. It had been a custom for ages for women to be veiled. Only public prostitutes in the East went without veils. But those who want all they can do to avoid covering their hair use: "But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering" (verse 15). They misapply this verse to do what they want to do.

For whoever may be contentious about these things, Apostle Paul wrote: "We have no such custom, nor do the churches of God" (verse 16). Could he be saying that there is no custom of covering hair when he took many verses to persuade the women to cover their hair? I don't believe so; rather, I believe that he is talking of the custom of the contentious person saying that it makes no difference if women cover their hair {or even try to convince people that

covering of hair is not for Believers (those in the church, or their church)}.

Many people do not take time to consider some things about the design of many women dresses – gowns, blouses, and skirts. Consider how the design and making of even average unbelieving men are – how they do not expose their armpits, laps, and chests. Just take time to consider the length of the sleeves of their shirts (even their short-sleeved shirts) and that of their trousers; and I know that the men also want fresh air.

Compare it with how many women move around with gowns, blouses, and skirts that show people their armpits, laps, breasts, and shapes. Can you not detect that satan and mermaid spirits are at work in the lives of many women (even Believers) whether or not they are aware of it, as far as dressing is concerned? The devil wants to corrupt men and the human race; and one great weapon he uses is women and their dressing.

Please, if you are a Believer, when you go to buy an already-made dress, check the design and method of their making before buying them. And when you meet a dress designer and maker for your dresses, tell them how they should make your dresses. No wonder the world (which is ruled by satan) has decided to call them fashion designers, because many of them design what satan and demons inspire and tell them to design!

Just take time to consider how those satan-inspired fashion designers design and make women dresses! Some of them will make a long gown, but they will make its sleeves to be so short (and even sleeveless) so that the armpits will be the point of attraction and seduction.

Some other demons-prompted designers will make the blouse that has a good length of sleeve, but they will ‘cut’ the back or the front in such a way as to show their back, breasts, and breast cleavages; because what satan wants to

seduce men through the blouse is her breasts and exposed body.

Others will make long skirts, but they will cut and divide the skirt at the back, by the side, or at the front, because the point of seduction is their laps. Then others will design and make short skirts and gowns which when the women wearing them sit down people will see their laps and even underwears, because that is the heart and desire of the devil.

And others will not care and make mini-skirts, so that even if they are standing, people will be seeing their laps and what they call long legs. Do you know that many women (even Believers) are serving the devil, even without their knowledge? And surely, serving the devil has rewards (or do I say punishments?).

I wonder why many women spend hours in making and dressing their hair with attachments, wool, and thread! This is the love of the world and idolatry in operation. Notice that the modern frying of hair and the use of attachment were not even in existence among the unbelieving Israelites and Jews of the days of the Early Church, and also among the Gentiles of the places where Paul ministered! Therefore they had no business writing about frying of hair and the use of attachments (they did not even know the possibility or the reality of people trying such abominations).

You can use map to check the places where Apostle Paul ministered in his first, second, and third missionary journeys to see whether the inhabitants of those places (except possible immigrants) have the kind of hair which those that fry their hair and use attachments to make their hair long use nowadays.

Yes, they wrote about braiding or plaiting, and also of jewellery, which existed in their days among the unbelievers and possibly among some Believers who had carried their worldly lifestyle of hair dressing into their

Christian faith. And you can see what they wrote about braiding/plaiting the hair, use of jewels, and wearing of fashions and costly clothing and apparel (and women relationship with their husbands) in First Timothy 2:9-10 and First Peter 3:1-6.

When God created everything, He saw that all the things He created were good, that the Bible says, “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). Who are you to challenge the Handiwork of God? Bleaching your skin, painting your face, perming your hair, wearing weavons, dyeing your hair, painting your nails, etc are ways of challenging God’s Creative Ability.

Someone may say, “But Jesus Christ said that it is not what enters a man that defiles the man, but what comes out of the man” (Matt. 15:11). You have to understand well what He was saying. But if what goes into a man doesn't defile a man, why did Jesus Christ rebuke the church in Thyatira for allowing Jezebel to teach His Servants to eat things sacrificed to idols? (Rev. 2:20). And when there was a debate/argument on what the Gentile Christians should keep, why did the counsel at Jerusalem tell them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from strangled meat/animals, and from blood? (Acts 15:20).

Somebody may say that Apostle Paul said that idol is nothing, but fail to see that he said that if your brother will be offended, because you ate the meat sacrificed to idol, you are to avoid it (1 Cor. 8; Rom. 14). When somebody says that Jesus Christ said that not what enters a man defiles a man, but what comes out of the man, he doesn’t even know that they were discussing about washing of the hands before eating.

