

THE HOUSE OF GOD
Which Is the Church of the Living God
The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Without Controversy, Inc.
KEITH DOMINION

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Theme:

***THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD:
HOLDING FAST IN THE MIDST OF
FAINTING SOULS AND RAGING SEAS***

Isaiah 43:1-2; Hebrews 3:12-14



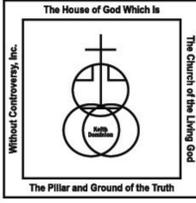
“O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Isaiah 43:1-2

“Take heed, 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 To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.” **Hebrews 3:12-14**

Easter Communique

2019

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Easter Communiqué

THEME:

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But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."*

Chief Overseer's Message



**A man shall not be established by wickedness:
but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.**

Proverbs 12:3

Greetings to the House of God Church-at-large, wherever it is established. It is that sacred time of the year when the voice of the Lord is heard saying, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1-7).

We also hear that speaking voice asking, "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6)

*What is the significance of the number 40? Forty occurs 140 times in various biblical contexts. It's an oriental round number; it represents a considerable, but infinite, period of time, such as: divine judgment, tests, blessings, theological revelations, etc. Why 40 days? As we study the Bible, we discover 40 days is considered a sacred period of time and is often referred to in the Bible and other texts as the amount of time required for exacting change, etc. It is said that whenever God wanted to prepare someone for His service, **He took 40 days**, at other times forty years were required to complete God's work, as follows:*

- 1. When Israel was freed from slavery in Egypt, they wandered 40 years in the desert, this was believed to be a time of purification and preparation for entrance into the Promised Land. (Exodus 16:35; Joshua 5:6)*
- 2. Moses went up to Mount Sinai and spent 40 days and nights, where he received the Ten Commandments from God. By the time Moses came down from the mountain, the people were worshipping a false god made by the Israelites. (Exodus 32:6-8, 34:27)*
- 3. Moses returned to Mount Sinai for 40 more days and 40 more nights. He then received the second set of tablets, the Ten Commandments, as we know them now. Not one word did God change. (Exodus 34:1)*
- 4. David, a young Jewish boy, was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge. (I Samuel 17:16)*

5. *Elijah, the prophet, was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal. (1 Kings 19:8)*
6. *The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave them 40 days to repent for their wicked ways. (Jonah 3:4)*
7. *The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after His Resurrection. (Acts 1:3)*
8. *It is reported that the cells in the bloodstream are renewed every 40 days. (Medical Science)*

The question of the hour is, What do we expect to gain from this Forty Days' fast? We are expecting the Lord God to send forth the former and latter rain in the same season when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped . . . the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert" (Isaiah 35:5-6).

God chose to again touch and awaken us with His awesome work since the General Assembly when He reached and chose from among us another precious soul from the ranks of the bishopric. Bishop Willie Walker of Ridgeville, South Carolina, who presided over the West Coast Diocese of Florida, succumbed to the almighty call of God on Christmas morning. Let us close the ranks as we reach up to God in acceptance of all that He does, for He is a God without errors and a God without failures! As we join in praise for each soul that is added to the fold, let us continue to praise Him for the service rendered by each exemplary soul whom He placed in the Church that helped to carry us as far as God would allow. We yield in righteous praise to the ONE in total charge! For we know, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" Colossians 3:4).

As we go forward into the New Year, which is drawing closer to the Soon Coming of Christ, it is high time that we live as children of the Light, without apology, without shame, without compromise, so we may be blameless and innocent children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom we shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15).

Your humble servant,

Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher

Chief Overseer – Senior Bishop



LENTEN LESSONS



FORTY DAYS FAST

LENT

GOD IS CALLING YOUR NAME, WILL YOU ANSWER?

TEXT: Isaiah 43:1, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

During these forty days of fasting and praying, we shall explore seven identifiers of believers in Christ Jesus:

1. **I am God's sun of light**, not of darkness; therefore, as light I will know to possess my vessel in sanctification and honor (I Thessalonians 5:5).
2. **I am as Christ is!** He is the power of God unto salvation. In Him I share that power, I am able in Him to tear down the strongholds of sin; instead of kneeling down to temptation (II Corinthians 10:4-5).
3. **I am a worker together with God**, who plants His fear in us that we will not be drawn away from Him by the temptations of this world. I will fear no evil, for He is with me. It is said that the word "fear" appears 365 times in the Bible. Study each day to hear what the Lord is saying (Psalm 23).
4. **I am the branch of the tree**, dressed by God Himself and Christ is the vine. As such, I share His life, His power, His wisdom, knowledge and understanding; His health and abundant living (John 10:10, 15:1-5).
5. **I am in Christ and do have the same privilege He has** to "ask" God what "I will," according to His will and expect to receive it (I John 5:14-15).
6. **I am chosen and called by God** to show forth the riches of God deposited in me that people might see the true value of worshipping God in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
7. **I am called to serve, like the balm of Gilead, in this world.** For this cause, I have God's power to whisper the prayer of faith, by which evil spirits will flee when no one is pursuing them. I can believe and pray; the sick can be healed (Jeremiah 8:22).

CONCLUSION: "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Hebrews 10:31). We are to remember the former days of compassion and forgiveness, days of service and afflictions, times of refreshing and reproaches, for all souls are precious to God.

THE LORD'S MIRACULOUS HEALING YET HAPPENS TODAY

TEXT: Isaiah 58:8, Thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward [reward].

As we approach the end-time and Soon Coming of Christ, when there seems to be more people suffering from sickness and disease than ever before. As we observe times of illness, sickness and disease, we discover that both physicians and patients alike are highly concerned and overwhelmed by a personal health crisis with no seemly answer in sight.

The Bible speaks often of miraculous healing through the work of Jesus Christ and faith in God. Our LORD is able to provide both physical and spiritual healing and wants to do that for you!

When you are overwhelmed with health problems, bad news, or relationship struggles, the Word of God can be your source of supernatural help. Don't give up! God promises greater things in store with a future filled with promise and hope! This collection of Scriptures on healing will provide encouragement, strength, and comfort as you focus on God's healing power.

It is evidenced through both the Old Testament and New Testament Scripture that God does have the power to heal our physical bodies. Miraculous healings still happen today! Use the following Bible verses to talk to God about your pain and to fill your heart with hope.

It is written:

1. "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou *art* my praise" (Jeremiah 17:14).
2. "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 have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14-15).
3. "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).
4. "Serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee" (Exodus 23:25).
5. "Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).

CONCLUSION: Have the faith of God; doubt nothing; pray in Jesus' name; believe, trust and be healed. It is written: "I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19-20).

SEASONED SAINTS: GRACEFULLY GOING ON TO PERFECTION

TEXT: Isaiah 43:1, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. As we study the lesson for today, we discover that God is not like man! God is faithful, true and upright. He does not take those who have labored untiringly in His vineyard and put them in a retirement home where they feel unloved, unwanted or a castaway. For in the kingdom of God, there is no retirement.

God the Creator is from everlasting to everlasting and is always working. In relation to those we called seasoned citizen, the Lord is yet saying, "They shall bring forth fruit in old age" From this we can see that man's purpose in life is to glorify God by accomplishing the work He has called us to do. Like Jesus, we must work the works of Him that sent us, "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

To all seasoned saints who are aging in good health, we say to you, "You do not have to quit living until the Lord says, 'That is enough!'" Look around and you will see that there is plenty of work to be done, just laying there waiting for someone to do it. Remember, if your situation looks hopeless, the Lord is always near and waiting to do the impossible. Through the experiences of the aged, those life lessons serve as teaching patterns (Titus 2:2-7).

