

WORD MINISTRY

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AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

For the past 43 years I have ministered the Word of God in over 50 nations. I travelled to India 33 times. Much of my work in earlier years was done amongst tribal peoples. My first trip to the Philippines in 1980 gave me an acute awareness for the need of better “Word impartation” by missionaries and local pastors. 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 print. The author’s notations and comments precede or follow the bolded text. This book is written with the view to be a word supplement for those that love to study the Word of God. It is particularly useful for pastors and others who minister the Word of God in churches, conferences, seminars and Bible schools. The author has collated some varied topical material 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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MINISTERIAL GIFTING

READ EPHESIANS 3:3-10

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**. 8 Unto me, **who am less than the least of all saints**, is this grace given, **that I should preach** among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches** of Christ;

God desires to make effective ministers by giving them necessary Holy Spirit gifting for effective ministry. Unfortunately, I have found the ministry clergy is made up of men and women without supernatural gifting in operation. The scripture is clear on what ministry is and how it comes into being. God also chooses those who the world would not necessarily choose. Paul said he was “the least of the saints”, but God gave him the ability to preach “the unsearchable riches” of Christ.

EPH 4:11 And **he gave some**, apostles; **and some**, prophets; **and some**, evangelists; **and some**, pastors and teachers; 12**For the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Also READ 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

1 COR 12:28 And **God hath set some in the church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

The Bible says in verse 31, “earnestly **COVET** the **best GIFTS**.”

1Co 12:31 But **covet** earnestly **the best gifts**: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

One would ask, “What gifts are the best gifts”. I think Paul is speaking of anointing as well as Holy Spirit gifts. Paul gave us a clue in (1Cor 12:28).

God hath set some in the church.

God only calls a certain number of gifted “ascension” ministries. (Five-fold ministries)

And again in (Eph 4:11) “he gave some”

There are not many called into higher ministry. God must gift them first. God put miracle power into the hands of Moses and then instructed him to go into Egypt and set His people free. God called Paul and Barnabas to do missionary work in a prayer meeting filled with prophets and teachers. They obviously had been preaching and teaching for some time.

Read (Acts 13:1,2)

ACT 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch **certain prophets and teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work** whereunto I have called them.

ROM 12:6 Having then **gifts differing** according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith*; 7Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

There are different ministry gifts given by God, and variations in faith levels of those gifts, making variations in the effectiveness of the ministers.

2 TIM 2:20 But in a great house **there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.** 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and **meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

The honourable vessel is the properly prepared vessel meet for the master's use.

ACT 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, "Go thy way: for **he is a chosen vessel** unto me, **to bear my name** before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"

Paul was a chosen vessel that would bear (carry) His name.

LUK 5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simons, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. ⁴Now when he had left speaking, **he said unto Simon, "Launch out into the deep,** and let down your nets for a draught." ⁵And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: **nevertheless at thy word** I will let down the net.

Peter experienced the greatest fishing catch of his life. This natural miracle of provision was beyond his natural fishing ability.

Christ was preparing Peter for future anointed ministry made ready to “catch men” - (Luke 5:10)

JN 7:15 **And the Jews marvelled, saying,** How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? ¹⁶ **Jesus answered them, and said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me."**

Jesus spoke wisdom that must have given people the idea he had been to university. When we teach God's Word we will speak like educated men. Wisdom ultimately comes from God.

ACT 4:13 Now when **they saw the boldness** of Peter and John, and **perceived that they were unlearned and**

ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that **they had been with Jesus**.

Peter and John may have been uneducated men, but the people recognized their gifting and anointing.

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**:

JAS 1:5 **If any of you lack wisdom**, let him **ask of God**, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and **it shall be given him**.

READ Proverbs: Proverbs was given to believers to increase their wisdom.

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**.

ROM 11:29 For the **gifts and calling of God are without repentance**.

If we maintain our walk in the Spirit our gifting is permanent.

MK 4:24 And he said unto them, "**Take heed what ye hear**: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to

you: and **unto you that hear shall more be given.**"

MAT 10:20 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. "

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.**"

1 TIM 4:14 **Neglect not the gift that is in thee**, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15 Meditate upon these things; **give thyself wholly to them**; that **thy profiting may appear to all**. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

2 TIM 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God, which is in thee** by the putting on of my hands.

Our gifts must be continually stirred to keep the freshness of the river of God ever flowing in our spirit. A fresh spirit brings revelatory impartation.

1 TIM 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, **that thou by them mightest war a good warfare**;

Ministry is warfare. Good warfare can only be achieved by using all the gifting that God has given you. Timothy's gifts came by Paul's prophetic office. Paul's prophetic word was sure and Timothy needed to walk in it.

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.** ⁷And all the men were about twelve.

So often spirit-filled believers only use a portion of what God gives them. The twelve disciples that Paul prayed for received more than an ability to speak with new tongues. They prophesied as well. God always gives the ability. It is the believers' responsibility to use all the gifts given by God.

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 gave every person the same opportunity. The “few” who are “chosen” are the ones who truly desire to be obedient to His ways. He requested that those who had been 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 in going to Egypt to speak to the Egyptian Pharaoh. Many like Moses are not as gifted as some, but God gave Moses miracle gifts to help him convince Pharaoh of God's calling. 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 realized 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 Isaiah 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 much younger than 30 years of age when God called him. Jeremiah thought that he was far too young to be accepted as a prophet. God loves to choose anointed men and women 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 evidenced spiritual strength.

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 will never grasp the spiritual principals of the spiritual man. In fact carnality is an anti-spiritual activity. God is no impressed by it at all.

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 receive the spiritual insight necessary to know the real inner man. The root source of God's Word is wisdom and revelation. The more we fellowship with the Word (Christ) the more we will know about ourselves and about others. There is a tendency towards the belief that we need more counselors, but in my view the greater need are a greater number of prophetic ministers gifted of God in the use of the "word of knowledge, word of wisdom and word of faith". The use of these and other gifts of the Holy Spirit can save a lot of time. They are the tools that get the job done. These ministers need to be given time to work at anointed altars in spirit filled churches not just in little back rooms where prayer for deliverance is offered.

