

**WORD
ACTIVE**

LAWRENCE GREGOR

WORD ACTIVE
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AUTHOR'S FORWARD

For 28 years I have ministering the Word of God worldwide in over 50 nations. Much of my work in earlier years was done amongst tribal or minority people groups. My first trip to the Philippines in 1980 gave me an acute awareness for the need of better “Word impartation” by missionaries, pastors and Bible teachers. One of my mandates as a prophetic minister to the nations is to motivate as many believers as possible to better grasp the spiritual content of the Word of God. Many Pastors in developing nations have copied my sermon outlines hoping to learn a little more of the riches of the Word of God. Much of the content of this book is simply a collation of scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments with key points or phrases in bold letters. The author’s notations and comments precede or follow the bolded text. This book is written with the view to be a word supplement (with outline topics) for those that love to study and read the Word of God. It is particularly useful for pastors and others who minister the Word of God in churches, crusades, conferences, seminars, Bible schools or cell groups. It may also be used a word volume for daily devotions, or as a textual or topical aid for Bible students. Although not written as a reference volume, the author has tried to collate some varied topical study material (not in order) that the Word of God becomes a greater blessing to the reader. All scripture references are in the KJV. May this book be a source to generate further interest in the study of the Word of God.

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BLESSED OF GOD FOREVER.

GEN 1:27 So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And **God blessed them**, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and **have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God gave them the blessing first; then commanded them to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

1. Fruitful – or work to the full. (This infers hard work).
2. Multiply – bear children and
3. Replenish (FILL) the earth.

Adam was not only blessed of God, but he was given power over “every living creature”.

GEN 9:1 And **God blessed Noah and his sons**, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**.

God blessed man in order that man could bless the earth.

GEN 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father' house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 **And I will make of thee a great nation**, and **I will bless thee**, and make thy name great; and **thou shalt be a blessing**:

Note the phrase “thou shalt be a blessing”. Hebrew meaning is “**and be a blessing**”

Genesis 48:14-20 “The redeeming Angel” was the Lord Himself.

GEN 48:19 And his father refused, and said, I know *it* , my son, I know *it* : he also shall become a people, and **he also shall be great**: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed **shall become a multitude of nations**. 20 And **he blessed them that day**, saying, **In thee shall Israel bless**, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Firstly, he spoke of greatness, then he prophesied, “shall become a multitude of nations”

He also said, “In thee shall Israel bless”.

We can be a great blessing by speaking prophetically. We can effectively bless many peoples, even whole nations.

PSA 1:1 **Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly**, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

PSA 3:8 Salvation *belongeth* unto the LORD: **thy blessing is upon thy people**. Selah.

ACT 20:35 I have shewed you all things, **how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak**, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive.

LABOURING IS GIVING AND GIVING BRINGS BLESSING.

MAT 10:1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, **he gave them power *against* unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and **to heal all manner of sickness** and all manner of disease.

MAT 10:7 "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." 8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely ye have received, freely give.**"

Jesus gave the disciples spiritual power for this purpose.
“freely give”

**Hence, signs, wonders and miracles follow those who
“freely give”**

ACT 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; **but such as I have give I thee**: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Peter was able to give something greater than money. He gave the lame man the ability to walk for the first time. He shared the gift of miracles that God had given him.

“but such as I have give I thee”

ACT 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and **the number of the men was about five thousand.**

ACT 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

The greater the commitment to Christ the more we receive of the anointing and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Peter had received and was confident he was walking in a great miracle anointing necessary to heal the lame man. This miracle of instant restoration of strength to walk normally was the catalyst whereby later thousands received Christ as Saviour. The greatest revivals are often the result of people seeing first hand real miraculous power in action.

CALLED IN WEAKNESS

MK 7:14 And when he had called all the people *unto him*, he said unto them, "**Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:**

Jesus Christ gave every person the same opportunity. The “few” who are “chosen” of God are the ones who truly desire to be obedient to His ways. He requested that the “called” listen to His instructions. Even though He gave many an opportunity to minister, only some were chosen and anointed to go and preach.

MAT 22:14 "For **many are called**, but few *are* chosen.

LUK 9:1 Then **he called his twelve disciples** together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2 And **he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.**

Moses said,

EX 3:11 And Moses said unto God, **Who *am* I, that I should go** unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

EX 4:1 And Moses answered and said, **But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice:** for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

EX 4:10 And Moses said unto the LORD, **O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent**, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but **I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.**

Moses, who had a speech impediment, thought he had a legitimate excuse to by-pass the call of God; namely, in going to Egypt to speak to the Egyptian Pharaoh. Many like Moses are not as gifted as some, but God gave Moses a miracle (gifts) ministry to help him convince Pharaoh. The great orators of Moses time would not have convinced Pharaoh in the manner that Moses did.

Isaiah said,

ISA 6:5 Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips,** and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Once Isaiah had seen the vision of the heavenly realm, he realised he was not as holy as he needed to be to preach. Even so, God touched his life with heavens fire (coals from the altar Isa 6:6, 7) making his mouth well suited to go and preach.

Jeremiah said,

JER 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! **behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.**

Jeremiah was about 20 years of age when God called him. HE thought that he was far too young to be accepted as a prophet. God loves to choose the unusual people especially those who look foolish in the eyes of the world.

1 COR 1:27 But **God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;** and God hath chosen the weak

things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Jesus was completely dependent on His father.

JN 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father, which hath sent me."

Jesus said,

JN 15:5 "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.**

2 COR 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

In troubles, distresses and persecutions Paul shows us the wisdom of God, for when Paul was physically and mentally weak he was spiritually strong.

JOEL 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: **let the weak say, I *am* strong.**

2 COR 12:9 And he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee: **for my strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

HEB 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Paul said, "We walk by faith."

2 COR 5:7 “For we walk by faith, **not by sight**”

HEB 11:1 Now **faith is** the substance of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen.**

The natural man (unbelievers) who are walking in spiritual darkness will never grasp the spiritual principals of the spiritual man (believers) who are walking in spiritual light.

The born-again “spiritual man” is the only man that can receive, accept and walk in “God’s spiritual principals”.

ROM 8:7 Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God:** for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1 COR 2:14 But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:** for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 COR 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**

Only a spiritual man can have the insight necessary to know the real inner man. God’s “Word makeup” is wisdom and revelation. The more we fellowship with Him the more we will understand ourselves and others. We may think we need more counselors, but the greater need is numbers of prophetic ministers operating in the “word of knowledge, word of wisdom” and other gifts of the Holy Spirit that truth and faith can combat doubt and fear. These ministers need to work at anointed altars in spirit filled churches not little dark rooms where they hear so many speak of secret sins.

COVENANT PEOPLE

PSA 89:3 I have made a covenant with my chosen,

JN 13:18 "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen:

JN 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you, and ordained you**, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

JN 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but **I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**"

ACT 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles **whom he had chosen**:

EX 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall **keep the sabbath**, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, *for a perpetual covenant*.

Those who broke God's covenant incurred a judgment of death. (v.15)

God's Covenant and the Ten Commandments.

EX 34:27 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words **I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel**. 28And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And **he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.**

Any covenant breakers incurred God's judgment. (see Lev 26:15,16)

The Everlasting Covenants.

GEN 9:16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember **the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature** of all flesh that *is* upon the earth.

EZE 37:26 Moreover I will make **a covenant of peace** with them; it shall **be an everlasting covenant with them**: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

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

New Testament Covenants:

EPH 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from **the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Read: GAL 4:24, 25

GAL 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman.

Note* In Christ, we have a better covenant. He is higher than (over) all.

ROM 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, **and the covenants**, and the giving of the law, and

the service of *God*, and the promises; 5 Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh **Christ came, who is over all**, God blessed for ever. Amen.

New Covenant was prophesied.

JER 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, **that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel**, and with the house of Judah:

HEB 8:13 In that he saith, **A new covenant, he hath made the first old**. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away.

HEB 12:24 And to **Jesus the mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. 25See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Jeremiah prophesied “**the Lord our righteous**”

JER 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

ISA 41:10 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.

JN 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, "**If a man love me, he will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

ROM 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

GAL 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

God always directs his people to blessing. (Deut 30:5-11)

Note the phrases "circumcision of heart" and God's command, "obey the voice of the Lord"

DEUT 30:16 In that I command thee this day to **love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments** and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: **and the LORD thy God shall bless thee** in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Samuel constantly encouraged God's people to serve God. Samuel's dedication was the hallmark of his life. This Godly quality enabled him to enter prophetic ministry at a very early age. Although called primarily as a Prophet, he was also given other positions of honour; he served as Priest and briefly as a King.

1 SAM 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: **yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;**

All believers need an unshakable faith in the purposes and directives of God.

(Heb 11:15) “If they had been mindful....”