Always remember that the Lord equips men and women for various tasks, but all lead to the same goal, which is honoring and glorifying God. Each has a role that carries exclusive privileges capable of eliminating any inferior or superior attitudes. Study Romans 12:3 and II Corinthians 12:5-7.

CONCLUSION: "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him" (Psalm 92:14-15).

GOD'S HOLY CALL TO REPENTANCE

TEXT: Mark 1:2-4, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of **repentance** for the remission of sins.

Repentance, from ages past, has been called many things by many people who profess to have repented, while yet living in sin. **Repentance** is more than confession with the mouth or feeling guilty or sorrow for sins committed. God sent Jesus into the world that He might destroy the works of Satan. Unless sinful hearts are renewed by the workings of the Holy Ghost, sin and evil are destined to return. Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

A counterfeit **repentance** allows sinners to be convicted but not converted; many try to bargain with God while in trouble and forget their vow when things get better. We preach and do firmly believe that godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. It is written: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

We believe that the Baptism of **Repentance** causes one to have righteous anger against sin.

FOLLOWING ARE FOUR BIBLICAL CHARACTERS THAT CONFESSED WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT WERE NOT CONVERTED TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD:

1. **Pharaoh confessed his sin out of frustration and desperation.** No sooner than the crises calmed, he sinned again. (Read Exodus 14:1-13.)
2. **Achan confessed his sins after he was caught** in the act and had no other recourse (Read Joshua 7:1-26).
3. **Balaam confessed his sins when he saw God's angel** opposing his attempt to curse the children of Israel (Read Numbers 22:21-35).
4. **Judas confessed his sin out of remorse** (Read Matthew 27:1-10).

CONCLUSION: According to the Bible, **repentant** sinners must turn from sin and other wrong doings, which brings on the curse of sin and death. People are fooling themselves when they think they can live in sin and die in Christ. It is written: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

REPENTANCE: A NEW MIND ABOUT GOD

TEXT: II Peter 3:9, The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Repent in the New Testament means "to change one's way of life as the result of a complete change of thought and attitude with regard to sin and righteousness." A person who repents realizes that he or she has been sinning, breaking God's holy and beneficial law and that he or she needs to change.

I. The Meaning of Repentance

1. It means to change the mind – Matthew 12:41
2. It means to turn to God from evil – Acts 26:18; I Thessalonians 1:9
3. It means to confess sin – Luke 15:21; Psalm 38:18

II. The Importance of Repentance

1. It was the message of John the Baptist – Matthew 3:1-10
2. It was the message of our Lord – Matthew 4:17; Revelation 2:3
3. It was the message of the Apostle Paul – Acts 17:30, 26:19-20

III. The Necessity of Repentance

1. It is the direct command of God – Acts 17:30
2. It is necessary to receive God's forgiveness – Acts 3:19
3. It is the only way to escape destruction – Jonah 3:4, 10

IV. The Place Where Repentance Can Occur

1. Joseph's brethren repented in Egypt – Genesis 50:17-18
2. Jonah repented in the whale's belly – Jonah 2:1-10
3. The Publican repented in the temple – Luke 18:13

V. The Danger of Neglecting Repentance

1. Those who don't repent ensnare themselves – Psalm 91:6
2. Those who don't repent will perish – Luke 13:3, 5
3. Those who don't repent will be judged accordingly – John 12:48

VI. The Effect of Repentance

1. It brings pardon – Isaiah 55:7
2. It brings forgiveness – Acts 3:19
3. It brings heavenly joy – Luke 15:7, 10

CONCLUSION: Remember, David repented when he was rebuked by Nathan. It is written: "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." (Read II Samuel 12th chapter.)

THE MIRACULOUS POWER OF PRAYER

TEXT: Revelation 8:2-4, And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the **prayers** of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the **prayers** of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

The **prayer** of faith is the miracle working power that binds Satan, undo heavy burdens of all kinds, relieves the oppressed, heals the sick and afflicted, gives power to the faint, gives wisdom and understanding of how to get what is needed spiritually, naturally and financially.

Prayer offers a powerful effect on our well-being. It can give us profound peace, courage and attracts healthy thoughts and ideas. It is written: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:2-4).

PRAYER IS GOD'S INSTRUMENT THAT RELEASES AND PUTS GOD'S SPIRIT AND BLESSINGS IN ACTION:

1. **God inspires men to pray.** It is written: "And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).
2. **God Almighty has bound Himself to the church's prayers to give the saints newfound victories daily.** Is it not written? "*It is of* the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).
3. **When Elijah prayed, God held back rain on earth for 3½ years.** It is written: "And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (I Kings 17:1).
4. **Prayer is God's capital stock by which He carries on His great work upon the earth.** It is written: "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words" (Daniel 10:12).
5. **Faith is the positive contact through prayer that releases God's blessings.** It is written: "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).
6. **The readiness of God to help His people in time of need.** It is written: "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "Is any among you afflicted? let him **pray**. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 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 have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:13-15).

**PRAYER WARRIORS:
APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH HOLY BOLDNESS**

TEXT: Hebrews 4:16, Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We are living in the middle of a spiritual war zone. God's people are in a battle against the enemy of our souls who desires to kill and destroy us. God is calling His people to engage in spiritual warfare with the confidence that it is God's power working in us greater than any evil working against us.

As prayer warriors, we must pray without ceasing. That means do not stop! Keep going! We must come boldly to the Throne of Grace for what we need. Is it not written: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake...See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:12-18).

AS PRAYER WARRIORS APPROACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH HOLY BOLDNESS, WE MUST:

1. **Pray in the name of Jesus.** It is written: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*" (John 14:13-14).
2. **Stay alert with perseverance.** It is written: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." (Read Ephesians 6:10-18.)
3. **Pray in the Spirit.** It is written: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 20-21).
4. **Meditate in God's Word day and night.** It is written: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8).
5. **Study to show ourselves approved unto God.** It is written: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (II Timothy 2:15-16).
6. **Resist Satan.** It is written: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Peter 5:8-9).
7. **Be constant in prayer.** It is written: "*Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer" (Romans 12:10-12).

CONCLUSION: Our Lord has given His people the weapon of prayer to fight and overcome evil through the Holy Ghost. It is written: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

THE ORGANIZED CHURCH EVANGELISM

In this church not all ministries are identical, though equally important. They are distributed, and then given the job to work within "that **one** and **selfsame Spirit**, dividing to every man severally as he will" (I Corinthians 12:11). It is also written: "He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-16).

1. Christ's command to the Universal Church is to "go into all the world and preach the gospel." Though the order of the church is one, the callings, gifts and ministries are various and many.
2. All members are called to be witnesses for the Lord. Some can serve as members of the canvassing committee, youth, and evangelism for Sunday Bible School prospects, etc.
3. Lay members-in-training, as soul winning, are not going out as preachers, but as persuaders. They are to bear the invitation to those whom God has made ready to respond. The pastors and missionaries are to follow and work with the prospects, leading them to a deeper faith in Christ. If they carry out this task, the harvest will not die in the field.
4. Lay members can be trained to visit the sick and shut-in, teaching them to read the Bible and showing them how to have faith in God for healing.
5. The great objective of the church should be the same as that of Christ, "To seek and to save that which is lost." One point, which should strongly be taught, is that all activities are subservient to the church's structure, not to a single group within the church.
6. Musicians of the church can also work as evangelistic helpers on the field, as well as the choir and other organized auxiliaries.
7. Mission workers are to work under the supervision of an ordained pastor while they are going through the school of experience. (Read Decree pages 52-53.)
8. The pastor should have an approved questionnaire, itemizing the jobs and positions, with space provide for indicating the position and experiences the member may feel that the Holy Ghost is calling him to perform.