ANOINTING FOR OUR FUNCTION

1 COR 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Every born again child of God has been given the same Christian foundation.

God never favours some of His children over others. Once we are truly born again of His Spirit, having repented of our old life and have by faith accepted God's free gift of salvation, we are ready to start our new life journey by faith.

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

The Word of God says, "It is NOT of WORKS",

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The poor are not excluded; the rich are not favored due to their cast or family tree. It is not about works, it is about FAITH in CHRIST.

1JN 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.**

Every believer is at the helm of their own spiritual life. We are the captains who steer the ships of our

spiritual lives. Ongoing personal hunger for God is our own responsibility. The responsibility does not belong to your pastor, church elder, spouse or friend. By faith we build a purposeful Christian life on the sure foundation of Christ. Christ is the foundation; but we build the building. It is important to use good materials.

COR 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold, silver, precious stones**, wood, hay, stubble;

1 COR 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1COR 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,

THE BELIEVERS' ANOINTING

The Apostle John makes it clear that all believers have a heavenly advocate.

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

In Christ, we all possess Bible truth: **every spirit-filled believer** has received the believers' anointing

of the Holy Spirit. Like John, Paul also mentions the fact that we have received this anointing.

2 COR 1:21 Now he **which stablisheth us** with you in Christ, **and hath anointed us**, *is* God.

The Apostle John uses the words “little children” many times in his epistles. (1Jn 2:1) These scriptural words show a mature spiritual father giving his spiritual children ministerial encouragement. John gives his children the “facts of spiritual life”.

“Ye have received of Him” (1Jn 2:20,27)

v.20 But **ye have an unction** from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

v.27 But the anointing **which ye have received of him** abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as **the same anointing teacheth you of all things**, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

This anointing is resident within those who have yielded themselves to Christ. This anointing lives within the inner man! It’s not there one day and gone the next.

There is no use by date and it **can’t be lost and it doesn’t run out.**

However, John quickly reminds the same believers

that they must “abide in Him.”

1JN 2:28 And now, **little children, abide in him**; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not **be ashamed before him at his coming.**

This is the secret. **We must “live” in Him.** (Christ) This “anointing” is maintained in Him by relationship to God our Father. The believer must **stay connected by relationship** to the source of the anointing. Jesus said, (Jn 15:5) “I am the vine” The vine is the source. Jesus indicates a two-way relationship. “He that abides in me and I in Him...”

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.**

John’s gospel chapter 15 deals with our relationship to God. But, if we cease to “abide”, we separate ourselves from the word and life of the Holy Spirit. Finally we wither, because our spiritual life source (in Christ) has been severed, due to a lack of abiding.

JN 15:6 **If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered;** and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

Our adversary, the devil has convinced so many believers, that they “are not” anointed and “can not” be used of God. They find themselves in a one-way street of despair walking in circles. **Some have accepted this withered existence of spiritual life.**

Some have said, “I was born into the wrong family, in the wrong country, I am not educated”. These are the very believers that God desires to anoint.

Cease Withering, And Start Functioning.

There are enough dysfunctional believers in this world and my readers need not be added to their number.

The Bible says, “These signs **shall follow them that believe**”. Faith is the first step. We must believe. I believe if we cleave to all that the Bible teaches and walk by the principles of the word and obey the voice of His Holy Spirit; then we shall see the same miracle acts as the first century apostles. Many times there are those who by-pass important verses of scripture that contain key elements relevant to continual spiritual growth. Many have lacked faith in God’s ability to provide supernaturally. By omitting faith for giving, tithing and fasting to name a few we have decided that spiritual dysfunction is the best we can offer God. God loves the “crucified life”. Unfortunately, so many believers who call themselves Spirit-filled believers have allowed a modern lifestyle of ease to dictate terms for ministry

dysfunction. If we allow the devil to yoke (bind) us to a fleshy lifestyle of ease, then the same disciples will end up in an ineffective mode walking in circles on “**the cul-de-sac of dysfunction.**”

Restoration is Our Responsibility.

LUK 6:17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, **which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;** 18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. 19 **And the whole multitude sought to touch him:** for there went virtue out of him, and healed *them* all.

Please note the above three verses. The whole multitude wanted to touch Jesus. They all wanted to have the “wholeness of the Lord”

Christ’s anointing so challenged the multitude that they all sought for the wholeness (wellness) on offer “for there went virtue out of Him, and He healed them all”.

The anointing of the Spirit was this **virtue of wholeness** that went from Jesus to the people. The people recognized that Jesus had something greater than they possessed and they wanted the same **characteristics of wholeness.**

We must desire to receive the wholeness of God. It is the believers’ responsibility to seek God and

receive total restoration. The person who needs to receive wholeness in body or in spirit seeks out the person with a greater anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Heb 7:7)

HEB 7:7 And without all contradiction **the less is blessed of the better.**

Fasting is the Bible way to restoration. Please read Isaiah chapter 58. (Page 11 covers more on fasting.)

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."

These greater works can be our ministry works as we abide in the anointing of Christ. The supernatural anointing, which ever abides in the believer, flows out of our inner man like a river. God will do His greater works through us. **We shall do the greater works as a fulfillment of Christ's prophetic words.**

COL 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* **the riches** of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory:**

The Greek word for "riches" is "ploutos" It means anointing. The Greek word for "glory" means "wealth".

EPH 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches** of Christ;

The Greek word for “unsearchable riches” is “ploutos”, meaning anointings.

The Apostle Paul no longer was filled with self-importance. Note his words, “less than the least”. And yet he is carrying the “Unsearchable Riches” and imparting them every time he ministers the Word of God.

LUK 16:10 "He that is faithful in that which is **least** is faithful also in **much**: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Greek word for “least” is “elachistos” means money:
Greek word for “much” is “polus” means anointing.