Joshua, a servant to Moses, who became a leader and spiritual mentor, was able to teach his people the standard for serving the Lord. He convinced them with strong words, (v.20) “He will turn and do you hurt”. Although the people agreed to serve God, Joshua wanted a covenant people. “ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the Lord, to serve Him.”

JOSH 24:19 And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God;** he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. 21 and the people said unto Joshua, **Nay; but we will serve the LORD.** 22 And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him.** And they said, *We are witnesses.*

JOS 24:24 And the people said unto Joshua, **The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.** 25 So **Joshua made a covenant with the people that day,** and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

Before his death Joshua recorded the covenant on stone as a reminder to the people that they had vowed a vow.

JOS 24:27....“this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us; it shall be therefore a witness unto you, **lest ye deny your God.**”

DEUT 32:4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

We must not only confess, but meditate on the Word of God daily, never allowing it to depart from our mouths.

To make our way prosperous the observation and obedience to His law is absolute.

JOS 1:8 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.

DEUT 30:14 But **the word is very nigh unto thee**, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Job was a worshipper, even in great trial he “blessed be the name of the Lord”

JOB 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, **and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped** 21And said, Naked came I out of my mother' womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, **and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.** 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

HAB 3:17 **Although the fig tree shall not blossom**, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and **the fields shall yield no meat**; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, **and there shall be no herd in the stalls:** 18Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, **I will joy in the God of my salvation.**

Paul's wonderful positive attitude came from fulfilling the vision of building greatness in others. Paul a "possessor" of spiritual riches, although poor of pocket, made many spiritually rich.

2 COR 6:10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; **as poor, yet making many rich**; as having nothing, and **yet possessing all things**.

Abram was a covenant minded man. The things of the flesh had no attraction or influence on him. Maybe this is the reason God gave Abram the covenant of circumcision. **Covenant minded people don't look for inheritance, they believe for possession. (Acts 7:5)**

ACT 7:5 And **he gave him none inheritance in it**, no, not *so much as* to set his foot on: **yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession**, and to his seed after him, when *as yet* he had no child.

8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision:

Lot accompanied Abram in the first part of his journey. He was righteous, but unlike Abram, he was not a covenant minded man. Prior to their parting (due to increased numbers in flocks) he would have seen the altars that Abram built, but even these heavenly visitations during worship was not enough to influence his walk with God. Later living comfortably in Sodom, Lot became unequally yoked by proximity with the unclean Sodomites, even though their conversation vexed his soul. (2 Cor 6:14) God in His mercy sent the angel to deliver Lot from God's judgment, giving Lot a chance to live in a better environment. Lot's wife did not go willingly and God judged her when she looked back

at the sinful city of Sodom.

2 PET 2:7 And delivered just Lot, **vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:** 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

PSA 25:12 That man *is* he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose. 13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth 14 **The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.** 15 Mine eyes *are* ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Many believers have often asked me about the secret things of the Lord. David shares his experience in Ps 25. The fear of the Lord opens the door to God's heavenly realm. I believe that God desires to share His secrets with all those that covenant with Him. However, God will only covenant with those that trully fear Him.

DECREASE FOR INCREASE

Zech 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD** of hosts.

Believe God for the supernatural realm: The supernatural this not only “super” but its “natural”. It’s exciting to build on spiritual foundations. Abraham continually looked for God’s heavenly city. As far as I know, he had more angelic visitations than any other character in the O.T. (Heb 11:10)

Mk 16:20 And they went forth, and **preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following.** Amen.

Getting started is always going to be a challenge in itself. Most people would never consider leaving the family and their familiar lifestyle to preach in a foreign place. These disciples preached every where an opportunity presented itself. When they saw signs, wonders and miracles, they couldn’t wait to see God’s handiwork again. Note the phrase “the Lord working with them”. God will do His part when we do ours.

ACT 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 **And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.** 6 **Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee:** In the name of

Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7And **he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and anklebones received strength.** 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Peter had no money (natural support), but **he possessed the power of God** (supernatural support) which was faith to see God strengthen the anklebones.

Peter quickly renounced his own holiness and personal ability and used this opportunity to preach Christ. Peter's faith in Christ was what brought the miracle. In fact the miracle was so impressive that most of Acts ch3 deals with what happened when Peter preached to awaken the whole city. Then in chapter 4 the rulers, scribes and elders heard about it and Paul preached to and when the opportunity was presented, he preached to them as well.

LUK 10:17 "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, **even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.** 18And he said unto them, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." 19 "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." 20 "**Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**"

We must learn to recognize what RELEASES God's power.

2 TIM 3:5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

The controlled order of service (by some leaders and

ministers) in church services is not always pleasing to God. **We must give God enough room for the supernatural manifestation of His power.** Let's place some limits our own talents, forms, ceremonies, rituals, ordinances and usual programs in order that God can be seen as God.

New Testament ministers always looked to God for direction. (Act 13:1, 2)

READ Acts 17:22-31.

Paul was not ignorant. He had the best education available at that time. These verses are considered as classics in persuasive debate. They are also considered for study in homoletical and literary arrangement.

Paul strongly corrected those in error. So did Jesus. (Mat 25:8)

PHIL 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath **whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:** 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But *what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

Paul could have used his background, education and reputation among his peers to gain position. He could have easily put his trust in the "flesh". However, **Paul chose to decrease.** Such emphases today are placed upon doctorates and anything else that can entice the flesh and satisfy egos.

1 COR 2:4 And my speech and my preaching *was not with enticing words* of man's wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:** 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, **but in the power of God.**

Paul purposed to preach in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 COR 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but **our sufficiency is of God;** 6 **Who also hath made us able ministers** of the new testament; **not of the letter, but of the spirit:** for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Only yielded vessels become able ministers. Our sufficiency must be of God.

1 COR 1:18 For **the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is **the power of God.**

1 COR 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them **which are puffed up**, but the power. 20 For **the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.**

LUK 14:11 "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and **he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

JAS 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.** 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

JN 3:30 **He must increase, but I *must* decrease.**

The secret of John the Baptist's power was the fact he knew his spiritual purpose and direction. Christ was not just someone to preach about. Christ became John's way to spiritual increase; his thinking, preaching and lifestyle changed. He decreased so much that he was imprisoned then martyred and received his wonderful heavenly reward.

JAS 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, **ye double minded.**

MAT 15:8 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me." 9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

The scribes and pharisees tried in vain to impress their friends and others with false doctrines and vain spiritual talk. True worship is a heart issue seen of God the Father.

ISA 59:1 Behold, the LORD' hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 **But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.**

Many Christians wonder why God does not answer their prayers. The fact is God cannot answer a person's prayer who has an iniquitous heart. A fear of God will give the believer a greater sensitivity to sins and iniquities.

PSA 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word. 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy

commandments. 11 **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

The word possesses a cleansing agent. The believer must yield to and obey the Word of God.

GAL 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

ROM 6:6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7**For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

Crucifixion has a universal meaning. It is death! Paul considered himself to be dead in Christ. He could only maintain spiritual life by continual death to self. Even before His death on the cross Christ gave a challenge to those disciples who aspired to minister or be identified with His ministry. It involved the identification to and in some cases a lifestyle of “carrying a cross”. A similar death is asked of many believers. Will you leave it all behind and walk the Calvary road with Jesus Christ, knowing full well that this walk ultimately leads to a partial or total death to self? Christ’s crucifixion demonstrated to all mankind God’s self sacrifice. We are called to identify with His “selfless death walk” that the crucified life may bring forth a spiritual man.

MAT 10:37 “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me:” 38 “And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

DIVINE LIVING

EX 3:1 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

3 And Moses said, **I will now turn aside, and see this great sight**, why the bush is not burnt.

God is waiting for us to “turn aside”. The great things of God are worth the effort. **At least show God you are interested; look at His unusual wonders.**

1 KIN 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and **cast his mantle upon him.**

The placement of Elijah’s mantle on Elisha was more than the replacement of a cloak; it was a prophetic act by a man of God, who possessed a great hunger for “the miraculous”. Before he walked in his new “double portion” anointing he was tested and found faithful in service to God.

Look at his Elisha’s faithful service record. (2Kin 2:1-6)

1 KIN 19:21...Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

ACT 26:16 “But rise, and stand upon thy feet: **for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose**, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee”

God's visitation is always purposeful. For Saul of Tarsus it meant more than a lifestyle change, it was a "spiritual vocation". God told Saul he would appear to him in the future. Divine visitation should be not thought of as a one-time event. We look for the new heavenly window to open. Ministry is ever expansive hence we must look for future visitations. Saul having heard the "divine voice" of Christ obeyed and later became more than an able minister; he became a revelatory voice with apostolic power. -2Tim 1:11

2 COR 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament;

EPH 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Isaiah's divine call to service started with his visions of the heavenly realm. Isaiah saw the King of Kings and the heavenly beings, one of them touched his mouth with fire. (Isa 6:5-7) Once Isaiah's life (mouth) was cleansed, God showed him the fields of harvest. It was then that Isaiah answered the call for service. (Isa 6:8)

ISA 6:5 Then said I, Woe *is* me! For I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. **6**Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: **7**And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

ISA 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, **Here *am I*; send me.**

JER 1:9 Then **the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth.** And the LORD said unto me, Behold, **I have put my words in thy mouth.**

EX 4:15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: **and I will be with thy mouth,** and with his mouth, **and will teach you what ye shall do.**

God wants us in His service and he wants to help us to serve. Anointed service will usually mean that God will touch our mouths by placing His words within. The incoming Word from God becomes the outgoing Word to His people.