CONCLUSION: Witnessing means more than speaking. Be the example of Christ to others, including with strangers. You may be the only person who is welcoming and respectful. Don't try to speak eloquently! Speak from your heart and show empathy. Actions carried out through love will send a stronger message than finding the right words. "**If any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature:** old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:17-18).

THE UNCHANGING GOSPEL FOR MODERN DAY EVANGELISM

TEXT: Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We are living in a rapidly changing and complex world. As true believers, working together with Christ, we have been given a divine mandate, which is to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

It is a sad reality today that many churches are simply not reaching many people for Christ. No, it's not all about numbers. The phrase "go into all the world," embraces every Christian's personal world, which takes all put together to cover the whole face of the earth. It is most important for the church to help each member to discover their gift(s) and develop them for the Master's use.

The great objective of the church should be the same as that of Christ, "To seek and to save that which is lost." One point that should strongly be taught is, all activities are subservient to the church's structure. No single group within the church should operate as though it is independent of the organization. Each person and every group are part of the body of Christ and should display cooperation in a united program which witnesses to the "oneness" that is found in Christ Jesus.

HOW CAN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST MEET THE CHALLENGES OF FAINTING SOULS AND RAGING SEAS?

1. If the gospel of Jesus Christ is to save the world from the curse of sin and death, ambassadors of Christ must possess a living faith that allows God's power and authority to flow through them, until they become energized, moved and aflame for God (See Isaiah 30:4, 33:7; II Corinthians 5:20).
2. God has privileged His people, in Christ Jesus, to live above the limited plane of this world. He has empowered them with this authority and power to perfect on earth that which Christ purchased with His shed blood on Calvary's Cross. (Refer to II Chronicles 24:13; II Corinthians 10:3-6.)
3. God has given His witnesses power over Satan and all of Satan's evil works. It is written: We are more than conquerors through Christ that loved [saved] us" (Romans 8:37).
4. God's spiritual power in true believers is a mighty force, a power that is stronger than the mightiest weapons ever designed. (Study Hebrews 4:12; Zechariah 12:1-14.)

CONCLUSION: When sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, let us go in the strength and might of God's power. Fear not, for it is written: "Lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world" (Matthew 20:18).

COMPASSION ON THE IGNORANT

TEXT: Hebrews 5:2-4, Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron.

It has been said by the end of this generation that there will be millions of humans, who will have passed into eternity without having ever so much as heard of Christ's glory or redeeming work. How much of God's Words and blessings have you interspersed by word, deed or life choices with the 'ignorance that exists within this world'?

HOW CAN WE, GOD'S PEOPLE, HAVE COMPASSION ON SOULS THAT DO NOT KNOW GOD:

1. **Like Christ, we shall go forth showing the compassion of God in words, grace, truth and acts of kindness.** It is written: "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 22-23).
2. **We must have compassion for the lost that will constrain us to plead with God on behalf of lost souls, as did Moses.** It is written: "I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger" (Deuteronomy 9:18).
3. **We must not live a questionable lifestyle, but a life that's pleasing to our heavenly Father.** It is written: "Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, *Who is* on the LORD's side? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him" (Exodus 32:26).

CONCLUSION: We have been entrusted with the Word of Reconciliation - The world needs to know that God was in Christ over 2000 years ago, reconciling the world unto Himself. He is no longer counting their sins against them but blotting them out, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is written: "If any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the **ministry of reconciliation**; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the **word of reconciliation**" (II Corinthians 5:17-19).

THE DEvised PLAN OF GOD

TEXT: Isaiah 46:9-10, Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

The unfolding of God's Eternal Plan for His creation is not done all at once. It is written: "The earth bringeth forth fruit of itself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:26-29).

One day the earth will be made brand new as the Garden of Eden. For this to be done, the Redemptive Plan of Salvation must be done, as follows:

1. Restore all things new – Acts 3:21; Revelation 21:5
2. Finish transgression – Daniel 9:24
3. Make an end to sin by purging mankind from all possibilities of sin or rebellion – Revelation 21:3-8
4. Completely remove forever the curse of sin, disease, pain, poverty and death – Galatians 3:13-14
5. Assign all rebels into Hell – Revelation 20:11-15
6. Place the earth back into the hands of God by Christ the Redeemer – I Corinthians 15:24-28; Acts 3:21

THE OVERCOMING BRIDE

1. She is now being washed and made clean for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Ephesians 5:26-28, 30).
2. In the Book of Revelation, she is seen arrayed in fine white linen, and made ready for the Marriage Supper (Psalm 45:13-15; Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:7).
3. She is standing before the throne of God holy and faultless, adorned as a bride for her husband (Revelation 21:2).
4. She is granted to sit with the Bridegroom in His throne (Revelation 3:21).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "This *is* the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this *is* the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" (Isaiah 14:26-27)

EVIDENCING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

God is giving us a threefold message today: (1) Healing is for all; (2) He provides proof as to why we should believe; and (3) He directs us through His Word in how to continue the work He has assigned us to do.

God can do the impossible. He can do anything but fail. Let us consider the following reasons why God can do the impossible:

1. God's Word is tried and found to be infallible – I Kings 8:15-16
2. Assured by divine ability – Romans 4:21
3. Grounded in Christ – II Corinthians 7:1
4. Unlimited value – II Peter 1:4
5. Culminates in everlasting life – I John 2:25
6. Infallible deliverance – Psalm 34:19-20
7. Divine care in sickness – Psalm 41:3, 50:15, 94:12, 138:7
8. God's everlasting presence – Isaiah 43:2
9. All things work for the believer's good – Romans 8:28
10. Sufficiency of divine grace – II Corinthians 12:9
11. Bodily supplies – Psalm 37:3
12. Unlimited blessings – Mark 10:21
13. Answers to prayers – Mark 11:24
14. Removal of obstacles – Luke 17:6
15. Divine Sonship – John 1:12
16. Eternal life – John 3:14
17. Spiritual fullness – John 6:35
18. Spiritual light – John 12:46
19. Power for service – John 14:12
20. Salvation – Romans 1:16
21. An eternal home – John 14:1-2

CONCLUSION: It is written: "Jesus behold *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things all possible" (Matthew 19:26).

THE UNIQUE SEED: THE WORD OF GOD

TEXT: John 15:7, If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

What would happen if you planted a seed in your garden and then dug it up each morning to see if anything was happening? It would die and never produce fruit. You have to have faith that the seed is doing what God created it to do. Some people put God's Word in their hearts for a day or two, but if they don't see fruit almost immediately, they dig up the seed through their words and actions, and wonder why it didn't work! You have to leave it in the ground over time.

WHAT HAPPENS TO BELIEVERS WHEN THEY ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO TAKE ROOT IN THEIR HEARTS?

1. **Believers are Born of the Word** – It is written: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Peter 1:22-23).
2. **Believers Grow by the Word** – It is written: "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious" (I Peter 2:1-3).
3. **Believers are Cleansed by the Word** – It is written: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:1-3).
4. **Believers are Sanctified by the Word** – It is written: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).
5. **Believers are Perfected by the Word** – It is written: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-4).
6. **Believers are Edified by the Word** – It is written: "Now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).
7. **Believers are Satisfied by the Word** – It is written: "I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, *sweeter* than honey to my mouth" (Psalm 119:102-103).
8. **Believers are Illuminated by the Word** – It is written: "Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

CONCLUSION: We are Converted by the Word of God. It is written: "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed *art* thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes" (Psalm 119:10-12).