LUK 16:11 "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the **true riches**?"

The Greek word for “true riches” means anointing.

ACT 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a **light from heaven**, above the brightness of the sun, **shining round about me** and them which journeyed with me.

When our life is aligned to His anointing we can be set free for the work of the ministry. Prayer by anointed servants of God is one way that God uses to loose the hindrances that bind the believer who is afflicted with worldly desires and fleshly habits. The second and more effective way for release is fasting. It is the believer's responsibility to maintain his or her new liberty in the Spirit.

Fasting can become a lifestyle. Coupled with prayer and a commitment to the study of the Word of God one can speed up the process of greater anointing. If the believer is dedicated enough to fasting, God can bring the changes that one has never considered as possible. Read (Isa Chapter 58)

God uses fasting to break yokes!

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

I believe it is the responsibility of all believers to move forward by fasting. Of course it is by choice. **We loose the bands! We undo the heavy burdens! We break the yokes!**

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 meaning of “NO”, he stretched heavenward and took hold of the higher realm. Some of God’s people cannot say “NO” to worldliness; it is as if they need to go back to school and learn how to spell “NO”. Some believers refuse to live out biblical “principles of purpose”. How is it that the devil can convince believers to live in spiritual idleness?

It’s time to learn how to spell “NO”, for we are not of this “world”. We must work 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 oft times will give us an impossible task. It is God's way of increasing our faith. I am reminded of the old hymn which says, "Trust and obey".

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**;

Over the years I have seen many in deep poverty raised up by God, who by faith gave bountifully until they abounded to liberality.

We must pick up the principles of purpose and "give beyond our 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. I have seen missionaries

reduce their effectiveness on foreign mission fields, due to their constant thoughts of personal welfare. Selflessness is not always taught in bible school. Jesus took time to teach it. **"Take no thought for your life"**.

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."

"The eye of the needle" was a gate in the walls of Jerusalem. It was not possible for a camel loaded with goods to come through that 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.**"

It is not wrong to work hard for the things we need i.e. home and car. However, our earthly life and work will soon be over. We need to work for the Lord as well. We must finish the work He gives us to do.

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 to hear the voice of God. He also spoke to Eve. “and God said unto THEM”. Gen 3:28

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 obey God’s voice. (See Gen 3:8)

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 he became wise like the learned men.

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 His children if they hear 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. (Psa 23:1-6) The same applies to the children of God. It makes no sense for one to claim that he saved and then not listen to God's voice. Only God knows where the best pasture is growing. Let Him lead you!

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:**

I find it incredible that it was necessary for God to remind His people that He was not hard of hearing.

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."

Wisdom decrees that we open the door. We can only hear His voice clearly when standing in front of an open door. If the door is closed we can't hear clearly.

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.

John heard God's voice loud and clear; like a trumpet. The Book of revelation was given to John because his spiritual life was well ordered. He was able to hear the voice of God clearly.

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 ushered in great blessing.

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. 3Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

The blessings of God will overtake us when we listen diligently to the voice of God. Those who

listened were promised blessing at home and at work. (Deu 28:3)

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 anything 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)

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.**

The very moment that Isaiah allowed God to deal with his iniquity, he heard the voice of God calling him into ministry. I have always been amazed that this took place in chapter six, not chapter one. It is a lesson for all of us.

OUR VOICE IS GOD'S VOICE

READ: 1 Samuel Chapter 3

1 SAM 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and **did let none of his words fall to the ground.**

Christian maturity is enhanced when we hear every word from God.

1 SAM 3:21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for **the LORD revealed himself** to Samuel in Shiloh **by the word of the LORD.**

God wants to reveal Himself and He wants to do it by the word of the Lord. (Amos 3:7)

Many Christians say they have a call to serve God, but they never practice listening for God's voice. We cannot tell our friends we are called of God, if we don't listen to and obey the voice of God. The call of God always comes by the voice of God.

SOS 2:8 **The voice of my beloved** behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. 9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, **he looketh** forth at the windows, **shewing himself** through the lattice. 10 **My beloved spake, and said unto me,** Rise up, my love, my

fair one, and come away.

The Shulamite woman knew the voice of the beloved. He was looking for the woman at the windows. He was showing himself at the lattice. He desired her to “rise up, and come away”. He wanted to spend more time alone with the Shulamite.

SOS 5:2 I sleep, but my heart waketh: *it is the voice of my beloved* that knocketh, *saying* , **Open to me**, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, *and* my locks with the drops of the night.

The heart of man was created to hear and respond to God’s voice. God’s voice is always knocking at our innermost being. God says, “open to me.”

SOS 5:6 **I opened** to my beloved; **but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone:** my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but **I could not find him;** I called him, but **he gave me no answer.**

If we give God excuses why we cannot answer His knocking, He will eventually stop speaking and remove Himself from the door of our heart. (v. 3)
By the time she stirred herself He was gone. (v.6)
We must stir ourselves quickly!

1 SAM 3:17 And he said, **What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee?** I pray thee hide *it* not from

me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. 18And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, **It is the LORD**: let him do what seemeth him good.

Eli was reduced to hearing God's voice from another source. As the priest of God in Shiloh, he had known God's voice all his life, but he was no longer sensitive to hear God's voice for himself. Oh how hungry he was to hear God speak, even if it was through a young child.

Read: **(1 Sam 7:5-9: 8:6; 12:17, 18: 15:11)** Note Samuel's great ministry.

Once we begin to obey God's voice, there will be an increase in the amount of time we spend with God. Others will notice the change of Word content spoken from our mouths.

PSA 28:1 **Unto thee will I cry**, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, *if* thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

PSA 28:2 **Hear the voice of my supplications**, when I cry unto thee, when **I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle**.

David was totally dependent on God. The language of the Psalms shows us his attitude of heart. It was

in his voice when he cried unto God.