MK 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with *them*,** and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

DAN 10:10 And, behold, **an hand touched me,** which set me upon my knees and *upon* the palms of my hands. 11And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, **understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright:** for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

Daniel experienced the hand of an angel touching him. To begin walking in his divine call Daniel was asked to stand. Ezekial also had a similar command. (See also Eze 2:1)

ENLARGEMENT

2 Cor 6:11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. ¹²**Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.** ¹³Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto *my* children,) be ye also enlarged.

2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴**(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal,** but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵**Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,** and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;** ¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸**May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;** ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.** ²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to *the power that worketh in us,*

Paul lived and walked in the enlargement of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit was enlarged by the work of the Holy Spirit. His deepest burden was that all believers live a **life of spiritual enlargement.**

However, Paul found God's people in Corinth very **limited and cramped** in their ability to release the Spirit. Paul's ministry seemed to have little spiritual impact, the

Corinthians refused to allow the divine life of the Holy Spirit to flow. The carnality in the people reduced the River of God in the Corinthian Church to a **trickle**.

2 COR 6:10 Paul lived in and experienced the **river of God**.

“yet making many rich” i.e. spiritually rich. Paul could truthfully say, “**possessing all things**”

Paul’s leadership did not limit them; they limited themselves – they cramped their own spiritual growth.

Enlargement: by exercise

Paul was always in a spiritual exercise programme. In this way, he never offended God. Strength is achieved physically by exercise; similarly exercise your spiritual man

ACT 24:16 And herein do **I exercise myself**, to have always a conscience **void of offence toward God**, and *toward* men.

HEB 10:14-16 For by one offering **he hath perfected for ever** them that are sanctified. ¹⁵*Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, ¹⁶**This is the covenant that I will make with them** after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts**, and in their minds will I write them;

In Christ God has provided our perfection. His shed blood on the cross has provided a better covenant. His sinless life was swapped for our sin. Christ became our advocate and cancelled all transgression. Christ is our eternal sanctification. There is no such thing as a cloudy conscience. The blood of Christ cancels sin and its shame.

Enlargement: by letting God do His work.

EZE 21:27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no *more* , until he come whose right it is; and **I will give it him** .

God is an overturner. God gives the position of honour to the humble.

Enlargement: by humility

God said to Elijah “**get thee hence!** It is not totally clear why God took Elijah from the public eye; maybe to prevent some exposure to the dangers of pride. Whatever the spiritual reasons for this interlude of rest from ministry, there was no change in his effectiveness as a prophet. He still has future work to do. (Luk 1:17)

1 KIN 17:3 **Get thee hence**, and turn thee eastward, and **hide thyself by the brook Cherith**, that *is* before Jordan.

God said “**Turn eastward to the brook Cherith**” a tributary of the Jordon River. Jordon represents the place where “flesh “dies.

“**Hide thyself**”. This was a spiritual commandment. God cannot give His divine authority, unless we hide our “flesh”. Paul said, “lest I should be exalted above measure” Paul had concerns, which he happily shared with many. Lest the “I” in me – the ego – the “soulish” part of man should be elevated to a place where God will no longer allow His river to flow in the dimension that He allowed in times past.

To serve God in our own strength is “iniquity.”

**Consecrated Christians are confronted with God’s voice.
“Hide thyself.”**

Enlargement: by paying the price

LUK 14:28 “For which of you, intending to build a tower, **sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost**, whether he have *sufficient* to finish it? “

2 SAM 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy *it* of thee at a price: **neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing**. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

MK 8:34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, “**Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**” 35 “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but **whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospels, the same shall save it.**” 36 “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? “

Paul was desperate to pay the spiritual price that God demanded.

Most people know the current price of a loaf of bread, and a pound of butter.

However, let me ask you a spiritual question.

How much would you pay for an effective ministry?

Enlargement: by ministerial humility

Paul had no interest in:

- 1) Experiencing the glamour of apostolic ministry.
- 2) Being viewed as a wonderful orator.
- 3) Enjoying the limelight of large congregations.

He gave all honour to God for all his ability in ministry.

MK 9:9 And as they came down from the mountain, **he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen**, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

ACT 3:12 And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? Or **why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**

Enlargement: by comprehension.

EPH 3:18 **May be able to comprehend** with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the \square ullness of God.**

Paul had a vision to apprehend the heavenly realm and be filled with the fullness of God. He desired the Ephesians to apprehend the same vision.

2 COR 2:14 Now thanks *be* unto God, which always **causeth us to triumph in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. ¹⁵For **we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ**, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

ROM 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?** 32 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?**

Once we believe that God is supporting our every move, we can begin being conquerors in His service.

ROM 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him that loved us.

Enlargement: Being mindful of the heavenly.

HEB 11:16 But now **they desire a better country**, that is, **an heavenly**: wherefore **God is not ashamed to be called their God**: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Once God reveals to His ministers His future perfect will, then the God given “heavenly” pathway (better country) will cancel out all other good looking and appealing pathways.

HEB 11:6 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*.

HEB 11:26 ...he had **respect unto the recompence of the reward.**

Moses “had it made”. He was adopted as an infant into Pharaoh’s household. He lived in a palace with all the riches this world could offer. However, when a person is destined for “spiritual royalty” that person cannot co-exist with worldly (pharaohs) men. (Ex 2:15) The Bible says that Moses did not fear Pharaoh (Heb 11:24-27); he feared God.

GOD'S AUTHORITY

The Word is said to be the “out-breathings” of God, which incorporates the mind of God and the will of God.

The “Word” is part of God Himself. All creation had its beginnings in God.

JN 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word,** and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** 2The same was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

This same Word becomes God's ability in us. The Word lives because Christ lives. Hence we live spiritually because Christ lives in us. John made the Word (Christ) his pillow. We all need this intimacy of the Word.

ISA 41:10 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.

God will show us the mighty things. (Jer 33:3)
If we want to see His miraculous handiwork, we need to communicate our desires to Him. (Isa 45:11)

JER 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, **and shew thee great and mighty things,** which thou knowest not.

ISA 45:11 Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and **concerning the work of my hands command ye me.**

JN 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.”

PSA 107:20 **He sent his word, and healed them**, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

When the “Word” is abiding within and fully activated by faith, we can send the healing power of that His Word to the sick. It makes no difference if the sick person is in hospital in the next state. Distance has no influence on the activity or power of that Word. We need not give voice to very long descriptive prayers that speak of the person, there lifestyle and the debilitating sickness. We immediately and simply direct a positive spoken word of faith to the sick and heal them.

HEARING THE CALL OF GOD

EZE 2:1 And he said unto me, **Son of man**, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

The phrase “Son of man” speaks of the prophet’s humility and his dependence on the Holy Spirit to carry out his ministry. Jesus also used this phrase as a title, when referring to himself. It reveals God’s purpose for Christ, who was linked to an earthly ministry.

Mt 8:20; 9:6, Mk 2:28; 8:31; Lk 5:24; Jn 3:13.

Jesus was always conscious of his relationship to man and his dependence on the Holy Spirit.

EZE 2:1 And he said unto me, **Son of man, stand upon thy feet**, and I will speak unto thee.

“Stand upon thy feet” A courteous stance when being spoken to by the King of Kings. Ezekial stood to attention to receive the divine message.

DAN 10:11 -- Daniel was told to “stand upright”

Daniel had a fear of God. v.11b “stood trembling”

Daniel received divine direction with a divine purpose.

EX 4:15 God the “divine teacher” trusted Moses so much that He had taught him face to face.

“I will be with thy mouth”--“and will teach you what ye shall do”

EZE 2:2 “the spirit entered into me”-

Ezekiel was strengthened by the Holy Spirit in order that he could proclaim God's divine message. Before effective ministry can be achieved in any nation, God requires all his servants to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

EZE 2:2b “**I heard Him** that spake”
It was a divine call.

GEN 12:1 “**Get thee out** of thy country”.
Abram had to leave family and friends.

EX 3:10 “Come thou therefore, and **I will send thee** unto Pharaoh”

ISA 6:8 “**whom shall I send**, and who will go for us?”

ACT 26:16 “**stand upon thy feet**: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose.”

Men of God must hear the call for service. Once we have heard the call we must make it clear that God made us ministers in Christ.