JESUS' MANUAL OF PROCEDURE FOR ETERNAL SUCCESS

TEXT: Isaiah 58:6, *Is not this the fast I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?*

Christ, in calling His disciples, said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. As ye go preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely you have received, freely give" (Mark 16:15; Matthew 10:1-8).

WHAT WAS JESUS REALLY SAYING TO MEMBERS OF THE EARLY CHURCH?**It is written:**

1. "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).
2. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).
3. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*" (John 14:13-14).
4. "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:16-18).
5. "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).
6. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

CONCLUSION: Following the Resurrection, Jesus came unto His disciples and said to them, "Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained" (John 20:21-23).

THE SALVATIONAL NAMES OF JESUS

TEXT: Acts 4:11-12, This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The name of Jesus has so much power. For too long we have underestimated the majestic power in the wonderful name of Jesus! We must be mindful not to neglect the name of Jesus. Say it after each prayer; and say it in praise and worship. It is written: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

The name of Jesus gives us the access we need to God the Father. It is written: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Jesus is the door we must enter for access to the Kingdom of God. It is written: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).

OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, IS KNOWN BY A VARIETY OF NAMES AND TITLES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. Redeemer

1. Christ has purchased the sinner in the marketplace (Galatians 3:10).
2. In paying the price for our redemption, Christ bought us out of the marketplace of sin (Galatians 3:13).
3. In redeeming us, Christ set us free, liberating us from sin (Galatians 4:5).

B. Savior

1. We have been saved from the guilt and the penalty of sin (Psalm 145:20)
2. We are being saved from the habit and dominion of sin (II Corinthians 5:10).
3. We shall be saved from the infirmities and curse of sin (Acts 3:19).

C. The Lamb of God

1. Under the law, God required the sacrifice of a lamb for sin (Leviticus 4:32).
2. In keeping with the terms of His law, God provided His perfect Lamb as the ultimate sacrifice for sin (John 1:29, 15:13).

D. Propitiation

1. As our Propitiation, Jesus is the basis of our salvation (Luke 18:13).
2. Because God loved us in this way, we should also love one another (I John 4:10-11).

E. The Last Adam

1. Adam, by disobedience, plunged this world into the slavery of sin (Romans 5:19a).
2. Jesus, by obedience, brought this world back to Himself (Romans 5:19b).

F. The Author of Eternal Salvation

1. Jesus is the cause of our salvation, but He is also salvation itself (Romans 5:9).
2. As the pioneer of our faith, Jesus leads us into our salvation (Hebrews 5:9).

CONCLUSION: Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and people. It is written: "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (I Timothy 2:4-6).

THE BATTLE OF THE AGES USHERING IN THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The 6000 years of war on planet earth began in the heavenlies when Lucifer (God's Angel of Perfection), the Son of the Morning, the Day Star, the Anointed Cherub), walked upon God's holy mountain proclaiming, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14; study Ezekiel 28:12-15).

It is written:

1. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon...and...his angels, And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, which deceiveth the whole world" (Revelation 12:1-9).
2. "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).
3. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).
4. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26).
5. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:10).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:2-3).

THE BRIDE, PREPARING FOR THE THRONE

TEXT: Psalm 103:19, The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Preparing is a word used to express planning or training. It signifies expectation and anticipation, or actions made to achieve readiness beforehand for a specific purpose. In this lesson, the word 'preparing' refers to God's standard required of the church, the Bride, the Lamb's Wife, while being prior perfected for her ascension to the throne.

Following are God's divine standard by which believers are sanctified and prepared for the high pursuit of eternal life and heirs to the throne:

1. Preparing for the throne takes place in this life through spiritual warfare in overcoming the evil forces of Satan. Preparing means enforcing God's will on earth, as it is in heaven. Through faith and the gift of prayer is given to the saints by God (Matthew 18:18; Luke 10:17-19). Preparing signifies the believer is empowered by God to take full authority over all the evil works of Satan, to cast out demons, to heal all manner of sickness and disease, to break every yoke, to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free (Isaiah 58:6).
2. Preparing is the art of learning, through the prayer of faith, how to bind on earth the things that are already bound in heaven (Matthew 16:19).
3. Preparing actually means the believer putting these gospel words into action: liberty, comfort, beauty and joy. These words do more than arrest sin and problems; instead, they embrace the cure for every human need known among men (Luke 4:18-19).
4. Preparing means preaching the gospel of liberty, which liberates from the chain of sin. It comforts the broken hearted. Gives beauty in exchange for agony, grief, and sorrow. Joy is God's gift of exchange for mourning. The garment of praise destroys the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:1).
5. Preparing means offering the sacrifice of praise; the believer accepts the position that nothing but good can come to the child of God, no matter how evil trials may seem. Knowing that all things, including apparent evil, are working for our good (Romans 8:28).
6. Preparing means by virtue of the believer's oneness with Christ, faith, and the weapon of prayer, that the church holds the balance of world power. The realization is that all Christ had won on Calvary is accredited to the account of the church (Isaiah 54:17).

CONCLUSION: Preparing means the believer enforcing the victory won by Christ on Calvary, while awaiting His return. It also means making the gospel that is preached a reality (Matthew 18:18; Luke 10:17-19).

GOD'S PURCHASED POSSESSION: GOD'S HANDPICKED SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Who are we? We are somebody special in the eyes of God. We are God's handpicked sons and daughters. We were in the mind of God countless ages ago, even before the foundation of the world. God choose us to be holy, to be His adopted sons and daughters.

Why are we on this earth? According to the Bible, we are one of God's chosen children, we are left on this earth to show forth the praises of God who has called us out of darkness into the marvelous light. (Read I Peter 2:9.)

Why is it necessary for God's handpicked sons and daughters to choose a certain lifestyle? We are potential heirs to the throne and citizens of the Kingdom of God. It is written: "Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (Revelation 1:6-7)

What is required of God's handpicked children?

1. They are ordered by God, their heavenly Father, to take a stand for Jesus, in spite of peer-pressure or criticism. God's chosen children are to surrender their whole spirit, soul and body unto God.
2. They are to serve as the salt of the earth and light to this dark world. It is impossible to do this when walking side-by-side with the world.
3. They are to be obedient to God's Word and know who and whose they are.
4. They should not allow the world or worldly peers to direct their decisions, neither be pressured by what's in or who is doing the pressuring.

What does God's Word say about His people doing the same thing as the world?

1. "**Be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).
2. "**Love not the world,** neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:15-16).
3. "**Enter ye in at the strait gate:** for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).
4. "**And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy,** and between unclean and clean" (Leviticus 10:10).
5. "**Whether therefore ye eat,** or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31).

CONCLUSION: "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith" (I John 5:4).

GLORIFIED VICTORY THROUGH COMBAT FAITH OVER UNBELIEF

TEXT: Deuteronomy 20:1, When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, *and* a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

The greatest honor that can be offered to God is that of believing and trusting His Word and promises of deliverances against all odds of difficulties and unbelief.

FOLLOWING ARE BIBLICAL GUIDELINES THAT SHOULD BE PRACTICED BY BELIEVERS IN MAINTAINING COMBAT FAITH AND GLORIOUS VICTORY OVER UNBELIEF:

1. **What to do when unbelief whispers that God's promises are too good to be true.** It is written: "For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:8-11).
2. **What to do while enduring pains of life and the many crises that come along with it.** It is written: "Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3-4).
3. **When in need, study the promises of God.** Claim the promises; wait patiently on the LORD and He will bring your request to a reality (Isaiah 40:28-31).
4. **What to do when deliverance seems delayed.** It is written: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*" (I Peter 5:8-10).
5. **What to do for divine protection in an unsecured society.** It is written: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty....A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee....There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.... Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name" (Psalm 91:1, 7, 10-11, 14). It is also written, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; *Selah* Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel" (Psalm 20:1-4).