PSA 3:3 But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; **my glory**, and the lifter up of mine head. 4 **I cried unto the LORD with my voice**, and he heard me out of **his holy hill**. Selah.

David's "glory" or "his soul" (same word) was lifted. David's voice cried unto the Lord. God revealed himself from His holy hill, (Heaven) Ps 3:3 When the voice is lifted towards God, then the soul follows the voice.

2 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.

The voice of God came from His excellent glory. Our voices must come from His glory. **God's ministers must have His glory on their voices.**

God's children don't need to hear from man, they need to hear from His excellent glory.

If we spend enough time with God, our voices will finally respond and possess **the sound of the anointing** that comes from His glory.

EZE 1:24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as **the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech**, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Note the unity of the voice of speech. There was the noise of wings like great waters. “as the noise of a host” Every activity in heaven has a connection. It’s not just heavenly noise. It’s the voice of the Almighty.

EZE 1:25 And **there was a voice from the firmament** that *was over their heads*, when they stood, *and* had let down their wings.

Even the distant voice from the firmament was over the heads of the heavenly beings. God’s voice is over our heads; He’s not that far away.

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.*

The minister of God must follow in the heavenly characteristics of God.

- 1) The heavenly creatures went “straight forward”.
- 2) Wherever the spirit went, they went.
- 3) They didn’t change direction after they began following the spirit.

The glory of God brings great changes in our character and ushers us forward in our walk with God.

If we are not going forward, we are not abiding in

the spirit. (Read John 15)

ACT 22:9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; **but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.**

Many experience the same power of the light and glory of God at the time when we experience it, but they may not hear His voice when we hear it. When God is dealing with us (alone), we will hear His voice (alone).

ACT 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, **that thou shouldest know his will**, and see that Just One, **and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.**

ACT 22:15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

God's chosen vessels should not only possess knowledge of His perfect will for their lives, but also voice what they have seen and heard. We must testify of the knowledge of hearing the voice of God. Some of God's people testify what others hear and do in meetings without giving testimony of actually hearing the voice of God themselves. As we mature we will witness like Paul. We must say "what we have seen and heard".

God not only wants to speak to us personally, but He wants to speak to the whole world. He desires to use

our mouths as His mouthpiece. Time with God will bring His “fire” into our spirit. This is the first requirement to power up for prophetic ministry. When we get **Fire in the belly**, we’ll have the **Fire in the mouth**.

When God speaks within, we must speak.

JER 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, **I cannot speak**: for **I am a child**. 7 But 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**.

8 Be not afraid of their faces: **for I am with thee** to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Most of God’s people are like Jeremiah. They have similar reasons for believing they are not ready. God has not changed. Like Jeremiah, we must be obedience to His voice. **We must go: and we must speak!** As we go and speak we will overcome the fear of man whilst believing that God is with us.

READ: 1 Sam 3:17,18; 15:12-14.

The body of Christ will recognize your gifting.

1 SAM 3:20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel *was established to be a prophet* of the LORD.

Read: Mat 10:7-10; 1 Tim 1:18; 2 Cor :4-7 ; Rom 1:1-6, 11

The prophetic ministry must be activated.

AMOS 3:7 Surely **the Lord GOD will do nothing**, but **he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

For without the “fire-power” of His Holy Spirit power in our spirit, we have a limited prophetic capability. He wants to fill our inner man with fire to empower us to speak prophetically.

ISA 6:6 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:

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.**

EZE 3:14 So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, **in the heat of my spirit**; but **the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.**

The man of God cannot but speak God’s words, when the Holy Spirit moves upon him.

AMOS 3:8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? **the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?**

When we have the fear of the Lord within us, we will not be able to hold back the Word of the Lord. It will flow like a RIVER!

READ: 1 Cor 12:7-11, 13; 1 Cor 14:5, 12, 39

1 COR 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1 COR 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

1 COR 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Paul desired that everyone received the gift of tongues, but he preferred the greater gift of prophecy. It takes greater faith to prophesy. The gift of Prophecy brings God's edifying voice into the church. We must FREELY GIVE the prophetic word.

APOSTOLIC MINISTERS

APOSTOLIC CHARACTERISTICS

The root meaning of the word “apostle” is simply “the sent one”.

Apostles are not just those operating miraculous gifts of God. They are **men** who are;

“chosen” (Acts 9:15)

“commissioned” (Acts 16:3; 15:39-41)

“sent” (John 13:16; Acts 9:19,20; 16:9,10)

The primary characteristic of true apostles should be that they are “**men sent from God**”.

JN 13:16 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither **he that is sent** greater than **he that sent him**.

“He that is sent”. This refers to the commissioned disciple.

“He that sent”. This refers to God, the one that commissioned the disciple.

In more recent times the word “missionary” has been used to indicate a particular vocation. When I was young, missionaries were those who were trained and sent out to work for God in foreign lands. It was exciting to hear of primitive tribal peoples giving their lives to the Lord. However, the word Apostle was rarely used. The word “apostolos”

which is the Latin form of the Greek, indicates that the two words have the same meaning.

If all missionaries today were filled with the Holy Spirit and were gifted of God in the same manner as the “early church apostles” with signs and miracles following the preaching of the word, then it would not be necessary to use the word “missionary”. The fact is; some men and women should not be classified as missionaries. Many of these dedicated people should be called nurses, doctors, language translators, musicians, teachers, and administrators. The word “missionary” has been used so liberally over the years that many in the body of Christ have lost its true meaning. **Jesus said, “I must work the works of Him the sent me.”** I believe Christ was referring to signs, wonders and miracles.

First Apostle:

LUK 1:31 And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He 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:

The word “Son” related to His person. This person named Jesus was the “Christ” from God. He was the son of the “highest”.

It is said that the name “Christ” referred to his anointed office.

In John’s gospel, Jesus referred to God as “the one who sent me”. In other words, Jesus had that absolute assurance that God sent him.

In like manner, we as His ministers should know that we are sent from God to do His works.