ACT 26:17 “To make thee **a minister**”

2 COR 3:6 “**hath made us** able ministers”

2 COR 4:1 “we have **this ministry**”

2 COR 5:18 “hath given us **the ministry** of reconciliation”

EPH 3:7 “Wherefore **I was made a minister**”

COL 1:25 “wherefore, I Paul am **made a minister**”

Perseverance is the personal responsibility of all believers. When we are obedient and fulfill the perfect will of God, God will make us able ministers.

1 TIM 1:12 “**putting me into the ministry**”

1 TIM 1:11 “I am appointed a preacher, and **an apostle**, and a teacher.”

If we answer the divine call, God will send us somewhere to minister.

Paul makes it clear it was God that gave him the call for the ministry.

God spoke to Amos whilst he was working as a shepherd. He heard the voice of the Lord and in obedience to that word “GO” began his ministry as a prophet of the Lord.

AMOS 7:15 And the LORD took me as **I followed the flock**, and the LORD said unto me, **Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.**

Malachi simply had a burden to prophesy.

MAL 1:1 “The **burden of the word of the LORD** to Israel by Malachi”.

Jeremiah may have been called from birth, but God spoke to him directly.

JER 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee**; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* **I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.**

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

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

God spoke to Adam even before He created Eve. **Man was created with the ability to hear the voice of God.**

GEN 3:27 So God created man in his *own image*, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply**, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:

It was normal for Adam and Eve to talk to God, even on issues such as childbirth. **They were created to communicate with God and obey God's voice.**

GEN 3:8 And they heard the voice of the **LORD God** walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the **LORD God** amongst the trees of the garden.

ISA 50:4 The Lord **GOD** hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him that is weary*: he wakeneth morning by morning, **he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.** 5The Lord **GOD** hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Isaiah heard the Lord speak every day and became wise like the learned men. **He spoke a seasonal prophetic word.**

REV 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if any man hear my voice**, and open the door, **I will come in to him**, and will sup with him, and he with me"

God promises to fellowship with those who both hear and obey His voice.

JN 10:27 "**My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, and **they follow me**:

JN 10:3 "To him the porter openeth; and **the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.** " 4"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, **he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.** "

Sheep will follow the known voice of a shepherd. They have learned from experience that he leads to pasture. (Ps 23:1-6)

ROM 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, **they are the sons** of God.

ISA 59:1 Behold, the LORD' hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; **neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:**

God is not hard of hearing. His spiritual ear is not restricted with the natural age process that can dull hearing.

This is why it is important to be led by the Spirit of God. The heavenly beings in heaven always watch for and obey the movements of the Holy Spirit. (Eze 1:11,12)

EZE 1:11 Thus *were* their faces: and their wings *were* stretched upward; two *wings* of every one *were* joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. ¹²**And they went every one straight**

forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

REV 3:8 "I know thy works: behold, **I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:** for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

REV 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if any man hear my voice, and open the door,** I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

We must become responsive and quickly open the door to His knocking. (SoS 5:2-6) Do not miss His inner knocking.

ACT 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord. 11And **the Lord said unto him, "Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight,** and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,"

If Ananias had not known the voice of God, it is quite possible we would not have known about the Apostle Paul. It was Ananias that prayed for Saul's blindness and imparted the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 9:17)

REV 1:10 **I was in the Spirit** on the Lord's day, **and heard behind me a great voice,** as of a trumpet.

God's voice was loud and clear; like a trumpet.

JER 38:20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver *thee*. **Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD,** which I speak unto thee: **so it shall be well unto thee,** and thy soul shall live.

Obedience to God ushered in great blessing.

PSA 84:11 For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: **no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.**

DEUT 28:1 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:** 2 **And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee**, if thou shalt **hearken unto the voice** of the LORD thy God. 3 Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

The blessings of God can be so great they will overtake us.

Saul heard:

ACT 9:4 And he fell to the earth, **and heard a voice** saying unto him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks." 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And **the Lord said unto him, "Arise, and go into the city**, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

Peter heard:

ACT 10:13 And **there came a voice to him, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat."** 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15 And **the voice spake unto him again the second time, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."**

The people heard:

JN 12:28 "Father, glorify thy name." **Then came there a voice from heaven, saying,** I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again. **29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered:** others said, An angel spake to him.

MAT 17:5 While he yet spake, **behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud,** which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.**

MAT 3:17 And **lo a voice from heaven,** saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

1 PET 1:17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when **there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory,** This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard,** when we were with him in the holy mount.

Every time God spoke in an audible voice, He spoke for the benefit of the people. (See Jn 12:30)

JN 12:30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice came not because of me, but **for your sakes.**"

ISA 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, **Here am I; send me.**

God is looking for people like Isaiah to send to the nations to meet the increasing spiritual need worldwide. Become an active word participant with a strong spiritual relationship; put your hand up, answer the call.

LIVING WITH A PURPOSE

DAN 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king' meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs **that he might not defile himself.**

Surely, this was going to be an impossible lifestyle for a young man. However, Daniel knew the spiritual benefits of saying “NO”. In obedience to God, he reached for the higher realms of the Spirit. His increased visionary and revelatory capacity is hallmarked in Biblical history.

Some people in church cannot spiritually spell “NO”. It’s a fact that some believers refuse to live out biblical “principles of purpose”. The devil will show the flesh how to make many excuses. How is it that the devil can convince believers to live in spiritual idleness?

It’s time to learn how to spell “NO” to the devil, and start working the works of God.

JN 8:23 And he said unto them, "Ye are from beneath; I am from above: **ye are of this world; I am not of this world.**"

Jesus said, **“I must work the works of Him that sent me”**

HEB 11:27 By faith **he forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

God will many times expect us to do an impossible task. That’s the way God teaches His children to live by their Faith. Ministry is the outworking of personal faith; forward in progress. Any fruit is the by product of this walk by faith.

EPH 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of **his power to us-ward who believe**, according to **the working of his mighty power**,

2 COR 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and **their deep poverty** abounded unto **the riches of their liberality**. ³For to *their* power, **I bear record**, yea, and beyond *their* power **they were willing of themselves**;

Even the poor can purpose to believe and abound to liberality. Over the years I have witnessed hundreds worldwide exchange poverty for the blessing of God. We must treasure the Word with its principles of purpose and “give beyond our natural ability”.

LUK 12:21 "So *is* he that **layeth up treasure for himself**, and is not rich toward God."

22 And he said unto his disciples, "Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life**, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on." 23 "**The life is more than meat, and the body *is more* than raiment.**"

Believers must monitor their own lives to see if they are rich towards God. Even some missionaries have reduced their effectiveness on foreign mission fields, due to their constant thoughts of personal welfare. Most Christians believe that modern day “five-fold ministers” and missionaries are very dedicated. However, even gifted ministers at times fail to adhere to the “terms and conditions” of biblical principles. Living as purposeful Christians is not easy; in fact it is impossible! But God is the God of the “possible”. Like Daniel we can purpose in our hearts. God wants to prove to us that He can turn the impossible into the possible.

LUK 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

LUK 18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

Most people can't say "NO" to riches.

LUK 18:25 "For it is easier for a camel to go through a needles eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

During the ministry of Christ, "**the eye of the needle**" was a gate in the walls of Jerusalem. It was not possible for a camel loaded with goods to pass under the gate into the city.

JN 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: **the night cometh, when no man can work.**"

JN 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, "My **meat** is to do the will of him that sent me, and **to finish his work.**"

Like Jesus Christ, we must not only begin to work the works that God has given us to do; but we must finish the works He has given us to do.

PRESENTING OUR BODIES

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.** 2 **And 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.

The will of God demands a personal sacrifice. Martyrdom is an extreme sacrifice not expected of many. **However God expects that we present our bodies as living sacrifices.** The Old Testament sacrifices were slaughtered and then presented on the altar. Because Christ was the last and final sacrifice for sin, **God calls for holiness whilst we are in a living state.**

MAT 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;"

Harvesting souls follows after personal sacrificial sowing.

1 COR 1:19 **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you,** which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 **For ye are bought with a price:** therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

The church at Corinth had a large number of believers full of “fleshly behaviour”. Let’s call it sin. (1Cor 1:18) Because Christ paid the ultimate price of personal death on the cross, we must consider that we are no longer our own property. (v.19b) Therefore, it is reasonable for Christian

church leaders and members to live in a manner that will glorify God in their (God given) bodies and spirits. (v.20b)

JN 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, "Simon, *son of Jonas*, lovest thou me?" Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, **Lovest thou me?** And he said unto him, **Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.** **Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my sheep."**

Question: "Lovest thou me". Then... "feed my sheep".

JN 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, ***and what shall this man do?*** 22 Jesus saith unto him, **"If I will that he tarry till I come, what is *that* to thee? follow thou me. "**

Peter thought that Jesus might give John a better job than he was given to do. Feeding sheep was not considered good enough. (v.21) It is always better to obey God's voice without argument. Any inside knowledge of what John was going to do for the Lord was not Peter's business. (See verse 22) "Follow thou me"

EZE 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: **but I found none.** I31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; **I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath:** their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

God is looking for men and women to do his bidding.