GOD'S HOUSE: SHAKEN BY SLANDER

The word 'slander' means to use the tongue to defame, rouse, scandalize, belittle or blacken the character of another. It is written: "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer" (Psalm 101:5).

It is also written: "Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest *judgment*" (Exodus 23:1-2).

Type of People Who Slander

1. Wicked – Psalm 50:16-20
2. Hypocrites – Proverbs 11:9
3. Accusers – Revelation 12:10
4. Deceivers – Psalm 52:4
5. Fools – Proverbs 10:16
6. Backsliders – Romans 1:29-32
7. Self-willed – II Peter 2:10

Results of Slander

1. Separates friends – Proverbs 16:28, 17:9
2. Causes deadly wounds – Proverbs 16:8, 26:22
3. Causes strife – Proverbs 26:20
4. Causes discord among brethren – Proverbs 6:19
5. Causes anger – Proverbs 25:23
6. Can cause murder – Psalm 31:13; Ezekiel 22:9

Six Examples of Slander in the Bible

1. Potiphar's Wife – Genesis 39:14-18
2. Ziba – II Samuel 16:3, 19:24-30
3. David's enemies – Psalm 31:13, 35:21
4. Jezebel – I Kings 21:9-14
5. Jeremiah's enemies – Jeremiah 18:18
6. Jesus' enemies – Matthew 11:19

Punishment for slander

1. Psalm 101:5
2. Romans 1:29-32
3. Revelation 21:8

CONCLUSION: It is written: "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh 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? As it is written, "For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:31-37).

THE HOLY GHOST POWER: URGENTLY NEEDED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

TEXT: Acts 13:2-3, As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away. So they, being sent forth by the **Holy Ghost**, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

Much of what is called Christianity today to many is no more than humanistic religion, self-entertainment and/or self-glorification. These religious groups "have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof." It is said where there is no rain, there will be no harvest. As we approach the latter rain revival, there will be no more dry seasons of dead religions, for this will be swept away in a cloud of glory. It is written: "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month" (Joel 2:23).

We are living in a time when the true Church of the Living God will become the revolutionary church, rebelling against all false religions, and overcoming the enemy. "So will it be in times to come with the generations of the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth...when vain men shall come in to change the true faith and doctrines, rules and decrees of the church to suit their own greedy, vain and ravenous ideas and imaginations. At that time these rules and decrees will be held in the esteem of the just, righteous and meek of the church, as most precious, sacred principles, even after the wolves and ravenous persons have made them to appear ignorant, out-of-date and improper" (Decree page 31).

The Holy Spirit Wake-Up Call to the Sleeping Bride – It is written: "Now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*" (Romans 13:11-14).

Holy Ghost Believers and Their Identity – It is written: "Ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Which in time past were not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (I Peter 2:9-10).

The Holy Spirit Reveals the True Identity of False Prophets – It is written: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:15-20).

CONCLUSION: The Holy Ghost in Man and the Message of God Are One – It is written: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

**GUIDELINES ON TARRYING FOR THE HOLY GHOST
ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE AND CHURCH DECREE**

Before teaching the ungodly to tarry for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the church must follow the pattern of Christ, His disciples, and the Early Church. Saints today, as in ages past, must obey the mandate of Christ given over two-thousand years ago to: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20). It is also written: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20).

GUIDELINES ON TARRYING WITH SEEKERS FOR THE HOLY GHOST:

1. Before teaching sinners to tarry for the Holy Ghost and fire, get them to recognize that they are lost sinners with no hope, and no god to stand on their side in the Day of Judgment. Everyone in that day will have to give an account to God for deeds done in this life (Decree, page 54, number 14).
2. Teach sinners the sacrificial price paid through Christ to redeem them back to God from the curse of sin and death (Decree, page 54, number 14).
3. In seeking for the Holy Ghost, first, allow the seeker time to pray and work out his own soul salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12-13; John 6:27, 29; Hebrews 4:11; II Peter 1:10; Decree page 54, number 14).
4. Teach them to be godly sorry for their sins, and that godly sorrow worketh repentance (Matthew 5:23-24; Luke 15:21, 18:13; Acts 26:28; II Corinthians 7:10-11; James 5:16).
5. Use touching words to get the seeker's heart primed with sorrow for their sins. Show them how Christ suffered, bled and died on the cross to save them from sin, death and Hell (Decree page 54, number 14).
6. The great founder, Mother M. L. Tate, of this church left these sacred words on record saying, "When you see and feel that the seekers have become sorry for sins; really ready to lay them down at the feet of Jesus to take them up no more; then and not before should you teach the seekers to say Hallelujah, or Jesus, Jesus, or Glory, Glory; in order to gain the presence of the Holy Ghost (Decree page 54, number 14).
7. Do not try to makeup tongues of your own design or at all for the seekers, remembering that the Holy Ghost will bring the power and tongues forcible enough when He comes (Decree, page 54, number 14).
8. Remember, undesirable odors of any kind will take the mind of the seekers from off the Holy Ghost, who they are seeking (Decree, page 55, number 19).
9. Do not confuse the seeker by having too many laboring with the seeker at the same time (Decree, page 55, number 20).

CONCLUSION: In order for new babes in Christ to be strong in the Lord, they should study the Word of God daily. They should be taught to pray as well, and taught the rules and laws of this church.

SIN DESTROYS THE SINNER

TEXT: Proverbs 14:12-14, There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth *is* heaviness. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be *satisfied* from himself.

As we study the text, we find that sin in the smallest degree is dangerous because it damages and destroys the relationship with God, the very person that makes life worth living. It is written: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It is also written: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

In Proverbs 14:1 we read, "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish pulls it down with her hands." This is not done willfully, but the house collapses as a consequence of sin which boomerangs. The individual who wants to enjoy the one moment of foolish pleasure, outside of marriage, destroys the soul. The intention is not to destroy the soul, but to have what seems to be a moment of innocent pleasure. Sin, like a boomerang, returns and harms the sinner. Is it not written? "Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul" (Proverbs 6:32).

People should not accuse God of causing them to sin, which He cannot do. Everyone is tempted of their own desire which draws them away and traps them. When this happens, their desire become impregnated and gives birth to sin; when sin matures it gives birth to death (Refer to James 1:13-15). Sin is a boomerang and will destroy the sinner!

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF SIN ON THE SINNER?**It is written:**

1. **"Your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).
2. **"If ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD**: and be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).
3. **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin** is the servant of sin" (John 8:34).
4. **"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body**, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:12-13).
5. **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

CONCLUSION: "Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that 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 to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:8-9).

BEWARE OF UNGODLY APPEARANCES

TEXT: I Thessalonians 5:21-22, Abstain from all appearance of evil.