All God’s workers should be “sent ones”.

They need to be anointed of God to do His work. They need to ones in the “perfect will” of the Father. If there is no divine commission, there will be no divine work.

There may be many things done in His name, but only divine work is a permanent work. Divine work is achieved when the truly sent apostles are allowed to do the works of God.

HEB 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, **partakers of the heavenly calling**, consider the Apostle and **High Priest of our profession**, Christ Jesus;

The Twelve Apostles:

“The Apostle” the Christ sent from God selected only twelve men. These men would eventually be anointed as apostles. Christ gave these apostles special places in His kingdom.

LUK 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

God's desire was to choose only twelve. Twelve was the Biblical number for "government".

ACT 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

This shows us that God appointed twelve apostles, it was a fixed number.

In the "New Jerusalem" there is a special place for these "twelve".

REV 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Apostles to the church:

ACT 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Barnabas and Saul became "sent ones". They were commissioned by the Holy Spirit. Note the words: "I have called them". Those who are ministering for the Lord must **possess credentials from heaven.**

Some went without being sent.

ACT 14:4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with **the apostles.**

These two were not among the twelve, but they were anointed apostolic ministers. They became two of the apostolic “body builders” of the church in their day.

God appointed His son to be “The Apostle” (Heb 3:1)

Christ appointed His twelve disciples to be “The Twelve” (Lk 22:30)

Then the Holy Spirit appointed other men and sent them forth into the nations as apostolic ministers.

1 COR 4:9 For I think that **God hath set forth us the apostles last**, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

It is believed that Sosthenes was a joint-writer of this epistle. Apollos was also with Paul at this time. What is clear, the “us” stated in this verse in Corinthians relates to more than one apostle. The present day church is so much bigger than it was in 70AD. Where are the needed increased numbers of present day Apostles and Prophets?

1 THES 2:6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, then we might have been burdensome, **as the apostles of Christ.**

It is thought that “we” refers to Silvanus, Timothy (1:1) these two men were much younger than Paul, but still considered as apostolic ministers.

1 COR 15:5-7 And that he was seen of Cephas, **then of the twelve**: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; **then of all the apostles**.

This verse mentions the “twelve” and then it refers to “all the apostles”. This would indicate that there were many other apostles. Christ never expected that the chosen “twelve” do all the apostolic work.

1 COR 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am **the least of the apostles**, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Some say that Paul was the last apostle. This verse indicates that Paul felt he was the “least” of the apostles, not he “last”. This self-imposed humility from God did not hinder Paul’s ministerial work.

(Note: 1 Cor 15:10) “I laboured more abundantly”.

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God **I am what I am**: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I laboured more abundantly than they all**: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

It makes no difference what you used to be. It is what God makes of you through His grace. When we work for God, God works in us and through us.

MOVING FORWARD WITH FASTING

PHIL 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The prize (or goal) of the high calling of Christ is not easily apprehended. A Christian has all the tools and weapons of warfare at his disposal.

Fasting is one of the “big guns” of spiritual warfare. Fasting simply means, “To cover the mouth”.

Fasting is often regarded by most ministers as too hard, but can be a virtual battering ram for ministers who want to see results.

The skipping of a meal is not a Biblical fast. The more days of fasting we do the more we move forward both personally and corporately. My experience has been that fasting is responsible for breakthroughs and great miracles in meetings.

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. 21 Howbeit **this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

Jesus recommended fasting as a means to increase faith and gifting to work in the ministry.

ACT 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had **prayed with fasting**, they commended them to the Lord on whom they believed.

To ordain elders meant “increase” in faith and dedication.

We note they only ordained elders after they had prayed with fasting. Many Christians live in slavery to food. We eat too much and dull our abilities to serve God to our full potential.

All the great men of the Bible fasted and rationed their food. Elijah, Moses, David, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul, and of course Jesus.

2 COR 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, **in fastings often**, in cold and nakedness.

It was one of the last day “signs”. Before the judgment of the flood, they were excessively “eating and drinking”.

All fleshly excesses come under the judgment of God. Man has surrendered to “surfeiting” (excess eating). This lifestyle is a preoccupation with and the caring for one’s own life.

MAT 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark.

LUK 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be **overcharged with surfeiting**, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that the day come upon you unawares.

NUM 11:4 And the mixt multitude that was among them **fell a-lusting** and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

NUM 11:5 **We remember the fish**, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

NUM 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: **there is nothing at all, beside this manna**, before our eyes.

The children of Israel were like many today. They were full of fleshly desires. They received a miracle provision of prepared bread every day for 40 years. I say “miracle bread” because they left the wilderness in perfect physical condition having only eaten manna. There was no such thing as vitamin tablets. Notice their words “our soul is dried away”. Without the variety of the food of Egypt they felt different in their soul. However, Daniel had a different attitude towards a plain diet given him by God. He requested only “pulse”. He and his 3 friends looked 10 times better than those who ate at the king’s table.

Dan 1:12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them **give us pulse to eat**, and water to drink.

Dan 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

This preparation took place before the appearance of Christ in the fiery furnace.

DEUT 21:20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

Gluttony is linked to rebellion and stubbornness. It is the same carnality at work. Fasting can rid the believer of both rebellion and stubbornness.

Food is not as important as you think.

“Air” is our most urgent need.

“Water” is the second necessity.

“Rest or sleep” is the third and

“Food” is fourth or last.

Spiritual maturity demands we NOT make FOOD our FIRST priority!

Some verses on Fasting: Ezra 8:21-23; Isa 58---; Dan 6:8; John 3:5; 2 Chr 20:3; Jud 20:26; Joel 1:14; Neh 1:4; Luke 4:1-4; Mat 6:16; Mark 9:29; 1 Cor 7:5; 2 Cor 6:4-5.

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 to turn aside. One needs to be like Moses who showed interest in the unusual wonders. Serving God is NOT boring!

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 a prophetic act by the man of God. Obedience and service tested Elisha’s personal hunger for “divine living” before Elisha could experience future divine ministry.