JN 4:35 "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, **Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.** "

Spiritual vision sees an immediate harvest. Don't reap the harvest in six months; bring in the spiritual harvest NOW.

JN 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"

ACT 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

ACT 4:13 Now when **they saw the boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; **and they took knowledge of them**, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And **beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.** 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that **indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them** *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and **we cannot deny it.** 17 But that it spread no further among the people, **let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.** 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For **we cannot but speak** the things which we have seen and heard. 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: **for all men glorified God for that which was done.**

Peter and John determined to work for God. (Act 4:20-21)

REBELLION

Satan is the father of rebellion.

Rebellion was the reason for Satan being cast out of heaven.

Rebellion was the reason that Adam sinned in the garden of Eden.

In Christ, God's children can live in obedience.

EZE 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; **every precious stone was thy covering**, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth**; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.** 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 **Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty**, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

v.13 Satan was created having beautiful “glory”.

v.14 He was the anointed cherub. He occupied a place of prominence, possibly guarding the throne of God.

v.15 Satan was perfect: He was moral and serving God with integrity.

v.17 Pride and rebellion was his undoing. God cast him to the ground.

In verse 12 of this chapter God spoke to Ezekial and told him to prophesy to the king of Tyrus. **He prophesied to the devil in the king.** (See v.13-19)

The devil (Satan) showed himself within the king of Tyrus, as one full of wisdom having great beauty. But the king's personal attraction was corrupted by his personal pride.

ISA 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north
14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

Note the **5 “I wills”** of Satan in (Isa 14:13,14).

Satan's future judgment will be consummated in the “lake of fire”.

REV 20: 10 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.

See also (Rev 20:1-3)

Question: Why did God judge Satan so harshly? (Rev 21:27)

GEN 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, **Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father' house, unto a land that I will shew thee:** 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

God gave Abram a command, and he obeyed. (See Heb 11:8)

HEB 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**

Abram kept obeying God due to his spiritual vision. See Heb 11:10

HEB 11:10 For **he looked for a city which hath foundations,** whose builder and maker *is* God.

Note. 1) They made a plain declaration. (Verse14)

2) They never desired to go back or retrace their steps. (Verse15)

3) They desired a better country, a heavenly place of worship. (Verse16)

JOS 24:2 And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. 3And **I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood**, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

v.3 “from the other side of the flood” This phrase simply means from the other side of the Euphrates river.

v.2 “They served other Gods.” God wanted Abram to separate himself from those that did not serve Him.

JOS 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in

sincerity and in truth: and **put away the gods** which your fathers served **on the other side of the flood**, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

God was looking for sincerity and a total commitment. Some were serving two masters. They had to put away the other gods and “Serve the Lord”.

1 SAM 15:19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, **but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?** 20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But **the people took of the spoil**, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. 22 And Samuel said, **Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?** Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

v.19 The people swooped down upon the spoil like ravenous birds. They saw the available natural blessing before them as a “must have” and disregarded the voice of the Lord.
v.22 **“obedience is better than sacrifice”**

Let’s look at the seriousness of rebellion. (v.23) Rebellion was considered as bad as witchcraft. The “sin of witchcraft” causes great bondage and hinders spiritual life. **Witchcraft is “divination.** Divination is the act of calling on a different spirit. “Rebellion” results in similar bondage. Rebellion

hinders spiritual life. **If we are not obeying God then we are obeying a different spirit.**

God will judge rebellion in the same manner as witchcraft.

Believers who will not obey God cannot grow spiritually. Those who live for themselves cannot serve the Lord.

EPH 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

Paul mentions the “children of disobedience”. They were God’s children, but they were living in rebellion.

Jesus shows us what we must do when confronted by those that try to get us off track. Jesus rebuked the devil in Peter. (Mat 16: 22) The devil can use our friends to delay God’s plans and purposes. God’s will for you is never God’s will for someone else. God’s will is always a singular will and purpose to be carried out by one man or woman.

MAT 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, "**Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me:** for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

We need to savour the things of God as Jesus did. All believers must see the benefits of obedience. The end results

are not always seen immediately, but God is faithful to those who are obedient to His Word.

ISA 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; **I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.** 18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

REV 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called **the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

Satan loves to engage himself in accusation. God's children are targeted day and night. Whilst we are **obedient to Christ, we have no guilt or shame.** The devil's words have no power.

JER 32:38 And **they shall be my people, and I will be their God:**

God wants agreement. We choose to be His people, and then He will be our God.

1 SAM 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet **turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;** 21 And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain *things* , which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain. 22 For the LORD will

not forsake his people for his great name' sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. 23 Moreover as for me, **God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you:** but I will teach you the good and the right way: 24 **Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.**

Even when we transgress, this doesn't mean we have to forsake the Lord. Vanity is a self-seeking activity; it will not bring us before God. However, God will not forsake us. The fear of the Lord gives us the ability to serve Him with all of our hearts. Those who make a covenant with the Lord will be given the ability to fear the Lord in their hearts. (See Jer 38:40)

JER 38:40 And 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.

DEUT 32:9 For **the LORD' portion is his people**; Jacob *is* the lot of his inheritance.

JER 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, **Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.** 24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels *and* in the imagination of their evil heart, and **went backward, and not forward.**

Disobedience to God causes His people to go backwards. The Christian terminology is “backsliding”. Backsliding is the result of rebellion.

Note the forward direction of the angelic beings in heaven. They all have a “straight forward” movement. (Eze 1:9,12

EZE 1:9 Their wings *were* joined one to another; they turned not when they went; **they went every one straight forward.**

EZE 1:12 And they went every one straight forward: **whither the spirit was to go, they went; *and* they turned not when they went.**

PSA 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert! 41Yea, **they turned back and tempted God, and limited** the Holy One of Israel.

HOS 7:2 And they consider not in their hearts *that I remember all their wickedness*: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.

HOS 7:8 Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; **Ephraim is a cake not turned.**

Satan wants to hinder all believers from reaching there full potential. Let us consider the saying “half-baked”. Ephraim was a cake not turned. He removed himself from God’s hand. The baker of Heaven had not finished His work. Ephraim was found in great wickedness amongst worldly people. His wickedness was an amusement even to the king. God was forced to discontinue His work within him. In essence he was less than “half baked” he had not even made it to the oven.

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

Note* 1) Christ learnt obedience.

2) Salvation is given only to the obedient.

RENEWING THE MIND

EPH 6:17 And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**:

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable** unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. 2 And 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**.

The Heb Word for “transformed” – “**transfigured**” by the renewing of the mind.

Our mind is therefore overshadowed by His mind. We will want to serve Him being acceptable. – “well-pleasing”

Three wills of God:

- 1) “**Good will**”
- 2) “**Acceptable will**” and
- 3) “**Perfect will**”

Often the “born again” believer has received God’s nature into his spirit, but his mind is still thinking the “old man” thoughts. This person’s mind is still governed by sense knowledge and is ruled by the things of this world.

Senses versus the Spirit:

1 COR 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

The “new creation spirit” is waiting to be related to a renewed mind. However, often the “old man” is still in possession of a “carnal mind” even though he is in possession of a God given “new created spirit”.

Rom 6 shows us God’s way of recreating man’s spirit (Rom 6:12-14)

12 **Let not sin therefore reign** in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 **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. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

The body must be subject to the spirit which was recreated in the “new birth”. (Rom 12:1)

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your **reasonable service**.

The word for “reasonable” service = “spiritual” service.

New Birth

Immediately after a person is “born again” the recreated spirit now in fellowship with the Father will desire intimate fellowship with the creator. The soul life (flesh) and spirit life of the new “born again” believer is at war. God only fellowship’s with those who are in possession of a new recreated spirit. God cannot fellowship with flesh and spirit.

GAL 5:19 Now the works of the **flesh** are manifest, which are *these*;

Word for “flesh” – “senses”

A mind where the word of God flows richly is a mind which will become **renewed**.

ACT 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

When the Word of God is allowed to increase, it will overcome and defeat the works of the devil.

TIT 3:4-5 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, **by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

The Word will wash the mind creating a “renewed state of mind”.

The Word will give us the ability to put on the new man.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

We are called to fellowship with Christ. (1 Cor 1:9)

EPH 1:17 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: 18 **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what **the riches of the glory of his inheritance** in the saints,

(V.18) God's desire is that our recreated spirits see as His Spirit sees. **Hence our spirit must take the high ground.**

David said "who shall ascend". Ascension of spirit is what God is all about. He will set the mind free to think the thoughts of God. It's God's nature to take His rightful place.

ACT 26:16 "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, **to make thee a minister** and a **witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I** will appear unto thee; "17 "**Delivering thee from the people**, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, " 18 "**To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light**, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.** "

"**turn from darkness**" – this speaks of sense knowledge, sense orientation and dominion. This darkness is what the unbeliever is bound to.