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage believers to shun all appearance of evil. When we disobey God's Commandments, we are destined to suffer the consequences thereof. As we study the word "appearance," it signifies that which is seen, an image or arriving. It can conceal deception, hypocrisy, rottenness, rebellion, falsehood and selfish glory. It is written: "Hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

FOLLOWING, WE SHALL EXPLORE FIVE COSTLY CONSEQUENCES FOR REFUSING TO ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL:

1. **Misunderstood** – Joshua, one of the outstanding leaders in Old Testament times, allowed himself to be tricked into a wrong decision that had serious implications for his people. He fell into failure because he went by mere outward appearance. Joshua neglected to ask for God's guidance. When we assume that we know what God wants us to do, we open ourselves to be deceived. (Study Joshua 9:1-14, 22.)
2. **Miscommunication** can cause conflict among even the closest of friends. The only cure is to be a good listener. It is written: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19). Good listeners use eyes and hearts, as well as ears. They listen for what is not spoken, they confirm, encourage, probe, and, when appropriate, they speak the truth in love. (Study I Samuel 1:12-16.)
3. **Misleading** – Paul, in the New Testament, reminded the Christians that their fight was against the devil and His work and not against one another. When we fight our sisters and brothers in the Lord, we must remember that we are the victims and Satan is the victor. (Study II Corinthians 10:7-11.)
4. **Misjudged** – Jesus commands us to "judge with righteous judgment." The Jews who were watching and listening to Him had judged that Jesus had a demon! This is surely one of the most misguided judgments ever made. Why? Because they were judging by contrary standards. (Study John 7:21-24.)
5. **Misinterpreted** – "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." (Study Matthew 11:16-19.)

CONCLUSION: The warnings from God are sure, and proof of hearing is obedience. Apostle Paul, in II Corinthians 13:5-9, urged the church toward perfection by teaching, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, *even* your perfection."

SECRET SINS EXPOSED

TEXT: Luke 6:45, A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

There is no such thing as hidden sin. Trying to hide sin from God is like running from your shadow; you can never get away! You can't run away from God because He knows everything. Your family and friends might not know about your secret sin, but God knows. Is it not written? "The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).

FOLLOWING, WE SHALL EXPLORE EVIL THINGS HIDDEN IN THE DARKEST CORNER OF MAN'S HEART:

1. **Genesis 6:3-6**, And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
2. **Matthew 15:19-20**, For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.
3. **Jeremiah 17:9-10**, The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.
4. **Proverbs 28:13**, He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.
5. **Zephaniah 1:12**, And it shall come to pass at that time, *that* I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

CONCLUSION: We can try to conceal our sins, we can try to keep our sins secret, believing that if they are secret, they do not exist, and we can try to make excuses. The fact remains, we are all subject to sin and we all have a choice to walk in it or not. Is it not written? "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are* ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:8-9).

THE GREEDY ROOT OF SIN

TEXT: Amos 8:6, That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

We are living in a post-industrial global society, where information is said to be the new wealth and people are the new products. Our time reminds us of the days of Amos, when man (created in God's image and likeness), was valued no more than a pair of shoes. It is written: "Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell the refuse of the wheat?" (Amos 8:4-6)

LET US NOW EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES WHICH WILL REVEAL THAT WE ARE NOW SHARING THE SPIRIT OF GREED THAT EXISTED IN THE DAYS OF AMOS:

1. Carnal-minded believers, selling out to the world – **Romans 7:14**
2. Sons and daughters sold to work evil in the sight of the Lord – **II Kings 17:16**
3. Some are selling themselves for nothing – **Isaiah 52:3**
4. A boy was sold and is yet being sold for an harlot – **Joel 3:3b**
5. A girl was sold and is yet being sold for wine, etc. – **Joel 3:3c**
6. The poor were and are yet being sold for silver – **Amos 8:6**

CONCLUSION: As we bring this lesson to a close, we pray that God will protect us from becoming carnal-minded Christians who, like Israel in the days of old, offered their children on the altar of idol gods, who also sold a son for an harlot, and a daughter for wine. Let us be careful and not sell our sons and daughters to the counterfeit gods (greed) of this world. Amen.

THE ACCEPTABLE BLOOD AND DEATH SENTENCE SINS

TEXT: Jeremiah 14:7-9, O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou *it* for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee. O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man *that* cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, *art* in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not.

All who continue in sin should realize that a time might come when God refuses to hear their prayers and send the judgment they deserve. It is written: "Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins. Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for *their* good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence" (Jeremiah 14:10-12).

FORMER BELIEVERS WHO BACKSLIDE CAN COMMIT THE SIN UNTO DEATH. THE CHURCH AT THIS POINT CANNOT PRAY WITH ASSURANCE THAT GOD WILL GIVE GRACE AND MERCY FOR SINS DONE WILLFULLY:

1. Rebellious and stubborn ones who refused to obey their parents were given a death sentence (Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21).
2. The man who raped an innocent virgin was given a death sentence (Deuteronomy 22:23-27, Note vv. 25-27).
3. Children who cursed their parents were given a death sentence (Leviticus 20:9).
4. The man and woman who committed adultery were given a death sentence (Leviticus 20:10).
5. The man who laid with His father's wife, both were given the death sentence (Leviticus 20:11).
6. The man who committed sex with his daughter-in-law, both were given the death sentence (Leviticus 20:12).
7. If a man lay with his wife and her mother, they shall be put to death (Leviticus 20:14).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness" (Read Romans 1:25-30).

SATAN'S WRESTLING MATCH: CHALLENGING DAYS AHEAD

TEXT: Ephesians 6:12, For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

The word "wrestling" in the above Scripture text refers to a struggle. How do we battle against Satan's schemes? First, we need to understand what the Bible says about Satan's schemes against us. It is written: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Peter 5:8-9). It is also written: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

As people of God, we must contend for the faith. The Book of Jude reminds us that there is a time and a place for the aggressive protection of the truth from those who would seek to tear it down. Apostasy occurs when people reject God in their hearts and refuse to obey His Word. It is written: "For God is not the *author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (I Corinthians 14:33).

LET US REVIEW THE BOOK OF JUDE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LORD'S PEOPLE REJECT GOD AND REFUSE TO OBEY HIS WORD:

1. **Apostates are ungodly, twisters of God's grace and Christ deniers.** It is written: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Verse 4).
2. **Apostates are filthy dreamers, defile the flesh and despise authority.** It is written: "Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities" (Verse 8).
3. **Apostates are ignorant critics and corrupt themselves.** It is written: "These speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves" ((Verse 10).
4. **Apostates are faultfinders, complainers, arrogant to the core, and lying flatterers for personal gain.** It is written: "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" ((Verse 16).
5. **Apostates walk after their own ungodly lusts; they are sensual having not the Spirit.** It is written: "How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" ((Verses 18-19).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

SAINTS OF THE MOST-HIGH GOD: RESISTING THE DEVIL

TEXT: James 4:7-10, Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

We are at war! Satan the devil hates us and wants to destroy us. We must be aware of our enemy's weapons and tactics, because our spiritual life depends on it. Just because Satan has been around a long time does not mean he is either old or ineffective. Satan still has devices, and he uses them quite effectively.

NO MATTER WHAT DEVICES SATAN ATTEMPTS TO USE TO HINDER GOD'S PEOPLE, LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GOD'S WORD IS A LAMP UNTO OUR FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO OUR PATH (Psalm 119:105):

1. **Defeat/Disappointment** – It is written: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose" (Romans 8:28).
2. **Diseases** – It is written: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3).
3. **Discouragement** – It is written: "Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up *and* possess *it*, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged" (Deuteronomy 1:21).
4. **Distress** – It is written: "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?" (Romans 8:31)
5. **Debt** – It is written: "My God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).
6. **Destruction** – It is written: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly" (John 10:10).
7. **Desolation** – It is written: "None of them that trust in Him shall be desolate" (Psalm 34:22).
8. **Devouring** – It is written: "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith" (I Peter 5:8-9).
9. **Disappointment** – It is written: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to *his* purpose" (Romans 8:28).
10. **Dishonesty** – It is written: "We...have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty" (II Corinthians 4:1-2).
11. **Doubt** – It is written: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

CONCLUSION: It is written: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God" (Read I John 4:1-4).