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 (Paul) it meant 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. It is ongoing. Ministry is ever expansive hence we must look for future visitations. Saul having heard the "divine voice" of Christ obeyed and later became an expansive divine voice in ministry. We will never forget divine happenings.

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**.

2 TIM 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an Apostle,

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 that 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.** **6Then 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: **7And 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.

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 his walk in this divine call Daniel was asked to stand. It was like a submissive salute to a higher authority. (See also Eze 2:1)

ENLARGEMENT

2 Cor 6:11 O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. **12Ye 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.**

Paul made it very clear to the spiritual babes in Corinth that they were in such a condition of their own choosing. Remember his word in 1 COR 3:1-2)

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

1Co 3:2 **I have fed you with milk**, and **not with meat**: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Paul's letters were like the old cracked record stuck on one track, consistently speaking of carnality.

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

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;) 5Casting 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 fulness 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 of God. His deepest burden was that all believers live a **life of enlargement**.

Paul saw God's people in Corinth as **limited and cramped** in their ability to release the Spirit. Paul desired that these people flow in the divine life of the Holy Spirit, but the River of God in the Corinthian Church was obviously 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**”

Enlargement: by exercise

Paul was always in a spiritual exercise program. 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 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run** with patience **the race** that is set before us,

HEB 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**;

We can't run a race carrying weights. Any iniquity is a weight. The faithful witnesses of Hebrews chapter 11 laid aside everything to follow the Lord. Jesus is the author of our life in Christ. In other words we began our faith walk with Christ and we shall finish our life of faith in Christ.

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. He is constantly arranging ways and means of overturning things in our lives to make way for something new.

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 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 Jordan 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 “self” 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 a personal 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 honor 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 fulness 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 savor 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, and then 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 dedicated ministers the better “heavenly” pathway all other paths look unappealing.

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 was a very unusual man of God. At one time he was living in the riches of ancient Egypt and yet he wanted the greater riches of heaven. One man in Cairo told me years ago that the gold in ancient Egypt was as plentiful as sand. Even the chariots were overlaid with gold.

PENTECOSTAL POWER

Mar 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and **upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart**, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel** to every creature.

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

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

Mar 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**.

Mar 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

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

These scriptures at the end of Mark's gospel contain some of the hardest hitting phrases. Christians and Bible students should learn these verses.

1) Jesus rebuked the apostles for unbelief and stubbornness of heart. Even anointed apostles can get it wrong. What is worthy of note is that Jesus did

not spend more time than necessary on the rebuke. These men were handpicked gifted preachers, who needed to be sent as missionaries throughout the world.

2) He reminded the apostles of the fundamentals. **He that believes** and is baptized **shall be saved** and **he that doesn't** believe **shall be damned**. This is the motivation for all believers. A wise believer will witness to family members.

3) **Signs and wonders shall follow them** that believe. All apostolic (missionaries) ministers should have signs following their ministries. Otherwise, stop telling people you're a missionary.

4) **They shall speak with tongues**. Surely Jesus didn't say this! Yes, He did (Mk 16:17b). It's time that all believers worldwide saw these verses as present day truth. If Jesus prophesied it, then it's for every believer.

5) **They shall lay hands on the sick**. Let us give God the glory for being "The Healer". The sick will recover when we pray believing.

6) Immediately after Jesus had ascended to the right hand of God, the disciples began to preach everywhere seeing signs, wonders and miracles.

ACT 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

The reason for Stephen's effective ministry was his preparation. He just wanted to be available to work for God. When you're working with anointed servants of God, waiting on tables should be considered as privilege work. He saw signs and wonders every day. He learnt faith from the apostles. (See Act 6:2-6) The apostles had laid hands on them.

ACT 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to **the ministry of the word**.

ACT 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, **they laid their hands on them**.

ACT 8:6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

HEB.2:4 God also bearing them witness, **both with signs and wonders**, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Please note (Acts 8:6). The miracles convinced the people of God's reality. They all gave heed to what Philip preached.

(Act 6:4) Prayer was the key factor in the Apostles. This was the basis of their effective preaching. God saw their dedication and hard work in preparation and it was rewarded with mighty miracles.

JN 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

What Jesus possessed was a confidence in his own ministry. He believed that the greater works would be produced as He ministered to the people.

Some people will always be hard hearted and not believe the Word of God, even when they see miracles. Jesus said, “believe the works”. No one else could do such miracles, so it had to be God at work. It is imperative that people believe in His name. Miracles will help. (Act 8:6)

ACT 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, **a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs**, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

JER 32:21 And hast brought forth thy people Israel **out of the land of Egypt with signs**, and **with wonders**, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

PSA 106:7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy

mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

ISA 8:18 Behold, **I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders** in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

We are the children spoken about in this prophecy. We are to work the signs today to bring the message of God to this lost world. God wants to use every believer in signs, wonders and miracles. The only credentials you need is faith in God. Everyone with faith can fulfill this prophecy.

MK 16:17 **And these signs shall follow them** that believe;

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. 7 **And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.** 8 And he leaping up stood, and

walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

Peter was in possession of a healing anointing that came from many hours of daily prayer. He was not only filled with The Holy Spirit, but he was filled with a passion for God. He believed in miracles. (Act 3:7)

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?**

ACT 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, **the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.**

Like Paul we need to take advantage of the miraculous happenings. Whilst we talk about the miracles, we can witness Christ. (Act 3:16) Faith in the name of Christ was the catalyst for this creative miracle.

ACT 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and **preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.** 3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. 4 **Howbeit many of them which heard the word**

believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked,
By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

8 Then **Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them,** Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

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.**

ACT 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Like Peter and John we will witness only what we see and hear. We have to see miracles to talk about them. If we talk about miracles we bring the life of God into our conversation. This increases faith in others.