EPH 5:1, 8 1 **Be ye therefore followers of God...**8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: **walk as children of light:**

1 Jn 1 Walk in the light as He is in the Light.

1 JN 2:8-11 "The darkness is passing away"

The man with "natural sense orientation" is changed into a man with "spirit orientation". As believers desiring to be used of God we must monitor our own spirit man and examine it carefully, making sure that the old "sense man" is

indeed “passing away”. Once the “sense man” is deceased the “spirit man” is ready to receive “revelation knowledge”

COL 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath translated us into the kingdom** of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

EPH 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

EPH 3:19... that ye might be filled with all **the fulness of God**.

2 COR 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but **our sufficiency is of God**; **6Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament**; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

PHIL 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

“I can do all things in Him who is **my ability, my sufficiency, my strength**.”

ISA 41:10 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.

Here we see the 3 “I Wills” of God that cancels fear.
“I will strengthen” ~ “I will help”~ “I will uphold”

ROM 5:5 ...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

“heart” synonymous with “spirit”

The Father’s love and nature is in our spirit.

We hear His name and the character of His name in our spirits.

1 COR 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Paul had a revelation; he saw himself joined to His wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

1 COR 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

Babes in Christ are those who have not yet purposefully developed or strengthened their spiritual man.

The Corinthians were carnal Christians. They were “sense-governed”. They failed to draw on the riches or “anointings” freely given of the Holy Spirit.

Some would say, “But weren’t they blood bought with external life?”

Absolutely, but they were sense directed. They were led by their senses and not by the Holy Spirit. Their inner man was constantly fighting against the life changing characteristics of the Word.

Every believer must be locked onto the radar of the Holy Spirit. They must be able to recognize and respond to any incoming “revelation” from God.

Eze 3:24 Then the spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, **Go, shut thyself within thine house.**

Ezekial was a man who possessed “revelation knowledge”. To maintain this level of incoming revelation Ezekial had to obey God and lock himself inside his closet (house).

We need to keep out all distractions - lock the door!

EPH 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, **which passeth knowledge**, that ye might **be filled with all the fulness of God.**
v. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us.**

As with Paul, God’s power is constantly at work within us. God enabled Paul to work with an excellence of Spirit. We must believe for a similar excellent in ministry.

We are God’s children, joint-heirs with Christ. (Rom 8:14-17) His Holy Spirit power is always working within us. Even as God the Creator continues to expand His creation. (JN 1:1), He also continues His expansive Word work within us. (1Jn 1:1-4; 1Jn 3:2-3; Heb 4:12)

ACT 19:20 So mightily grew **the word of God and prevailed.**

ACT 6:7 And **the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

EPH 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

EPH 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And **that ye put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness ..

COL 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:

PSA 27:1 “Jehovah is the strength of my life”

JAS 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with **the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

GAL 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Paul reckoned on the fact that he was dead to carnal living. Christ’s crucified life was literally superimposed over Paul’s life; the old life was redundant. Read Rom 6:6

ROM 6:6 “knowing...**our old man is crucified with *him*,**”

COL 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

Read: 1 Pet 1:18,19

The Church body (1Cor 12:12) is made up of many members, but with one body.

Read: (Jn 15:1-8) Note verse 8 "Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**"

A New way of living: Eph 1:7; Eph 2:10; Col 1:13

1 COR 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. 24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide.

Study these verses: ROM 8:36,37; ROM 6:14; COL 2:15

HEB 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**
Satan's work is finished!

1 COR 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, **not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. 2 **And 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.

ROM 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more **they which receive abundance of grace** and of the gift of righteousness **shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.**)

SHARED AUTHORITY

JN 17:18 "As thou hast sent me into the world, **even so have I also sent them into the world.**"

JN 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

JN 17:6 "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and **they have kept thy word.**" 8 "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; **and they have received *them*,** and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."

JN 17:14 "**I have given them thy word;** and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

Christ gave his disciples the Word and they received it. We don't need computerized receptors to help us receive His Word. We simply recognize His Word as Truth and then employ the same Word Authority as His disciples did. **Christ and his disciples received and shared this "Word Authority." (Isa 8:18)**

GAL 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

2 COR 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as

though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

JN 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The **Son can do nothing of himself**, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these **also doeth the Son likewise.**"

JN 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; **because I seek not mine own will**, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

JN 15: 5 "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**

All things must are subject to Christ. Without Christ at the helm of your ship, you will run aground at some time.

ROM 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, **that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

HEB 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in **the firstbegotten into the world**, he saith, and **let all the angels of God worship him.**

Read: Heb 2:7-11

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

1 COR 11:3 But I would have you know, that **the head of**

every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

Even though we share spiritual authority, remember Christ is Head over all.

JN 3:13 "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

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

As our intercessor, Jesus Christ is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God.

HEB 1:8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

His name is above all names both in heaven and on earth.

PHIL 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, **and given him a name which is above every name**: 10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

HEB 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance **obtained a more excellent name than they.**

HEB 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, **hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.**

JN 3:31 **He that cometh from above is above all:** he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: **he that cometh from heaven is above all.**

LUK 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, **and shalt call his name JESUS.** ³²He shall be great, and shall be called **the Son of the Highest:** and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

JN 14:12 "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."**

We have this heavenly power when we act on His authority.

2 COR 5:20 Now then **we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

JOINT HEIRSHIP : Suppose that two people become heirs with portions that total \$20,000. They both become heirs, but they may not necessarily receive equal shares of \$10,000.

But in Christ we all receive the same spiritual blessing.

See (Gal 4:7; Rom 8:17)

We have been given the same son-ship as Christ; we are joint-heirs with the same Holy Spirit power source.

GAL 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, **but a son;** and if a son, **then an heir of God through Christ.**

ROM 8:17 And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

JN 14:12 "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."

What is the formula for seeing the same miraculous works as Christ? Simply believe "in Him".

PHIL 4:13 **I can do all things** through Christ which strengtheneth me.

ROM 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

JOS 1:5 **There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life**: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

MAT 28:20 "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.

God desires to show ordinary believers not in full-time ministry that they can they can be used of God.

Esther believed God to bring deliverance to her people.

EST 4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, **then shall there enlargement** and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father' house shall be destroyed: and **who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?**

SOWING TO OURSELVES

HOS 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: **for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.** 13Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; **ye have eaten the fruit of lies:** because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men

PRO 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

There is only one way to please God and that is to put all trust in Him. Man's ways are not God's righteous ways. There's that saying, "sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind. If we want to reap of God's love and increasing blessings, we have to sow in righteousness. Man uses cultural practices, lies, cheating, hard luck stories, personal excuses, manipulations, and all kinds of wicked techniques to gain an edge to personal blessing. Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts with God. Be righteous, practice integrity and God will shower you with His loving kindnesses. God said, "break up your fallow ground". (HOS 10:12)

Fallow fields (paddocks) are fields that are not being used to grow crops. A farmer or landowner would usually rest his land to enrich the soil. Proper preparation of a field is achieved when a farmer or landowner **ploughs his land deeply**, hence exposing the roots of weeds. Farmers know that "hard pans" or "hard soil crusts" can develop in the soil at the level of the roots of the crop. This occurs when the land is continually ploughed too shallow. This hard crust

prevents rainwater and nutrients from getting to the plant root system.

Believers can be like the “hard crusted” fallow fields that need deep ploughing to help them come to their best potential. We must “break up” our own fallow ground and seek the Lord and receive showers of righteousness.

The parables of Jesus contain present day truth. **Mk 4:19** gives reasons why so many fall by the wayside. Seed sown correctly will bring forth a harvest.

(JOSH 8:18-26) Achan is a good example of those who choose not to allow God to nurture them. Some constantly disobey God’s leaders and in doing so bring judgment not only on themselves, but also on those they fellowship with. Achan could not believe that God would bless him, so he coveted the natural blessing of gold and silver that belonged to the heathen. He thought he could bless himself and escape the eye of God. In doing things his way and in his strength, he incurred the judgment of God. However, there are other Bible characters who obeyed God and were blessed abundantly both naturally and spiritually.