WITH ALL THY GETTING, GET UNDERSTANDING

TEXT: Proverbs 4:7, Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

As we grow in the knowledge of the Word, we view the Bible in a different light. It no longer is just an ancient document, filled with ancient events. It becomes a living, breathing exposé of modern man and God's righteous judgment on those who violate His Word, His will, and His way. The Bible is God's way of revealing Himself to His creation man. God has chosen the Written Word as His means of informing man of His desires, so He can restore man to his created condition. God's desire is to bless His creation again, so we can walk in His presence and communicate with Him on a one-on-one basis. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul proclaimed, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (1:17).

TO LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING IS REALLY JUST ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING, WE NEED TO LIVE BY FAITH:

1. **Abraham was leaning *not on his own* understanding when he and Isaac were walking up the mountain to offer a sacrifice to the LORD.** It is written: "Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together." (Read Genesis 22:1-18, note vv. 7-8.)
2. **Daniel was leaning *not on his own* understanding when he was being led to the pit to spend the night with some hungry lions.** It is written: "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast *him* into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." (Read Daniel 6:1-28, note v. 16.)
3. **Stephen was leaning *not on his own* understanding when he was stoned to death for proclaiming Jesus as the Christ.** It is written: "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." (Read Acts 7:51-60, note vv. 54-55.)
4. **Joseph was leaning *not on his own* understanding** when he was thrown into a pit by his brothers. It is written: "And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive." (Read Genesis 37:20-27, 50:15-21, note vv. 19-21.)

CONCLUSION: God created you. He loves you. He knows you better than you know yourself. The fact that He is all-knowing gives Him the ability to see what lies ahead and because of this, He knows what we need in order to fully be the person He created us to be.

It is written: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not *to take thy* coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Read Genesis 50:26-35.)

GODLY QUALIFICATIONS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP

God has given leaders to the church to equip the saints for the Work of Ministry, building her up in the faith and knowledge of God. How does the Bible define spiritual leadership? What characteristics are essential in leading biblically?

FOLLOWING ARE GODLY QUALIFICATIONS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP:

1. **Spiritual leaders must be just and God-fearing** – It is written: “The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God” (II Samuel 23:3).
2. **Spiritual leaders must be truthful and refuse bribes** – It is written: “Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous” (Deuteronomy 16:19).
3. **Spiritual leaders must hate covetousness** – It is written: “Thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them, *to be* rulers of thousands, *and* rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens” (Exodus 18:21).
4. **Spiritual leaders must be wise and understanding** – It is written: “Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you” (Deuteronomy 1:13).
5. **Spiritual leaders must have love of justice and judgment** – It is written: “I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear *the causes* between your brethren, and judge righteously between *every* man and his brother, and the stranger *that is* with him” (Deuteronomy 1:16).
6. **Spiritual leaders must be without respect of persons** – It is written: “Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; *but* ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment *is* God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring *it* unto me, and I will hear it” (Deuteronomy 1:17).
7. **Spiritual leaders must be fearless** – It is written: “The LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land” (Joshua 8:1).
8. **Spiritual leaders must be conscientious** – It is written: “*Let us wait* on *our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Romans 12:7-9).
9. **Spiritual leaders must be strong and courageous** – It is written: “According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses” (Joshua 1:17).
10. **Spiritual leaders must be obedient to the law** – It is written: “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8).
11. **Spiritual leaders must have a good name** – It is written: “A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).

CONCLUSION: It is written: “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (I Timothy 4:15-16).

THE RELAXED CHURCH AND LIBERAL LEADERS

TEXT: Isaiah 32:8, But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

The relaxed church has become more concerned with prosperity than with sin. According to Scripture, sin is the root of all human problems and woes of life. The word "sin" today is swiftly disappearing from most sermons. More and more the lax church is attempting to explain the human dilemma in unbiblical terms such as: emotional behavior, irrational thinking, human weaknesses, temperament, addictions, dysfunctional family, etc.

According to the eternal and unchangeable Word of God, "sin is the transgression of the law." When the Bible speaks of the lust of the flesh, especially in Galatians 5:17, it is believed that it is referring to the sinful nature of man that was inherited from Adam, after he rebelled against the will of God. Sin therefore is not merely an act, but a state or condition.

A person cannot be a saint and a sinner simultaneously. Many liberal leaders are teaching that no one can live free from sin in this world. According to God's Word, sin affected the whole human nature (spirit, soul and body). Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulterers, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matthew 15:19). Read of God's threefold goal for your godly preservation in I Thessalonians 5:23.

Many liberal leaders are teaching against the Doctrine of God, which states, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). They contend that this type of teaching simply ruins one's self-esteem. It is written: "The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

David said, "I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). When Adam and Eve sinned, they became separated from the presence of God; they lost God's glory and could no longer appear in His presence, without asking for a sacrifice for sin. Today, as never before, the rise of age-old teachings of "victimism" dates back to the time when Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent for their downfall.

CONCLUSION: It is written: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

**WORSHIP WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS:
FILTHY RAGS TO THE LORD**

TEXT: Amos 5:21-23, We are living in a day when mankind has become lovers of themselves, rather than lovers of God. It is a day when many hold the truth in unrighteousness. It is a time when some who are professing themselves to be wise, have become fools. It is written: "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept *them*: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. Study Romans 1:18-23.

LET US REMEMBER THAT WHAT WE HEAR, KNOW AND BELIEVE CONCERNING GOD'S WORD DETERMINES WHAT WE DO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Like Abraham, we are empowered by the godhead to call those things be not as though they are. "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were" (Romans 4:17).
2. As workers together with the Godhead, we are empowered to do all things to be successful, to walk in victory over Satan and all his evil work. It is written: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).
3. The Godhead in us has broken and destroyed the yoke, such as: bondage, poverty, ill-health and adversities. It is written: "And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing" (Isaiah 10:27).
4. The Godhead in us transforming us into a people after his own heart, who will fulfill all His will. It is written: "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will" (Acts 13:22).
5. The Godhead in us is making us wise and knowledgeable of the demoralizing sin that is become a crisis, deceiving the nations of the world. It is written: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

CONCLUSION: Let us, as children of the Most-High God, take care that we rightly divide the Word of Truth. Let us refuse to express our opinions, as if they were God's Word. It is written: "Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith *it*; albeit I have not spoken? Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I *am* against you, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 13:7-8).

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE ARE CALLED TO LEAVE THIS WORLD

1. **What is the last promise made to us by Christ?** It is written: "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).
2. **What happens after we live our appointed time on planet earth?** It is written: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7).
3. **What happens when true believers arrive in God's new world?** It is written: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful" (Revelation 21:4-5).

"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:6-8).
4. **What happens to those who die and are buried?** It is written: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5:24-25).
5. **What are the rejects of Heaven?** It is written: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:12-15).
6. **What can true believers expect when they arrive in God's presence?** It is written: "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 22:1-5).

CONCLUSION: Jesus said, "Therefore you also be ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44). It is written: "Prepare to meet thy [your] God" (Amos 4:12). Are you prepared?

GOD WAS THINKING OF US BEFORE WE EXISTED

TEXT: Ephesians 1:3-4, Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

What was God thinking about us before we existed? From eternity when there was no time, no creation, and no man, the Holy Family of God was confined to the Trinity (Father, Son and the Holy Ghost). Nevertheless, it was never God's intention to restrict His family to the Trinity, but to extend His family to as "*Many* children as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable" (Hebrews 11:12).

In eternity past, God was thinking and planning how He, through the unique plan of Creation and Redemption, would produce and perfect many sons and daughters to be exact copies of Christ, the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:28-30).

Before we existed, God chose us, who would accept Christ as our Savior to be holy, to be sons of God, children of God, His Heirs and joint-heirs with Christ. The entire creative enterprise of God reaches its climax in man, toward which every historical event is moving. The most insignificant human being, in God's eyes, outranks the highest-ranking angel around the throne of God.