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**

My grandparents cultivated extensive gardens. They were always sowing seeds of flowers and vegetables. I would read on the seed packet and then ask my grandfather how deep to put the seed. Some weeks after a plant would grow and it was always like the picture on the packet. Whatever was planted (sown) sprang up. We always ate fresh vegetables that grew in the garden. It wasn't magic. We reaped what we had sown.

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 wisdom and 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”.

Fallow fields (paddock) are fields that are not being used to grow crops.

“Fallowing” of such a field is achieved when a farmer or landowner ploughs his land deeply, exposing the roots of weeds.

“Hard pans” or “hard soil crusts” can develop in the soil below 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 panned” fallow fields that need deep plowing 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 anything that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:**

We can learn some amazing “sowing” lessons from Abram, who 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)

THE PATHWAY TO WISDOM

The following character 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's 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 fulfil the Word of God (Col 1:25)

In KJV language “his life was not his own, he was bought with a price”. He now lived to serve Christ.

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 favor 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). It is very possible that Daniel chapter 3 was written by Nebuchadnezzar. This chapter was not written in Hebrew. How would a heathen king recognize Christ? (v. 25) “I see four men walking; the fourth is like the SON of God”.

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) Be one who is a light in a dark place.

- b) Be one who possesses understanding.
- c) Be one who speaks the word of wisdom.

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 book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Hence, real wisdom and understanding have been around a long time. The book of proverbs is such a simple book to understand. It is full of examples of how to live within the boundaries of wisdom and understanding.

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, for indeed we will give account of idle words.

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 we reject His blessings. Some confess sickness.

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 practice to sympathize with those who are sick nor with the pain they carry. As ministers of Christ we must stand on the “grounds of substitution” and command the sickness to leave.

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:**

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."

We can only take possession with “mountain moving faith”.

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 battles we win.

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 to Christians, that it is actually part of their 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.

THE LORD THAT HEALETH

Jehovah-Rapha “The Lord that Healeth Thee”

EX 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that healeth thee.**

PSA 103:3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; **who healeth all thy diseases;**

PSA 105:37 He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and *there was not one feeble person among their tribes.*

Knowledge of His truth is not enough to bring freedom from sickness. We must walk in the truth of it until there is not one shadow of unbelieving talk.

JN 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

“Great grace” means miracle anointings.

ACT 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: **and great grace was upon them all.**

ACT 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, **30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal;** and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

ACT 5:12 And **by the hands of the apostles** were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;

ACT 5:16 There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: **and they were healed everyone.**

HEB 2:4 God also bearing *them* witness, **both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles,** and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

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:**

Paul was not interested in “ministerial manipulative words”. He looked to God to demonstrate His power.

Our faith can only stand in His power. Don't look to man, look to God.

1 COR 2:55 That **your faith** should not **stand in** the wisdom of men, but in **the power of God.**

As Christ came to do only His Father's will, even so we should do His will.

God's highest order is to use us as vessels to heal the sick!

Many times we are the only ones that God can use to heal. Let's be clear on this issue. **We are the ones that do the healing.** We are not medical doctors; but as the children of God we are the anointed vessels. It is an unsound practice to recommend the sick see a doctor before there is prayer offered in Jesus name.

MAT 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and **he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:** 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, **and bare our sicknesses.**

ACT 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who **went about doing good, and healing all** that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

As God was with Christ, God is with us. God wants to fulfill His promise. Doing good works has a much higher order to it than we might think. It is healing the sick and casting out devils. In many cases it is the kind of work that even medical doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists cannot do. His river cleanses and makes whole.

NUM 23:19 hath he said, and shall he not do *it*?
...shall he not make it good?

Missionaries are not called to feed the natural man;
they're called to heal the whole man, body, soul and
spirit.

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 absolute faith statement. “Heaven’s river”.

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 as they worshipped in. On occasions I have visited Jerusalem. There is no natural river in Jerusalem, but I’ve seen 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 the “River” is already in the desert, 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 was commanded to work.

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. ²In 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.**

The above verse of scripture is like reading about the tree of life in Revelation chapter 22. Such a transformation in the land of Israel comes because of the pure river of water. When heaven comes down, everything changes. The dry deserts flourish. 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 to follow the river. 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. 6And 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 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. Unfortunately we have moved beyond parables! The heavenly realm is possible 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. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But 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 everything 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 everything 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 was 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 God’s 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.

WORD POWER

All preachers should read with conviction the following reading: **Luke 4:31-37**

LUK 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

God's Words are words of power. Words of power are words of purpose.

LUK 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, **What a word is this!** for **with authority and power** he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

The spoken words of Jesus produced an outcome. The unclean spirits came out at His commandment.

All those who minister the Word of God need to be effective ministers with great power. Many of God's people are in hospitals because believers lack Word authority. We can't wait till the anointed preacher comes to town. We have to believe God and step up with authority and power and heal the sick. We need to memorize **John 1:1-5 The Word is still with God.**

JN 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

God manifests Himself by the power of His Word. Except God had spoken with creative words, there would be have been no creative outcome. God always had a performance to spoken words. God's words never return void.

Question: How much of God's creative power is found in your words?

JN 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

The more of His word we speak the more God releases His creative power. The Person who creates "all things" is within us.

In Genesis Chapter 1 we see that God was pleased with his work.

God had job satisfaction. (Gen 1:31)

GEN 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, *it was very good*. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

His creative work started and finished with spoken Words.

The wise believer will listen when God speaks.

LUK 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."

Jesus may have finished preaching, but there were still more words of “power” that needed to be spoken. “let down your nets for a draught”. Peter was tired from working all night, but he obeyed saying. “at thy word I will let down the net”

LUK 5:6 And when they had this done, **they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.**

PSA 36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: **in thy light shall we see light.**

Hannah experienced great changes when she allowed the fountains of God to touch her life. Her spoken words changed into authoritative prophetic praise. She conquered personal defeat and her story and later prophetic song is written in the Bible as great inspiration for many like her who encounter difficulties in this life. Her prophetic words had creative power!