GEN 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And **he gave him tithes of all.** 21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take**

any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

We can learn some amazing “sowing” lessons from Abram. Abram had a wonderful personal relationship to God. He spoke to others about “the most high God” (v.22) Abram believed that God was the possessor of heaven and earth. Abram tithed on all his increase. (v.20) Abram believed that God was big enough to meet his needs, and obeyed God with tithing. Having won the battle waged against the king of Sodom, Abram was offered a deal to keep the natural spoils of the war that was rightfully his as the victor. (v.21) **Abram always believed God for the higher “heavenly” blessings that came directly from God.** Look at his response to the king’s free gift. (v.23) Abram was committed to the receiving of heavenly blessings and he didn’t want the king of Sodom to get the glory that belonged to God. (v.22)

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1 COR 14:18 “I thank my God, **I speak with tongues more than ye all:**”

MK 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name** shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues;**"

(MK 16:17) Jesus prophesied that “new tongues” would come. One of the greatest contentions in Christendom has been the “tongues” of Acts. I have heard some say it was only for that era. I have heard others say, “it’s from the devil”. We must personally fulfill Christ’s prophecy, which means wholehearted embracing of “new tongues” without fear or doubt. This end-time sign is from God Himself. **If Jesus said “they shall speak”, then we need to fulfill His prophecy and speak with new tongues.**

ACT 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In Jerusalem in the “upper room” a 120 believers from many nations (v.5) were gathered in total unity. (v.9-11) Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like a mighty wind and cloven tongues of Holy Ghost fire sat on them all. (v.1) These were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with “other tongues”. These disciples began to speak in other languages they had never learnt. These languages were recognizable by others in the midst. Considered as Galilaeans (v.7) and yet many had a different “mother tongue” (v.8) but they understood all the new languages

spoken that day. This miraculous speaking with other tongues is what causes such disunity in the body of Christ. Present day Christians have the same access to being filled with the Holy Spirit and to the speaking of “other tongues”.

ACT 10:44-46 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out **the gift of the Holy Ghost**. 46 For **they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God.

ACT 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

The “speaking of tongues”, (not the gift of tongues) are our personal “unknown” tongues. **The believer may use them whilst praying or during times of praise and worship.**

“Tongues” were the evidence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Act 10:45-46) The Holy Spirit gifts also come with the “tongues” (Act 19:6)

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are activated by faith. (1Cor 14:31, 32, 39; 12:31)

1 COR 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Paul preferred that believers prophesied. (1Cor 14:1)
Paul believed that all believers should prophecy. (1Cor 14:31, 39)

Unlike the gift of tongues, in which a message is brought to the church; tongues should be reserved for our personal prayer times. It is not a license to demonstrate to others that we have received the gift of tongues.

1 COR 14:14 For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

We should not use other tongues whilst preaching or testifying or any other activity of exhortation. It should not be used to excess in public prayer meetings where there are those that have not been in-filled by the Holy Spirit.

1 COR 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, **except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?**

1 COR 14:19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.

1 COR 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: **I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.** 16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? 17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

1 COR 14:2 For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: **for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.**

During a prayer or church meeting it is a wise practice not to pray in “unknown tongues” too much, as others are unable to understand the tongues spoken during our prayer to God. (1Cor 14:16, 17) When in the presence of unbelievers it may be necessary to reframe from the use of tongues. The edification of the church body comes before self-edification. We can always build up our own faith using tongues at home.

1 COR 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

However, the scriptures are clear on the use of tongues. Never forbid it!

1 COR 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Now let us bring some clarification on the gift of tongues.

1 COR 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. 27 If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret. 28 **But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.**

Paul clearly states that “tongues” may be used as a part or during church services.

“a psalm, a doctrine or teaching, a **tongue**”. Then Paul says in the same verse (26) “an interpretation”. There must be an interpretation given after the use of the gift of tongues. (v.27) If there is no interpreter of the tongues, then the person speaking the tongue must be silent. (v.28)

1 COR 14:40 Let all things be done decently and **in order**.

1 COR 12:25 **That there should be no schism in the body; but *that*** the members should have the same care one for another.

1 COR 12:27 **Now ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular.

The “world” prides itself on living with and encouraging as much “life disorder” as possible. This is their way of “having fun” and letting off steam.

In Christ, spirit-filled believers should no longer need to let off steam in the manner that the “worldly unbelievers” do; particularly in church services. As the “crucified members” of the corporate church body we should encourage “ordered worship” that ushers in God’s power and glory for the benefit of all of God’s people.

THE GOD FILLED HEART

The following study shows what can take place when a man cultivates a fear of God that becomes greater than the fear of man.

DAN 1:8 But **Daniel purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king' meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore **he requested** of the prince of the eunuchs **that he might not defile himself.**

DAN 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and **Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

DAN 1:20 And **in all matters of wisdom** *and* understanding, that the king enquired of them, **he found them ten times better** than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm.

When we purpose to obey God's voice even in something as simple as the food we eat and live the way God wants us to live, God will give us great wisdom. To receive His counsel is to receive His wisdom. God's wisdom and gifting are given in order that the believer can minister to the unbeliever.

ACT 20:24 But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself**, so that **I might finish my course** with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, **to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**

COL 1:25 Whereof **I am made a minister**, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, **to fulfil the word of God**;

Paul purposed to finish his ministerial work. (Act 20:24) and to fulfill the Word of God (Col 1:25)

In KJV language **“his life was not his own, he was bought with a price”**.

JN 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **"If a man love me, he will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

DAN 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed *be* the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king' word, **and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.**

There are many “flesh” gods in the world’s system. Let’s not yield our bodies to the God of the “flesh”. Nebuchadnezzar recognized that the three men had God’s favour on them. Having seen the miracle of their deliverance from the oven (v.25) he recognizes the Son of God as the fourth person.

DAN 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, **I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire**, and they have no hurt; and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**

Nebuchadnezzar personally expressed praise for the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (v.28) Even the devil in the form of a heathen king recognized Christ at work!

DAN 5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom, **in whom is the spirit of the holy gods**; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, **like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him**;

We will be recognized as people who possess great wisdom when we purpose to use the gifts that God has given us.

1 PET 4:10 As every man **hath received the gift**, *even so minister the same one to another*, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

This was certainly not the Peter of old that constantly said the wrong thing. “Let him speak as the oracles of God”. I believe God can give us His “Word wisdom.” a) We can be one who is a light in a dark place. b) We can be one who possesses understanding. c) We can be one who speaks great wisdom in the fear of God.

JOB 28:28 And unto the man he said, Behold, **the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom**; and to depart from evil *is understanding*.

THE HEIRS OF GOD

Those who are led by the Holy Spirit are the followers of the True Shepherd.

Those who willingly walk with the True Shepherd will experience every aspect of Psalm 23.

PSA 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

ROM 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Those who are wanton are not living as the sons of God.

ROM 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

As Christian believers we are not bound to anything. It is sin that causes bondage. In Christ we have not only received cleansing from sins, but we have been given son-ship by adoption.

ROM 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

ROM 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

As God's position in heaven never changes, our position as sons in the greatest family on earth can never change.

We are heirs of His kingdom!

GAL 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Servants have no privileges. Servants are not given inheritance.

GAL 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, **there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

GAL 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

READ: **John 15:1-8**

As sons of God we are expected to behave responsibly and act as sons.

This walk of obedience is spoken of as "**abiding in Christ.**"

JN 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you.. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

JN 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for **without me ye can do nothing.**

The true sons are the fruit bearers. God wants fruit from His branches.

JN 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

The fruit bearers are known as true disciples. True disciples are bloodline sons. As joint-heirs of God we must multiply as heirs of God.

JN 15:14 Ye are **my friends**, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

v.15 "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but **I have called you friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father **I have made known unto you.**"

Servants are not told what is in God's mind, but **as friends of God we are told the secret things** by revelation.

Friends are usually a blessing. Blessing is that which is usual added. A true friend will add something to your life. Those who continually take your blessing are not usually considered as friends.

Friendship with Christ will always add something of heaven to your life.

THE CROSS

LUK 9:23 And he said to *them* all, "If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross** daily, and follow me."

It is a choice that the believer makes every day.

It is the choosing of God's way over the ways of man.

PRO 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

HEB 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus did not have to endure the cross. He could have released twelve legions of angels to rescue Him. (Matt 26:53,54) **The only way that prophetic written scripture could be fulfilled was by Christ's obedience.**

HEB 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Moses chose affliction or (the way of the cross) for two reasons.

1. **He esteemed the reproach of Christ as being a greater personal treasure than all the treasures that would have been offered to him in Egypt.**
2. **He had a respect of the recompense of heavenly reward. (1 Cor 3:13,14)**

1 COR 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. **14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.**

ACT 20:22 And now, behold, **I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:** 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. **24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself,** so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul was called of God to suffering before he became an apostle. (See Acts 9:15)

The Holy Spirit had spoken in many cities, probably in prophecy. (v.23)

Paul was a finisher of what he started and respected the call of God. (v.24b)

God's gifts must be available to bless others even in extreme tiredness. (Jn 4:6-30)

The whole city was revived because Jesus allowed His gifts to be released to the woman at the well.

MAT 14:13 When Jesus heard *of it*, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard *thereof*, they followed him on foot out of the cities. 14And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Ministry demands are great. Jesus had no time to grieve over John the Baptist. The people followed Him into the desert where He healed them.

MK 10:45 "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

JN 19:6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him.

JN 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away. 17And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

Pilate found no fault in Jesus. For the scriptures to be fulfilled in the ministry of Christ Jesus, He willing took up His cross and walked to Golgotha.

Read Isa 53:2-10 Christ yielded Himself to all the various sufferings of the cross. He led the way showing all believers what is meant by "denial of self".