AS HEIRS OF GOD, WE ARE NOT EXPECTED TO LIVE IN SPIRITUAL POVERTY. OUR UNSPEAKABLE INHERITANCE IS REVEALED IN THE FOLLOWING:

1. We have all things – I Corinthians 3:18-22
2. All spiritual blessings are ours – Ephesians 1:3, 17
3. Freely gives us all things – Romans 8:31-32
4. Who gives us richly all things to enjoy – I Timothy 6:17
5. All things that pertain to life and godliness – II Peter 1:3

CONCLUSION: God has created each of us for greatness in a special way, not success, not comfort, but greatness. And what He sees as greatness will likely be painful and uncomfortable. But it isn't false or superficial. Is it not written? "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God...the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*." (Read Deuteronomy 28:1-13.)

**SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH:
POSSESSING DIVINE WISDOM FROM ABOVE**

TEXT: Read James 3:1-18

As we study the Book of James, we find it most important and effective in our day. As we draw closer and closer to the coming of our Lord and Savior. James, in writing to the Christian church, stresses Bible facts that if saints are claiming to be saved and do not control their tongues, they are only fooling themselves. It is written: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

James speaks of two kinds of wisdom, namely: 1) Jesus Christ, the ancient wisdom from above; and 2) worldly/demonic wisdom from below. Wisdom from above is gentle and generous; wisdom from below is selfishly ambitious and jealous. Wisdom from above speaks the truth; wisdom from below speaks lies and deceives. Wisdom from above is pure and organized; wisdom from below is disorderly and demonic. Wisdom from above is reasonable; wisdom from below results in disharmony. Wisdom from above produces good fruit of love and mercy; wisdom from below produces the fruit of strife and competition.

NOTICE THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES ON WISDOM:

1. "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding" (Job 28:28).
2. "The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment" (Psalm 37:30).
3. "Whoso *is* wise, and will observe these *things*, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD" (Psalm 107:43).
4. "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever" (Psalm 111:10).
5. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).
6. "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7).

CONCLUSION: How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!" (Proverbs 16:16) Why? It is believed gold can buy almost anything in this world. But it cannot buy everlasting life and joy. It can buy all kinds of earthly pleasures, but it cannot buy what we want and need most, full and everlasting joy in Christ Jesus.

**GOD'S PEOPLE:
STRIVING TO BE PEACE MAKERS NOT PEACE BREAKERS**

TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-3, I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

WHAT ARE THINGS THAT BREAK PEACE?

1. **Selfish motives** – It is written: "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philippians 2:4).
2. **Partiality** – It is written: "I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (I Timothy 5:21).
3. **Gossip** – It is written: "And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (James 3:6).
4. **Disrespect** – It is written: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same" (Luke 6:31-33).
5. **Lies** – It is written: "Blessed *is* that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies" (Psalm 40:4).

WHAT ARE THINGS THAT MAKE PEACE?

1. **Love** – It is written: "Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil" (I Corinthians 13:4-5).
2. **Compassion** – It is written: "*Be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (I Peter 3:8).
3. **Humility** – It is written: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).
4. **Respect** – It is written: "Blessed *is* that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies" (Psalm 40:4).
5. **Righteousness** – It is written: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

CONCLUSION: We live in a world that is filled with fighting and rivalry. Every level of society is affected in the midst of such continual strife, God calls His people to be 'peacemakers'. "Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

THE EVERLASTING COVENANT AGREEMENT OF GOD, THE RIGHTEOUS

TEXT: Jeremiah 32:40, I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Following, we shall attempt to look into the treasures of God's goodness, mercy, faithfulness, holiness, and observe what the LORD has laid up for us, as we go about doing the King's business:

1. **God hath put the kingdom of salvation into the covenant.** It is written: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). It is also written: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).
2. **God hath put Christ into the covenant and made Him over the people.** It is written: "I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house" (Isaiah 42:6-7).
3. **God hath put the almighty, the eternal Holy Spirit, and the spirit of glory into the covenant.** It is written: "I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh...and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Ezekiel 36:25-27).
4. **God hath put the angels of light into the covenant, who are ministers sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation.** It is written: "The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord *is* among them, *as in* Sinai, in the holy *place*" (Psalm 68:17). It is also written: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)
5. **God hath put deliverance from the power of darkness into the covenant.** It is written: "And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Timothy 2:26). It is also written: "As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein *is* no water" (Zechariah 9:11).
6. **God hath put death into the covenant.** It is written: "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ *is* God's" (I Cor. 3:21-23).

CONCLUSION: God hath given the righteous a heart to know God, to understand God and the things of God. It is written: "I will give them an heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart" (Jeremiah 24:7). It is also written: "May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

**PRESERVED FROM DEFEAT:
WITH THE ROD OF GOD IN MOSES' HAND**

TEXT: Exodus 17:8-9, Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

God miraculously saved Israel from slavery in Egypt, but ever since they had been saved, they faced one hardship after another. The wilderness was not an easy place: bitter water, lack of food, etc. All of these trials faced Israel on their exit from Egypt. But now, they faced a different kind of challenge. The Amalekites came out to meet them not in friendship, but to attack them without mercy.

The wilderness of our lives can be difficult as well: the death of a loved one, battles with depression, nagging illnesses/afflictions, struggle of growing older, pain of children departing from the Lord, challenges of marriage, etc. Yes, most of us have enough food and water and for that we are grateful, but it doesn't mean we are free from very real problems! Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

LET US NOW DISCUSS EXODUS 17:8-16, AND DISCOVER HOW THE LORD PRESERVED ISRAEL FROM DEFEAT, WITH THE ROD OF GOD IN MOSES' HAND:

Verse 8 – Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

Verse 9 – And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Verse 10 – So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Verse 11 – And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Verse 12 – But Moses hands *were* heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Verse 13 – And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Verse 14 – And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Verse 15 – And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:

Verse 16 – For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD *will have* war with Amalek from generation to generation."

CONCLUSION: Our lives in the wilderness of this world are challenging, but we have One in our midst who is willing and able to lead us through hardship. The LORD is with us. The LORD is for us. And in Him there is victory. Is it not written: "Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; For the LORD your God *is* he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you" (Deuteronomy 20:3-4).

TRUSTING GOD IN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS

TEXT: II Samuel 22:4-7, I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

God always works by ways and means that seem impossible. He provides ways to deliver His people through difficult circumstances and situations. God delivers!

LET US SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES AND SEE HOW GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE IN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS:

1. **God heard Hezekiah's prayer and extended his life.** (Read II Kings 20:1-11.)
2. **God provided food many days for the widow, her son and the prophet Elijah in the midst of a drought.** (Read I Kings 17:1-16.)
3. **God heard Elijah's prayer and "the soul of the child came into him again."** (Read I Kings 17:17-24.)
4. **God preserved life in the fiery furnace**, the Lion's Den, and in the belly of the whale. (Read Daniel 3:10-27, 6:1-23; Jonah 1:1-17.)
5. **God worked the impossible in Abraham and Sarah**, who were far beyond the age of childbearing. (Read Genesis 18:1-14; Romans 4:19-20; Hebrews 11:11.)
6. **God heard the cry of the children of Israel** and instructed them, through Moses, to "go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea." (Read Exodus 14:8-16.)

CONCLUSION: God is faithful, and He alone turns impossible situations around. He wants all the glory alone because He is a jealous God (Read Exodus 20:5). It is written: "God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19)

Hosanna

“Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord”

Matthew 21:9

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