By the way, does vomiting defile you before God, since it came out of you? And those who want to destroy themselves have used that excuse to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes, destroying their bodies, which is for God

and should be kept holy for our God. Think of it! If the Believers were already drinking alcohol by little measure, why will Apostle Paul tell Timothy to use little wine for his stomach's sake (as a kind of soothing medicine, in that their ancient and unrefined medical practice)?

A WORD IS ENOUGH FOR THE WISE! Shall we continue to sin that grace may increase? (Rom. 6:1) Is faith without works not dead? (Jas 2:17). What will make Jesus Christ to tell those that had prophesied, cast out demons, and done mighty works in His Name, that He never knew them? (Matt. 7:21-23). Surely, they had known Christ before. I am not reducing righteousness and holiness to physical things, physical appearance, and dress code alone? Why did the Word of God put the sin of the flesh first before sin of spirit in Second Corinthians 7:1?

Some people say that we are laying unnecessary burdens on people. Which burden (if it were even to be a burden, as you think) is greater than sacrificing small things for Jesus Christ and Heaven? If you can't deny yourself of small things, because of Heaven, can you lay down your life for Jesus Christ? He who loves his life more than Christ Jesus is not worthy of Him.

By the way, have you ever seen it in the Bible that Apostle Paul gave ordinances to New Testament Believers? He wrote, saying, "Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions (ordinances, the King James Version) just as I delivered them to you" (1 Cor. 11:2). Was he putting burdens on them? Certainly the Corinthian church was a 'Gentile' church.

Apostle Paul wrote: "But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother

stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble" (1 Cor. 8:9-13).

Writing to the Galatians, he said, "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. And those that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:13,24,25).

Jesus Christ rebuked the scribes and the Pharisees, not because they paid tithes (because God commanded them to pay tithes), but because they neglected justice, mercy, and faith, while paying tithes (Matt. 23:23). Will you cancel tithe (for example), because they neglected justice, mercy, and faith? Certainly, no! Or you will still be disobeying God.

In other words, because somebody can dress virtuously and Godly like a Christian and still be evil, immoral, and wicked on the inside, will not cancel the fact and Truth that a Christian is to dress and appear like a Christian. By that, I mean that Christians and Believers are to dress decently, Godly, and Biblically. Inside and outside, you are to be like Christ − Christian.

As a woman, it is either you decide to worship and serve God in Spirit and Truth, or you join the rest of the women and ladies who follow their minds instead of the Mind of God. Writing to the Corinthians, Apostle Paul said, "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted..." (2 Cor. 11:3).

The devil deceived Eve at the Garden of Eden by craftiness, just as he has been deceiving many women and ladies today, especially in the areas of indecent dressing and worldliness. When God told Adam and Eve to avoid the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and bad, telling them that they will die any day they eat from the fruit, satan came afterwards to tell Eve: "You will not surely die..." (Gen. 3:4).

But what happened when they ate the fruit? They died spiritually, being separated from the Life of God. Apart from the spiritual death, God had intended that they live forever; however, when they disobeyed God, they could now die physically after some years. Though you may not see the punishment for your disobedience now, if you don't repent and change, know that you can't enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Do you want to end in Hell after speaking in tongues and carrying Bible?

The Bible says, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor. 6:20). But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (Gal. 5:18). Both your body and your spirit are God's – belong to God – and you have to glorify God in both of them.

Furthermore, it is those who are led by the Spirit of God who are not under the Law. The essence of God making us to not be under the Law is because He expects us to be led by His Spirit. But if your flesh and desires still lead you, then you are not led by the Holy Spirit; and there is danger.

The Book of Romans says that those who are led by the Spirit of God are those who are the sons of God. You wash both the outside and the inside of your plates. Why do you think of the opposite concerning God and His people? Certainly, God wants both the inside and the outside of His people to be clean, purified, and holy.

Many people talk against many things in the name of Old Testament; but they will readily teach about blessings from the twenty-eighth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy, and expound tithes and offerings from the third chapter of the Book of Malachi – both in the New Testament.

Let us know that we have not arrived in Heaven yet; therefore, we are to be careful of how we live our lives and of the utterances we make, including how we think and

reason. Let us always be open to the Holy Spirit to direct and lead us all the days of our lives till we see the Face of Jesus Christ in Heaven.

(For an in-depth Scriptural study on this subject, refer to the book: Indecent Dressing and Outward Appearance by GODSWORD GODSWILL ONU)

ABOUT THE BOOK

Many people wonder why bad things happen to good people. You have to realize that there are many things which are hidden from us; and they are known to God. And we do not have to worry ourselves to know about many of them, especially when knowing the true nature and reason may not avail any good. We are not God; and we cannot know everything. Yet God reveals what He wants us to know to us. The Spirit of God reveals many things to us; but He reveals what God wants us to know. And you may not have to use what God told you about a situation to generalize and apply it to some other situations. If you do, you may be erring and deceiving yourself and others.

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