MK 8:34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH

An attitude of spiritual idleness leads to the speaking of idle words.

Many believers fail to see the spiritual consequences of the following verses.

MAT 12:36 "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." 37 "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

PRO 13:3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but* he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

JAS 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

MAT 12:34 "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? **for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.** "

If we contradict God's word by ignoring its challenge, we reject His blessings. Some people would prefer to confess sickness than walk in healing. **When we talk about our sicknesses we are glorifying the Devil himself.** We have simply reduced ourselves to being "sympathy seekers". **We've decided that "self seeking" is a better practice than "God seeking"**. It is not a wise ministerial practice to sympathize with those who lay claim to sickness and pain. Ministers! **Stand on your "grounds of substitution", and command sickness and disease to leave in Jesus name.**

LK 10:19 "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."

JOS 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage**; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

JOS 1:5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: **I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.** 6 **Be strong and of a good courage**:

Courage is not always gained by “special forces” training. Often God just tells us to “take courage”. God is the protective shield, hence we do not need to be dismayed.

LK 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

MAT 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain**, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; **and nothing shall be impossible unto you.** "

ISA 54:17 **No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper**; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. **This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD**, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Every believer was given a “faith heritage”. We are conquerors because Jesus conquered. We have the right to condemn every kind of weapon that rises against us. The

more of our inner life He possesses, the more we move forward. There is no reason not to take the high ground.

ROM 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him that loved us.

The Word of God must become our “faith language”. Proper Word confession will change our life and ministry. **Speaking faith cancels fear.**

PSA 27:1 The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; **whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Paul preached a “faith word” because his life was a “faith filled life”.

ROM 10:8 But what saith it? **The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**

The Word is so close that it is actually part of our life. We control it and activate it by faith. It is already in our mouth, because it is in our hearts. This is the platform from where we activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The heavenly realm is therefore part of our life and this “river of revelation” is ready to flow from God. Tongues, visions, new songs of the Spirit, prophecy, the word of knowledge, the word of faith, the word of wisdom is all part of our life. This is the blessing of God, ready to be released by faith.

THERE IS A RIVER

PSA 64:4 *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High. ⁵God *is* in the midst of her; she shall not be moved:

“There is a river” This is the ultimate faith statement. “Heaven’s river” actually flowed in Jerusalem. God was in the midst of the city, because God was in the midst of the river. The sons of Korah saw the river of God in vision; they experienced the river as they worshipped. I have visited Jerusalem. There is no natural river in Jerusalem, but I’ve stood near the source of the spring called “Gihon”.

ISA 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 19 Behold, **I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth**; shall ye not know it? I will even make **a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.** 20 The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because **I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.**

Many times we pray for the new wave of Glory to come. Oft times we have prayed for a spiritual revival to rid the church of spiritual lethargy. As God’s “River” is already in any desert place, the new thing is already upon us. He wants to give drink to His chosen.

GEN 2:10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and **became into four heads.**

A river went out of Eden, where Adam lived and worked.

The river enlarged and became four heads. God is able to flow into every corner of the earth. Once revived ourselves, we receive a “God given” longing or burden to carry our new anointing to bring the same “river experience” to the opened doors of “ready harvest” in the nations.

REV 22:1 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. ² 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.**

This pure river is ever proceeding directly from the throne of God. **This tree of life is watered from God’s river. It possesses twelve different fruits and its leaves are able to bring to healing to nations.**

The “tree” has twelve manner of fruits. Twelve is the number for government. Proper spiritual government leads to spiritual unity and this unity will bring spiritual healing to the nations. The secret is the pure waters coming from God’s throne, which feeds the trees. See Eze 47:12

EZE 47:12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, **whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months,** because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Some have never experienced the increasing levels in God's river. This river started as a trickle of water inside the sanctuary. Remember, Jesus asked His disciples to "follow Him". He wasn't always in the sanctuary. Following God can infer following the river flow. As we follow the trickle we gain the confidence to enter the waters of greater depth. God expects the believer to walk to the next level of experience. **These waters brought great healing to the land.**

EZE 47:4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters *were* to the loins. ⁵Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. ⁶**And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this ? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.**

God asked him an amazing question. Hast thou seen this? God wanted Ezekial to answer so that it was etched into his spirit. What a vision! Finally, there were waters to swim in.

Many of God's people have yet to see the river of God, let alone swim in it. We are ashamed to admit we don't see as well as we should by the Spirit. Begin to see by faith and then swim into deeper waters.

EZE 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I was among

the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Ezekial was living near a natural river source (Chebar), but even prophets need to see God’s river source. He saw visions of God and an open heaven. He had no special training, just a close relationship to God.

We need more than glasses to see the heavenly realm.

We need God in our life.

PSA 65:4 Blessed is the man *whom thou choosest*, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even of thy holy temple.*

PSA 36:7 How excellent *is thy lovingkindness, O God!* therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings 8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

God loves to give us spiritual drink from His River. Church leaders need to make sure there is spiritual meat and drink in the house of God. David was satisfied with the abundance in the house of God. He drank of the river of God, tasting of His “lovingkindness” with great pleasure.

God wants us to receive prophetic revelations in His River. “It is given unto us to know.” See **Matt 13:11**. God has matured many that no longer need the simplistic parable teachings. The heavenly realm is always accessible because of the “eternal” pure river that proceeds from God’s throne.

(Rev 22:1)

God wants to bring us back to the river over and over and over again.

The incredible vastness of the river requires that we go back again and again.

Many believers are so smug about their knowledge and experience of God. *There is no end to spiritual growth! We need to swim again and again, going deeper and deeper.* Revelation is received in the depths of the river of God.

JER 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and **before thou camest forth out of the womb** I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! **behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.** ⁷But the LORD said unto me, **Say not, I am a child:** for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and **whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak**

The ministry call of God comes from an intimate knowledge of the river of God. God is desirous to build up ministries that can reach into the river of God and then speak into nations. God is not concerned with age, only obedience. “whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak”. (Jer 1:7)

Jump into the river. God is waiting for you to be blessed. The river is always flowing. Don't wait, jump in and bless someone prophetically.

EZE 47:9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

The River brought life. It resulted in a “very great multitude of fish”.

Notice the healing power of God that is in this river. “Everything” that is touched by its flow “lived”.

Personal change is imminent because of the river of God.

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

What’s the River all about? **The river is about revelation; heavenly visions; spiritual knowledge; prophetic power; inner healing; physical healing. It’s about waiting and beholding, till we know we are drinking in the Glory. It’s about correct placement at the source of the River and then waiting some more till we experience the changes we need for ministry.**

TRUTH THEN PURITY

HEB 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which **no man shall see the Lord**:

Some Christians fail to comprehend the truth of God's written Word. God's truth is absolute and does not change. **Except holiness becomes a priority in our life, we will not see God.**

MAT 5:88 "**Blessed are the pure in heart**: for they shall see God."

LUK 8:15 "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, **having heard the word, keep it**, and bring forth fruit with patience.

All carnality starts in the mind. Our thoughts must be held captive.

2 COR 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every **high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God**, and **bringing into captivity every thought** to the obedience of Christ;

All hidden things must be renounced. Hidden things breed deception and dishonesty. Confession and exposure to His light (truth) breaks the power of deception.

2 COR 4:2 But have **renounced the hidden things of dishonesty**, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

JN 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33They answered him, We be Abrahams seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, "Ye shall be made free?" 34Jesus answered them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**"

If sin is our master then we are serving sin. A deep love for biblical truth and the subsequent submission to it will ultimately break the power of sin and bring total freedom.

2THES 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Word meaning: "deluding influence". Gk: activity of error. Every area of our lives that has not yielded to truth has been substituted with "activity of error". This delusional way of life incurs the judgment of God.

The believers are responsible to rid themselves of delusion and deception.

MAT 6:13 "And lead us not into temptation, **but deliver us from evil**: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. "

PRO 29:1 He, that **being often reprov'd** hardeneth *his* neck, **shall suddenly be destroyed**, and that without remedy.

Some are so deceived that they actually think it is acceptable

to separate themselves from Bible truth and engage in fleshly Satanic activities dishonoring their God given bodies. This is what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah. Today, some church movements have accepted homosexuality as reasonable activity even amongst clergy.

ROM 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

What a contrast to see what does please God. (Rev 14:5) Acceptance of the Truth brings holiness. A walk of holiness frees us from “falsehood” making us blameless before God.

REV 14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for **they are without fault before the throne of God.**

PRO 2:1 My son, **if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee**; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; 5 **Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.**

When people feel that we have received wisdom and knowledge from God then our testimony will be believed. Some of these people will turn from their sin. God wants to be glorified in His people. (**2 Thes 2:10**)

2 THES 2:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints,

and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Oh, that we would invest in the truth, no matter what the personal cost.

PRO 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

JN 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

EPH 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot**, or wrinkle, or any such thing; **but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

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