1 SAM 2:1 My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, **mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies;** because I rejoice in thy salvation.

1 SAM 2:8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, **and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill,** to set *them* among princes, and **to make them inherit the throne of glory:**

Read: **Rev 21:10 -14; 19-23.**

Heaven is completely permeated with the Light of God. It needs no outside natural light, for God's glory fills all parts of Heaven.

REV 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

The Word "the Lamb" is the light thereof.

REV 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

REV 21:21 As it were transparent glass.

Once we commit ourselves to seeing some of the revelation of the wonders of the "Word" of heaven, we will naturally want to move onto the next wonder.

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

HEB 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with who we have to do.

God's word has the power to change every believer. It will do a quick work separating soul (flesh) and spirit. The heart's intent must be "Word changed"

REV 1:16: And he had in his right hand seven stars: **and out of his mouth sent a sharp twoedged sword:** and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

God's spoken truth cuts like a two-edged sword. This is why the Old Testament prophets met strong opposition. John the Baptist was beheaded. Stephen was stoned. Thomas was flayed with knives. Peter was crucified. We cannot change the character of the word of God.

It remains sharp today. READ: REV 2:12

The Word of God was and always will be a double-sided word, which must be consumed completely and allowed to penetrate into our inner most being. Before eating Ezekial noted unpleasant writings, **but whilst eating he found the taste of the Word was as sweet as honey.**

Read Ezekial 2: 8-10 and Ezekial 3: 1- 5

EZE 2:10 And he spread it before me; and *it was written within and without:* and *there was* written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

EZE 3:1 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the

house of Israel. 2 So **I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll.** 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, **cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee.** Then did I eat *it*; and **it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.** 4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.

Only after Ezekial had eaten and filled his being with the double-sided written roll did God send him on his way to prophesy to His people.

AMOS 7:12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and **prophesy there:** 13 **But prophesy not again any more at Bethel:** for it *is* the king' chapel, and it *is* the king' court.

Strong words are acceptable, but prophetic words direct from God were far too authoritative in the chapel of the king. Amos lived and worked in humble circumstances caring for flocks. He ended up in the king's court. Amos stayed his course and became a prophet with a word for our times.

AMOS 7:14 Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, **I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet' son; but I was an herdman,** and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: 15 And **the LORD took me as I followed the flock,** and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

AMOS 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that **I will send a famine in the land**, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD**: 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.**

One of the greatest famines on earth is the hearing of the words of the Lord.

We need to be hungry for prophetic ministry.

We need to hunger and thirst for righteousness. We need the light and direction that comes from hearing God's prophets sounding out "thus saith the Lord".

We need their wisdom, correction, direction and Holy Spirit impartation.

SIGNS, WONDERS & MIRACLES

JER 32:21 And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

ACT 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; **Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs**, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

2 TIM 2:15 The Bible says “Study to **show yourself approved** of God”

The word “approved” in the Greek is “dokimos”. It means tested or tried. What a wonderful thing to “show yourself approved” of the Word of truth. Prophetically speaking we were born for the purpose of ministering in “signs, wonders and miracles”. We were born again to be (approved of God) tested, even stretched into believing to see signs, wonders and miracles. (Isa 8:18)

ISA 8:18 Behold, **I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders** in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in Mount Zion.

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.**

The miracle signs of God are following those that believe. All we need to do is believe for miracles, **and watch God reward our faith with miracles.**

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

1 JN 2:27 But **the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you,** and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same **anointing teacheth you** of all things, and is truth, and is no lie and even as it hath taught you, **ye shall abide in Him.**

All spirit-filled believers have received an “abiding anointing”. In Christ we have assurance. “Believers have His anointing”! It’s no lie! It’s Bible truth! Those who abide in Him have received a “believers anointing”. The anointing is abiding in us. To maintain this anointing, we must abide in Him. (Jn 15:1-5)

Joh 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.

Joh 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.

PSA 106:7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.

Always be mindful of the mercies of God. Signs, wonders and miracles show the mercies of God. There will always be those who provoke God with unbelief. Be mindful, God is walking with us. He will show us His power.

NUM 10:29 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you; **come thou with us, and we will do thee good**: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel.

Associate yourselves with people of faith and purpose to walk in the same blessing that they walk in. Above all be found studying God's Word.

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God's word has the power to change every believer. It will do a quick work by separating soul (flesh) and spirit. God wants men of the spirit, not men of the soul. Some think they need to stay friends of the world to win the world. We need not weaken our spiritual resolve. We will reap what we have sown!

REV 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth sent a **sharp two-edged sword:** and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

God speaks truth and it cuts like a two-edged sword.

Mk 11:23 "For verily I say unto you, That **whosoever shall say unto this mountain,** Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but **shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass;** he shall have whatsoever he saith.

The word of faith cannot be spoken by a believer that speaks idle words.

Mk 4:39 And **he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea,** "Peace, be still." And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40And he said unto them, "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

Jesus spoke to the sea. His faith Word caused the great calm.

NUM 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, **and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes**; and it shall give forth his water, **and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock**:

Moses had to speak to the rock in the hearing of the people. God stretched his faith. The “impossible words” that he spoke, resulted in a miracle. All the people heard Moses speak to the rock. I’m sure some said, “He’s out of his mind, now he’s speaking to a rock”! The water, which proceeded from that rock in the desert 3000 years ago, still flows today.

JOS 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, **Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.** 13 **And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies.** *Is not this written in the book of Jasher?* So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Joshua spoke to the “sun” and “moon”. They all heard the word of faith.

MK 11:13 And **seeing a fig tree** afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, **he found nothing but leaves**; for

the time of figs was not *yet*. 14And Jesus answered and said unto it, "**No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.**" And his disciples heard *it*.

The disciples heard him speak the Word of Faith.
(See Mk 11:20)

MK 11:20 And in the morning, as they passed by, **they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.**

Jesus always had a way of challenging others with greater faith. This is an example of it.